

Odcombe Village Hall

Newsletter

November 2020

No. 97



Odcombe Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 304602

Flower Show Treasure Trail 2020

It was an opportunity to walk around Odcombe, 'Somerset Village of the Year 2020'

Support your Village Hall and Flower Show whilst spotting the flower cards displayed in various places around the village.

Heather - It was good fun. Thanks for organising. We did 6.44 miles as well!!

Maddy - We completed it and handed forms in this afternoon. Thank you to those that organised this it was really good fun x

A big 'thank you' to all who supported this event.

Louise - Thanks so much for the girls gifts. They were thrilled to open them and the trail helped occupy them during this long summer. Well done and thanks to everyone involved

Prizes were picked at random from all who entered and awarded to Molly Belben, Ann Fernyhough & Simon Wright. Well done to all and especially to all the children who found the 'Harvest Mouse' in the church.

Ann - Well done to the organisers a big thank you



View from the Chair

Since I wrote in the last newsletter things have changed dramatically at the village hall. Still in uncertain times and having to follow strict restrictions, our groups have gradually been able to restart and bring some normality to village life. I am pleased to say that Debbie has restarted some of her exercise classes; Short Mat Bowls have two mats on the go, three times a week; Craft Stitchers (formerly Stitch & Knit) have started up on a Wednesday afternoon and we've gained a quilting group, 'Purple Patchers' and a Spanish group, who were both unable to use their previous venue due to limited capacity. Odcombe Football Team has been able to play on the pitch and whilst they can't use changing rooms yet they have access to the hall for their equipment and toilet facilities. The Eco-Supermarket, whilst not yet inside, continue to support us all by providing an array of goods outside on a weekly basis.



The committee has changed too. With a willing and very capable volunteer in the wings I stood down as Treasurer. Our thanks go to Ellie Damon who was co-opted onto the committee midterm as our new volunteer Treasurer. I was nominated and voted into the Chairmanship by the Trustees and will do my best to co-ordinate and positively lead the group forward in the coming months.

Unfortunately Alan and Kay Hiscock have, due to family commitments, stood down as Booking Secretaries after doing a sterling job of looking after the bookings for over three years. We are very lucky that a new volunteer has come forward – further details coming soon. We are however getting low on 'male views' so if you'd like to join our 2 stalwart male Trustees do get in touch.

Whether you wish to join the full committee or one of our event groups, whoever you are we will be delighted to hear from you.

As a committee we are working together to ensure that Covid-19 Secure events can take place. We held the Flower Show Treasure Trail and more recently The Halloween Trail to engage the children. We are promoting The Royal British Legion's Download a Poppy Appeal and will be holding a Christmas Event – look out for further details.

I wish you all well over the winter period and whilst it may not be the usual Christmas I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe time.



Merry Christmas one and all.

Keep Safe and Well
Denise Dunford (Chairman)

Odcombe Movie Nights

By now we should have had our first film and be looking forward to the second. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, that won't be happening.



The Movie Group has decided that due to current restrictions we would not be showing films. We are due to review this in the New Year.

On the plus side there haven't been many new films released, so the choice would have been limited.

We will, of course keep you updated.

Stay safe and well.

Judy Welfare

STOP PRESS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Due to the current Covid restrictions the hall will close again on Thursday 5th November.

Should you have a query regarding a current or new booking please contact our new Booking Secretary - Clare Robinson.

Preferred method: Email: odcombehallbookings@gmail.com

Please Note: This is a new email address as the previous one is now out of use.

Telephone: 07961 935790

Thank you.

Denise Dunford – Chairman
01935 863444

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Private William Sims 24749
Served in 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
Killed in action 19 April 1917
Honoured on Army Memorial France and
Homefold Stone also War Memorial.

Private William John Fox 15594
Served in 1st The Somerset Light Infantry
Killed in action 17 June 1918
Honoured in France aged 25 years
His name is on the
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Cannon John Edward Brooks 322373
Served in Royal Garrison Artillery
Shot Off Wounds 27th July 1917
At Cherbourg France April 15, 1918
John is buried at
Middleburg Cemetery Belgium.

Sapper William Berket Stevens 242811
Served with Royal Engineers (Railway Operating Division)
Died 17th February 1919 aged 21 years
Buried at Longueval Military Cemetery France.

Sapper Frank Henry Cole 168548
Served in Royal Engineers
Shot Off Wounds 10th April 1917
Flamethrower aged 26 years
Frank is buried at
St Nicholas British Cemetery France.

Private William Palmer 12273
Served in The Somerset Light Infantry
Died from Influenza on 10th June 1918
Aged 21 years
Buried at Berks South Western Cemetery Gosport

Private Edmund Clark 128390
Served in The Royal Engineers
Killed in action 10th April 1917
Flamethrower. Buried at Arras.
Aged 26 years
Honoured at Mary Abbey Cemetery, Nancy France.

Private Walter James Fox 24406
Served in 2nd The Grenadier Guards
Shot Off Wounds 21st November 1916
Flamethrower aged 23 years
Walter is buried at
Great Lines Cemetery
Noyelles sur Mer France.

Private George S. R. Howker 4207
George was an author and lived with his
Grandparents in Odcombe.
He served with the Somerset Light Infantry
Shot Off Wounds 4th April 1917
Aged 28 years he is buried at
Canadian British Cemetery
San Eulalie France.

Private Ernest Reynolds 20734
Served in 1st The Gloucestershire Regiment
Shot Off Wounds 20th August 1916
Flamethrower
Aged 29 years
Buried at Near the British Cemetery
Luzern France.

Sergeant (Air Gunner) Roy Henry Bankbury 156442
Served in RAF Volunteer Reserve
Died 20th December 1945 aged 19 years
Buried at New Romney Cemetery Kent

Private Sidney George Gales 16395
Served in 7th The Dorset Regiment
Shot Off Wounds 20th February 1916
Aged 23 years
Buried at Blackhawk Reserve Church Cemetery
Buckingham Shires.
He is also Buried on the Buckhams War Memorial.

Private William Cecil Chisham 1448282
Served in 8th Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment
Died 1st September 1918 aged 29 years
Buried at Gillingham War cemetery Bants

Petty Officer Sydney Alfred Gurd 111809
Served in the Royal Navy aboard
HMS Crested Drake
The boat was sunk by the German fleet at
The Battle of Crete off the coast of Crete
The Petty Officer was killed at sea.
Petty Officer Gurd was aged 25 years.
He is Buried on the Memorial War Memorial
Rings, B&C 48

Odcombe Act of Remembrance
Sunday 8th November 2020 10.50am
at
The War Memorial.

*All our soldiers, please keep a special place for all those that fought in our battle, on the battle, or in the name.
A QR code will be available for a e-ceremony.*

CHRISTMAS AT GREENSLEEVES

NURSERY & FARMSHOP

This year we are pleased to be offering some extra special delights to help you make the most of this festive season.

- ★ **Handmade memorial wreaths**
- ★ **Luxury handmade door wreaths (pre-order advised)**
- ★ **Floral arrangements**
- ★ **Christmas Trees for collection from 28 November**
- ★ **Winter bedding, shrubs & new range of fruit & ornamental trees**
- ★ **Gift vouchers**
- ★ **Delicious locally smoked free-range turkey breast (pre-order only - limited supply & early ordering recommended)**
- ★ **Sumptuous smoked salmon (pre-order only)**
- ★ **Oak-smoked fish, meat & cheese (pre-order only)**
- ★ **Range of festive fayre in the farm shop**

Please see our website for the full range and email or phone food orders to us by 12/13 December.

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Little Orchard Holiday Let

Situated at the top of Orchard Path, this detached bungalow, with views over the west of Yeovil and the Dorset hills, is available to let throughout the year from *Sykes Cottages* where you will find all the details and availability, or for a villager discount e-mail Glenn and Christine Seymour at grseymour@tiscali.co.uk.

Craft Stitches

Owing to the restrictions we are currently living through it is great that the Village Hall is open again. Unfortunately Gaynor and Carole Anne are unable to continue with the Stitch and Knit group at present so we now have a "Craft Stitches" group.



We had an enjoyable opening evening but missed some of our regular friends, hence our change of time. Craft Stitches now meet from 2:00pm to 4:00pm on 2nd, 4th & 5th **Wednesdays** of each month.

We do have to wear face masks (except when drinking tea or coffee) and our tables and chairs sanitized and spaced out. This does not inhibit general chit chat and exchange of ideas. New members welcome, please ring for a place as these are limited.

From Carole-Ann and Gaynor: *"We have very much enjoyed running the group over the past 9 years and we are delighted to pass on the baton so that it can continue to thrive".*

Margaret Clotworthy

t: 01935 863863

Odcombe Short Mat Bowls

Yes, we're back after gaining our "Safe Bowling" Status Certificate. In order to gain this we had to do a venue check, an ESMBA risk assessment, a sketch of where the mats were to be placed, and our own guidelines. We also had to have a copy of the hall's risk assessment. This was all sent to the County Safeguarding Officer, and if approved had to be passed to the ESMBA Safeguarding Officer. We gained her approval and eventually were allowed to play pairs only under very strict conditions.



We have just got approval to play triples but as the hall wasn't big enough to have two mats with the social distancing requirement, we are allowed to play triples on one mat - and by moving the mats slightly, and allowing 3 metres between mats, we can play pairs on the second mat.

Guidelines appear to be changing weekly, but so far 7/8 members are playing bowls regularly. Some once a week, some twice and some three times. Because of Covid we are not accepting any new members at the moment, but hopefully perhaps sometime next year things will change.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Hall's Committee for their hard work in getting the venue up to safe standards, as without this we would not be playing bowls.

Hazel Smith

Odcombe Bowls Secretary.

Village Hall Lottery

Past winners -

April

1st Prize £25 No. 192 – Nan Worledge
2nd Prize £15 No. 291 – Margaret Bishop
3rd Prize £10 No. 231 – Roger Emery

June

1st Prize £25 No. 105 – George Leaver
2nd Prize £15 No. 194 – Kevin Wilton
3rd Prize £10 No. 119 – Colin Hill

May

1st Prize £25 No. 153 – Joy Rowlett
2nd Prize £15 No. 228 – Nan Worledge
3rd Prize £10 No. 313 – Hans Rennie

July

1st Prize £25 No. 110 – Raymond Bartlett
2nd Prize £15 No. 198 – Fiona Cumming
3rd Prize £10 No. 101 – Roy Smith



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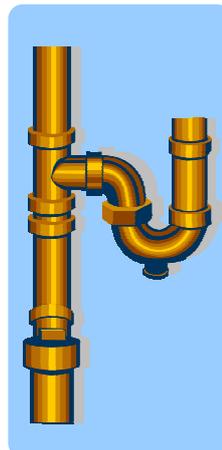
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Pop-up Open Air Market

Currently we are not able to run our monthly indoor events, but thanks to the support of Odcombe Parish Council and Odcombe Village Hall, we have organised a weekly outdoor pop-up mini market every Friday 1-2pm.

Held outside the Village Hall, as well as the regulars listed below, we feature guest stallholders and repairers too.

Most offer local deliveries, should you be unable to come on Friday, so please check our Facebook notices or contact me for details.

We plan to run throughout winter, our last market being Friday 18th December, and restarting again on Friday 8th January 2021.

I would like to thank all of you who continue to support us, and of course, thank our local stallholders and repairers for supporting our weekly village market.

On behalf of The Pop-Up team, I wish you all a safe and healthy winter 2020.

Claire Ashton

@The Pop-Up Eco Supermarket

Masons Arms

Drew and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the village who has supported our pub in these turbulent times. We are so pleased to have seen so many familiar faces and new ones through the door since re-opening, albeit on limited hours!

We have recently started doing our takeaways again but with a smaller menu; this can be found either on our website or you can pop into the pub (with a mask!) and pick one up. Please rest assured that all possible precautions are in place to ensure both your and our safety during your visit.

Stay safe and stay well,

Paula & Drew.

Odcombe Football Club

Our covid-19 elongated spring into summer break was from March to August when we started playing friendlies and the outstanding cup matches from the 2019-2020 season. In the semi-final of the Les King Cup are opponents Stoke-sub-Hamdon who had been drawn as the home side but couldn't use their pitches as they were undergoing refurbishment so we hosted.

With five minutes remaining we were 2-0 up with goals from Jake Skipp and Ali Carvell when the opponents were awarded a penalty, which wasn't according to the majority of the crowd; where is VAR when you need it? Then we scored a decent third, which was disallowed for an infringement given by their linesman, not the referee, before they scored in the last →

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**WEEKLY GUEST STALLS
AND REPAIRERS**

Sowing the seeds of change Contact: Claire 07796 620189 or
Facebook: 'The Pop-up Eco Supermarket'

Thank You



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➔ few minutes and won the penalty shootout and went into the final. Robbed doesn't cover it.

Our first team did however reach the final of the Charity Cup which was played under strict covid-19 conditions at Strode College 5G (astro turf) pitch against Milborne Port at the end of August. Neither team was able to play any new players, only those that had been with us during the 2019-2020 season, and we took the lead after only five minutes through a Jake Skipp strike. It stayed like that until the early part of the second half when Milborne Port equalised with a well taken goal from the edge of the area. Minutes later we were a goalkeeper down as he was sent off by the referee for failing to walk away when instructed to do so. A quick re shuffle by manager Steve Cook saw us hold out until the very last few minutes, this being helped with the sin bin of a Milborne Port player for the last ten minutes for dissent. Then with very nearly the last touch of the game a penalty was awarded for an obvious jumping tackle following our corner and Steve Ayling scored from the spot. Charity Cup Champions for the first time in our history and a great start to the new footballing year, even though it was then end of the previous season!

As for the 2020-2021 season, with the covid -19 restrictions placed on us, we are having to turn up ready to play and with no use of changing rooms permitted at any club, and after the match hand the club kit back and go home to shower and clean up. We were fortunate to be able to assist the Village Hall Committee through the Football Trust to purchase sanitisers and other cleaning materials for the toilet and changing room area, some of which is being used now, others hopefully when we get the go ahead to start using the changing rooms again.

The first team haven't had the best of league starts not getting a point in their first five matches, we have had injuries and covid related isolations and a lot of the experienced (older) players have stated they wanted to play in the Reserve Team as the pace and physicality of the Premier League was taking its toll. So the Reserve Team have had a boost and for a time were top of their league.

We still run training sessions at Westfield Academy astro turf pitch, two sessions a week Tuesdays 7-8pm (mainly reserve team) Thursdays 7-8pm (mainly first team) but if you can't make one you are always welcome at the other. Our Reserve Team kit is now showing signs of wear and it is about time we replaced it, so we are looking for any local business that would consider an advertising sponsorship to put their logo on the front of the shirts. If you know of anyone interested everything is negotiable!.

Our website hosts pitchero recently had a price adjustment and decided that we could no longer run two teams from the same host site for free (even though we are regular visitors and they run their adverts on all the pages). To counteract their move the reserves now have a separate pitchero site www.pitchero.com/clubs/odcombe2 with the first team being accessed on www.pitchero.com/clubs/odcombe and at the moment they are both free! All enquiries to Glenn Seymour on 01935863961 or grseymour@tiscali.co.uk

Glenn Seymour

Odcombe Carols

With regret it has been decided that there will be no carol singing in the village this year. We cannot comply with the Corona virus regulations as in many places there is just not the space to socially distance. Many of the carollers are in the vulnerable category for this virus as well.

I am sure they would all join me in wishing everyone, in the words of the caller, a Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year. We hope to resume normal service.

Deryl Rennie





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Odcombe Act of Remembrance

With regret it has been decided to cancel the service on Remembrance Sunday. If anyone would like to place a named cross on that day please let me know and I will drop one off to you. I have 15 so don't be shy.

Deryl Rennie



Odcombe Village Support Network

As Lockdown lifted, our volunteers were consulted to see if there was a “need” to continue with the Village Support Network, set up in March.

The group unanimously supported Trevor Walton's view that The Network should continue to aid any villager who was in need of help. Global pandemic or not.

So we are all still here, should you need shopping collecting, prescriptions fetching or just a friendly chat.

Donald Gray continues to manage the website (which includes lots of useful local contacts and information) and co-ordinates requests for assistance. Please contact him on donald@odcombe-matters.co.uk.

As winter approaches it feels like we made the right decision for our village and we wish to thank all the volunteers for everything they do.

Stay safe,

Becky Reeves and Claire Ashton

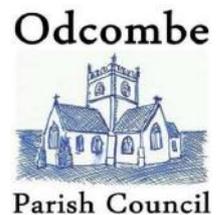


Odcombe Parish Council

Odcombe Parish Council is very proud of all its parishioners and for all that so many have done to make Odcombe the Somerset “Village of the Year”. As a result of this wonderful win, the Parish Council is now holding £2,000 to be spent on a village project.

Ideas received so far are:

- to buy some hamstone “standing stones” which could be put on the entrance roads to the village, or placed at various parts of the village to form a treasure hunt,
- a virtual blue plaque tour of the village,
- a book on the history of the village,
- to buy a speed indicator device,
- to buy some adult fitness equipment.



If you have other ideas for spending this money please email our Clerk, Liz James – clerk@odcombeparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07549 643402. The plan is that, once we are able to meet properly, a celebratory event will be held in the Village Hall and a project can be chosen.

Particular thanks to the volunteers who pick up rubbish around the village and surrounding roads. It really is appalling just how much rubbish disfigures our environment and is a danger to wildlife.

The Parish Council is meeting virtually until at least May 2021 on the advice of the government but as soon as we can meet in the hall we will. The Parish Council meetings are open for parishioners to speak in the public open session and to watch – the details to join the meetings are given on our website.

Deryl Rennie

Chairman Odcombe Parish Council

Odcombe Walkers

The Odcombe Walkers have been reviewing the need to continue having a committee, as there have been no volunteers to take over as chairman and Anna Webb our secretary has indicated that she wishes to retire.



The need for a formal committee is questioned as the walkers are no longer required to physically keep the parish paths open as this has been the County Council's responsibility for some time, and the weekly walks are co-ordinated by a member not on the committee.

This leaves very little reason to have a committee.

There was, however, a referendum amongst the members and the result was 15 to continue with a committee, providing a Chairman and a Secretary could be found, and 23 to dissolve the committee with 2 unable to decide.

During these Covid restrictions the walks have continued with those that turn up for the walk splitting into groups of six or less with social distancing to comply with the law.

Our latest walks have been from Up Cerne in Dorset 4.25 miles, Chetnole 4 miles, Beaminster 5 miles, Cattistock 4.5 miles, Kingscombe Meadows 4.5 miles, Bradpole 5 miles and Burton Bradstock 4.5 miles.

David Welfare

Pilates and Zumba

Exercise is a wonderful way to destress, keep a routine and feel great, even if it's just walking the dog, gardening or a fitness class.

It has been so great to see so many of you for Zumba gold and Pilates under new rules! If you can't make it to a class in person, I would love to see you online.

I've tried to make my online classes cheerful, positive and upbeat. I hope those of you who are able to do them have enjoyed them as much as I have.

For those who haven't been before but would like to try a workout I do Tai Chi, Pilates, Zumba Gold and much more. See my Facebook group Fitness & Dance with Debbie for a daily Mini workout .

Keep fit and healthy and I hope to exercise with you soon!

Debbie Knight



Village Hall Committee - profiles of four of its current members ...



Denise Dunford - Chairman

When and how did you become a committee member?

I joined the committee in 2013. Joyce Holland was standing down as Treasurer and the other committee members were looking for a suitable replacement. I have a financial management qualification and had been Treasurer for many organisations over the years in nearby Stoke sub Hamdon – Playgroup, Swimming Club, Sports & Recreational Trust, Gardening Club, so it seemed natural to volunteer.

What does being on the committee involve?

As much or as little as you have time and commitment for! Everyone has a part to play. For me it is very much about community. My working background was in building safer communities. I helped set up groups throughout South Somerset and was therefore used to policies and procedures – the red tape that everyone seems to hate! This has been invaluable during our present uncertain period dealing with Government Guidance to make the hall Covid-19 Secure. →

➔ What do you get from being a committee member?

It's a voluntary role so no remuneration. There's a lot of satisfaction from helping others, being part of new ventures, planning events and the friendship that it brings.

How do you see the future?

The hall is already getting back to some type of normality. All our groups are used to the procedures in place to ensure everyone that uses the hall is kept as safe as possible. I've now moved on to Chairmanship and would like to see everyone getting involved in thinking of new ways to hold village events, to involve our community and bring some normality back to our lives.



Joyce Holland – Committee Member

I returned to live in the village in 1977, my husband having been born here. I started to join in village groups and went along to Whist Drive. In those days different groups took turns to organise the weekly Whist Drive but as this became difficult I took it on rather than it stopping altogether. Most people who came to Whist lived in the village. I've run it for 37 years and now the majority come from the surrounding area. Group leaders were automatically expected to go on the committee then, so I became a member.

What does being on the committee involve?

I've helped with jumble sales, making cakes, run the Grand Draw at most events. I helped with the setting up of Luncheon Club along with Olive Helliar and Bridget Langdon. I was the Treasurer for many years too.

What do you get from being a committee member?

Seeing community make use of the hall. I've met lots of people and made many friends over the years and got to know lots of people in the village.

How do you see the future?

Everybody pulling together - working together to keep the village alive. Like to see everyone in village using the hall, even if it was for one thing it would be something!



Luncheon Club November 2000



Rebecca Reeves – Committee Member

How did you become a committee member?

Before we moved to Odcombe we had been to the hall and hired it for children's birthday parties. I quickly realised what a fantastic venue and situation it was in. When we moved to Odcombe two years ago I quickly became involved in Odcombe Baby and Toddler Group with my two young children. An invitation was sent to the group to attend the yearly AGM and I made the decision that to have a say in the future of the group and village hall I needed to join the committee.

What does being on the committee involve?

Before Covid-19 we met monthly on an evening. The meetings took place within the hall and all things 'hall' were discussed. Any jobs were assigned and carried out either by ourselves or outside contractors. Being a newly elected member I've taken the first year to learn the ropes and get an idea of where the hall is heading. Since and during Covid we have been actively working behind the scenes on email and social media with the occasional site meeting if needed.



➔ Why did you become a member?

I'm a great believer in 'if you want to have a say in something you have to be a part of it'. We have such a valuable village asset in the hall and I wanted to be a part of its future. I hoped to inject some youth into the committee with potentially different ideas and views.

Anything else you'd like to add?

We are always incredibly grateful for any help from the community with events etc. but we are always looking for more people to join the committee. I can honestly say we have a wonderful bunch of people that all do their own bit. I may not be able to offer my time as much as others but again 'every little helps' and if you feel the same please do get in contact.



Ellie Damon - Treasurer

My name is Eleanor Damon aka Ellie. I have lived in Higher Odcombe since 2007 with my husband Mark and our two girls Chloe (9) and Katie (7). I am a self-employed bookkeeper for the last 6 years as it fitted in with having children and being able to be flexible with childcare. I have worked within the Financial Industry since 1998.

Claire Ashton suggested that I join as Treasurer due to my background. Denise contacted me to see if I would like to be part of the committee. My first introduction meeting was on the 6th October 2020 in the village hall, it was good to finally meet the people involved in what makes the village tick.

I hope to be able to bring fresh ideas and help fundraise money for village projects. It will make me feel a part of the core community and give something back to the village which has allowed us to bring our children up safely and in a nice environment.

I feel that I am very friendly and approachable. During a short spell being an Avon representative in Higher and Lower Odcombe whilst carrying my children on my back, I managed to meet lots of people and build up a network of friends.

I feel that there is a good mix of age ranges within the committee which will help appeal to the community and get everyone involved in local events. I hope that we can all work together and bring new events for a much needed exciting 2021.

Odcombe Parish Church

A word from the Associate Vicar

As we all experience uncertainty in our lives I thank God for the unchanging nature of His love and care for us, and for the loving care shown throughout the village to neighbours in need.



During the Summer we were finally able to reopen the church on Sundays (10-4) for private prayer. This involved a complex risk assessment and we are grateful to Trevor Walton for grappling with the necessary red tape. We are now delighted finally to be 'Open for Business' and recommenced Sunday services in September with an outdoor Harvest Festival service and picnic – thank you Stoke band! It was lovely to see so many in person, having relied on phone and letters for too long. Now the church is covid-safe we are having **one service a month - on 1st Sundays** at 11am – and although we can't sing we can certainly have music and worship God! You are very welcome. Our **online Sunday worship**, school assemblies and courses continue however – find them on www.hamhillchurches.org and our weekly prayer for the village is on Tuesdays 9am at Honeywood, Ham Hill Road. Sadly, at the Annual meeting recently, no-one stepped forward to be churchwardens here. However we are grateful to our many volunteers who help ➔

➔ day to day. Trevor hopes to put in hand considerable repairs to the church building required by the recent survey and the new churchyard plan is progressing well, thanks to Roger Fox's kind effort.

The PCC has asked me to tell you that like many charities, Odcombe church is struggling this year to cover their fixed overheads. If anyone would like to help please send a cheque to PCC of Odcombe c/o Mrs Ruth Hawkins, Church Treasurer, Harvest Moon, Higher Odcombe BA22 8UQ (BACs details in church porch) or cash in the church wall safe.

Remembrance Day service (November 8th 10:50) will just be at the war memorial this year and will be a shorter act of remembrance, as agreed with British Legion and church authorities. In December, regrettably, we are unable to offer our usual community carol service or family crib service, but the church will be decorated and there will also be two special events:

Carols and Candles – a reflective hour of recorded carols, readings and organ music - at 11am Sunday 13th December led by our new Rector. Please reserve a seat by dialling 07517 264524 before 10th December.

Christmas Day Communion at 11am Christmas Day - please reserve a seat by dialling 07517 264524 before 21st December



Our big news is that we have finally appointed **a New Rector**, after nearly two years without one, when I have been 'spread rather thin' across 7 parishes. He is an RNR chaplain too and is pictured here on the new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Revd Annie has asked me to write a short piece to introduce myself as the new Rector of the seven parishes of the Ham Hill Villages Benefice. My name is Reverend Nick Clarke and I am joining you after three years as Curate in the Merriott Benefice just across the way. I have lived locally with my wife Kathryn and three children, Ben, Tom and Jess for the past

twenty years, so we know and love the area well.

Before I was ordained I had a varied career first as a Metropolitan Police Detective, then as an Officer and Pilot in the Royal Navy and after retiring I took over as chief pilot of the Devon and Cornwall Police Helicopter and Air Ambulance unit. Throughout all my careers I found God becoming ever more important in my life and eventually realised he was calling me to become a Church of England priest....proof you never know where life and God will lead you!

Here I am six years later overjoyed to be called by God and chosen by you to be your Rector. It is a great privilege and an exciting challenge which I am passionately looking forward to! I will become your Rector at a special service at St Mary's church Norton sub Hamdon on 19th November when Bishop Ruth will hand over responsibility for the leadership of your Benefice and spiritual and pastoral care of every parishioner.

*We are both looking forward to meeting you all, getting to know you and your seven village communities, churches, schools and the beautiful countryside round Ham Hill. Together I am confident that with God's help we will continue to grow as a happy, energetic, united benefice, living and telling Jesus' story daily, nurturing and growing his kingdom in this beautiful place. These are difficult times but with the help of the Holy Spirit I will do my very best to follow Jesus' example to be your good shepherd and loving servant leader. At the heart of my ministry is a passion to reach out to every generation to share Jesus' message of love, forgiveness, hope and boundless joy of the life he has given us. Becoming better stewards of God's beautiful creation that surrounds us must be part of that. So, God bless you all, keep safe and well and we look forward to meeting you soon! **Rev Nick***



➔ Nick and I share an interest in environment issues, and I am delighted to report that Odcombe has achieved Bronze level in their Eco-church audit and will now work towards silver. We hope to extend our ideas to support wildlife in the unused areas of the churchyard, and transfer our floodlights to low energy LEDs. Watch this space for more...

Finally, we plan to run an **Alpha course** for anyone interested in discussing Christian Faith, early in the new year – places will be limited so please contact me if you'd like to come. Similarly if you would like to discuss a special service or any matter of faith, do be in touch.

Every Blessing, *Annie*

Revd Annie Gurner 01935 824167 or revgurner@btinternet.com

Farmwatch and Horsewatch

Good afternoon all,

Over the last couple of months Rural Crime has been on the increase with trailers/quad bikes being stolen. Last year I did quite a big drive on promoting Farmwatch which helps us to disseminate the intelligence received around our community.

The more we all talk to each other the harder it will make the criminal fraternity to infiltrate in our areas.

I would like to ensure the farms in my community have all signed up to farmwatch or if they are not receiving the text messages please contact me so that I can come out and fill the form out with them.

Anyone can email me or call me in relation to Farmwatch/Horsewatch **however to report any crimes they need to call 101.**

Many thanks

Georgie Crittenden, June 2020

Police Constable 1818

Tel 01935 402289 | 62289

Mob 07889 655094

Email georgina.crittenden@avonandsomerset.police.uk



From your Village Agent, Cath Holloway

More support than ever before for Carers!

We have some exciting service news for you! We have joined our Carers Agent and Village Agent teams, so ALL 55 + agents can now support unpaid Carers in Somerset!

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown resulted in CCS Agents changing their approach to be 'whole population' focused. This was important for families as it now meant there was one point of contact within the CCS team and no need to repeat themselves to explain their situation.

The model worked brilliantly, and as a result CCS Agents have supported over 7,000 Carers since the end of March 2020, clearly demonstrating that the One Family - One Agent approach was working to reach more unpaid Carers than ever.

CCS is delighted to announce that from September, all Carers Agents will become Village Agents and all existing Village Agents are ready to support unpaid Carers in Somerset. Nothing has changed other than having a lot more people available to support the unpaid Carer in Somerset.

You may not even recognise yourself as a Carer as you may look after someone infrequently, or informally, but we are here to help you whether you care for your spouse, child, friend or relative. To have a chat about how we can support you in your caring role -

call 0800 31 68 600, text 'Carer' to 78070 or visit the dedicated Carers website www.somersetcarers.org

Rehome a Phone!

Do you have an unused smartphone lying around?

By donating an unused phone to us, YOU can help reduce loneliness and isolation for a person in Somerset. We will be facing a very different Christmas this year with a reduction in the usual festive activities, and the possibility of family gathering restrictions, so we are focusing on re-homing as many of these phones as possible into our community to keep families and



somerset
village & community
agents

friends in touch with each other over the festive period.

We had a brilliant response to our last 'Rehome-a-phone' campaign - so many people in need in Somerset have benefitted from a donated device.

One person who received a handset said "You have made my day. This will help me feel not so lonely and I will even be able to do my food shopping online now as I'm house bound and can't get out".

To donate, please contact our Village Agent Ellie Bishop on email: ellieb@somersetccc.org.uk or call her on 07985 748910

Cath Holloway

m: 07968 521746

e: cath@somersetccc.org.uk



Buses from Lower Odcombe (Montacute Road) to Yeovil

◇ = **Not** Saturdays

S = Set down only



Odcombe to Yeovil		Yeovil to Odcombe	
d. 07:30	a. 07:45	d. 08:00	a. 08:13
d. 08:23	◇ a. 08:45	d. 09:00	◇ a. 09:13
d. 09:08	a. 09:25	d. 10:00	a. 10:13
d. 10:08	◇ a. 10:25	d. 11:00	◇ a. 11:13
d. 11:08	a. 11:25	d. 12:00	a. 12:13
d. 12:08	◇ a. 12:25	d. 13:00	◇ a. 13:13
d. 13:08	a. 13:25	d. 14:00	a. 14:13
d. 14:08	◇ a. 14:25	d. 15:00	◇ a. 15:13
d. 15:08	a. 15:25	d. 16:15	a. 16:28
d. 16:08	◇ a. 16:25	d. 17:15	◇ a. 17:28
d. 17:23	a. 17:40	d. 18:15	a. 18:28
d. 18:23	◇ a. S	-	-
d. 19:23	a. S	-	-



FixMyStreet

Report, view or discuss local problems

If you wish to report a problem in your street, like broken paving, fly tipping, graffiti, potholes, parking on pavements, dog fouling etc., then go to

fixmystreet.com

mySociety Limited is a project of UK Citizens Online Democracy, a registered charity in England and Wales. For full details visit mysociety.org



Neighbourhood Watch

For local beat officers for Odcombe go to avonandsomerset.police.uk Your Area

There are active NHW schemes in Odcombe. If you would like to join the scheme and are not sure if there is one in your road, please contact Lindsey Stone, Watch Scheme Administrator, Somerset Local Policing Team, Bridgwater Police Centre, Sandy Padgett House, Express Park, Bristol Road, Bridgwater TA6 4RR

t: 101 (or 01278-644799 direct line) or lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Lindsey will be able to give you the details you require.

Post Office at the Village Hall



All the normal services found at a village post office are provided in the hall:

Monday from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Friday from 9:30am to 11:30pm

Free cash withdrawals, by card, from most banks and building societies can be made.

International letters/packets and Bureau de Change facilities are also available.

Social distancing measures are currently in place. Please observe the directions displayed at the door of the hall before entering.



Bank Holiday road-side collections:

after Christmas - **Thursday 31st December**

after New Year - **Thursday 7th January**

Recycling at Artillery Road, Lufton Trading Estate, Yeovil

9:00am to 5:00pm on Monday to Friday

9:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Garden Waste collections will **not** take place on **Thursday 31st Dec** or **7th Jan.**

w: somersetwaste.gov.uk



Footpaths Officer - If you find any problems with footpaths around the parish, please contact Jack Loxston
t: 862238 e: jack.loxston32@gmail.com

Bus Service 44

Odcombe Church gates dep. 10:30

Yeovil (the Borough) arr. 10:45

Yeovil (the Borough) dep. 12:45

Odcombe Church gates arr. 13:00

Mondays to Fridays

Mobile Library Service

Tuesdays every 4 weeks:

Westbury Gardens 11:30 - 12:00

For information about this service, contact Libraries Direct t: 0300 1232224 or visit

www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

This Newsletter is published by the Odcombe Village Hall Management Committee, registered charity No. 304602

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Odcombe Village Hall

Activity Contacts ... **Note - all activities are subject to current COVID-19 rules and restrictions**

Post Office	Mondays - 9:00 to 12:00 noon Fridays - 9:30 to 11:30 am	At the Village Hall Social distancing measures are in place
Craft Stitches	2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday in month - 2:00-4:00 pm	Margaret Clotworthy t: 863863
Short Mat Bowls	Mondays - 2:00 to 5:00 pm Wednesdays - 7:00 to 10:00 pm Fridays - 7:00 to 10:00 pm	Hazel Smith m: 07720 724745
▲ Odcombe Baby & Toddler Group	Tuesdays - 9:30 to 11:30 am	 Odcombe Toddler Group
▲ Modern Sequence Dance	Monthly on a Sunday - 2:00 to 5:00 pm	Des & Marj Vincent t: 01308 425509
▲ Whist Drive	Thursdays - 8:00 pm	Joyce Holland t: 863545
Parish Council (public welcome) Currently using ZOOM - see page 11	3rd Monday in month - 7:30 pm	Mrs E.M. James PSLCC m: 07549 643402 e: clerk@odcombeparishcouncil.gov.uk
▲ Luncheon Club	3rd Wednesday in month - 12:30 pm	Deryl Rennie t: 864523
▲ @ the Hall Café	4th Monday in month - 10:00 am till noon	Denise Dunford t: 863444
▲ Pilates	Monday - 6:00 to 7:00 pm Thursday - 6:00 to 7:00 pm	Cordelia Worsley t: 01935 412104 Anna Chapman AVC Physio Pilates 
Pilates and Zumba	Friday - 10:00 am till noon	Debbie Knight m: 07970 258085
Pop-Up Open Air Market	Friday - 1:00 - 2:00 pm - Village Hall car park	 The Pop-Up Eco Supermarket
▲ Odcombe Movie Nights	Monthly from October to April	Judy Welfare m: 07934 737104
Purple Patchers	Thursday - 1:00 to 4:00 pm	Margaret Clotworthy t: 863863
NOTE: Activities marked with ▲ ARE NOT CURRENTLY RUNNING		
Odcombe Walkers		David Welfare m: 07745 118106
Odcombe Football Club		Glenn Seymour t: 863961
Neighbourhood Watch	Local representatives around the village	Deryl Rennie t: 864523 Alan Hiscock t: 863388
St. Peter & St. Paul Parish Church		Associate Vicar: Revd Annie Gurner t: 824167

Calling all countryside lovers!

If you ever go for a walk in the lovely Somerset countryside, you will be aware of the network of paths that are the counties Rights of Way network. At over 6,200Km, Somerset has one of the longest rights of way networks in the country.

As we all know, plants, weeds, hedgerows, trees etc. all grow, and sometimes these encroach on paths. To keep them open Somerset relies on a network of volunteers, with a key role being the Parish Paths Liaison Officers (PPLOs). The current post holder in Odcombe is stepping down, so we are searching for a new volunteer to take on the role! The PPLO is expected to support the County Council and local community through completing tasks such as light vegetation clearance, reporting issues to the County Council and promoting responsible use of the Rights of Way network.

Volunteers don't need to be members of the Parish Council, but they are expected to work with the Town Council and liaise with Somerset's Rights of Way Team. More information about the role can be found at: <https://volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/opportunities/rights-of-way-parish-path-liaison-officers/>.

The PPLO role is supported by the Rights of Way team's Volunteer and Trails Officer – if you would like to speak about the role, they can be contacted at: ROWVolunteers@somerset.gov.uk.

Liz James

Clerk to Odcombe Parish Council



Halloween Treasure Trail 2020



A huge thank you to: Tracey, Deryl, Megan, Scott and Malcolm, the Ghouls, Clown, Wizard & Witch and Fiendish Friend along the way; Paul and Malcolm for giving their time to set up; all the families who joined in to make it an amazing day. From the Witches of Halloween - Judy, Hannah, Becky & Denise.