



# Withycombe and Rodhuish Newsletter

February 2018

## Dates for your diary

Arguably the need to combat climate change is the biggest current challenge facing humanity. **On Monday 5th March 7:30pm at The Regal Theatre Minehead** the film **QU'EST-CE QU'ON ATTEND** (What are we waiting for?) portrays a year in the life of the French village of Ungersheim and how it embraced Transition. We see growing happiness and pride of acting together for a universal cause: the protection of the planet.

Tickets £4 from the Regal Theatre Box Office on 01643 706430. A trailer can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/188676166> For information about the organisers, West Somerset LETS, please see [www.westsomersetlets.co.uk](http://www.westsomersetlets.co.uk) or ring 01643 821768 (Hester).



**Quiz night – Saturday 10th March, 7pm for 7.30 in Memorial Hall**  
Entry £4.

**Memorial Hall AGM – 14th March at 7pm in Memorial Hall**  
All welcome

**Gardening for Wildlife – an illustrated talk by Penny Richards of Somerset Wildlife Trust**  
**Tuesday 20th March, 7.30pm in Memorial Hall**  
Entry £2

**Coffee morning in aid of CLIC Sargent – Saturday 17th March, 10am to 12.00 at Foxwarren**

**Easter coffee morning – and children's duck races – Saturday 24th March, 10am to 12.30pm in Memorial Hall**  
Entry £2 (children free). There will also be a photo quiz matching dogs with their owners!

**Watchet Choral Society** are putting on one of their concerts on **Thursday 26th April, 7.30pm in Withycombe Memorial Hall**. Each of the pieces they will be singing has some connection with the year 1918. It will include some items from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* which opened on Broadway in New York in that year. Tickets £7.50 on the door or £7 in advance from John Thorogood, 2 West St, Withycombe. Email: [johntvicar@btinternet.com](mailto:johntvicar@btinternet.com), Phone: 01984 641745

### **Bluebell Wood Walk and Cream Tea - 29th April**

We can already look forward to feasting our eyes on the wild native bluebells that fill Withycombe Wood with colour and perfume by the end of April each year. The population in our wood is pure native demonstrating the classical curved stem tips that hang slightly, the sky-blue flowers hanging down one side of the stem. It is an ancient woodland indicator species.

Fortunately our wood is removed from gardens filled with vigorous Spanish bluebells which hybridise easily with the wild form and this hybrid form can invade woods and compete with our native plants. We are encouraged to control vigorous populations in our gardens by removing faded heads before they seed. Picking bluebells does no harm to the plant but trampling over the leaves or pulling out the bulb centre kills them. We will keep to the paths!!

Do join us for a bluebell walk followed by a cream tea in The Memorial Hall on the afternoon of 29th April and invite your friends and family.



The super blue moon rising over Withycombe Wood on 31st January



## Withycombe Memorial Hall

### New Arts and Crafts Circle

All are welcome to join Withycombe's new Arts and Crafts Circle which meets in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday afternoons from 13.15 to 15.45. The first meeting was on 23rd January at £2 per person. Additional participants are very welcome to join in with "seasoned artists" and complete novices in a relaxed atmosphere. Please bring your own materials.

Hall bookings/enquiries: David Tilley 01984 641231

### Regular activities in Memorial Hall

	Daytime	Evening
Monday		Table tennis Contact: Bob/Anne Rivett 01984 641656
Tuesday	Arts and Crafts Contact: Carol Moll 01984 640498	
Wednesday	Active living (twice a month) Contact: Roger Hurst 01984 640060	Snooker Contact: Graham Burnett 01984 640946
Thursday	Pilates Contact: Fiona Pascall 07711 296116	Short mat bowls Contact: Mike Burnett 01643 822301
Friday		



## Pilates in Withycombe

Thursdays at 11.30am

Withycombe Community Hall

Everyone Welcome!



Other nearby classes: Nether Stowey and Sampford Brett.

To Book or for more information contact Fiona:  
fiona@pascallfitness.com  
07711296116

### Memorial Hall Committee

Current committee members are:

Anne Rivett (Chairman), Teresa Flynn (Secretary), Richard Barnham (Treasurer), Chris Adams, Audrey Bateman, Fiona Chamberlain, Dave Maynard, Tricia Perkes, Bob Rivett, Anthony Shopland, Judith Tilley.

Our meetings are open and minutes are posted on the noticeboard at the front of the Memorial Hall.

If you would like to help in any way please contact one of the committee members (telephone numbers on hall noticeboard).



**Signpost refurbishment group**

Four villagers (Carol Moll, Hugh Goddard, Anne and Bob Rivett) have now been trained to spruce up our old style cast-iron signposts. This is part of an Exmoor National Park project, sponsored by funds from the Heritage Lottery and coordinated by Charlotte Thomas. There are seven such signposts in Withycombe Parish and we look forward to starting the work of cleaning and repainting them once the weather improves.



**CD - “WEST COUNTRY BOY”**

(A live interview with John Nicholas)

A professionally recorded CD has been produced of an interview with John Nicholas aged 86 yrs who was born and raised in Withycombe and is currently the oldest continuous resident in the village. In the interview John gives a fascinating and often humorous insight into life in Withycombe in his early years in a delightful West Somerset dialect, which is sadly disappearing as village life inevitably changes. The CD, which is an important part of our village history, is now available at a cost of £5 with proceeds going to Withycombe Active Living Club of which John is a member.

All enquiries to Roger Hurst on 01984 640060

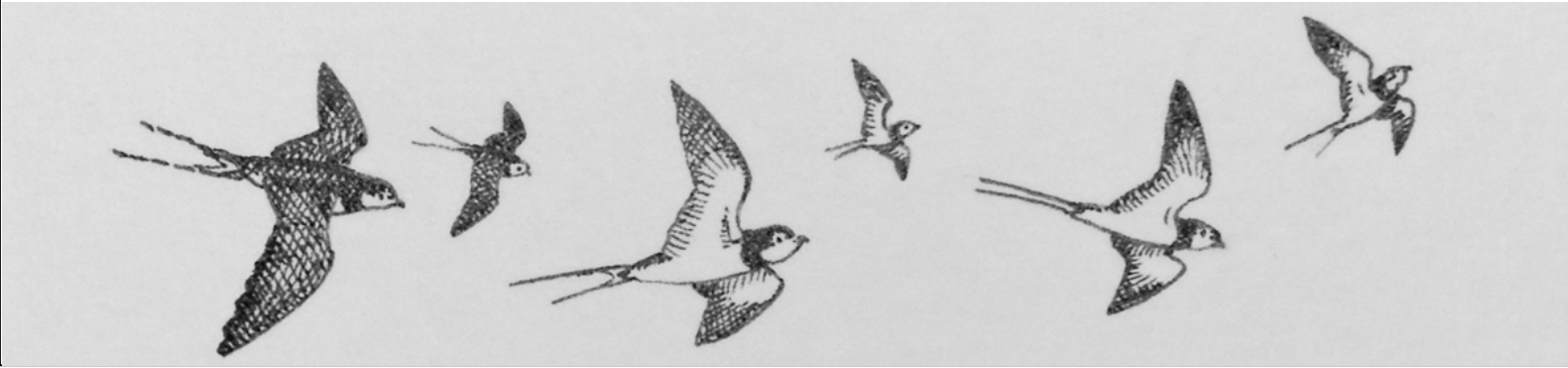


A frequent visitor to David Tilley's garden

**From the Hills**

If I was marooned in a hospital bed and dreamed of spring; what things would come to mind? The chattering and gossiping of the stream up the valley, its water shocking cold and glass clear after the cocoa muddiness of winter. There would be roots of mint weaving in the current, the first leaves yet to appear above the surface, and on every stone the grit tubes of the caddis fly larvae - food for the Dipper, who might suddenly appear on a wet boulder before whirring away upstream. Primroses and Celandine; blackcap and bumblebee. Fresh mole hills, the warm earth as pure and inviting as a perfect chocolate cake. The rapid hollow-coconut drumming of a woodpecker. The methodical, bloody-nosed beetle on his long, clockwork journey from one verge of the dusty lane to the other. Pussy Willow and Plum blossom; Tortoiseshell and Peacock. The paintbrush Larch needles as green as the brightest unreal green in a child's paintbox. The Yellowhammer - improbably, impossibly yellow. Wild ducks splashing and squabbling in the pond. Frog spawn in nearly every ditch and puddle. Hazy chalk-blue skies; the mewing of gulls and buzzards, high above, circling round and round on the thermals. A motionless, volcano-like plume of smoke above the Quantocks, from the controlled burning, or swaling, of heather. And one day, always a surprise, Swallows - a punctuation mark in the year, ending one chapter and beginning the next. Promise and hope and excitement always in their wake.

Ben



## Farm news



Look carefully and you'll notice that the fields (the green ones at least) are starting to change colour. Grasses, and that includes cereals, are primarily triggered into growth by increasing day length, so what you are seeing is growth restarting after winter's short days. This continues through the spring and into summer, each significant growth stage occurring in the same week each year. You can't quite set your watch by wheat's growth stages but you certainly would know which page of the calendar you were on. If it were solely influenced by temperature then a cold summer might lead to crop failure, responding to day length means that the crop has a much better chance of making it to maturity and harvest. It's this ability that has made grasses the most important crop in the world and integral to the survival of all earth's animals.

Steve Crossman  
Court Place Farm

## Asparagus field help needed

I'm looking for someone to help in the field harvesting asparagus. The season is early May through to early June, about 4 hours a day, every day. Give me, Stephen Crossman, a call on 07974 218696.

## Recycling Plastic

This is a very topical subject at the moment as we all learn more about the toxic threat to our planet's ecosystems. Currently half the rubbish thrown away could be recycled so there is a lot more we can do, and of course a lot more that supermarkets could do, to reduce plastic packaging.

RECYCLE MORE will be Somerset's next leap forward in driving up recycling in the county. In 2020 we can look forward to being able to recycle at the kerbside all plastic bottles, tubs, trays and small electrical items. This will require a new fleet of recycling vehicles. Meanwhile we should try to recycle at the kerbside what we can i.e. clean plastic bottles (no tops, pots or tubs) and of course paper, cardboard, cans, glass bottles & jars, textile, food waste, aerosols.

For full details see [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)  
This website provides a lot of useful information including details of the 250 million pound Resource Recovery Centre being built in Avonmouth which makes interesting reading.



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## PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Emma Wright (CHAIRMAN), 1 Crown Cottages, Withycombe, Minehead TA24 6QA  
Telephone: 01984 641602 Email: [burny150@gmail.com](mailto:burny150@gmail.com)

Parish Council website:  
**[www.withycombepc.co.uk](http://www.withycombepc.co.uk)**  
where full details of councillors and meetings etc can also be found.

### Parish Clerk:

Sam Rawle, 60 Paganel Road, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5EY  
Telephone: 01643 703514  
Email: [sam.rawle60@gmail.com](mailto:sam.rawle60@gmail.com)

## Titholes Development

The Council reports that the Crown Estate have appointed a new architect and the site is currently being assessed for drainage with a view to resolving issues as soon as possible.

Please send us your email address if you would like to receive newsletters by this means.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A LARGEPRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Contributions to the next newsletter (including photos, drawings, poems, stories etc) can be sent or delivered to Anne Rivett, Squirrels, Lower Street. ([anne.rivett@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.rivett@btinternet.com) 01984 641656) - by 31st May please!