



# Withycombe and Rodhuish Newsletter

June 2018

As most of you know, on 22 April I took part in the London Marathon, but not just any London Marathon... the hottest one on record, with temperatures peaking at 24.1 deg. And believe me, it was hot. I took the decision early on that it would be unwise to try and finish in my target time of 5 hours so took my time, soaked up the atmosphere and eventually finished in 5h 34m - exactly an hour slower than Ellen back in 2014.

I took part in this event to raise money for Clic Sargent - a fantastic charity who have helped my nephew Olly during his battle with cancer over the last 5 years. I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who have supported me in these efforts, either by sponsoring me, coming to our coffee morning or just saying good luck. I have raised well over my target of £2000 which will help Clic Sargent to continue being rather marvellous.

For those of you who have ever wondered what it feels like to run a marathon, my dad captured it perfectly in this photo, taken at around 18 miles near Canary Wharf....

Matt Vickery



I will be participating in the Northern Coast to Coast challenge on the 23rd June 2018, cycling from Seascale (Lake District coast) to Whitby (North Yorks coast) in a day. The route is 150 miles with 4500 metres of ascent taking in the infamous Hardknott and Wrynose passes amongst other 'slopes' on the way. It is an organised ride but I will be cycling solo and drafting anyone/anything I can get close to. Fingers crossed the wind is blowing in the right direction!

And now the serious bit: my son Austin (2.5 years old) was born with a very rare genetic syndrome (Cornelia de Lange Syndrome). Briefly, this has affected Austin with slow growth (6.5kg), physical and mental developmental delay and hearing loss amongst other equally serious issues. Despite all this he is a very cheeky chappy!

I would like to raise some money for the CDLS charity that provides support to children, adults and families affected by the syndrome. The charity is very small and run by volunteers; it receives no government funding and relies solely on donations. A large proportion of the money raised supports further research into the syndrome at Birmingham University and twice a year the Doctors/PHD students come (for free) to the CDLS conferences and present the latest research. It is likely that any money raised will have a positive impact on Austin's and other children's future as we learn more about the syndrome.

Nick Thorne

**If you would like to sponsor Nick you can either drop a donation in the letter box at Christopher's Cottage or visit his Just Giving page at: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nick-thorne-for-cdls](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nick-thorne-for-cdls)**



# Withycombe Memorial Hall

## News From Withycombe Memorial Hall Committee

Our first Withycombe Wood bluebell walk on the 29th of April was a great success, the bluebells were at their best and over eighty cream teas were served in the hall.

This year there is no Gardens Open event because we organise this every two years - so everyone can now start preparing for next year!

We are organising a Big Breakfast for the 22nd of July and hope many villagers will attend as well as passing cyclists and visitors.

We are hoping to have another Quiz night fairly soon and also an auction of promises in the autumn and possibly an art exhibition.

While clearly still waiting for a village car park we are most grateful to Withycombe Farm and Court Place Farm for very kindly allowing us to use their premises for parking.

Full minutes of the last meeting and a list of committee members are on the hall notice board. If you have any new ideas or suggestions please let any of us know.

Hall bookings/enquiries: David Tilley 01984 641231

## Regular activities in Memorial Hall

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

*Pascall Fitness*

*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), Judith Blathwayt, Richard Barnham (Treasurer), Chris Adams, Audrey Bateman, Fiona Chamberlain, Dave Maynard, Bob Rivett, Anthony Shopland, Liz Steadman, Judith Tilley, Carol Wheeler.

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

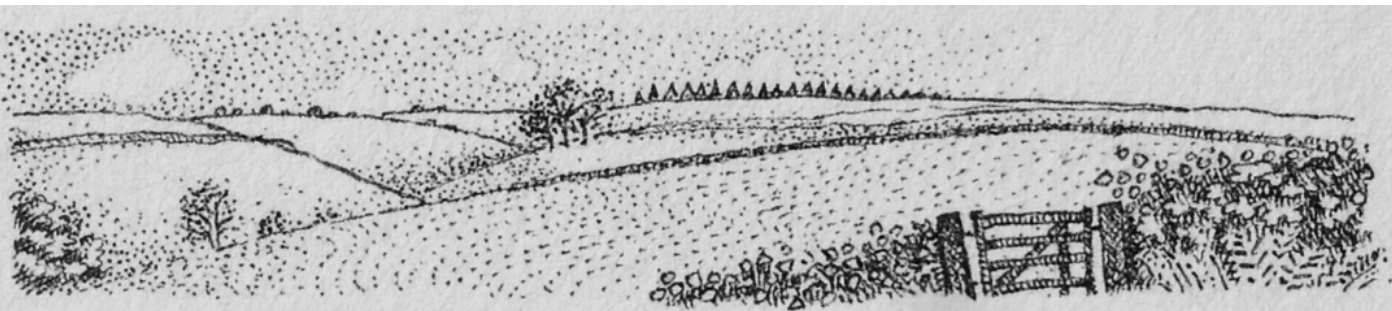
If you would like to help in any way please contact one of the committee members (telephone numbers on hall noticeboard).

## From The Hills

It was a hard winter, with deep drifts of snow and quite a few days of not being able to venture out by car. When spring came, the blossom in the farm orchard was wonderful; the air in the aisles between the trees heavy with the hum of bees. But now it is summer and I look in my nature diaries of previous years and see that this will be a time of successes and failures; of fledgling youngsters and moulting parents, the clock of far-off winter already ticking. My vegetable plot will be assaulted by voles and mice, rabbits, pigeons, slugs and snails. There may be a drought and the hard earth force moles to the surface, where they become disorientated by the brightness. There will be tumbles of pink dog roses; and poppies studding the fields of young wheat. The first hummingbird hawk moths will arrive on the red campion and garden stocks; the rough track up onto the common will be edged with honeysuckle and spears of willow herb reaching for the sky. The orchard will grow green and cool as a church and I will see comma butterflies and meadow browns in the dappled light. I may even come across a grass snake warming up in the early morning sun.

The first broods of swallows will swoop out of the barns and the air will be busy with chattering excitement. Looking up the valley from the orchard gate I will see the fields of wheat curling and whispering like the sea.

Ben



## Withycombe Spring Flower Watch

Road verges really matter. They are home to over 700 species of wild flower - nearly 45% of our total UK flora – including 29 species of wild orchid. As other wild space disappears – 97% of meadows have vanished since the 1930s – they become even more important. And where wildflowers lead, nature follows. Red clover and lady's bedstraw - two particularly wildlife-friendly plants - are experiencing the most rapid declines. Bees, butterflies, birds, bats and bugs depend on our verges, as the wider countryside becomes increasingly hostile.

Kerrie Thorne and Anne Rivett on their pushchair walks up to Combe Farm have compiled the following provisional list of plants that they have identified on Buckhill and Combe Lane in the last two weeks. What an amazing number of wild plants we have on our doorstep!

This is not a comprehensive list but it is a start! If you have any comments, additions, corrections or queries please talk to Kerrie or Anne. Next year they will start recording in early spring.



June 2018. Buckhill and Combe Lane plants recorded:

Angelica, alkanet

Bracken, burdock, bindweed, bramble, bedstraw (hedge), black bryony, buttercup (creeping)

Cowslip, cow parsley, clover (red and white), cranesbill (cut leaf and shining), cleavers, cat's ear

Dock sp, dog's mercury, dandelion, daisy

Enchanter's-nightshade

Forget-me-not, foxglove, fox-and-cubs, fumitory, figwort

Garlic mustard, germander speedwell

Hedge woundwort, herb-robert, hart's-tongue fern, hogweed, hemlock water-drop wort, hop, honeysuckle

Ivy (common)

Meadow sweet, mare's-tail, mugwort, mouse-ear (common)

Nettle (common)

Oxeye daisy

Plantain (greater and ribwort), pignut

Red campion, ramsons

Stitchwort (lesser), sedge (pendulous), silverweed

Tufted vetch, traveller's joy, thistles (various, including creeping, spear and marsh)

Wood avens, willow herb (rosebay and broad-leaved), water mint

Yellow archangel, yellow pimpernel

## Farm News

Lovely sunshine! And no, we don't need rain. Except for those fields of maize just the other side of the main road, so some for there please, but not on the asparagus.

Not too much to ask is it?

In the winter I talked about the importance of looking after the soil structure, the benefits become apparent now in a dry time as plant roots in well structured soil will reach down deep into the moisture. Wheat yields are largely decided by the sunshine levels we get in the long days of June and July, so no weeks of dull overcast wet days please.

Maize is an interesting one, it's typically a hot and dry climate sort of crop with a root system that goes quite deep in search of moisture. In addition it's leaf layout has a rather clever design; look carefully and you'll notice they are arranged like an upside down umbrella, funnelling any dew and rain down to the roots.

Steve Crossman  
Court Place Farm



The smart newly-painted signpost at the centre of Withycombe – thanks to Carol Wheeler and Hugh Goddard. Work has now started on the signpost at the bottom of Combe Lane.

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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)

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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 7th September please!