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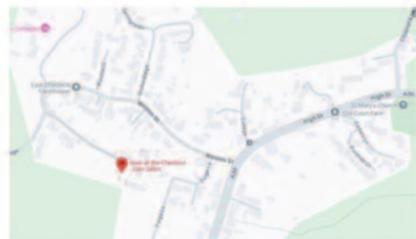
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Accounts & Bookkeeping Services

387 The Hollow
East Chinnock
Somerset BA22 9DN

Lee & Clare
01935-579136 07971-404753
finleeclare@hotmail.com



USEFUL CONTACTS

Somerset Council 0300 123 2224	Parish Council Chairman Duncan Goodes 07806 791320 chinnock.hollow@outlook.com	Post Office (Village Hall) Monday 1pm - 3pm Tuesday 9am - 12pm	Yeovil Hospital 01935 475122	Crewkerne Health Centre (appointments) 01460 72435	Beavers (6-8 years) Heather Pitts 01935 433840	Scouts Active Support (adults) Pete Divall 01935 422328
County Councillor Oliver Patrick 07969 269416 oliver.patrick@somerset.gov.uk	Parish Council Clerk Nancy Chapman eparishcouncilclerk@yahoo.co.uk	Village Hall Booking & Keys Martin Harris 01935 864582 martinatthegables@btinternet.com	Westlake Surgery 01935 862212	Preschool, Baby & Toddler Group Kay Strobe 07503 751133	Cubs (8-10^{1/2}-yrs) Scouts (10^{1/2}-14yrs) James Divall 01935 863105	Guides, Brownies, Rainbows westcoker@girlguiding-somerset.org.uk
County Councillor Mike Hewitson mikehewitson@somerset.gov.uk	Citizens Advice Bureau Petters Way Yeovil BA20 1SH 0808 2787842	Entertainments Committee Chair Pat Lock 01935 863899	Westlake Dispensary 01935 865104	Pre - School (under 5's) 07798 812 540 or see East Coker Pre-school Facebook page	Explorers (14 - 18 years) Mike Beckerleg 01935 862719	FEOFFEES John Cox - Chairman 01935 863304 Jane Lock - Clerk 01935 863899

The Chinnock Chimes

December 2025 / January 2026



Photo courtesy of Peter Jory

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Editor

Welcome to the Christmas / New Year's issue. After the amazing summer weather we've enjoyed, we have also been treated to a wonderfully colourful show this Autumn - thank you to Peter Jory for allowing me to use his beautiful photograph on the front cover.

With Christmas rapidly approaching, there is a variety of events taking place in the village which I encourage you to take part in, details of which are in this issue. Also in here are some amusing items given to me by a former resident. They will hopefully amuse the more senior members of the village and also serve as a warning to younger members of what is to come!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed photos and articles, without them, the magazine would not exist! I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy 2026.

There is still a lot of dissatisfaction regarding the state of the Wooden Top Inn (Portman Arms as was) and I have received yet another poem regarding this eyesore.

Hear, hear, writer of the ode
 About the eyesore on our road.
 It'll need far more than one of us
 To voice complaints and make a fuss.
 Perhaps to 'Oliver' we should write
 To state our views about this site.
 It's been like this for years and years
 How long do we have to bear this curse?
 It appears the council won't get it done
 So please get writing everyone!

Anon



As suggested, someone in the village has indeed written to the Council, and received the following reply:

Thank you for getting in touch.

This is a case that has been rumbling on for many years, unfortunately. The good news is that I've been in touch with the enforcement team recently who have confirmed that the section 215 Notice (to clear up the site) has not been complied with and that court action is pending.

It's likely to take yet more time to resolve this case but rest assured we are on it.

All best wishes,

Cllr Oliver Patrick (he/him)

Member - Coker

Vice Chair - Planning Committee South Somerset Council

I believe this route has been taken in the past, we can only hope that one day it will eventually happen. The deadline for the next issue is January 11th.

Angela

thechinnockchimes@btinternet.com

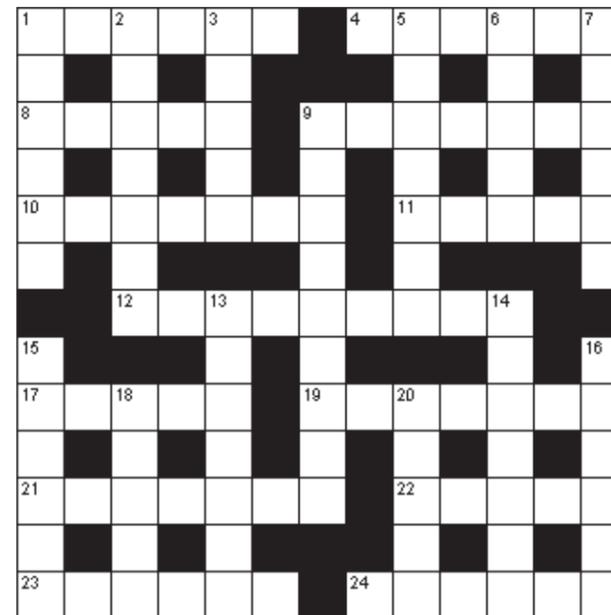
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL
 HELD ON MONDAY 6th OCTOBER 2025 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak:

A parishioner spoke on behalf of several other parishioners that were present at the meeting, stating that they are unhappy about the pavement being obstructed on College near Cornerstones property. The trailer has been blocking the pavement for several years and according to the parishioner it is never moved. They are concerned that it would be difficult for emergency vehicles to use the road. They have contacted Somerset Council regarding this and also the police. Somerset Council Highways have responded stating that they are looking to install bollards in this area. The Police have been trying to contact the owner of the trailer, but have so far failed. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council have also been in consultation with Somerset Council and will continue to follow this up.

A parishioner asked the council if they are intending to install a new planter near the 'East Chinnock' welcome sign near Bridge Farm. The Chairman replied that if the parish Council installed a new planter it would only be nearby the Village Hall as the planter that had been in place at Bridge Farm was hard to maintain due to its location. It is hoped that the new planter could re-use the stone from the old one and replace the wooded planter outside the Village Hall. This would be discussed in further detail at November's meeting. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the police regarding the recently destroyed planter, and they had responded saying there were unable to find a report on this even though it was reported that the police had attended following the accident.

Crossword Puzzle



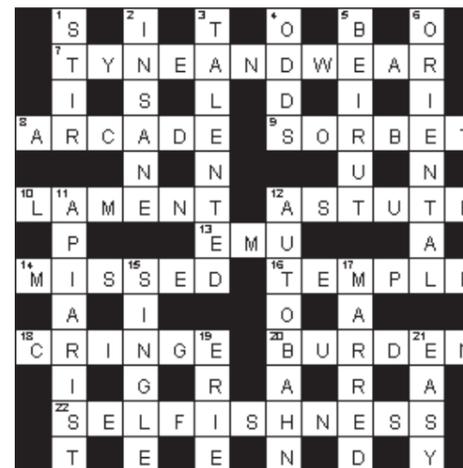
Across

- 1 Find by searching or examining (6)
- 4 Refuge (6)
- 8 Hooded snake (5)
- 9 Without assistance (7)
- 10 Extend (7)
- 11 Squeeze (5)
- 12 Heavy waterproof cover (9)
- 17 Early birds (5)
- 19 Showing no expression (7)
- 21 Discard (4,3)
- 22 Early part of life (5)
- 23 Cloth used with polish (6)
- 24 Go up (6)

Down

- 1 Destructive migratory insect (6)
- 2 Floor-show (7)
- 3 Distinguishing feature (5)
- 5 Surgical knife (7)
- 6 Gatehouse (5)
- 7 Unostentatious (6)
- 9 Previously unknown (7-2)
- 13 Give back (7)
- 14 Roman sea god (7)
- 15 Serene, unruffled (6)
- 16 Without shoes (6)
- 18 Takes a break (5)
- 20 Bottomless gulf (5)

Crossword Solution to the Previous Issue



LOTTERY WINNERS

October

**1st Carol Jefferies
 2nd. Sara Russell**

November

**1st. Duncan Goodes
 2nd Sue Lock**

SCOUT'S CHRISTMAS POST

40p per card, save 45p each time! Please enclose money with the cards or use the QR code on the postbox.

The last day for posting cards is now the 17th of December.

East Chinnock's collection points are at St. Mary's and at "Pippin", 3, Orchardleigh, East Chinnock.



We are Survivors

(For those born before 1940)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes ... and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first before we lived together (how quaint can you get?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate during Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before househusbands, computer dating and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before Day Care centres, Care Homes and disposable nappies, We never heard of FM Radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors or young men wearing earrings. For us, 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word at all.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how well you did in your exams. 'Stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a bus to the terminus. In our day, cigarette smoking was highly fashionable, 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in, 'Rock Music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today ... BUT

By the Grace of God we have Survived!°



Thoughts of an Older Person!

Remember that we old folks are worth a fortune, with silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs.

While I have become a little older since I saw you last, I have become quite a frivolous old gal, having two gentlemen with me all of the time: Will Power helps me get out of bed and Arthur Ritis never leaves me alone.

The Preacher came to call the other day, he said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter.

I told him that I do that all the time no matter where I am. In the living room, the study, the kitchen or upstairs, I always ask myself "What am I hereafter?"



Usual pattern of worship services for St Mary's church community

1st Sunday	9.15am Holy Communion in St Mary's Church
2nd Sunday	6pm in summer, (5pm Nov-Mar) Evening Prayer in St Mary's Church
3rd Sunday	9.45 for 10am start Café Church in the Village Hall
4th Sunday	10am Holy Communion in St Mary's Church

Christmas Services at St Mary's 2025

- December 8th. WI Carol Service 2.30pm.** All welcome
- December 16th. Village Carol Service 7pm.** Come and join us for a traditional carol service.
- December 21st. Cafe Church in The Room@the Park 9.45am.** Refreshments served. Collection of Christmas Goodies for Lord's Larder.
- December 23rd. Carols in The Room@the Park 7pm.** Mince pies and drinks .
- December 24th. Crib Service. 4.30pm.** Children especially welcome at this short service.
- December 25th. Christmas Communion 10am,** led by Canon John Owen.

Prayer for village.

In November we are praying for households in College, The Village Hall and Fordhay. In December we are praying for those in Weston Street to Judy's Barns, Forge Lane, Weston Farm, and the cottages and up to Cleeves. Please do let us know any prayer requests you have. We would be glad to join our prayers with yours.

You can check for any variations on this pattern, and updated news for St Mary's East Chinnock and relevant Benefice News on A Church Near You, [website https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11012/](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11012/) and using the QRcode on this page.

The church notice board outside the church gates also shows the time and place of the service that coming Sunday. If it is blank it means the service is elsewhere in the Benefice.



Concert at St Mary's on December 12th at 7pm.

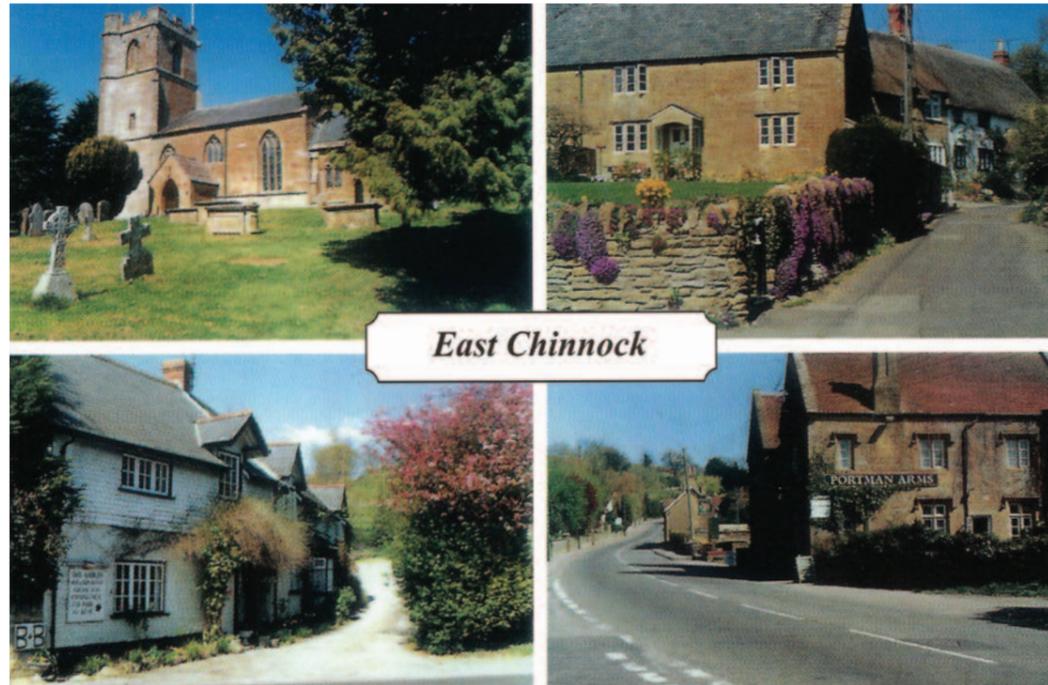
The Stanchester Quire are coming to St Mary's to share an evening of Traditional carols and songs of Advent and Christmas. There will also be seasonal readings.

No tickets are needed although there will be a donations box on the day.

Drinks are available and there will be a raffle.

Come and join us for a lively evening with audience participation for some songs.

Contact Liz Murdoch for further details 01935 863209



East Chinnock

Sarah Russell found this postcard on eBay. I imagine you will all recognise these images, they are St Mary's Church, College, The Gables and the Portman Arms. Unfortunately there is no date as to when these pictures were taken, but from the image of The Gables, we think it might be sometime in the 1990's



Soup Lunches Dec 25 - April 26

Dec 10th For International Nepal Fellowship
organised by Claire Swarbrick.
Booking with Gill Harris 01935 864192

Jan 14th For Southmead Hospital
organised by Bunty Andrews
Booking with Bunty 07970034094

Feb 11th For Gardening Club
Booking with Gill Harris 01935 864192

March 11th For St. Margarets Hospice
organised by Martina Dudley and Liz Murdoch
Booking with Liz 01935 863209

April 8th For the Village Hall
organised by Jaime
Booking with Jaime 07894393938

Lunches cost £7.00 for soup and a pudding.
Please be ready for 1pm lunch.



WC&HCC 50th Anniversary Season Review



In a year where the nation has been celebrating the successes in women's sport more of the same has been happening at Halves Lane. Our women's team led by Sophie Witcher, went through the season undefeated and won the Gibson Pairs League. This is no mean feat in only their 2nd season, and while cricket was front and centre, camaraderie, fun and respect were not too far behind. What level they will be playing next year is still uncertain, but no doubt this group will go from strength to strength. Left, are members of the team with their trophy at our 50th Anniversary Dinner.

Another relatively new team enjoying success this year are the Panthers, who joined the Mid Wessex Sunday League (MWL) and in their first year finished a very admirable 3rd, while also reaching the final of the MWL T20 competition. The game on Sept 21st, against a very strong and youthful Ilminster team, was hosted at Halves Lane and although our panthers finished runners up they were competitive and gracious hosts.

Friday nights at Halves Lane from mid May to mid July, are simply a festival of fun as boys, girls, parents, grandparents join us for the All Stars & Dynamos programme. Although only re-started after Covid, it has already enabled us to put under 10s and U12s teams into competitive cricket leagues and hopefully this year an U14 team for the first time in 10 years. Clearly we are hoping these juniors will become the backbone of our senior teams in years to come, and we are already seeing several players invited to join the Somerset County Pathway programme.

Our Saturday Somerset Cricket League (SCL) team finished mid table in Div 5 South, despite beating both the 2 promoted teams at Halves Lane! Notable performances came from James Parrott and Tom Blackburn who both finished in the division's batting top ten with Kris Pearse in the bowling top ten. The women have set a high bar, so we will certainly have eyes on promotion next year!

After retaining our ECB Disability Champion Club status, we continued to host the Somerset Bears Super 1s Yeovil Hub on a Thursday evening. Super1s is a community based coaching programme funded by the Lord's Taverners Charity, supporting young people aged 12 - 25 with physical or learning disabilities and the goal of improving their physical and mental well-being, confidence and independence. In addition to a youth offering we were also able to support Somerset Cricket Foundation with use of our facility and equipment on Wednesday mornings through June and July to run sessions for adults with disabilities from in and around the Yeovil area.

Last but definitely not least, Will Brooks continued to run his mid-week T20 team and is always looking to welcome players who want to enjoy a bit of social cricket and work up a thirst (not necessarily in that order!).

Our Annual Dinner this year was back in Hardington, where the club was founded 50 years ago. Achievements were acknowledged, memories rekindled and thanks given to the many volunteers who make everything possible, and our wonderful sponsors Martock Dental Practice and The New Inn. Also a big thank you to Martin and the staff of Sonny's who served up great food and service.

For more information about playing, volunteering, sponsorship, then please e-mail westcokerhardingtoncc@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook.

Peaceable living Building peace in our divided worlds

**A one-day programme on Saturday 21st March 2026
10am to 4pm**

St Mary's Church East Chinnock, BA22 9DP

In our increasingly divided and polarised worlds, whether globally, nationally or closer to home, how do we learn what it takes to live peaceably, with curiosity and understanding of those we label the 'other'?



The unique stained glass windows of St Mary's, East Chinnock have long symbolised peace and reconciliation. Created and donated by a WW2 German prisoner of war as tokens of peace and gratitude for care by the village, they remain inspiring symbols of reconciliation for our divided worlds today.

Drawing on this remarkable legacy, St Mary's second peace programme is thrilled to welcome speakers Jo Berry CBE and Simon Keyes.

Jo Berry CBE - international peace builder, founder of Building Bridges for Peace, and Somerset resident, Jo says "On October 12th 1984 my father, Sir Anthony Berry and 4 others were killed in the bombing of the Grand Hotel, Brighton..... I made a personal decision just two days later, to bring something positive out of this emotionally shattering trauma and to try and understand those who had killed him. I chose to give up blame and revenge, instead taking responsibility for my pain and feelings, transforming them into passion for peace". Jo was the subject of the 2001 BBC documentary "Facing the Enemy."



Simon Keyes was previously Professor of Reconciliation and Peacebuilding at the University of Winchester and is the Bath and Wells Diocesan Adviser on Peacebuilding.



The programme includes practical interactive sessions exploring how to listen skilfully and engage constructively in the face of "difference", in order to live more peaceably in our day-to-day contexts.

Up to January 31st 2026, 'Early bird' tickets are on sale for £20, including tea, coffee, and buffet lunch. Tickets from February 1st 2026 are £25

For tickets and more details contact Alex Swarbrick (alexclaire.es@gmail.com)

Regular Events

Coffee Mornings

10:30am - 12:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the Hall.

Post Office

Monday 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00pm every week in the Hall.

E.C. Gardening Club

7:00pm on the 3rd Monday in the Hall.

E.C. Art, Craft & Social Group

2:00 - 4:00pm on the 1st Wednesday in the Hall.

Saturday Morning Cafe

10:00 - 12:00am on the 1st Saturday in The Room@The Park.

Mens Breakfast

8.30am on the 3rd Saturday of the month in The Room@the Park, Telephone Richard Kirlaw: 07966 754110 or John Chappelle: 07887 875622 for further details.

Mobile Library

Every four weeks on Route "E" .

St. Mary's Cafe Church

9:45am on the 3rd Sunday in The Room@the Park.

E.C. WI (Women's Institute)

7:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Hall.

Pilates - NEW Times

Mondays: 9.30 - 10am seated
10.30 - 11am mat

Sharon Smith: 07715 301782 for details.

Qi Gong

10:30am - 12:00pm every Thursday in the Hall . Telephone Robin Sheldrake: 07990 506833 for details.

Pop-Up Pub Night

Last Friday of each month until March 2026. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. £2 per person. Dogs welcome.

Kurling

10am-1pm every Friday from January 16th - March 27th 2026. Telephone Ros Weber on 07866 040688 for further details.



At the Village Hall

Monday 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am - 12.00pm

COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee mornings are held on the **first** and **third Wednesday** of each month, 10.30am - 12.00pm.

Prices:

Coffee and biscuits £1.50.
Additional coffees £1.00



East Chinnock WI (Women's Institute) meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at The Village Hall. New members are always welcome. There is a monthly programme of events and plenty of friendly faces to meet. You can come to a couple of meetings and see if it's for you before you commit to membership.



ART, CRAFT & SOCIAL GROUP

2.00pm - 4.00pm on the first Wednesday of every month

Come and meet like-minded Art & Crafters, bring your own materials.

£3.00 per session
(includes tea and coffee).\

For more information, contact:

Gerald Witcher: 01935 862602,
gwitcher@btinternet.com

Jane Lock: 01935 863899,
patricklock440@yahoo.co.uk



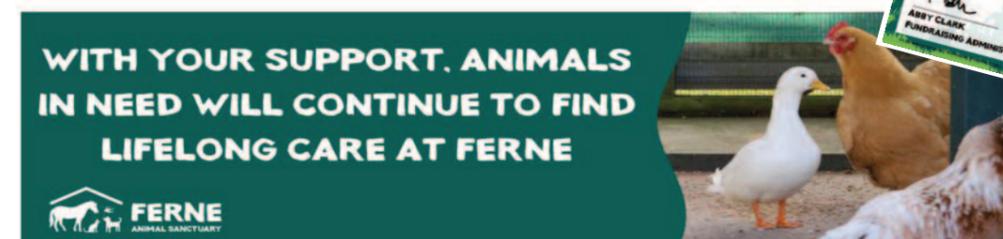
East Chinnock Gardening & Countryside Club



On Monday, 17th November our speaker was **Emma Green** from **Ferne Animal Sanctuary**. It was a very interesting talk about the great work that they do.

Ferne was set up through the foresight of the late Nina, Duchess of Hamilton & Brandon, who realised that men and women going off to war had no-one to take care of their animals. The Duchess put a call out on the BBC and, legend has it, when she returned to her London home there were a number of cats and dogs on her doorstep, and also a parrot!

From there, Ferne has developed over the years taking in and re-homing where and when suitable cats, dogs, guinea pigs, horses, donkeys, rabbits and other small animals. A very enjoyable and informative evening.



Dear Sara,

Thank you so much for your generous efforts in raising an incredible £193.60 through your Quiz Night. We'd also like to thank everyone who took part and helped make this fantastic total possible. Your kind support ensures animals in need will continue to find lifelong care at Ferne.

For example, animals like Pendleton. Pendleton began his life as the only viable egg of four. On day 28 of his incubation under two broody hens, Pendleton's previous guardian decided to lend a helping hand by making a small hole in his egg. However, instead of a chirping chick, they were surprised by a little duckling, Pendleton.

Pen-Pen, as he affectionately became known, had a difficult start in life. Before leaving the nest, he suffered a rat bite on his neck and a puncture to his beak. Although weak and lethargic, with medical treatment and comfort from his feathered foster parents, he eventually made a full recovery and, despite the odds, became stronger every day.

Now, Pendleton has found a forever home at Ferne. While the sanctuary is home to other ducks, Pendleton is often found roaming the site with a flock of chickens, preferring the familiar company of the clucking variety.

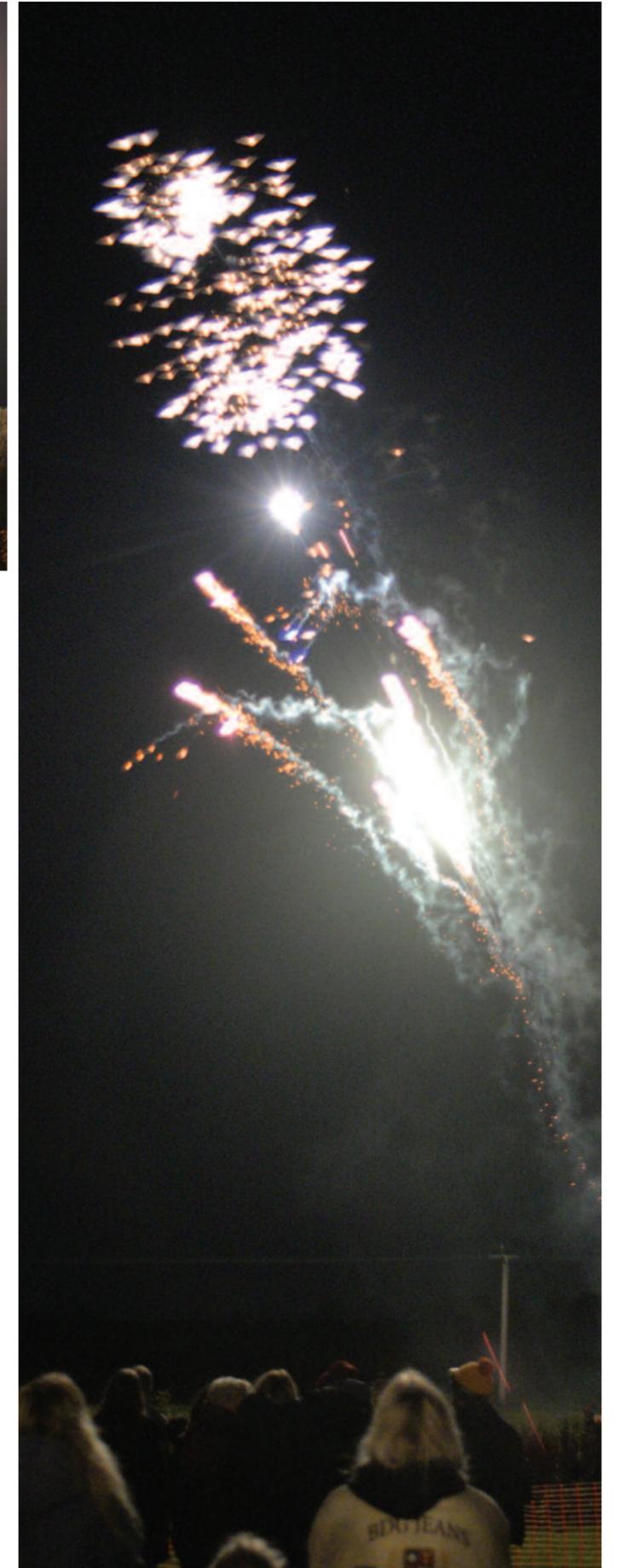
Once again, thank you for supporting Ferne Animal Sanctuary. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on animals' lives.

Yours sincerely,

Abby Clark
Fundraising Administrator

Bonfire Night this year was the warmest on record (over 14 degrees on the south coast), and a good crowd of people took advantage of this to attend our event. The rain held off, the bonfire provided an impressive blaze and the firework display was as spectacular as ever. I'm sure the use of low-noise fireworks was appreciated by all pet owners in the vicinity.

Many thanks to the Entertainments Committee for all their work in organising the event and to everyone involved in providing the excellent barbeque and the bar, both of which were well patronised.



Photos by Martin Harris

Thank you to all who came and supported the Firework night event, it looked like over 200 + attended, we sold out of all the food and drink which is a good result. We hope that you all enjoyed the Display.

With special thanks to:
 Sue & Andy Gliddon (Field)
 Saunders (Butcher)
 Distant Thunder (Fireworks)
 MKM (Timber & Cardboard)

Hope to see you all next year.
 Pat Lock
 Entertainments Committee.