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387 The Hollow
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Somerset BA22 9DN

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

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

The Chinnock Chimes

February/March 2026

The Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve 2025



Editor

Welcome to the February/March issue of the Newsletter. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and that 2026 brings you all you wished for. As we move towards Spring, there are new events to look forward to as well as the annual shows. This edition contains the review and photographs of the 2025 Christmas Fair on November 29th 2025.

Submissions for THE CHINNOCK CHIMES

I am aware that the last few issues of "The Chimes" has been arriving through your letterbox later than it used to. Bearing in mind that everyone involved in producing your newsletter give their time and effort completely free, necessary changes to the production system, which are beyond my control, are having this effect. In an effort to correct this, I am changing the copy date from the 11th to the 4th of the month stated. This means that items for the April/May 26 edition need to be with me by the 4th March.

My apologies if this causes you any inconvenience, and thank you for your continued support.

Angela

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

There are currently three Councillor vacancies. The Chairman has drafted an article to encourage people to join the Council.

A letter was received from Yeovil Town Council asking for financial support to redevelop the Octagon Theatre. A resolution was passed to donate £500 for this fund (Proposer: Cllr Taylor, Seconder: Cllr Cox).

COMMUNITY PARK

The Clerk agreed to chase-up the annual inspection. The Chairman has put another sign on the notice board stating 'No Parking'. Cllr Goodes has been looking into suitable 'gate closers' to address the issue of the gate remaining open. It was agreed that Cllr Debbie Taylor will liaise with Paul Taylor regarding purchasing something suitable.

PARISH ISSUES

Regarding the new hamstones signs, the Chairman is meeting with an officer from the highways dept and agreed to discuss possible locations on the side of the road so that we can apply for a licence for them.

A resolution was passed to approve a quote of £710, to sand and repaint the bus shelter.

ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE

The Entertainment's Committee made £98.31 on bonfire night.

PARISH RANGER SCHEME

The blue lias stones at Westways have now been relayed, but Cllr Cox is unsure whether this was done by the ranger.

HIGHWAYS REPORT

The Chairman is meeting with Somerset Council Highways to discuss the proposed yellow lines and bollards on College on 13th January 2026. The Chairman has also contacted the police to ask them to help address the vehicles regularly parked on the pavement in front of Woodentop Inn, as these are obstructing the pavement.

Becoming a Parish Councillor

As we have 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors as Council Chair I thought it might be helpful to share why I think becoming a Councillor is a good thing to do.

Being a parish councillor is a rewarding role and, whilst it is voluntary and unpaid, it is a real job and can provide great personal satisfaction, a sense of purpose, and a real chance to contribute to the community in which you live.

As Parish councillors we are directly responsible for some local matters including the upkeep of the Portman park, maintenance of local footpaths, contributing to decisions about planning applications ensuring developments 'fit' the village well and we also support and sponsor local events. We decide how the small part of council tax called the Precept that comes to the Parish Council each year is spent. Currently this is £12000 per year.

We liaise with County Council as a strong voice for the local community regarding a wide range of issues including transport, road maintenance, environmental issues, services provided to the village and planning proposals. We have real influence on how money is spent for the benefit of residents. Our role is to preserve and, where possible, enhance the character of the village as a great place to live. It is possible that our role will expand as more responsibilities are devolved from County to Parish levels.

On becoming a Parish Councillor training is provided to understand the role and how to work with the rest of the council. But really what benefits the council most is the experience and knowledge councillors bring with them. The role is not 'technical' and you don't need a particular back-ground, in fact varied backgrounds are extremely helpful: anyone has the potential to make a valuable contribution. The commitment is to one meeting a month (Monday evenings) and a few hours at most a month between meetings. Current Councillors, including myself, are always willing to help each other and provide support and advice.

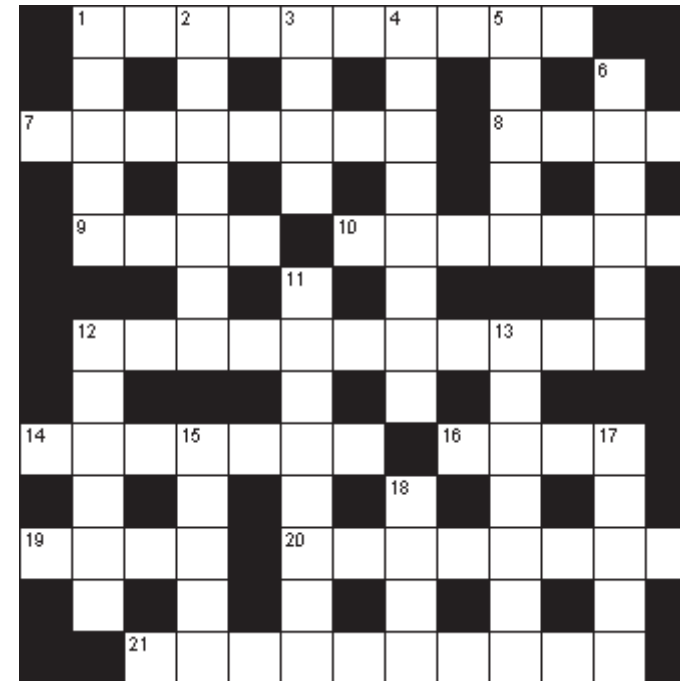
Parish councillors each have a portfolio: an area for which they are they take a lead role. This might be for example 'Highways' or 'Entertainments' or liaison with the Village Hall committee. In exercising their lead role councillors will engage closely with residents, listening to their concerns and ideas, and ensuring that the council reflects the community's priorities. This can be rewarding work and councillors can see tangible results from their efforts.

Being a parish councillor is also an excellent way to develop new skills and use existing ones. The role involves teamwork, communication, negotiation, public speaking, budgeting, and strategic planning. Councillors learn how local government works, how policies are formed, and how decisions affect residents on a day-to-day basis.

Serving as a parish councillor is about giving back, about caring for your community and wanting to make it a better place for everyone. It allows you to champion causes that matter, protect the environment, and support initiatives that foster wellbeing and togetherness. Even small improvements, such as arranging a community event, enhancing the appearance of the village or getting potholes repaired can have a big impact on residents' quality of life. Being a parish councillor is about civic pride, responsibility, and service. It offers a platform to influence change, develop meaningful connections, and leave a lasting legacy making it one of the most fulfilling roles a person can undertake.

Duncan Goodes

Crossword Puzzle

**Across**

- 1 Smug (10)
- 7 Topmost point (8)
- 8 Cure (4)
- 9 Ten cent coin (4)
- 10 Making beer (7)
- 12 Amazed (11)
- 14 Cradle-song (7)
- 16 Hurt (4)
- 19 Expression of woe (4)
- 20 Extend (8)
- 21 Despise (4,4,2)

Down

- 1 Young person (5)
- 2 Lower limit (7)
- 3 Scottish lake (4)
- 4 Free from obscurity (5-3)
- 5 Not in any way (5)
- 6 Notified of a risk (6)
- 11 Ball from spin-bowler (8)
- 12 Twice the amount (6)
- 13 Ten-sided figure (7)
- 15 Lariat (5)
- 17 Devoured (5)
- 18 Game played on horseback (4)

Crossword Solution to the Previous Issue



Entertainments Committee

The Entertainments Committee own a marquee and 6 gazebos, which are available for **private hire to East Chinnock villagers only**.



Contact Pat Lock for further information and booking on 01935 863899

Marquee: 20m x 7m - £175 for a maximum of 3 days

Gazebos: 3m x 3m with sides - £30 each for a maximum of 3 days

The gazebos can easily be erected by the hirer, however, the marquee will be erected by Pat and his team, who will require at least 3 additional people (organised by the hirer) to assist in erection.

The hirer is required to ensure that they have adequate insurance in place to protect against damage or loss.

EAST CHINNOCK GARDENING & COUNTRYSIDE CLUB, & PORTMAN COMMUNITY PARK

Working Bees take place on the first Saturday of each month between 10.00am - 12.00 noon. Coffee and cake is available in the Room@thePark.

Come along. bring a trowel, help plant some flowers for pollinators, have fun and make new friends

LOCAL NEWS SOURCES

East Chinnock Website

<http://www.eastchinnock.net/>

The Round Robin

Sign up by emailing:

east.chinnock@gmail.com

East Chinnock

Facebook page:

East Chinnock Village

Notice Boards



At the Village Hall

Monday 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Tuesday 9.00am - 12.00pm

December 2025

Driftwood Workshop

The minute you enter Dan's workspace you realise two things for certain; firstly, this is a place of creativity and purpose, and secondly, that Dan is a man on a mission to promote and share his skills and passion. Every available surface: shelves, floor, ceiling is jam-packed with curiosities, machinery, tools, boxes of driftwood and every thing you might need to fire up your creative juices.

As a teacher of 40 years I know a tough crowd and I think it's fair to say, 10 ladies from local WIs were not going to cause too much trouble. But there are challenges: many are expert and keen crafters, some are a little hard-of-hearing, many are cack-of-hand, all alarmed by whizzing drills, one is a nonagenarian, and I am recovering from chemotherapy and wearing a sling with a broken shoulder. Dan took it all in his stride He led with rules of the work environment clearly explained, safety measure were flagged up, and most importantly where to put your handbag and bathroom arrangements.

Within 5 minutes we were all at our first task of sourcing our pieces of wood to create our Christmas Tree branches and selecting our bases which we drilled a hole in and glued and erected our trunks. Then came the bit that needed skill and pluck - drilling a hole in the centre of each piece of wood and threading it onto the trunk. Dan was on hand in hovering, smiling mode to quietly intervene when you lost control of your piece of wood, and it started whirling around like a mad dervish on the drill bit. I was pleased and proud to one-handedly do my own drilling and although I needed a little more assistance than most, felt I had achieved something creative and worthwhile.

A really enjoyable advent experience. Aided of course by Mum Helen's provision of coffee and mince pies! Highly recommended.

Dan Wakeman

Email: imadethis_76@yahoo.com

Website: imadethis76.co.uk

Tel: 07368 419241

Amanda Ebborn, East Chinnock WI

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



West Coker Acorns stay and play

A fun and social group for babies, toddlers and their grown – ups!

Tuesday mornings in term time

9.30 – 11.15am

West Coker School

(Off the High St, up the drive opposite Brookside. Parking in West Coker Church car park)

All welcome from villages around West Coker

£1 per family per session

For more details contact Claire on 07309 630222

Or find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/westcokeracornsstayandplay/>

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)



Photo courtesy of Peter Jory

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

Prayer for village.

In February we are praying for Weston Close and Underhayes Court, in March for West Ways, Eastfield Farm, Cod Lane, Broad Lane and Broad Hill. 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 the Church Near You, **website** <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.

Please Note: From September onwards, Cafe Church will be held in the Room@The Park.

Easter activities

Good Friday (Friday April 3rd) Annual walk of witness from the Room@thePark up to the memorial forest at 10am, followed by hot cross buns, tea and coffee in the Room@thePark

Easter Sunday (April 5th) Communion service at St Mary's at 9.15am



The Children's Crib Service held on Christmas Eve was very well attended. Some of the older children were tasked with reading a section of the Nativity story, and to place one of the crib figures into the stable.

With lots of traditional carols to sing, this 30 minute service in the softly lit, decorated church provided the perfect start to the Christmas holiday.

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.



East Chinnock Gardening and Country Club Programme 2026

February 16th	British Beetles	Sheila & Doug Reeve
March 16th	Hedgehogs	Jeannette Hampstead
April 20th	Glass in the garden	Doug Reeve
May 18th	Plant swap & tool sharpening	
June (Date to be confirmed)	Open Gardens	
July 25th	Village Show	
August	NO MEETING	
Sept 21st	Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	Diane Summer
October 19th	AGM & Gold Club talk	All



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



into Scottish waters that Thomas was possibly unfamiliar with.

She hit Skerry Rock near Boddam in Aberdeenshire, three miles south of Peterhead, on the Sunday, and was stranded. The storm then broke up the ship with the loss of all seven men. Two bodies were washed ashore, one of them being Thomas.

As a result of this tragedy Amelia was left a widow at the age of 28, with a son not yet a year old. She was not left destitute, however, inheriting £86, equivalent to more than £13,300 today, but without an income, she was soon going to find life difficult. The census of 1881 lists her as living with her mother Louisa Andrews, although it is likely that the couple had been living there since their wedding. Louisa had been running the family bread baking business from her house in College since Amelia's father John had died in 1873, and the census lists her as employing a man and two boys, probably Amelia's brother Jesse and his two sons.

A few years later, Amelia emigrated to America. In 1886 she married again, to William Vagg, a man originally from West Coker, but who had himself emigrated in 1878. They lived in the city of Schenectady, New York State, which is where Amelia died in 1946.

In the 1906 passenger lists of the ship "The Cedric", bound for New York, is an Englishman by the name of Thomas D. Denty, born in 1880. Thomas was following his mother and the U.S. Census lists him living in Saratoga, New York State from 1910 – 1930. He married Jane "Jennie" Paige Marsden from New York sometime between 1910 and 1915. She had two young boys from a previous marriage, which he adopted. The couple had a daughter, Amelia, in 1916. Jane died in 1935 and Thomas remarried, to Ella Giffen, also from New York. He died in 1969 at the age of 89 at Scotia, Schenectady, N.Y. His daughter Amelia lived until 2008.

Martin Harris

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 20 March

? Village Hall ?
7.00pm

RAFFLE

Please bring your own
drink & nibbles

Teams of 4
£5 per person
payable on arrival

Proceeds to
Ferne Animal Sanctuary &
Abbey Manor Hedgehogs

Register your team: sara.russell@btopenworld.com
Text or Whatsapp to 07746 032299 / Tel: 01935 862796
(this is so we know how many tables to put out)

Lottery winners for December

1st. Julia Roberts
2nd Emma Homewood
3rd Sue Lock



Winners team for Kurling Autumn 2025 were the Green Team

BOOKS!

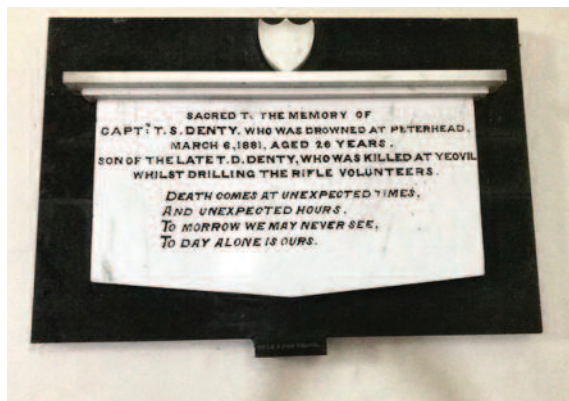
There is a large and varied selection of books in the Village Hall, along with Jigsaw puzzles, CDs etc.

They are free to borrow or keep to people of the village



The Story of Thomas Starling Denty

The work in the Church to build the new toilet and servery involved some minor alterations to the existing fabric, including the repositioning of a memorial plaque to Thomas Starling Denty and his father Thomas Draper Denty. Both died tragically, but Thomas Starling's descendents were able to find a more secure life in another country. Their story, once familiar to the village, has now I suspect largely been forgotten. The following is what I have been able to discover.



Thomas Draper Denty was born in 1827 in East Chinnock to Thomas Denty, from Hardington, and Ann (nee Newman), an East Chinnock girl. He joined the Royal Marines at Plymouth in 1844 and in time was promoted to Sergeant. He married Elizabeth Ann Starling from Seaton and Beer in Devon. In 1853 they had a daughter, Frances and 1855 they had a son whom they named Thomas Starling Denty after his father and mother. Another daughter, Eliza was born in 1857, but in 1860 Thomas' wife Elizabeth sadly died.

In 1862 Sergeant Denty was helping to organise the prize shooting competition of the 16th Somerset Rifle Corps in Yeovil. He slipped on wet ground whilst adjusting one of the targets, which fell upon him, causing fatal internal injuries. The inquest was held at the Three Choughs Hotel (on the corner of Hendford and South Street in Yeovil) and returned a verdict of accidental death. He was given a full military funeral with a procession through Yeovil accompanied by the Rifle Corps Band, and three volleys fired over the grave by the riflemen to muffled drums. The occasion caught the imagination of local people and an enormous crowd gathered during the course of the procession, estimated in contemporary accounts as being 4000 to 5000, and the police were required to keep order at the cemetery.

Thomas Starling was seven years old when his father died, and he and his two sisters were now orphans, having lost both parents within two years. An appeal was launched to support them and by November had raised more than £13 (equivalent to £2000 in 2025) from various officers and men. In an age before social services no doubt this was very welcome to whoever was looking after the children.

By 1871, when he was 17, Thomas was a servant to Philip Brown, a widowed butcher and his two daughters in South Street in Yeovil, and around this time met his future wife, Amelia. Amelia was the youngest sibling of Jesse Andrews, later to become the village baker and postmaster at what is now 'The Gables', and she worked as a cook to Frances Bartlett, a woman of independent means, and her two daughters, who lived in East Street (present day High Street). Perhaps Amelia ordered her meat from Mr. Brown and as a consequence met Thomas, who would very likely have been responsible for deliveries. Surprisingly, they married in St. Helier Town Church, Jersey on 1st August 1878. He was 24 and she was 25.

Thomas had been born in Stonehouse, Plymouth, an area which included the harbour and the Royal Marines Barracks, where no doubt his father was stationed. Perhaps this childhood background influenced him, as at some point in the 1870s he became a mariner. In 1880 Amelia bore him a son, called Thomas Draper Denty after the boy's grandfather, and in that year Thomas Starling Denty is reported as captain of the 'Why Not' in Bridport Harbour. The 'Why Not' was a wooden brig of 161 tons, (a two masted ship with square rigged sails) and was engaged in the coal trade on the East Coast.

On Saturday 5th March 1881 a severe storm hit the North East Coast, lasting two days and resulting in the loss of 30 ships and over 100 men, amongst which, unfortunately, was the 'Why Not'. The ship was old, having been built in 1849, and reported as having been in an unseaworthy condition for a long time. She had left London empty but for ballast in order to pick up a cargo of coal from Newcastle. The wind that night was storm force 10 from the SSE, and it seems that it drove the 'Why Not' north of her destination,



Painting of a typical Collier Brig of the times.



East Chinnock WI (Women's Institute) meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30 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.

12 November 2025

The Origin of Nursery Rhymes – Brian Wright

Usage of the term "nursery rhyme" dates only from the late 18th/early 19th century. Most popular rhymes date from the 17th and 18th centuries. The first English collections, Tommy Thumb's Song Book and a sequel, Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book, were published in 1744. Publisher John Newbery's stepson, Thomas Carnan, was the first to use the term Mother Goose for nursery rhymes when he published a compilation of English rhymes, Mother Goose's Melody in 1780.

A lot of nursery rhymes are based on real events or real people or have other meanings behind them.

Nursery Rhymes have also provided titles for Agatha Christie books eg. One, Two, Buckle My Shoe, Hickory Dickory Dock, A Pocket Full of Rye, and Crooked House.

Some nursery rhymes form the basis of more modern, comical versions:

It's raining, it's pouring, of course it's global warming.

Jack and Jill went up the hill to buy some chips and sweeties

But Jack is morbidly obese and Jill's got diabetes!

Some facts from common nursery rhymes:

- * *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* has apparently five verses although most of us only know the first.
- * *Humpty Dumpty* never revealed what he actually was and the first time he is shown as an egg was in *Alice Through The Looking Glass* in 1865.
- * From 15th Century onwards a person who was clumsy was described as a "Humpty Dumpty". During the English Civil War (1642-49) the heaviest type of cannon they had was called a Humpty Dumpty.
- * Kilmersdon, a village between Radstock and Frome claims to be the origin of the *Jack and Jill* rhyme and they even have a Jack and Jill Hill.
- * *Sing A Song of Sixpence* – the original song used to have "naughty boys" baked in the pie before changing to birds.

East Chinnock Christmas Fair 2025



Greetings at the door, and the important job of selling the raffle tickets for the Christmas Hampers!



The stall holders at the fair reported brisk business and 'good vibes' throughout the Hall.

There was a large variety of goods on offer, an ideal way to start the Christmas shopping.

