



Chinnock Chimes

February / March 2015

Issue84

The Christmas Fair Starts the Festive Season in the Village



The traditional Christmas fair in the village on 28th November was well attended as the picture shows. Numbers were down on last year, but nevertheless a good time was had by all and money was raised for various good causes within the village. The Stitch group stall, pictured right, donation of £265 to the Village Hall funds for the window repairs.



Good News for Village Hall Windows

Bruce Murdoch reports: 'I am delighted to report that we have received a National Lottery grant of £4800 towards the cost of refurbishing the hall windows. Together with a generous donation from the Stitching Group's sale of goods at the Christmas Fair this means we can go ahead with the whole project in one go. In fact by the end of January all the work should be complete other than some redecoration.



Many thanks to all who have supported the Literary Lunches, Christmas Fair and other fund raisers enabling us to make another significant improvement to our village hall.

Manns Grocery Van



The long awaited mobile grocery van made its first appearance on Wednesday 7th January at 8:30am along Weston Street. Last month Mr Mann was bitterly disappointed that his licence to operate was delayed; now unfortunately he has problems with his electrics which he hopes to resolve as soon as possible.



Once the teething problems have been sorted the van will visit each Wednesday at 8:30am, for 2 hours and on Fridays at the bottom of Orchardleigh from 12 noon until about 6pm. Keep an eye out for his return soon.

The distinctive yellow van shown in the picture is a converted mobile library, and houses a wide selection of goods including fresh fruit and vegetables and some frozen goods. Mr Mann will deliver orders and stock specific items for people if required. He can be contacted on 07704518837 or via his web site www.mannsmobilegrocer.com

West Country Cars Raise Money for Children in Need

A charity car wash in November raised over £1000 for the Children in Need charity appeal. John Sugg, co-owner of the business hailed it a great success and plans to run similar events in the future.

John Sugg
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Deadline for the next issue is
Friday 6th March 2015

The Chinnock Chimes is edited by Alix Janes,
3 Weston Close Tel: 01935 863474
Email: Chinnockchimes@btinternet.com

What's on in February and March?

Village walk

Kate Balmford will lead an all-day walk on Tuesday 31 March. It will leave the village hall at 10am and after a stop for a pub lunch aim to be back in the village by about 4pm. For more information call Kate on 863286.

Coffee mornings

As always the coffee mornings will be on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings from 10:30am to Noon. The special coffee morning in December to raise funds for the Save the Children appeal for Syrian children raised £400. Thank you to all who contributed to this event in any way.

Classical Guitar Recital Fri 6th February 7:30pm in the Village Hall

The guitar music of Keith Hyett will transport you to many places with his varied programme. Keith's musical influences are varied, from the rock music of his teenage years, to classical favourites by Bach and Beethoven, to flamenco and folk music, all are in there, which means that his music is appreciated by a wide audience.

Tickets £6 on the door or from Alix Janes, 863474 or Ros White, 863796



Drimpton 8th Annual Potato Day on Saturday 7th February

10:30 to 2:30 in Drimpton Village Hall To kick-start your gardening season there will be a complete array of products to meet your fruit and veggie growing needs, including 60+ varieties of seed potatoes. Enjoy all day brunches, lunches and cakes, as well as warming drinks. There is a small entry fee of 50p, which includes a tea or coffee. Parking is available at the village hall and nearby.

West Coker Community Cinema in West Coker Village Hall in the High Street

Doors open at 7.15pm, screening from 7.45pm. (*Bring a cushion for your chair*). Licensed bar, Tea & Coffee, Raffle
TICKETS £5 per person available from The Garage, The Post Office and Marilyn on 01935 863176

Friday 13 March "Grow your Own"(Comedy) (PG) 96 mins Starring a host of British stars, the film is set entirely on the allotments in Liverpool. This is a delightful & funny film - Don't miss it!! You never know where you'll find your roots!!

Friday 10 April "In Bruges"(Comedy) (18) 107 Mins Starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson as two Irish hitmen hiding in Bruges after a job gone wrong. They await word from their gangster boss, Ralph Fiennes. With witty dialogue & deft performances this is a crime thriller with a difference.

Poetry, Pints, Music and Merlot – by Jo Cox

Well it seemed like a good idea at the time!!!! And on the whole we were happy with the result. The event raised £622 for the Hospice and Cancer Care, which was our first objective and there was a fun event right here in the village, which was our second.

I often think East Chinnock moves into action like a well-oiled machine. No one can sell tickets like Maurice Jones and Liz and Bruce Murdoch were on hand to deal with catering, village hall etc. I simply had to organise the musicians... (I say simply but herding cats would have been easier). I was aiming for a real mix of musical styles so that if one thing wasn't to someone's taste, something different would be along in a minute or two; and I think that worked.

There was obviously quite a wide range of ability from Miles Nipper the Bassoonist who plays professionally, to those of us who just enjoy music as a hobby, and in between the Poetry provided some respite.

Thanks to all of you who turned up to support us. And Remember there is a lot of talent locally so if you fancy some music for your next event do ask around!

Gazebo for Sale £20:

The Entertainments Committee has a second hand Gazebo for sale. Anyone interested should call 862390 or 863712.

East Chinnock WI

Past events include our A.G.M. at Westland Conference and Leisure Centre where our guest speaker was Michael Portillo. He gave us an insight into his family background, his political career and his new career in entertainment and confessed that he wasn't particularly interested in trains but saw it as a great way to tell of our history.

We had a wonderful day in Wells in early December for our Annual Somerset Federation Carol Service where the Cathedral was full and the Federation Choir sang beautifully. The Group Carol Service on the afternoon of 18th December for the six local WIs was held in St Mary's Church in East Chinnock. It was well attended by over 40 people and well received by all.

Our W. I. is currently involved in County Skittles and we are into the 3rd round so fingers crossed for another win next week in Somerton. We also attended a Rag Rug Workshop at Misterton W. I. Hall which turned out to be great fun.

The Women's Institute celebrates its Centenary this year and we are looking forward to lots of Celebrations. Why not come along and join us on the second Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We start the New Year with 'Soups and Stories' and would love to see you.

Caroline Hockey 881713

The Gardening and Countryside Club

The final Speakers Meeting of 2014 took place on Monday 17th November on the subject of **Bees in the Garden**. The talk was very interesting and informative, followed by a variety of questions from the audience.

The first Speakers Meeting of 2015 is on Monday 19th January on the subject of **Butterflies in your Backyard**. The second Speakers Meeting on Monday 16th February is on the subject **The Story of English County Cheeses**.

The Christmas Dinner was on the evening of Friday 5th December, with a very enjoyable meal provided by Sue Thomas and her team of helpers.

As our club is a member of the Gold Club of the Three Gardens Group of Castle, Brimsmore and Poundbury we have received Compost Order Forms and Discount Vouchers for use in any of the three garden centres in January and February. In both cases club members are entitled to 25% off the normal prices. Both of these items will be available at the January meeting.

David Balmford

Village Bridge Club

This February is the sixth anniversary of the social village Bridge group, formed for beginners through to various levels of experience, to meet for an enjoyable evening's light hearted social Bridge, lubricated by the odd glass of wine.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Their Birthday evening is on 4th February at 2 Barrows Court.

All are welcome and learners will be helped through the game, No partners are needed, just let Marianne know (862390) so she can ensure there is a chair for you to sit on.

East Chinnock Golf Croquet Group

A very Happy New Year to all East Chinnock Golf Croquet players.

Now is the time to begin looking ahead to the forthcoming season which will commence somewhere about the end of APRIL and the beginning of MAY. As was the format last year the court will be available on SUNDAYS from 2:30pm until around 5pm, or beyond if people wish to play on. On TUESDAYS the court will be set up at 4pm and remain available until players decide to stop playing.

Last year we played social friendlies against the Church, the WI and the Gardening Club. These were much enjoyed by all who participated and we hope to repeat the challenges this year. If any other villagers would like to form themselves into a 'team' and issue a challenge it would be great. You would need 4 to 6 players who can be available on a Tuesday evening.

Full details about possible matches and playing times will be posted in future editions of the Chimes and on posters around the village, so keep an eye out!

As a result of the dog shows, donations and collection in Waitrose our finances are looking healthy and we have been able to order our own mallets and balls. Later on we hope to purchase hoops, but we need to see how much is left after buying equipment, covering the cost of getting the grass cut and possibly getting a heavy roller on the court to flatten it out a bit. Until now we have operated by borrowing equipment from Marianne Merchant, with grateful thanks to her for that and for getting the activity off the ground.

We look forward to meeting players from 2014, but would be delighted if more villagers of any age could come along and join in the fun. We emphasise that this is a FUN activity and no experience is needed, so why not give it a go? While you are trying out the game it will not cost you anything and it is a very pleasant way to pass an afternoon or evening.

Joyce Lewens

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S by Churchwardens Alison Suter and David Bakewell

Friends of St Mary's – 13 December

Following their concert last year, the **Stanchester Quire** expressed a wish to return to St Mary's because, 'its warm and the folk are friendly'. Loyal and generous supporters, including some from outside the Parish (members of the Benefice Choir, especially), were treated to an entertaining, and at times very amusing, evening of South-West carols, songs and tales, devised and led by the Quire's charismatic Director (*raconteur* and singer), Eddie Upton. We are able to send them a generous cheque towards their costs, and add to the Friends' Fabric Fund (toilet appeal) at the same time. Thank you all for your support, and especially to those who helped to run the evening.



St Mary's Christmas services 16-24 December

The large fir tree, decorated with myriad white angels and lights, looked impressive, as did the flower arrangements around Church. The large congregation at the **Carol Service** sang their favorite carols with gusto, and the Benefice Choir offered an American lullaby – *Watt's Cradle Song* – and a rousing Dorset carol from Puddletown. Our collection went to Christian Aid Christmas appeal. As usual, the many new toys brought to the Sunday morning **Toy Service** were taken to Maltravers House for distribution by Council services to needy children in the area; and children and their parents/grandparents enjoyed a joyous Christmas Eve **Crib Service**, when figures for the crib were put in place.

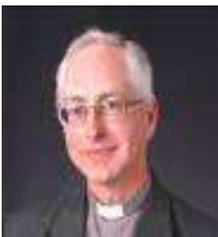
Carol Singers Bring Christmas Cheer to All

Grateful thanks go to all those who supported **Carol Singing** around the village. With generous donations, this event raised a fantastic £183 for the charity Crisis at Christmas. The singers just made it back before the rain set in



Rector David Wilson Retired on 4th January

Following is retirement on health grounds David Bakewell gives a personal view on David Wilson: When I first moved to Somerset from the North Midlands, I was told that the locals took a long time to get to know strangers, and would still consider me a newcomer after I had been here some 20 years! Well, our Rector David, and his wife Frances, have been here just over five years, but I think we have all come to think of them as part of who we are. David has been a gentle Shepherd; constant Encourager; and firm Leader, and, with the support of Charles Hatton, I believe he has led us to a new way of working together as a group of seven parishes, and in that we are well on the right road.



I was overawed by David's sermons – how everyone in the church was listening, and felt that he spoke directly to them! David is a clever man, but not one to force his reasoning onto others. Still, he has influenced us all for the better. David's last sermon in East Chinnock, at Communion on Christmas morning, left me with as many such thoughts as they have ever done.

However, I feel we are only just beginning to really get to know David and Frances as folks like us. We shall miss them, and the chance to deepen our friendships! Church protocols will insist that David avoids any obvious involvement in our parishes once the new Rector is in post, but I hope we can stay in touch as friends as he and Frances move to their retirement home in Portisham.

So what happens now?

Be assured we are working with the Archdeacon to find a replacement as soon as possible, but the process will take at best some six months. Our normal pattern of Sunday services throughout the vacancy will be covered: the first Sunday Communion will be led by our old friend, the Revd David Woodley; the fourth Sunday 8am Communion will be led by another old friend, the Revd Trevor Farmiloe; and we are working on a rota for Lay members to lead Evensong and Family services.

In the task of finding a new Rector, our first is to lay down a 'profile' of what sort of person we would like. **THIS IS WHERE ALL OF YOU COME IN!** The Archdeacon has specifically asked us to include the **whole community** view of what a new Rector should be like. **PLEASE** take this opportunity: if you have views pass them to either Alison or myself as churchwardens, or to any PCC member (preferably in a scribbled note so we do not miss any), before the end of January. Alternately if anyone wishes to pass on their views via email please forward them to chinnockchimes@btinternet.com and they will be passed on to David Bakewell and Alison Suter.

The Parish Plan Update Report from Scott Grinter

Since our last communication the steering committee has reconvened and chosen to initially focus its energies on the recreation field and the equipment within this.

The committee is conscious that the full demographic within the village be given an opportunity to voice their opinions on any potential changes/improvements that could be made. With this in mind we would encourage all those who regularly use the ground and likewise those who presently do not, to submit any ideas, proposals or opinions they have regards this endeavour.

The comments do not exclusively have to feature ideas, the committee would welcome feedback regards all aspects of the recreation field, i.e. what you like about it as it is now, what you use it for, reasons you may not use it presently and so on. All comments are welcome and should be forwarded to the committee via a committee member or the email address as follows: ecsteeringcommittee@gmail.com

Health and Wellbeing Grant from the County Council

Following on from last month's item regarding the broken bench along Westways, we are pleased to announce that the County Council has awarded a Health and Wellbeing grant to replace it. Not only that but also there will be new table tennis tables in the village hall as part of the same grant.

East Chinnock and World War 1 – Part 5 by Jeremy Churchill

By early 1915 the War had settled into two principal areas of fighting – what would become known as the Western Front in Belgium and France, 460 miles from the North Sea coast to the Swiss border, and the Eastern Front, a much larger area stretching from Lithuania, south through Poland and into Slovakia, Romania and on to the Black Sea coast.

With both sides on the Western Front being temporarily exhausted by the fighting of the previous October and November, military operations largely consisted of the completion of the front line of trenches. Although these trenches weren't as elaborate or as sophisticated as they became later, both sides dug deeper, installed more barbed wire and built shelters and support trenches. Major attacks stopped, but smaller assaults were made to improve the position of one side or the other, such as the attack on the "Birdcage" carried out by the British 11th Brigade on the 19th December. The "Birdcage", a German fortified strongpoint, so called because of the amount of barbed wire placed around it, lay just to the east of Ploegsteert Wood ("Plug Street" Wood to the British soldiers), in Belgium. An attack by 11th Brigade – 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, including **Arthur Russ** (413 New Buildings) and **Alfred Baker** of East Chinnock, 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment and 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, including **Walter Pike** (of 441, Weston Street) – failed with heavy casualties, many of which were caused by British artillery firing short of its target; the Somerset Light Infantry suffered 32 killed, 53 wounded and 30 "missing" – a total of 85 casualties for little result except to clear the Wood of Germans.....Continued on the next page

Useful names & numbers

Village Web Mistress Julie Jewell: 862600
Entertainment Committee Chair: Marianne Merchant 862390
Village Hall Booking & Keys Ros White: 863796
Playgroup Kay Strode 872126
Pre-School (toddlers) Guides, Brownies, Rainbows Jane Lefevre 862774
Beavers (6-8 yrs.) Heather Pitts 433840
Cubs (8 – 10½ yrs.) Scouts (10½-14yrs) James Divall 863105
Explorers (14 – 18 yrs.) Mike Beckerleg 862719
Scouts Active Support (adults) Pete Divall 422328
Tree Warden Pamela Lewis 864408
Parish Council Clerk Maureen Randell ecparishcouncilclerk@yahoo.co.uk 01935 507563 Mon-Fri 10am-6pm
Parish Council Chairman Michael Slater 01935 862072
District Councillor Ric Pallister 863897
County Councillor: Marcus Fysh 07585902888 mfysh@somerset.gov.uk
South Somerset DC 01935 462462
Somerset CC 0845 3459166
Crewkerne health Centre Appointments 01460 74797
Crewkerne Hospital 01460 72491
Yeovil Hospital 01935 475122
Westlake Surgery: 862212 Dispensary: 865104
Post Office Mon 1 – 3 pm. Tues 9am – 12noon

The 11th Brigade took part in one of the famous “Christmas Truces”. A ceasefire was mutually arranged between the British and German soldiers (several of the opposing trenches being within earshot of each other, allowing singing from both sides). British and German officers met in No-Man’s-Land and arranged a more formal truce to enable the recovery of the bodies of the dead from the attack on the 19th. Soldiers from both sides took the opportunity to wander around No-Man’s-Land, chatting to each other, shaking hands and some exchanging gifts. This lasted for most of the day, until both sides finally returned to their own trenches.

Further south, where **Walter Russ** (brother of Arthur) in the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, (1st (Guards) Brigade, 1st Division) and **William Taylor** (of The Rookery), with the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards (4th (Guards) Brigade, 2nd Division, there seems to have been no truce; perhaps the Guards felt it was not in keeping with their reputation to fraternise with the enemy!

With Christmas over, both sides returned to the dreary round of trench warfare – continual cold, wet and muddy living quarters, the constant danger of death or wounding from artillery and snipers and the sheer boredom of being cooped up in a trench all day, in some cases in this early part of the War, for weeks at a time. In low-lying areas (such as most of Flanders and Belgium) the trenches were nearly always flooded; the winter of 1914-15 being one of the wettest and coldest on record. The troops were kept busy digging drains and repairing collapsed trenches, and all concerned became familiar with “trench foot”, a condition caused by prolonged exposure of the feet to damp, unsanitary, and cold conditions.

Back home in England, **Charles Andrews, Cyril Andrews, Gerald Dane, Percy Dane,** and **Arthur Shire**, of the 7th (Service) Battalion Somerset Light Infantry (61st Brigade, 20th (Light) Division of Kitchener’s first New Army) were better off than many that winter, living in hutted accommodation near Woking. Training consisted of a dull round of route marches and fatigues (working parties), without uniforms, with obsolete weapons and equipment, in a particularly cold and wet winter. Patriotic enthusiasm wasn’t the only motive making them look forward to their chance to “do their bit” in France!

To be continued . . .

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