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## The Editor's Letter

After celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, we find ourselves mourning her death just three months later.

On the front cover we have a reminder of when Her Majesty visited us 3½ years ago.

The Ditcheat History Group resume their meetings in October. These will be occurring in fortnightly intervals (P24).

The Fosseway Gardening Group continue their monthly meetings. This month is with Melvin Reed (P12).

Rendezvous meet as usual in the Jubilee Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (P24), also the location for the Village Lunch on the last Tuesday (P24).

The Jubilee Hall is looking for a new booking clerk – can you help? Please see P11.

And Ditcheat Big Screen is back! Sorry that the poster is so small – we're really tight on space this issue. The Duke will be shown from 7pm at the Jubilee Hall on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Have a good Autumn.

*Margy Cockburn Tim Sanders*

Front cover:

Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Paul Nicholls introduces Her Majesty to his parents, Brian and Margaret Nicholls during a visit to Ditcheat. With Paul and Marianne Barber in the background. This was taken during her visit to Manor Farm Stables on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Photo by kind permission of Tracy Roberts (Turfpix.com).

## Dates for your Diary



### Regular Events

#### Weekly Monthly

<b>Mon</b>	✓	Pilates (9.00)	Michelle 07825 543414
	✓	Tai Chi for Health (11.00)	Richard 880308
	✓ 4 <sup>th</sup>	Crafternoon (2.00)	Sally 07929 097374
<b>Tue</b>	✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rendezvous (10.00)	Lynda 860270
	✓ 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ditcheat Art Group (10.00)	Liz & Stewart 860755
	Last Tues	Village Lunch	Jessica 860205
		Ditcheat History Group	Roger 07803 791414
<b>Wed</b>	✓	Ditcheat Short Mat Bowls (7.00)	Martin 860780
	✓	Ditcheat and Pylle Singers (7.00)	Di 07831 289945
<b>Thu</b>	✓	Yoga (9.15)	Clare 07843 079209
<b>Fri</b>	✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Folk Dance Club (7.00)	Ama/Peter 672911
<b>Sat</b>	✓ 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Men's Breakfast	Roger 860551

### October

Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Ditcheat History Group	Roger 07803 791414 P24
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Rendezvous, Jubilee Hall	Lynda 860270 P24
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Gardening Club – Pylle Village Hall	Jill 07772 008594 P12
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	British Legion Quiz Night	Charles P12
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Ditcheat Big Screen: The Duke, Jubilee Hall	Lawrence 07976 759711 P11
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Village Lunch, Jubilee Hall	Jessica 860205 P24

### Further Ahead

Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> , Nov 6 <sup>th</sup> , Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>		Ditcheat History Group	Roger 07803 791414 P24
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**Please check with the organisers for the latest information. Updates will be notified on the magazine website [www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk).**

## Alhampton News

What a good send-off for Eva. Of course there were sadness and tears but also plenty good memories of a special woman. I am sure she would have approved and her only regret would be that she wasn't there in person to join in.

My family, from the youngest upwards, have all loved Gert's garden and always make it top of their list when open gardens come round. Not only because of the lovely garden itself but also for Gert's friendliness and willingness to share his knowledge. That special gift of his came through the television screen the other night when he featured on Gardener's World. It was good to see him recognised. Some friends came for a meal at the pub the other day. They had never been before and were very impressed, not only with the food but also the friendliness of the staff and the buildings and gardens. They said how lucky we are to have such a good pub in the village – I totally agree with them!

Thanks to Margy and her family for another memorable Fizz in the field. The skies looked ominously grey but nothing fell on us and it was lovely to see so many people of all ages enjoying themselves.

I wasn't able to go but I understand that the Paella party was a great success. Apparently there will be the chance to enjoy takeaway paella every Friday night.

It occurred to me the other day that some of you may read this and not know who I am or how to get in touch. My name is Louisa Osborne and I live in the white bungalow at the top of the lane leading down to the river. We've been here for forty seven years, though my husband has lived in the parish all his life, and it has been good to see the village change over the years but still retain all its best qualities. Please let me know if you have any news of the village which I can include in the magazine as I don't always hear about everything tucked away where we are. I can waffle with the best of them but genuine news is always better!

Louisa Osborne

**Waste Not,  
Want Not...**

**Waste Not, Want Not**

An adult Raleigh Spirit bicycle to be given to anyone who would like it. In working order, tyres are pumped up. Please contact me for collection if interested.

Eleanor Yeoman, 01749 860337.

## From the Archives

This month, I thought I would begin a series that tells us of people that have made a significant contribution to Ditcheat life, beginning with Herbert Lintern. I have edited these reports, which can be viewed in full at

<https://www.ditcheat.life/herbert-lintern>

Roger Yeoman

### **GOLDEN PEALS FOR ALHAMPTON BELLRINGER**

Celebrating their golden wedding on Monday at their home Lilac Cottage Alhampton, Mr and Mrs H Lintern were surrounded by cards telegrams and flowers from friends and well-wishers. Mr Herbert Lintern, who is now 81, is a native of Ditcheat, During his many years in Ditcheat and Alhampton, Mr Lintern has taken an active part in village life and is particularly well known as a bellringer.

After joining the police service he left the village for about 30 years during which time he did practically no bell ringing, but on his return took it up again and became captain of the ringers. Other jobs he has held include Clerk to the Parish Council, a position he retained for 16½ years before giving it up on his 80th birthday. He was also for many years Poppy Day organiser for the Ditcheat branch of the British Legion his efforts in this direction having been recognised by the presentation by the branch of certificate to him after 40 years. Other offices he has held include Rector's warden and at one time the jobs of sexton verger and grave-digger. He was also secretary-treasurer of Ditcheat Jubilee Hall, secretary of Ditcheat Flower Show and secretary-treasurer of the Castle Cary branch the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Church Bell-ringers which he is now a life member.

*Shepton Mallet Journal - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1970*

### **His name lives on in Ditcheat**



Mr. Hugh Lintern is the Clerk to Ditcheat Parish Council, captain of the bellringers and treasurer of the Horticultural Society and Jubilee Hall Committee. Until last year he was also secretary of the latter two organisations. Photo: Wells Studio.

Shepton Mallet Journal - Friday 03 February 1961

The Ditcheat man whose name villagers gave to new housing development has died. Herbert Lintern from Alhampton, Ditcheat was 84 and lived in the village nearly all his life. On Monday, the day of his funeral Mendip councillor, Mr. Hugh Golledge who lives in village, paid tribute to him. "He was one of the best men we have ever had in the village," he said. "He has done more for the village than anyone else, which is why Lintern Close is named after him. It shows what we thought of him. He was a fantastic man."

*Shepton Mallet Journal - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 1974*

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## Gardening

October is a beautiful month with autumnal colours and possibly our first frosts. A perfect time to tidy up and cut back in the garden. My garden has thought it autumn for a fair few weeks now and the vines in particular lost leaves back in August. The lack of water has meant the borders have looked sad for many weeks and I fear I may have lost a number of perennials. The *Trycirtis formosana* still hasn't shown her face. So sad, as this is such a beautiful plant in September. Hopefully, the rain in early September will loosen the ground ready for the bulbs. A large number of mine did not appear this spring, so the order is rather large.

Just off to plant up some garlic, both wild and domestic. My son adores wild garlic and every year I pick copious quantities from hedgerows. This year I have bought some and popped them in a large trough so that he has his own supply.

We could get frosts this month so have a look around the garden and protect any tender plants or if in doubt bring them inside. Begin to tidy up the borders by cutting back spent stems on perennials and dahlias. Burn anything that looks diseased. The rest can go on the compost heap. Protect clay pots on the patio by using 'feet' to raise them off the ground.

Clear up fallen leaves. Left on the ground they can make paths and patios very slippery. Left on the lawn they can block out light and cause the grass to die back. Make leaf mould by putting the leaves into a black polythene sack. Make a few holes in the bag for air and then wait around 18 months for the leaves to break down. A brilliant mulch.

The greenhouse here is still full of peppers, aubergine and cucumber laden with fruit. They probably won't remain long into October. When the crops are over it is a good time to prepare the greenhouse for overwintering tender plants and sowing seeds for spring. Empty the greenhouse and clear out any rubbish and debris. Give it a good scrub, using hot soapy water. This not only flushes out pests and diseases but also allows more light. Insulate with bubble plastic. Before putting plants back check them over and remove any dead or diseased growth. Check your heater, if you use one.

Continue harvesting crops. Sow broad beans and plant out garlic and spring cabbages. As crops are harvested improve the soil by spreading 2-3cms of well-rotted compost. Sweet peas can also be sown. I have saved seed and will plant some now and some in the spring. I never have decided when it is better to sow?

Lift and divide overcrowded herbaceous perennials whilst the soil is still warm. Dahlia, begonia and gladioli corms can also be lifted to store dry over the winter months. Remove all dead foliage before storing.

Think about trees and hedging. It is sensible to buy these between November and March as this is when stock is lifted and sold as bare-root or root-balled stock. The prices are usually more favourable. Take a walk around the garden and make a note of where you have gaps or where plant combinations are maybe not working. Take out any unwanted perennials and plant elsewhere then look at the space you have. Websites such as the RHS or Shoot or Crocus all contain decent information on the height, spread and required aspect for all trees and plants. Before filling that gap, measure its size and then buy accordingly. There is no point in putting in a plant that is being grown in a 2 litre pot into a similar sized spot and then finding it has a 2m spread. It does pay to do a little research first.

Once any container pots have finished flowering, don't waste the compost. Empty the dead flowers and then spread the spent compost over the garden as a mulch.

Lawns will recover. The little rain we had at the beginning of September almost instantly turned mine from straw to green. It was scarified in the spring, but after this summer it could do with another. Linaria purpurea has also decided the lawn is a great place to grow. One side of the garden is now scattered with little seedlings.

Check tree ties and stakes and don't forget the birds.

If you need any help, do get in touch. 860850.

Jane Follis

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## **East Pennard Village Hall Trustees AGM**

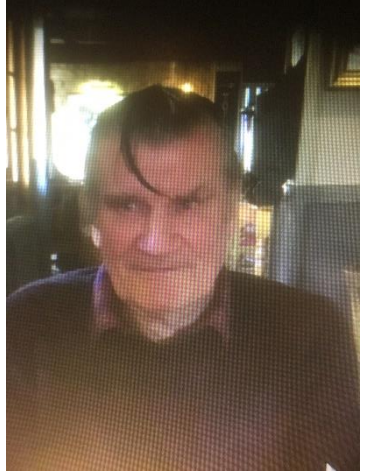
The East Pennard Village Hall trustees will be holding their AGM at 7.30pm on Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> in the village hall.

## John Baby 1938 to 2022

John Baby lived all his life in Ditcheat. He was born in Coppes Cottages by the Manor Inn. He grew up there and attended Ditcheat Primary School with his brothers Bob and Ern and his sister Beattie. He then went on to Ansford Secondary School. He moved to Marylands when Coppes Cottages were demolished and then to Lintern Close in his latter years.

He loved Ditcheat and never wanted to be anywhere else

John was shy and never married, living at home with his parents Jack and Queenie Baby until they died. He was a much loved Brother, Uncle, Great Uncle and Great Great Uncle!



He did various jobs and after a spell of National Service in the Army when he served in Cyprus. He became a pig man for the Barber family. Even after he moved on to other jobs he was very proud of the pigs and visiting nephews and nieces always had to be taken to look at them.

John loved his garden and always had a huge allotment, which was incredibly productive, keeping friends and family in fresh vegetables.

He enjoyed supporting Somerset County Cricket for years and went to matches with Norman and Yvonne White, and Bob Ward, on a regular basis. In his last employment he worked with Norman for Bristol Water.

Although he wasn't a betting man he followed the horses in Paul Nicholls stables closely and always knew which ones were running and how good they were.

John had always wanted to own his own bungalow and he achieved his ambition when he moved to Lintern Close. An added bonus for him was that he knew some of the residents already and the caring community there took him under their wings, especially his neighbours Dave and Rose who also gave him so much support and kindness in his last days.

He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

## Anne is leaving us after 8 years!

The friendly and easy-going Ditcheat Village Hall Committee is looking for a new Bookings Clerk to replace Anne.

The role puts you in contact with many people who wish to book the Hall, keeping the Diary, staying in touch with regular users and sending out accounts.

Anne has much enjoyed the job and met a great range of people. She is not leaving the Committee and all introductory help would be given by Anne, the super-efficient secretary, Hilary, and the PussyCat Chairman, Richard.

**Somebody out there will be brilliant at it - Give it a Go!**

PLEASE CONTACT ANNE ROBSON TO FIND OUT MORE

on

01749 860444 or [annejan@robson2.plus.com](mailto:annejan@robson2.plus.com)

**DITCHHEAT BIG SCREEN** 21st October 7pm  
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## **Fosseway Gardening Club**

The next Club meeting is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm at Pylle Village Hall.

We will be welcoming back Melvyn Reed who many of you will remember as he shared his experiences of creating new varieties of the famous David Austin Roses at April's meeting.

Melvyn is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker with 35 years of working in the horticultural business. 'The Care of Top Fruit' has an appropriate Autumnal theme and is about the processes of topping fruit trees and pruning soft fruit.

This months competition 'A collection of Autumn Berries/ Hedgerow Gleanings in a mug' sounds glorious so there will be much to admire.

Do come along for the evening entertainment and stay for a cuppa.  
Visitors £2, Annual membership £12 to include tea, coffee and a biscuit.

Contact Jill for more information on 07772 008594.

---

## **East Pennard and District Royal British Legion**



Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8<sup>th</sup> September, as with many charities, The Legion wrote saying it was "honoured" to have had the Queen's patronage, and paid tribute to her "sense of service, resilience and fortitude". The Legion said her "unwavering dedication" to the armed forces would be greatly missed.

In a statement, the Legion said "It is with deepest sorrow that the Royal British Legion marks the death of our Sovereign and Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen has served as Patron of the Royal British Legion since 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952. We are immensely thankful for her Majesty's faithful service, and we join the entire Armed Forces community in mourning the loss of it's Commander-in-Chief. The Queens unwavering dedication to the British Armed Forces will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences are with the Royal Family at this time.

As I mentioned in my last article, I am pleased to confirm that we are able to hold our annual quiz night again. It will be on the evening of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October at Thorners Restaurant (formerly the Den), 6.30 for 7pm start. There will be a meal half-way through the evening at a cost of £13.95 for two courses as follows:

MAINS	Scampi, Peas and Chips
or	Cheese and Tomato Quiche with Salad
or	Homemade Cottage Pie
DESSERTS	Sticky Toffee Pudding
or	Profiteroles
or	2 scoops of Devon Ice Cream

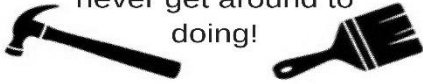
The format is teams of four per table and there will be a nominal prize for the winning table. To book a place please email me on: [charlesevans1146@gmail.com](mailto:charlesevans1146@gmail.com). The restaurant requires us to confirm the meal requirements at least one week in advance so please get your team together and contact me with your choices. Payment is requested prior to the night and can either be by BACS to :- East Pennard and District Branch RBL, sort code 30-99-29 account 00913798 giving your name as the reference, or by cheque to :- East Pennard and District Branch RBL or by cash. Cheques or cash should be delivered to our treasurer Pat Dando on 01749 860448. When paying by BACS would you please email me to confirm you have made a payment.

I have recently received from Legion HQ details of how Legion members annual subscriptions have helped support the work that the Legion does. Last year, thanks to the support of the regular gifts, an incredible £137.4m was raised making a difference to more than 30,000 ex service personnel. This money is not that which is given to the Poppy Appeal but is just from signed up members. Examples of how the money is spent vary from receiving a home visit as part of the Branch Community Support programme, assisting in securing debt relief by the Debt management and Financial Advice service, providing teaching Remembrance resources to children and meetings with elected representatives across the UK at every level of Government. So, why don't you become a member and provide assistance to others. Just contact me and I will arrange to let you have an application form.

Charles Evans

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# Pylle News

## Church Flowers and Cleaning

Volunteers are needed to join the rota. For details please ring Alan Cary, our churchwarden, on 01749 860438 or 0789 694 5936 (mobile). Your help would be greatly appreciated.

## Church

Following our recent AGM we now have a new churchwarden, our treasurer Alan Cary.

A key is always available (easily located!) for those wishing to enjoy the peace and tranquillity provided by a building that has been the centre of Pylle for over a thousand years. Please contact Alan Cary 0789 694 5936 to obtain the key.

## Village Hall

The charge for booking the hall is £8.50 per hour (£7.50 per hour for 4 or more bookings). For more information and to book the hall please contact Sharon Poulton 01749 860811 07790035977 (mobile).

## New Correspondent

Pylle now has a new FTN Correspondent, Jay Smith, who would be delighted to hear from those wishing to publicise events in the village. Please contact her on email [19blackbird59@gmail.com](mailto:19blackbird59@gmail.com).

---

## Foodbank

Donations to the Foodbank currently being collected in Barbers Farm Shop are now going to the Salvation Army Collection point in Shepton Mallet. They make up food parcels, the contents of which are shown below. This represents 3 days provision for one person, though other groceries are gratefully accepted.

1 x 500g of pasta/rice	1 x tinned meat
1 x milk	1 x tinned tuna
1 x fruit juice	1 x baked beans
2 x soup	1 x tinned fruit
1 x pasta sauce/cooking sauce	1 x rice pudding/custard
1 x tinned tomatoes	Tea/coffee/sugar if needed
1 x tinned vegetables	Toiletries if required
1 x cereal	1 x biscuits
1 x instant mashed potato/tinned potatoes	

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## All Creatures Great and Small

On 4<sup>th</sup> September we held a Pet Service and welcomed a collection of dogs and four Quarter pint ponies. All were beautifully behaved, one of the dogs joining in the hymn singing. The service was taken by Rev. Jayne Buckles who blessed the pets at the end of the service. When the ponies paraded through the church one took a quick nibble of the sunflowers in a jug near the door, much to everyone's delight.



## Charles Dowding's Open Day

Charles Dowding's Garden Open Day on 4<sup>th</sup> September gave us a reason to open up the chapel as a tea room, to provide refreshments for the many visitors from all over the country. There were light lunches of quiches with Dowding salad leaves, tomatoes and cucumber grown in the village, an assortment of homemade cakes, scones with homemade jam and Barber's cream and traybakes, with tea, coffee and soft drinks. Everyone was very appreciative and the team of helpers enjoyed themselves and hope to repeat it another year. The amount raised was £494 which will go towards the cost of repairs to the chapel.



---

## Footpath Improvements

During the months of July, August and September, work has been carried out by Andrew Nicholls, Chris Archer, David Rodgers and Charles Evans, on behalf of Ditchat Parish Council, to improve the first section of the path from the end of Smiths Lane towards Alhampton. The work involved cutting back and clearing away vegetation below the hedges and trees that line the path, then laying a gravel path alongside the existing flagstone path. The new gravel path will mean that when the stone path is slippery people will be able to walk the route without the fear of slipping over.

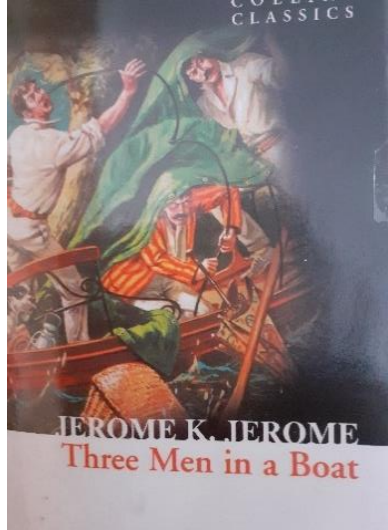


## Ditcheat Book Group

Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K Jerome

This Classic was first published in 1889 after Jerome returned from his honeymoon boating on the River Thames. He had not intended to write a humorous novel; it was meant to be a travel guide for the then very popular pastime of recreational boating holidays. The idea was to describe various places of historic and gastronomic interest along the route.

Although the book includes information about the places visited, by his own admission, it was the characters who became the main focus of the story.



Three friends, plus Montmerency, a feisty fox terrier not at all keen on water, decide to sail up the River Thames from Kingston to Oxford in a camping skiff.

There are plenty of comical anecdotes and some situations that are very funny. You might imagine these young men, who don't really have much of a clue about the practicalities of life, trying to but not always successfully, to cope with what is in essence rough camping. Montmerency was introduced to appeal to a nation of dog lovers who would definitely relate to his various escapades.

A lot of us had read the book, probably in our teens, and second time round found it was not as good as we remembered. Some of the language and views used and expressed would not now be acceptable but despite that those that persevered found it worth reading.

If you have an old copy lurking on your book shelf, give it a dust and go back to a time to when the world seemed to be a much happier place.

A few years ago now, a Guardian review rated the above book as number 25 out of a hundred.

Vee Lees



## The Wildlife Group Update

### **Share a close encounter:**

It has been far too long since we saw Hedgehogs in this area, but I am delighted to report that I was stopped by David who wanted to share the good news that he has a pair of hedgehogs in his Parbrook garden. He thinks one was released from a rescue centre because it has a white 'V' on its rump. They have settled in well and are being very pampered by their new site managers and very admired. Thanks for sharing this good news with us David. A snap of the happy couple would be appreciated!

### **Musings on the Summer:**

Well, we can't say we haven't had a good Summer. Although that rather depends on who you are. If you wanted to plan an outdoor activity, or take the kids for a camping holiday, it's been a corker of a Summer. I wonder how it will affect our wildlife?

I see the Blackbirds trying to get at the worms in the baked ground (any sensible worm will have gone to Australia; they will have burrowed so deeply). I saw the wilting Nettles after the lush growth they put on in the early part of the year gave them too large a surface area to cope with the water stress. Autumn came early in August in 2022. The leaves came off the Poplars, then the Birch, Hazels and Elderberry.

In soil terms there are different types of soil water. The ones we are interested in when we have a drought is the "available water" and the "unavailable water" (hygroscopic water). I watched the available water get used by the plants and evaporate into the hot air and I kept on wondering when we would get to the unavailable water. This is water that is in the soil, but so tightly bound onto the particles of soil that the plants cannot extract it.

Some plants have had to implement drought strategies, dropping leaves or branches, growing shorter and having smaller flowers and even dying off early this season, to have an early winter rest. This will have a knock-on effect on the plants, the insects and the things that live off the insects.

Some plants and creatures are adapted to coping with dry conditions and they will have done well this year, but possibly not many of our native species, although the Oak seem to have loved the sun and coped with the drought. I don't know how. Perhaps they not only have deep roots, but strong roots that can pull more water from the soil than other native trees. Perhaps it is their leathery leaves.

The other thing I watched with distress was our brook drying out. It seems to get lower each year, I don't know why. I hope it's not dying.

Interestingly, the severity of the drought can be very local. I read that Alhampton had 16mm of rain in July, we had just 6.5mm. In August, a neighbouring farm a quarter of a mile up our lane had 20mm in the big rain storm in August, we had 16mm!

So, there will be winners and losers this year, time will tell who they are and how well they bounce back from the drought.

**WLG Photo Competition for October:** Can you give the common or scientific name for this caterpillar and what it feeds on? My hand is in the photo for scale. Answers by 9<sup>th</sup> October please.



**Photo competition winner in September:** Congratulations to Clare and Paul. The plant was Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) poisonous to stock, especially horses, in hay and the caterpillar often found on it is the poisonous Cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*).

**Meeting Up:**

After the very successful "Fun in the Woods" that we put on for **The Family Wildlife Group** we hope to schedule another activity for the **Autumn half term**. If you are interested, please email the Wildlife Group with your contact details.

**Contact information:**

**Bridget Wadey** email: [thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com](mailto:thewildlifegroup@btinternet.com), or phone: 01749 860240.

*You can follow our activities by:*

- **joining our group, it is free**
- through the **Fosse Trinity News** (FTN) parish magazine
- **The FTN website:** [www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk)

## The Natural World

Well, my remarks last month regarding the polluted state of Britain's waterways and beaches were timely. For a short time, it was headline news, until the leadership election results loomed – and all priorities changed. The most important things affecting this country are now the economy, fuel & utility prices, and the impending social & personal hardships that they will cause this coming winter. These are massively important matters but if the World is in as much peril from global warming as most scientists believe, that should be up there with the economy and fuel crisis. As it stands, it is a poor relation.



*Floods in Pakistan  
(UNHCR)*

For those who maintain that global warming is not an issue, the floods in Pakistan, where an area the size of Great Britain is under water, should serve as a strong indication that they might be wrong. It's not just the water that causes a problem. The associated disease, economic hardship and destruction of natural resources is absolutely devastating. It will take years for the problem to be resolved, provided we address it very soon indeed.

Why was there so much rain in Pakistan? I have always maintained that there isn't a water shortage on our planet. It's just in the wrong places, at the most inconvenient times. The best and simplest explanation that I have heard to date was given by BBC weatherman Chris Fawkes, who said that a 1°C rise in global temperatures means that 7% more moisture is evaporated from our oceans and land. Doesn't that mean it will be drier then? Yes, it does, in the places that lose the moisture (like the UK in July) but it can't stay in the atmosphere forever, so when it passes over a cooler, and normally, more mountainous area, it condenses and falls to the ground as rain. Pakistan and the surrounding area are very mountainous, and so the moisture condensed over the surrounding hills and mountains. It used its normal drainage route, which became overwhelmed. Even the mighty Indus river can only hold so much water.

During the heatwave which we experienced in July and August, it wasn't just hot, it didn't rain either for a very long time. The moisture in the soil was evaporated, and that was what caused all the grass to turn brown, and for leaves to fall from trees prematurely (false autumn). The moisture that we lost through evaporation, fell somewhere else as rain.

Perhaps our new government will appreciate that renewables are a priority in order to protect local economies (farming and horticulture in our case), but with

the new energy minister stating that he wants to give the British public cheaper energy, not windmills, I can't see that happening soon.

Farmers and horticulturists have been hit hard by the heatwave and drought. Smaller and premature harvests of cereal crops are just the tip of the iceberg. Apples are smaller and less plentiful this year, and anybody who tried to grow runner beans will appreciate what I'm saying.

In the countryside, blackberries were reported as ripe at the end of June. Nuts and many berries, besides blackberries, were ripening early, and in smaller quantities. The knock-on effect of this is that there will be less food for those creatures who rely on these crops to sustain them through the winter, and if they suffer then any species which prey on them will also be compromised. The ball just keeps on rolling.



*Bee on Blackberry*

On a happier note, that bee on the blackberry, and all her sisters, have had a good year. Everything is a balance. Most fruits and berries may have suffered but because of the drought, those plants which fare better in drier times, thrived. People weren't cutting their lawns, because they weren't growing very well and some 'weeds' proliferated. Among them was white clover. Lawns all over the country were sporting clover flowers, and these flowers are actually a collection of florets, each one surrendering nectar, which is the very source of honey, but clover only produces nectar at temperatures above 21°C. Well, this year it had a field day – literally. Daytime temperatures were above that figure for weeks on end and night-time ones weren't far behind. The clover loved it and the bees loved the clover. I've had a good year for honey and it is quite pale compared with most years. The colour of honey is a rough guide to where the nectar came from, but pollen analysis from honey samples is the really reliable answer, however, the pale honey tells me that it's not from usual sources, and my guess is that a lot of it came from clover. I thought I had done well with about 300lbs of honey, but while talking to a friend, she dropped into the conversation that she has harvested over half a ton this year. Rather her than me, extracting that lot. Mind you, she has a lot to make up for as last year she dropped a 30lb bucket of honey at the top of her stairs. You would be amazed how far 30lbs of honey will spread. It resulted in a new stair carpet and a new one for the lounge as well.

Stewart Gould  
[somertonbees@btinternet.com](mailto:somertonbees@btinternet.com)



# RENDEZVOUS

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October  
10 – 11:30 am  
Jubilee Village Hall, Ditcheat

coffee, cake, pantry, Christmas stocking filler stall and more  
contact Lynda 860270

## VILLAGE LUNCH

The Village Lunch is held on the last Tuesday of the month  
in the Jubilee Hall at 12.30pm.

### Menu for 25<sup>th</sup> October

Steak & Kidney Pie      Fish Pie      Vegetable Stew

Selection of Puddings. Tea or Coffee.

**£5.00 per person.**

Menu options are available on the FTN website,  
[www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk](http://www.fossetrinitynews.co.uk).

If you would like to come let Jessica Leach (860205) or  
Vee Lees (860542) know by the previous Wednesday, (19<sup>th</sup>).  
There will be a raffle as usual - any prizes will be welcome.

## **Ditcheat History Group**

Meetings will resume this month, held on the first and third Tuesday at 2:30pm  
in The Manor House Inn.

Tuesday – 4<sup>th</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup>  
December, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

We will begin to trace the development of The Ditcheat Flower Show, once a big  
day in Ditcheat life, first held in 1905 as a Harvest Home event falling off the  
scene in mid 1960's. If anyone has pictures, memorabilia or stories, I would be  
pleased to share them.

Roger Yeoman  
Tel: 07803 791414 [mail@rogeryeoman.me](mailto:mail@rogeryeoman.me)

## Alhampton Weather – August 2022

A glance at the table below shows how remarkable the weather for August was compared with previous years. The continuous warmth and almost the complete absence of rain, virtually all the rain fell on one day, make the figures stand out.

The three months of summer when put together show a picture of continuous hot weather. However, the minuscule rainfall, less than 100 mm over the three months, is the big story – and the gardens and fields show it. Normally over summer we have experienced between 150 and 300 mm of rainfall. In Alhampton/Ditcheat only one year of the last eight has the rainfall not been more than at least double this year.

The Met Office reports that this has been the joint warmest summer on record, the driest since 1976, and so far this year it is the warmest on record. The Environment Agency has stated that for the last five consecutive months rainfall has been below average and some of the rivers that they monitor are at the lowest level recorded.

Long range forecasts predict a much more unsettled pattern later in September. It does look as though the weather pattern of the last few months has finally broken down so expect mild, damp weather from the west. Also we are now into the Caribbean hurricane season, which is forecast to be quite active. On occasion a violent hurricane in that part of the world can get caught up arriving on our shores as a storm.

So rain is on the way and we need a lot, at least 20% above average for the autumn and winter according to my newspaper.

For those who like to plan your day out and are "app" orientated the Met Office App is worth a look. Selecting the Maps page will give you the predicted rainfall picture hour by hour over the next day. Could be useful this autumn if the long range unsettled forecast is correct.

August	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
>20°C days	12	21	14	19	22	26	17	31
<10°C nights	11	2	7	7	2	4	6	6
High Temp °C	25.9	28.2	26.7	30.2	28.1	27.6	23.4	34.1
Low Temp °C	7.5	8.7	7.5	5.6	8.6	7.5	6.7	6.4
Rain mm	110	66	48	100	112	151	107	39.9
Wet days	16	10	15	11	15	14	17	2
Wind run	1353	1407	1656	1624	1704	2475	1339	1120
Sun hours							131	235
Days < 0°C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

John Clarke

## **Ditcheat Parish Council**

PRECIS OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPT 2022, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Chairperson – Councillor Evans (CE) and Councillors Clark (HC), James (RJ), Adams (LA) and Hughes (LH).

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss P Griffiths – Clerk to the Council.

Before commencing the meeting, a minutes silence was held as a mark of respect following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council – the member of the public present expressed concern about the poor use of the Parish Council website to provide up to date information. Furthermore, he asked the Parish Council to commit to using the website for all information and was also concerned that the website was not up to date.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence from Councillor Hutton (RH) were received and approved.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS – receipt of report/s sent via email were noted.

CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – CE declared a personal interest in Item 149/22 a) 6) as the recipient of the payment.

Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests - None.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The proposal that SCC should adopt the verge on the right of the road going to Ditcheat from Alhampton as part of the flood channel by the Alham Bridge in Alhampton – noted that the PC was disappointed that no action appears to have been taken. The Clerk will follow up.

Fly tipping on the layby on Ditcheat Hill – noted that this has been removed.

Litter pick on the A371 next year – resolved to follow up the request in a couple of months.

South East Somerset (SES) LCN pilot youth work feasibility study – CE reported that the survey had been completed and that a report will be available soon.  
Overgrown hedges along the Wraxall Road – CE reported that the both the landowners concerned had confirmed that they will arrange for the overgrowth to be cut back.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 were approved and signed. There were no matter arising from this meeting.

#### PLANNING - APPLICATIONS:

To consider and comment on the update information if available regarding the Parish Council Consultation on application - SCC/3854/2021, Unit 22 Evercreech Junction – the email from RH to SCC which expressed concern that the report from the acoustic consultants, which appeared to have excluded the gas chillers from the modelling and requested the assurance from SCC that if the chillers have been excluded then this would be addressed, was noted .

#### FINANCE

Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques for the following:

Tony's Garden Services invoice number 82 - £75.00.

SALC for Affiliation fee invoice 0862 - £189.45.

SALC Councillor training invoice number 1063 - £25.00.

SALC Councillor training invoice number 1373 - £25.00.

Community Heartbeat Trust for annual support Invoice number 13540 - £151.20.  
it was noted that after payment £277.80 remained in the fund.

Mr C Evans for purchase of scalpings for footpath maintenance - £360.00.

RESOLVED: that the expenditure be approved, and the cheques issued.

The payments to the following were noted:

QSS Ltd monthly charge for July £38.46 on 29<sup>th</sup> August by Direct Debit.

Tony's Garden Services invoice number 80 - £150.00.

The monthly charge for August £38.46 will be paid on 29<sup>th</sup> September by Direct Debit was noted.

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION EXERCISE – Resolved to respond to the consultation stating the PC view that the proposed changes appeared to be reasonable and acceptable.

COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT – Agreed that the draft leaflet prepared by RJ would be amended by RJ and LH. Plan is to circulate it to all households in the Parish. Agreed to look at having the application forms on the website and completed forms to be uploaded to the website. Agreed to consider further

suggestion from RJ that occasional articles about the work and projects which the PC is involved in published in the parish magazine in addition to the precis of the minutes.

NALC REQUEST TO COMPLETE & CIRCULATE DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES SURVEY – Agreed that at present the Parish Council could not describe itself as 'Dementia Friendly'. The Clerk will complete the survey accordingly.

SOMERSET BUS CAMPAIGN – RJ to circulate proposed dates for Parish Councillors to help promote the bus campaign by taking a trip on the bus to Castle Cary with a photocall and a press release encouraging parishioners to use the bus service. Agreed to work to make the bus shelters in Ditcheat and Alhampton more user friendly; ideas include painting the Alhampton shelter; perhaps putting books, supplied by the Book club, into the shelters and rota to clean the shelters. The Clerk will arrange for the orange barriers currently blocking the Alhampton shelter to be removed. Noted that the bus still did not turn into the Castle Cary train station, but it was understood that once the new carpark has been completed then there will be space for the bus to turn in the existing carpark.

SOMERSET DAY 2023 – Resolved to decline the request to nominate a member of the PC to join the Communities Group.

REQUEST TO HAVE LINK ON PC WEBSITE – Resolved to refuse the request from GoCompare for a link concerning flood risk to the PC website.

#### PLAYGROUND

Update on the painting of the playground equipment - to note that an order has been placed with Wicksteed Leisure to undertake the work.

Annual inspection and Risk assessment - to note that the inspection took place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The report appears to show no major concerns. The matter will be considered further at the next meeting.

HIGHWAYS - Update on items/matters for repair previously reported:

The re-siting of the sign warning of horses on the road along the top of Ditcheat Hill – still outstanding.

Various temporary road work signs that have been left in the parish – Noted that some have been removed but following further work additional signs have been left. HC volunteered to collect up the signs and leave behind the Jubilee Hall for collection. The Clerk will notify the Highways Department.

Repairs to potholes on Wraxall Road – noted that the road has been marked awaiting repair.

Blocked gullies on Ditchheat Hill – noted the gullies have not yet been cleared and in addition it was noted that the recent road dressing had caused the gully by Witsend at the Alhampton Road and Queens Street junction gully to be blocked. The Clerk will report that above.

Speed restrictions on the A37 – the response from the Traffic Management team at SCC which suggested that the matter may be resolved if the PC agreed to provide and manage a Speed Indicator Device (SID) was noted. LH advised that the Memorandum of Understanding to which the PC would have to sign up to utilize such a device was extremely onerous and it was agreed not to proceed.

Grit bins process for winter 2022/2023 – noted that there did not appear to be any grit bins in the parish. It was noted that the bin on Ditchheat Hill had been removed some time ago but in the opinion of the PC should be reinstated.

#### FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

Update on work to the flag stone at the top end of Smiths Lane CE reported that the sides of the flagstone path had been cleared of vegetation and that scalplings had been put along about one third of one side of the path, and was likely to be completed, subject to weather, by the next meeting.

RENDEZVOUS – Feedback from the August Rendezvous of matters relevant to the Parish Council. CE reported that a parishioner had expressed concern about the length of time that it had taken Bristol Water to inform parishioners about the cessation of the water supply due to a burst water main.

#### CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence – Clerks and Council Direct which will be circulated in the 'Round Robin'.

DATE of NEXT MEETING – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022, at 7.30 pm to be held in the Church Room, Ditchheat.

If necessary, a Planning meeting will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022, at 7.30 pm in the Church Room, Ditchheat.

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE AND NOTICEBOARDS FOR AGENDAS AND DATES.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH AND PRESS WELCOME.

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## St Mary Magdalene, Ditcheat

	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Brass</u>
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Harvest Festival Team	Eleanor Yeoman
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lin Adams	Jess Leach
Oct 30 <sup>th</sup> & Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Margy Cockburn	
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	Jess Leach	Lin Steel
Nov 27 <sup>th</sup> -Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	ADVENT – no flowers	“

We would welcome new members of the team! If you are interested please contact Jess Leach on 860205.

## East Pennard Church Flowers & Cleaning Rota

October	Clare Hogg Renate Rodd
November	Jean Heal Val Green
December	Lisa Letchford Jenny Jones



### Recruiting Now!

If you have retired during, or after the Pandemic, now is your time to give something to the community. Come, join our flowers and cleaning team in East Pennard. We'd love to hear from you.

**Notice:** No window dressing for the E. Pennard harvest service this year as there is a joint service at Ditcheat.

Bridget, flowers and cleaning organiser: Tel. 860240.

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The Fosse Trinity News is a community magazine that is delivered free to all households in Ditcheat, Alhampton, East Pennard and Pylle. We reserve the right to edit but welcome contributions from everyone in the community. Editorial and adverts to be received by the **10<sup>th</sup>** of month preceding the issue. Contact: [editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk) or [adverts@fossetrinitynews.co.uk](mailto:adverts@fossetrinitynews.co.uk). Please refer to the Legal Declarations at the end of the magazine for an advisory about using copyrighted material.

## **Lord now let your servant depart in peace**

After the shock of yesterday, there was a little lightening of the mood: as the camera swept over the flowers left outside the gates of Buckingham Palace and the messages left with them, I spotted a card which said simply 'Thank you' alongside a picture of Paddington Bear! It was only three months ago as part of her Platinum Jubilee celebrations that we saw that wonderful sketch of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth with the eponymous bear taking tea together, and her expressions as he drank from the teapot spout and produced his marmalade sandwich, only to find she had one in her handbag.

One of the Queen's great gifts – and she had many – was a sense of humour, which must have stood her in good stead when faced with so many tiresome people, as well as the many lovely ones. Time and time again people have said that when she was talking with them, they felt that her attention was focussed solely on them.

In one of the more recent hymns we sing of Jesus as 'the Servant King'. I think as we have listened so much to reflections of Her Late Majesty that we recognise that she was the epitome of the Servant Queen, and she did so with such perfection because she followed the Servant King. Her faith very much determined who she was. One senses that her son will have that in common with his mother.

Now we have left behind the second Elizabethan age, and returned to a Carolean age which was last seen in the second half of the seventeenth century when Charles II was on the throne. There is a coat of arms in St Cuthbert's Church, Wells, put up in 1660 'in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of his reign', as he too had become king immediately on the death of his father and predecessor, Charles I who died on the executioner's block.

By the time you read this, we will have laid Her Majesty to rest alongside her beloved husband, Philip, with perhaps a date for the next coronation a lot clearer. Meanwhile among so many aspects of the late Queen's attributes, we remember her dedication to service, inspired by her very real faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

May she rest in peace, and rise in glory.  
God save the King.

Best wishes,  
Graham



## Church Services for October



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b><br>11:00am  | <b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b><br><b>Harvest Festival with Holy Communion at Ditcheat</b><br><b>Followed by Buffet lunch</b> |
| <b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b><br>10:00am  | <b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b><br><b>Holy Communion at Alhampton</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b><br>10:00am | <b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b><br><b>Holy Communion at East Pennard</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b><br>10:00am | <b>Last Sunday of Trinity</b><br><b>Zoom Service (contact Church Wardens for details)</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b><br>10:00am | <b>All Saints</b><br><b>East Pennard Patronal Festival</b>  |

## Church Services for November

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Wed 2<sup>nd</sup></b><br>7.30pm      | <b>All Souls Service</b><br><b>Ditcheat</b>                                       |
| <b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b><br>10:00am  | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent</b><br><b>Holy Communion at Ditcheat</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b><br>10:45am | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent</b><br><b>Remembrance Service Ditcheat</b> |
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b><br>10.00am | <b>Christ the King</b><br><b>Holy Communion at East Pennard</b>                   |
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b><br>10.00am | <b>Advent Sunday</b><br><b>Zoom Service (contact Church Wardens for details)</b>  |

### Benefice Prayer Pyramid

The Prayer Pyramid is a small group of people within the benefice who will receive prayer requests for people in need of any kind. The requests remain confidential within this small group.

Susanne Disney 860848 and Jessica Leach 860205 (Ditcheat Church wardens) have agreed to receive prayer requests.

## Who's Who ?



### FOSSÉ TRINITY BENEFICE

Interim Minister	Canon Graham Hendy	677003
Associate Priest	Revd Jayne Buckles	860802
Reader Emeritus	Jean Halford	860422
Fosse Trinity Advisory Committee	Jean Heal	860452
Fosse Trinity News Editor	Margy Cockburn	860611
Fosse Trinity News Advertising	Geoff Broome	860270
Fosse Trinity News Distribution	Tony Fagan	860377
Mothers' Union	Yvonne Stokes	01458 851480
Safeguarding Officer	Hilary Tudsbery-Turner	830538
Children's Society	-	

### ALHAMPTON

Chapel Warden	Ditcheat Churchwardens	
Neighbourhood Watch	Lynne Hughes	860654
FTN Correspondent	Louisa Osborne	860252

### EAST PENNARD

Bells - Tower Captain	Andrew Stuart	860587
Church Wardens	Jean Heal	860452
	Robert Wadey	860240
	Carol Stuart	860587
Church Council Secretary	Anthea Darby	01458 850240
Village Hall (Old Church Room) Hire	Adrian Pearse	890216
Parish Council Chairman	Adrian Pearse	890216
United Charities Chairman	David Stokes	01458 834486
Verger		

### PYLLE

Bells - Tower Captain	Joe King	890357
Church Wardens	{	
Church Council Secretary	Stephen Tudsbery-Turner	830538
Ladies Working Party (Chairman)	-	
FTN Correspondent	Stephen Tudsbery-Turner	830538
Village Hall hire and keys		860811
	Sharon Poulton	07790 035977

*Email contacts are on page 38*

## **DITCHEAT**

Art Group	Liz & Stewart Gould	860755
Badminton Club Secretary	James Bairstow	860355
Bees – Swarms	Stewart Gould	860755
Bells - Tower Captain	Roger Yeoman	860304
The Other Book Club	Gill Wetherall	860562
Church Room Hire	Pat Dando	860448
Church Wardens	{ Susanne Disney	860848
	{ Jessica Leach	860205
Community Car Service (ADEPPTS)	Sally Greenhalgh	860457
Country Dancing	Ama Bolton	672911
Ditcheat Big Screen / Moviola	Lawrence Atkinson	07976 759711
Ditcheat School	Michelle Heap	860329
Friends of Ditcheat School (FODS)	Helen Russell	860329
Fosseway Garden Club	Barbara Cary	860438
Jubilee Hall Chair	Richard Sudworth	860622
Jubilee Hall Hire	Anne Robson	860444
Jubilee Hall Website	TBA	
Mendip District Councillor	John Greenhalgh	860457
Neighbourhood Watch	Jim Dando	860448
Parish Council Chairman	Charles Evans	860336
Rendezvous	Lynda Broom	860270
Short Mat Bowls	Martin Edgar	07486 437624
Village Lunch	Jessica Leach	860205
Wildlife Group	Bridget Wadey	860240

## **GENERAL**

Community Police	Guy Dury	101
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*Please help us keep this information up-to-date.  
Email [editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@fossetrinitynews.co.uk) with any changes.*

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### Who's Who ?

Fosse Trinity News Editor  
Fosse Trinity News Advertising  
Fosse Trinity News Distribution

Ditcheat Parish Council  
Ditcheat Village Hall  
Community Police

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guy.dury@avonandsomerset.police.uk





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