

Parish Newsletter

MAY 2024



Branscombe's Forgotten Forge

Jerry Pitcher

**St Winifred's Church,
Branscombe
Holyford Mission Community
www.holyford.org**



ST WINIFRED'S CHURCH, BRANSCOMBE

MAY SERVICES

5 th	2.30pm	Rogation
12 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer
19 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
26 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer

Thursdays 5pm Weekday Evensong



For any questions regarding St Winifred's, please contact the
Churchwarden: Ross Willmington 680264

For the latest information across the Mission Community,
consult the website www.holyford.org if possible, or see the relevant
Church Noticeboards

HOLYFORD MISSION COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Holy Communion	Every Wednesday 10am St Andrew's ,Colyton
Morning Prayer	Weekdays Monday - Friday 8.30am St Andrew's Colyton
Transport to/From Church:	Please contact a churchwarden
Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals:	Call Administrator 01297 552307 or email office@holyford.org
Holy Communion at Home:	Please call a Minister, Reader or Churchwarden



FROM THE MISSION COMMUNITY

*The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.
Song of Songs 2.12*

I saw the above quoted in a garden catalogue and it seemed especially appropriate for May. The dawn chorus is well and truly among us once again and International Dawn Chorus Day is on Sunday, 5th May. I wonder how many of us will be (or were, depending on when you pick up this mag) up from about 4:30 to listen to nature's wake-up call.

God can work in and through all things and sometimes nature can be a very good way through to God. Listening to the birds singing and calling to each other we might think of God continuously calling to us, if only we have ears to hear. Of course, the birds are singing away as loudly as they can because they're defending a territory and attracting a mate.

God's voice may not always be so loud or obvious. We need to attune our hearts to hear the still small voice of calm that we sing about at the end of the hymn, 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind'. The last verse of that hymn is a reference to the story of the prophet, Elijah, who was in trouble and had fled to a mountain where he was sheltering in a cave and listening out for God. God was not to be heard in the wind or the earthquake or the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence that followed.

Eastertide continues into the month of May when we think especially about the risen Christ and his promise to be with us always. Pentecost is on the 19th when the sound of God was heard, not quietly but loud and clear, speaking in a way that all who heard understood. During this month, as you hear the birds waking you up before first light, spare a few moments in that first hour of morning to listen out for God in the silence of your heart. The word for God's Spirit is the same as breath in Greek, pneuma. On each in breath know God breathing his Spirit into you, and as you breathe out, in that moment seek to let go of all that troubles you. Know the gift of God's presence with you then and throughout the day, in quiet solitude or in the hustle and bustle of what the day will bring.

Revd Karen Curnock

An Existential Crisis?

Although some aspects of recent Climate Change in the UK may have only been a matter of inconvenience to many, even in the UK the impact on those who depend upon the weather for their livelihood e.g. in agricultural is more significant. When we zoom out of a map of the UK and consider Europe and remember some of the devastating wildfires and even further out to see drought and floods in Africa and elsewhere, then the title of this article is indeed a reality.

Jesus is recorded as having told a story about a Good Samaritan, as an example of what it means to help a neighbour; when the cultural and locational aspects of the story are unwound the message is that our *neighbour* is someone in need irrespective of location, class, colour, nationality or indeed any other label some people might choose to use.

Whilst the personal impact of Climate Change may not inspire us to consider our energy use (although the recent rise in cost may do so) it is important to realise that our lifestyle choices may well have an impact on others even if they live some distance away.

The scientific evidence for the contribution of energy generated from fossil fuels on Global Warming and Climate Change is irrefutable, as is the warning that the timescale for action is limited as there is a risk that having reached a particular point, positive feedback may take further change on an uncontrollable pathway.

It is clear that, at present, those most likely to suffer are amongst those most vulnerable amongst our global community; rather than inconvenience, they face famine because of drought, flood or conflict and are ill equipped with resources to deal with such events. Climate Change is also a factor in people migration which is likely to increase if parts of the world are unable to sustain human societies. The effect of other life is also important as some species face extinction which could also impact human societies.

Small tokens of change may seem futile in the face of such difficulties but added together it is important not to underestimate the effect. Willingness to change also reflects our willingness to be a *neighbour* to those who suffer to a greater extent. With this in mind, St Andrew's Colyton and St Michael's are already working to achieve net zero by 2030.

In next month's issue I hope to suggest small but tangible ways in which we can make a difference and I hope that some of these suggestions will feature in Fr Steven's Holyford Herald regular email.

Charles Hill

Please welcome Reverend Ghislaine Shortland who is a new addition to the Holyford Mission Community Ministry team and below is a short profile from her:

I have a long association with this area.. My maternal family are from Sidmouth, I was married at Sidmouth Parish Church and my three children were baptised there too. My parents lived in Kilmington after they retired and I have been visiting this area since 1979. I am so pleased that, at last, I am living in a place that is so special to my family and I.

I have previously worked in the NHS as a nursing sister and I was a Senior Nursing Officer in Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service. In my late twenties I left the NHS and read for a law degree. I have worked as a lawyer ever since.

I started my training for ordination later in life once my children had grown up. I felt that God would understand if I put ordination on hold while I focused on my family. I was ordained as a priest in 2020 in Guildford diocese. I studied for my theology degree part-time because I am still in paid employment three days a week. It was hard work but very enjoyable. I completed the majority of my curacy in Surrey but transferred for the last six months to the South Tamar Benefice near Tavistock. I am now a fully ordained priest albeit an SSM.

I am always a very busy person but I do like to take time to devote to my hobbies, which are varied. I enjoy visiting cathedrals, studying medieval history and folk music, especially sea shanties.

I am hoping to be able to find a place in the ministry team in the Holyford Parish and getting to know everyone who worships at the churches in the parish.





Win, Nicola, Andrew & Jay, would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and condolences received after the sad loss of Tony.



Church Floodlighting

If you would like to sponsor the lights, perhaps in memory of someone or to mark a special occasion, please contact Pat Ayles (680328). The suggested donation to church funds for a week of floodlighting is £15.00

28th April -4th May

Congratulations Katharine on another milestone birthday. love Ian, Fiona and Darcey.



COLYTON & COLYFORD MEMORY CAFÉ

Reece Strawbridge
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EX24 6PU

The second Wednesday
of each month
2pm to 4pm

Colyford Memorial Hall
Swan Hill Road
COLYFORD
EX24 6QJ

The fourth Wednesday
of each month
2pm to 4pm





It has been a very busy term for our children, and hopefully they have taken the chance to relax and reenergise over the Easter Holidays

Class one have been writing their final 'Tell me a dragon' mini stories in Literacy, using their imaginations to write descriptive narratives about the different types of dragons they might have around them and what it is they are getting up to.

The children have also been using their imaginations in Science, by writing informative pieces from the perspective of different woodland animals, detailing their animal's habitat, diet and offspring. Class one have worked really hard to include everything we have learnt this term and put it into these imaginative narratives.

In History, the children of Class one are coming to the end of their learning of 'magnificent monarchs'. They have had lots of fun learning all about the different monarchs in English history, with their favourites being Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth II. To conclude their learning, the children will be creating their very own 'Top Trump' card game next week about all of the different monarchs in our history to decide which monarch they think is the most significant.

Class one are also drawing their learning of moving parts in our DT topic 'push and pull' to a close. The children have been learning about a variety of mechanisms and how they work from lever mechanisms to linkage mechanisms to slider mechanisms. They are using this knowledge next week to create their own Easter card with moving parts. The children are very excited about this!

We have had a happy and productive Spring Term in Class 2 at Branscombe. The children have learnt a huge amount about the Tudors (especially enjoying learning about Tudor punishments!); they have explored Earth and Space, enjoyed basketball in PE and are currently learning how to write effective, spooky stories; they recently joined an online session where the presenter and author, Michael Rosen spoke to the children about story writing.

On World Book Day, the children's costumes were great and everyone enjoyed a book character 'treasure hunt', the children also joined an online meeting with the author of Loki, Louie Stowell, to hear about her inspiration for writing and they took part in a character drawing session.



Wild Wednesday saw the children having a go at felting using animal shaped cutters. The children chose different coloured wools which they then placed in the cutters, binding the wool together by making the fibres lock using sticks they found in the woods (where they also made shelters).

We would also like to mention the 3 children from Class 2 who have continued their Thursday swimming sessions and have continued to make super progress.



A big well done to one of our children also, who has taken part in a dance show called 'Legends' at Sidmouth's theatre over 5 days in the role of a football tap dancer. She says she felt very nervous before going on but after she did it, she felt much better!

Another big well done to 2 children from our school as they ran the Grizz Fest fun-run recently and they did amazingly well and smiled through the rain! Both were beautifully polite to all the marshals and completed the 2k race in style.



The children retold the Easter story in our Easter Service on the last day of term. It was an event which was enjoyed by all and gave us all some lovely reflection time about the importance and meaning behind Easter.

We hope you all had a Happy Easter from us all at Branscombe CE Primary School.

Best wishes and God bless,

Mrs Tubbs



DONATIONS NEEDED

The Food Bank needs non perishable food, toiletries, washing powder or liquid etc. They particularly need: cold meat (eg ham/corned beef/Spam) *tinned/ jars of hot dogs* chilli con carne*long-life whole milk*baby wipes*toilet rolls*toiletries.

We are still happy to pick up any items from your house if that is easier. For financial gifts the bank details are available on the Mission Community website
Thanks again!!

Jill & Tony Johnson

Please support this worthwhile cause.

For anyone who might need to use the Foodbank please contact a member of the ministry team (see inside back cover)



THE SEA SHANTY BEACH CAFÉ

Café Open 9:00am to 4:30pm everyday

Shop open from 8:30am

Breakfast menu served from 09:00am Last Order - 11:30am

Lunch menu served from 12:00pm– 3:00pm

Breakfasts, lunches, daily specials.

Croissants, pan au chocolat and small baguettes baked to order,
pasties, sausage rolls, and homemade cakes.

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In memory of Roger Pitt



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Branscombe Parish Council

For further information please visit:

<http://www.branscombe-pc.org.uk/>

Clerk to the council: Nicky Ingarfield

clerk@branscombe-pc.gov.uk

Telephone 07814 521538

**Next Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 2nd May 7.00pm
Branoc Hall Social Room**

New Parish Clerk

The Council is very pleased to welcome our new Clerk, Nicky Ingarfield, contact details as above. Nicky is also Clerk to Beer Parish Council, and lives in Axminster, so brings much local knowledge with her.

Our sincere thanks go to our previous Clerk, Adrienne Long, for her hard work in this part-time role over nearly three years, providing not only excellent routine administration but also ensuring that we keep compliant with evolving legislation and regulations governing Parish Councils .

Community Meeting

You should find a questionnaire loose in this month's magazine, and it's also online at <https://www.branscombe-pc.org.uk/survey2024>. We'd love to hear what you value in our village, and what we can do to improve things. If you fill in the paper version, please leave it in the Hall foyer any Wednesday afternoon up to 15th May. We're then holding our first **Annual Community Meeting** in its new format on **Saturday 18th May** at 7pm in Branoc Hall. We want to discuss the results of this survey with you, and hope to have a speaker to be announced. Refreshments will be available.

D-Day

We will be joining in the 80th Anniversary commemorations with the lighting of a beacon on the beach at 9:15pm on **Thursday 6th June**. Book the date, and watch out for full details in next month's newsletter.

Council Tax

You may have noticed on Page 2 of your Council Tax Bill from East Devon that they say 4% of your Council Tax goes to Town & Parish Councils. This must be an average across all of East Devon as here in Branscombe, just 1.28% of your total bill goes to Branscombe Parish Council.

Mike Pellatt
Chair, BPC

PLANNING

Listed below are new planning applications and planning applications where a decision has been made or new documents have been lodged in the last month. All other applications listed in previous months are still awaiting a decision by East Devon District Council

Date	App ref	Description	BPC Response	EDDC Decision
28/03/23	23/0557/ MRES	Land Adjacent The Fountain Head Berry Hill Branscombe Reserved matters application for Details of layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping for a residential development of 10 dwellings.	Noted conformance with outline permission, expressed various concerns	Awaiting decision
08/01/24		Design changes – 32 new/revised documents submitted	Expressed concern with number & timing of updates and impact on viability of affordable housing.	
01/02/24		4 further amended plans submitted		
06/02/24		3 further amended plans submitted		
27/03/24		15 further amended plans and communications submitted, seeking determination by EDDC	Under consideration by sub-committee	
27/06/23	23/1375/ V106	Land Adjacent The Fountain Head Berry Hill Branscombe Application for the modification of S106 agreement relating to outline permission 15/1291/MOUT (Construction of 10 no. dwellings (6 affordable, 4 open market) and associated works with all matters reserved) to allow changes to a) the approved ecological mitigation requirements, and b) the timing of the reserved matters viability assessment	Supported ecological mitigation. Unable to comment on timing of reserved matters viability assessment due to complexity of S106 legal agreement	Awaiting decision
09/06/24		2 further plans and surveys submitted	Under consideration by sub-committee	
08/04/24		2 further amended/additional plans submitted		
22/01/24	24/0143/ TEL	Telecommunications Mast Branscombe Cross Water Tower EX10 0PD The installation of 3no. antennas, 6no. remote radio units, 1no. 300mm transmission dish, installation of 1no. equipment cabinet and ancillary development (Prior notification)	Support	Planning Application and Permission required 11/03/24
26/02/24	24/0407/ FUL	3 Mill Lane Branscombe Devon EX12 3DS Demolition of existing conservatory and rear porch, erection of replacement single storey rear extension with lapped timber cladding	Support	Approved 25/03/24


Planned Road Closures

23-24 May 2024 Junction of School Lane and main road through the village (both closed) - SouthWest Water

**YOUR DOG
CAN SCARE
OR HARM
FARM ANIMALS**




**STAY SAFE - USE A LEAD
AROUND LIVESTOCK**

**BUT RELEASE
YOUR DOG IF
CHASED BY CATTLE**



**WHEREVER YOU ARE
CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG
BAG IT AND BIN IT**

*Love Your Countryside and
follow the Countryside Code*

BE TICK AWARE

Avoiding ticks

- walk on clearly defined paths to avoid brushing against vegetation
- wear light-coloured clothes so ticks can be spotted and brushed off
- use repellents such as DEET
- carry out a tick check

Carry out a tick check

Make it a habit to check your clothes and body regularly for ticks when outdoors and again when you get home. Check your children and pets as well.

Areas that ticks may frequently be found include skin folds, armpits, groin, waistband area, back of the neck and hairline. Data from UKHSA's Tick Surveillance Scheme shows that adults are commonly bitten on the legs, whilst children are commonly bitten on the head or neck area. It is important to remember, however, that bites can occur on any part of the body and more than one tick can be attached at one time.

If you have been bitten

- remove ticks as soon as possible
- the safest way to remove a tick is to use a pair of **fine-tipped** tweezers or a tick removal tool
- grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible
- pull upwards slowly and firmly, as mouthparts left in the skin can cause a local infection
- clean the bite area with antibacterial wash/soap and water, and monitor it for several weeks for any changes
- contact your GP promptly if you begin to feel unwell with flu-like symptoms or develop a spreading circular red rash. Remember to tell them you were bitten by a tick or have recently spent time outdoors

Tick removal with tweezers



Tick in the environment



Tick attached to skin



Lyme disease
bullseye rash



Tick found
under hair



We are very grateful to all of our contributors for their wonderful articles. If you would like to submit an item for publication, eg recipes, poetry, 200 word story, please ensure it is with the editorial team by the 10th of the month. All articles and letters for publication must be signed and include a contact telephone number or email address

Please email:

Parishnewslettereditors@gmail.com or send to Old Thatch Branscombe

If you would like to make a donation towards covering the cost of publishing the Newsletter please contact Pat Ayles (680328)

All contributions will be most gratefully received



Celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day (5th May 2024) by joining us for an early morning bird safari with a local ecologist. Appreciate the songs and calls of different species and unravel their fascinating behaviour. There will be some wonderful spring flowers to see too.

The 3km route is mostly on a quiet lane, but you will also have the chance to visit meadows that are not usually open to the public, so wear stout footwear. Steep uphill but at a gentle pace with frequent stops. No previous experience is required, but bring binoculars, if you have them. Please dress for the weather as this time of year can be chilly early in the morning.

Sorry – no dogs.

Meeting point and parking:

Meet by the Wishing Well at Branscombe Village Hall.

Ample parking available.

6am - 8am

Booking essential through <https://westyandworzel.co.uk/events-at-the-farm/>



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Date		Branoc Hall bookings – May 2024
W	1 st	Private hire – main hall – morning Post Office – foyer – 1.30pm – 3.30pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	2 nd	Polling Station – local elections – main hall – all day and evening Parish Council meeting – social room - evening
F	3 rd	Cricket match – Branscombe Ravens v Tale Millers – pavilion & field 6pm.
S	4 th	
Su	5 th	
M	6 th	
Tu	7 th	
W	8 th	Private hire – main hall – morning Post Office – foyer – 1.30pm – 3.30pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	9 th	
F	10 th	Cricket match – Branscombe Ravens v Talbot – pavilion & field 6pm
S	11 th	
Su	12 th	
M	13 th	Private hire – main hall - afternoon
Tu	14 th	
W	15 th	Post Office – foyer – 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cake & Chat – main hall & kitchen – 2pm – 4pm All welcome. Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	16 th	
F	17 th	
S	18 th	Parish Annual Community Meeting—main hall—6pm
Su	19 th	
M	20 th	Private hire – main hall - afternoon
Tu	21 st	
W	22 nd	Post Office – foyer – 1.30pm – 3.30pm Branscombe Primary School – May Day celebrations – pavilion - afternoon Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	23 rd	
F	24 th	Private hire – main hall -afternoon
S	25 th	Seaton Hospice at Home Table Top Sale – main hall – all day
Su	26 th	Cricket match – Branscombe Ravens v Broken Wanderers – pavilion & field 2pm
M	27 th	
Tu	28 th	
W	29 th	Post Office – foyer – 1.30pm – 3.30pm Private hire – snooker room – evening Village Hall committee meeting – social room – 7pm
Th	30 th	
F	31 st	

To book the hall please contact Catherine Newman 01395 579317

A Market Gardener's Plat Perspective

By Stefan Drew

Note from Barbara F.: Stefan contacted me and explained his interests in, and research on, the plats. It's nice to have a different perspective and to make new discoveries. Stefan very kindly wrote this short piece for the Branscombe Newsletter. This piece is part of a longer article that Stefan has written <https://www.bitesizedgardening.co.uk/cliff-fields-plats-and-quillets-in-westcountry-garden-history/how-to-dig-for-victory/>

Stefan: I started my market gardening career just as the last plat market gardener retired. Now that I've also retired, I'm able to view the plats as a market gardener and, perhaps, bring a perspective that others cannot.

There is no doubt that the Branscombe and Weston plats are a piece of history, unique to Devon. The Cornish had their quillets, Jersey had their cõtils but only Branscombe had plats. But how are they unique?

Certainly the early crops made them very special but the potatoes they grew were the same varieties as many others grew across the UK. Varieties such as Epicure and King Edwards. Epicure potatoes were first sold by Suttons of Torquay in 1897. Even today they are known as a variety that provides a good yield and quickly recovers from frost. Frosts weren't common on the plats but this would have made them a good variety for growing in colder years.

Other potato varieties grown on the plats included Arran Chief, British Queen and Sharps Express, the last two appearing in 2024 seed catalogues.

Thanks to our local historians we know what vegetables Tom White grew in 1943, he recorded it in a notebook and they published them as part of the Branscombe Project. Tom grew crops such as Bedfordshire Champion onions and Hollow Crown parsnips and both are still in today's seed catalogues.

Despite the National Trust sign at Weston saying that the plats were to keep the local men occupied, we know the plats were never about leisure. In this case being "occupied", kept them from starvation.

Market gardening is extremely hard work with long hours and poor returns and as a market gardener something has always troubled me about the plats. Plat farmers were clearly inventive and highly skilled. So why did they never mechanise?

I know the arguments about steep cliff sides and narrow paths. But I had a Honda pedestrian tractor that could go up any slope a man or donkey could climb. And with adjustable axles it was as narrow as a donkey!

So despite the donkeys and lack of historical evidence I was never convinced. And now I have evidence to show that at least one plat was mechanised. Nestled deep in the undergrowth on Weston plat I found the remains of a pedestrian tractor that could have been used to plough, cultivate, haul a small trailer and a host of other tasks.



Experts have examined the photographs I sent them and tell me it is an Auto Culto model E or F. The engine was a Villiers and would have been 250 or 350cc depending on the model. They were manufactured between 1932-39 and I'm now researching the retailers selling them locally from 1932 onwards.

Plat history spans the centuries but can still teach us much today. They've prompted me to learn more and I frequently post plat observations on my gardening website BiteSizedGardening.co.uk

These photos of the cliff plats were recently shown on Branscombe Facebook. They were taken in 1953 and appear in www.britainfromabove.org.uk



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National Trust Update from the East Devon Country-

MANOR MILL UPDATE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MILL VOLUNTEER?

Hands up who knows what a launder is. Yes, you're quite right, it's a watermill term, referring to the wooden trough that's situated above the waterwheel. Its job is to channel water from the leat (the course of water that gives the mill its power – also known as a mill race), dropping it onto the buckets of the waterwheel and inducing the turn that powers the machinery, ultimately resulting in millstones setting about their grinding and producing flour.

Conservation work and rebalancing the waterwheel

While we're a fair bit away from being at a point where we can produce flour, we're happy to say that Manor Mill is taking solid steps forward on the road to full function once again. A significant such step was taken in the installation of a new launder, to replace the one that was put in situ in 2001-2.

As well as this, last year saw the renewal of the oak wheelshaft, the first such work to have taken place since the early 1990s. One of the key improvements to have been introduced here is better-situated gudgeons. If you know what a gudgeon is, and you're not talking fish, then we salute you (and would you like to volunteer to assist with the running of the mill? See later for details). If you don't, they're the cast-iron fittings at both ends of the wheelshaft. There you are – a new word for next time you're playing Scrabble. Pity it'll usually only get you 10 points.

The upshot is that Manor Mill is in better shape than it has been for years, and we're keen to get the property back open to the public as soon as conditions allow. More of that in a minute. In the meantime, what have we been doing recently?

Firstly, and hugely importantly, we're rebalancing the wheel. When a watermill lies dormant, the wheel is static in the water. To be more exact, a part of the wheel is static in the water. The result is that over time that part of the wheel becomes sodden, while the remainder dries out completely. When this happens, you have a weight discrepancy across the wheel.

Why does this matter? Because it will affect the speed and steadiness of the machinery as the heavier part of the wheel makes its way slowly to the top of its spin, then falls much more quickly down the other side. This can lead to increased wear and tear on the machine gear. This is a problem for all watermills left in stasis, but Manor Mill's situation is especially serious because the waterwheel is on the south side of the building, hence getting all the sun that's on offer (admittedly not that much of late).

This drying-out, interspersed with lengthy immersion, will increase the timber's rate of decay, so is to be countered if possible. How do we set about doing this? By running the mill every week, for an hour or so. This has had the desired effect, and the wheel is now better balanced than before.

In addition to this work, we've been setting about restoring the rest of the mill: scrubbing the floor, cleaning the windows, dusting, de-cobwebbing, and generally bringing Manor Mill back to its best.

Help us keep the waterwheel turning; become a mill volunteer.

We're enormously keen to secure community involvement in the running of Manor Mill. So, we're welcoming applications from those who would like to volunteer some time to welcome visitors and help them learn how the power of water has been used to grind grain at the property for over 300 years. Gudgeon expertise is not the be all and end all of suitability. More important is an enthusiasm to assist in the running and preservation of one of the village's historic key components, and an ability to share this enthusiasm with mill visitors.

Manor Mill will be opening again for National Mills Weekend, on Saturday 11th May, from 13.00-16.00.

The wheel and the machinery will be turning in all their glory, and we'll be glad to show visitors around and talk a little about the work done (and still to do).

After that, we'll be looking to open Manor Mill on a regular basis to the public, dates to be confirmed.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more, please drop in to the mill on 11th May between 13.00-16.00.

If you can't make it, then please get in touch via email

branscombe@nationaltrust.org.uk or call me on 01297 680507. I look forward to hearing from you.



Ground Floor Manor Mill ©National Trust Images/Eric McDonald



Mill stones', ©National Trust Images/Mike Townsend.

Martin Jennings-Wright
Volunteering and Community Officer,
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The Pacha Posse

Great excitement in the world of a creature with very little brain power this month, very sadly a 300-year-old oak tree came crashing through the fence early one morning, fortunately it was raining which of course meant that they were all snuggled up in the field shelter so no squashed or escaped alpaca. The tree not only blocked the road it



also took out the top of the electricity pole in the paddock, so we had a whole day of various vehicles coming in & out of the paddock, lots of machinery making a lot of noise and more people in the paddock than any of the alpaca have ever seen so I had some very skittish alpaca for most of the day. By the end of the day the road was cleared and power was reconnected however the bulk of the tree is still in the paddock which does mean that they do have access to some lovely new buds, or rather they did until I fenced the area off

as the tree is still precariously propped and the gentle but persistent tugging by hungry alpacas may well lead to alpaca pancake. I think they will need to get used to the sound of chainsaws as it may take a few days to sort that mess out.

On a completely different note March was the British Alpaca Society National Show, and although I didn't make it to Telford, I was watching the live streaming of the event whilst painting my lounge and it did open my eyes the world of showing alpacas, I am starting to feel that my little Lucha has a bit of potential and was slightly inspired by the live stream as I noticed that there were a few winners that had lineages in common with Lucha (and Cusco – although Cusco is no longer a possibility to show as he is no longer intact and to be honest the only way I could have ever shown Jester was as a comedy entry). My 1 big question is how did all the alpacas look so immaculate? I think Lucha may need a bit of attention first – please bear in mind she is supposed to be white:



So the day following the show I was up with my floofy ones prodding, poking and parting their fibre to see if there was any similarity to those seen at the show. Sure enough, in my opinion, Lucha, and Coca to a lesser extent, do have very nice floof. The bonus is Lucha is very happy to be handled and rather likes human attention. So after getting vaguely excited by the prospect I discovered that I need a minimum of 3 to enter and the only other one that is even close to show level is Imogen (Lucha's mum) and she hates me! So I think I will have to wait until next year, however I will have the opportunity to show alpaca at the Devon county show in May as I have asked to help out with another herd. This will hopefully not only give me a good insight into the basics of showing, what makes a good alpaca, the preparation required but also hands on presentation and maybe a lesson in how to keep alpacas clean!

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Defibrillators are now kept at the following locations:

Branoc Hall – Branscombe

The Fountain Head - Branscombe

The Masons Arms – Branscombe

The Sea Shanty – Branscombe

Oakdown Caravan Park – Weston

These defibrillators are available for use at the above sites and within the villages of Branscombe and Weston



At a Glance Dates for your Diary

May

Thursday 2 nd	AM/PM	Polling Station – Police & Crime Commissioner – main hall
Thursday 2 nd	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting-Social Room-Branoc Hall
Sunday 5 th	6am-8am	Dawn Chorus Day Bird Safari (see P15 for details)
Wednesday 15 th	2pm-4pm	Coffee & Chat—Branoc Hall
Saturday 18 th	7pm	Parish Annual Community Meeting—Branoc Hall
Saturday 25 th	10.00-3.00pm	Sue’s Hospice at Home Fundraiser-Branoc Hall
Wednesday 29 th	7pm	Village Hall committee meeting – social room



MAY CRICKET FIXTURES



Our beautiful new pavilion is now finally finished. It has been built by members of the Cricket Club using donations from a large number of local groups and individuals and is now part of Branscombe Village Hall.

Our cricketing ability varies from mediocre to inept, however our team spirit, sledging ability and love of pressed apples is unparalleled in modern sport. We have a proud winning record, particularly at home, achieved largely by carefully selecting opponents of similar, if not slightly more dubious ability.

We welcome spectators If you are in the village on a Friday Night come along and say hello; you will be made very welcome. You will find us on the field behind the village Hall.

Date	Day	Time	Opponents	Where
03 May	Fri	6 p.m.	Tale Millers	H
10 May	Fri	6 p.m.	Talbot	H
16 May	Thu	6 p.m.	Clyst Hydon	A
26 May	Sun	2 p.m.	Broken Wanderers CC	H
31 May	Fri	6 p.m.	Tale Millers	A



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Branscombe Parish Directory

Rector	Revd Dr. Steven Martin rector@holyford.org	553180
Hon. Assistant Priests	Revd Nigel Freathy Revd Canon Colin Preece Revd Canon Karen Curnock Revd Preb John Lees	552154 07460 244475 551351
Churchwarden	Ross Willmington	680264
Readers	Dr Charles Hill Emma Laughton Sue McCoulough	552141 551400 552446
Youth and Family Worker	Linda Joy	07796 063208
Organist	Dr Geoff Butler	21375
Church Secretary	Sue Hawkins	680466
Church Treasurer	Pat Ayles	680328
Friends of St Winifred's	Emma Cox, Chair	680392
Bells	John Bass	680432
Mission Community Office	Caz Jefferies Admin Tues, Thurs & Friday 9.30 – 1.30pm	552307 office@holyford.org
Church Flowers	Sallie Herniman	553482
Branoc Hall Bookings	Catherine Newman	01395 579317
Web		www.holyford.org



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