

PARISH NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2024



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



ST WINIFRED'S CHURCH, BRANSCOMBE

OCTOBER SERVICES

6 th	11.15am	Harvest Service & St John's Choir
13 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer
20 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
27 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer



There will no longer be Evening Prayer on a Thursday
in St Winifred's

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



HolyFORD
MISSION COMMUNITY

FROM THE MISSION COMMUNITY

Harvest Service

with visiting Oxford choir



St Winifred's Church, Branscombe
Sunday 6 October | 11.15am



*Collection in aid of
Lord Clinton's
Charitable Trust*

supporting young people, the elderly and those with disabilities across North and East Devon.

Join us for Harvest Lunch after the service

Please book with Jo Mason in advance | £15 per person
johnjomason@gmail.com | 07970 261559

**The Chapel Choir of
St John's College, Oxford**



2024

holyford.org | office@holyford.org | 01297 552307



I would just like to introduce myself to the community of the beautiful village of Branscombe, as the CEO of The Link Academy Trust which Branscombe CofE primary joined on 1st September. We are an Educational Trust established in April 2016 that specialises and has built an excellent, strong reputation in providing an exciting education for pupils in small primary schools in South, Mid and East Devon. As a mixed MAT encompassing church and community primary schools, we are proud of our intentionally individual and wonderfully unique character. Our overarching philosophy of valuing individuality and human flourishing permeates our shared vision and values, uniting schools across the Trust.

Our vision is that we ensure flourishing schools for all at the heart of our communities and, therefore, we will all be working really hard to continue to provide and extend an exciting approach to learning for the pupils in Branscombe in order to swell our pupil numbers. We will be fostering extensive opportunities to learn using the environment, making great use of our locality through 'blue days' learning outdoors by the sea and 'green days' in our forest school setting.

We will be providing a minibus so this school can link with our other small schools in East Devon to share learning experiences and bring children into the village.

New leadership from Mrs Ashleigh Tubbs will ensure a friendly 'open-door' school with a calendar of activities that the whole village will be asked to support, including sessions for new parents in our Parent, Baby and Toddler programme and an Open Day to welcome you all into your village primary school. More information will be available as the term moves on- please do your best to support us- going forward we want to be an important part of this community!

Kind regards,
Nicky Dunford.
CEO





We have loved welcoming back the children to a new school year here at Branscombe CE Primary School. The children and staff have come back raring to go after enjoying a lovely summer holiday. We have lots to look forward to with our diaries already filling up with special events, trips and performances. We look forward to sharing these with the Parish as they happen.

The children have started a unit on World War 2 and will be learning lots in the coming term about different aspects of the war. We already have some stories from past pupils about our school in the war, but if you know anything about our school in the war, please contact the school office as we are keen for the children to learn about the local history, as well as international.

Our school bus will soon be up and running, please share the advert for a bus driver as widely as possible. We are also looking for volunteers to come in and hear the children read on a regular basis, if you are interested, please contact the school office.

Best wishes and God bless.

Mrs Tubbs

Academy Headteacher



Christmas Greetings

If you would like to send good wishes to friends in lieu of cards (or indeed in addition to cards) please send your name and phone no. (not printed in Newsletter) and donation to

Pat Ayles, Ross Willmington or bring to Church by the 6th November

A suggested donation would be £5 but any amount is welcome

The following will appear in Dec/Jan issue of the Parish Newsletter:

We wish all our friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and Peace and Love in the New Year

(followed by a list of names)

The proceeds will be sent to this year's chosen charity

Children's Hospice South West

If you would like any further information please contact

Pat Ayles 680328



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

13th-19th October

Remembering with love Barbara and Eddie Peach, our mom and dad, grandma, grandad and GGs. We miss you every single day. God bless you Rebecca, Jon, Russell, Sarah, Philly, Chris, Richie, Sophie, Luca, Evie, Albie, Teddy, Flossie and Penny



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)



All welcome to October's cake and chat
Wednesday 16th October 2pm-4pm
Branoc hall.

Come along for a cuppa, chat and cake.

Thank you to Tim and Trish of Oakmead café and shop for all your support and milk donations over the last few years.

All the best for the future.

If transport is required call either
Andrea Bass on 01297 680447 or
John Bass on 01297 680432.

We look forward to seeing you.



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

Senior Specials

Cod, Chips & Peas, with a pot of tea or small coffee £13.50

Scampi, Chips & Peas with a pot of tea or small coffee £12.50.



**SUCCESSFULLY SELLING COUNTRY
AND VILLAGE PROPERTY IN YOUR PARISH**

If you would like any advice, please contact your local Devon team:

HONITON

01404 42456 | devon@humberts.com

humberts.com

MOVING YOU SINCE 1842



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 3rd October, 7.00pm—Branoc Hall Social Room

South West Water

The days after the heavy downpour on the night of 1st September were not good for both fresh water supplies and sewage in the village, as I'm sure everyone knows.

A blockage in the main sewer close to the location of the previous sinkhole was finally located by SWW, after a number of previous reports of quite obvious sewage leakage during times of rain that had not been investigated. Despite the blockage being identified on the morning of the 2nd, no action other than pumping across the blockage took place until late morning of the 4th, when equipment to start excavation finally arrived. This issue will be added to the list of matters to be discussed with SWW in our forthcoming meeting with them. Furthermore, safety barriers, fencing and signs were left after the works were completed narrowing the road. Timely removal of these following works is another area for discussion with SWW.

Then there was a major leak in the water main below Parkfield Terrace, leaving the village cut into 3 parts! However, the team working on it committed to working through the evening until it was fixed and reinstatement carried out - which they did, so our thanks are due to them for doing that.

Britain in Bloom

Some twenty years ago, Branscombe won the Britain in Bloom competition. It's been suggested that the village enters again—the competition has changed very much in nature over the intervening period, with an increasing focus on how all sectors of the local community manage the local environment. See the Royal Horticultural Society's information on the competition at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/britain-in-bloom>

“Britain in Bloom inspires community groups in towns, cities and villages to make positive changes to their local environment through horticultural, environmental and community action.”

Please contact myself or Nicky if this is something you'd like to get involved in, and if there's enough interest the Parish Council will support a group.

889 Bus Route

Overleaf, we've reproduced the statement from AVMT regarding the rerouting of the 899 and 885 bus services. Your Parish Council wasn't consulted before these changes, and we're very concerned about the use of Vicarage Hill as it has a 6ft 6in width limit and a number of places where passing is very dangerous. The bus has already been blocked at the Masons Arms by parked cars, too. AVMT tell us they did receive permission from Devon CC to use this new route, and we are raising the matter via our County Councillor. We understand the condition of Seller's Wood Hill led AVMT to make this route change, but of course the solution to this problem should be Devon CC maintaining that road properly—as it is the correct, signposted, route to Beer for larger vehicles.

High-speed broadband (or rather not-ridiculously-slow-speed broadband)

Yet again, we've been let down by Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS) and their contracted supplier under the Government-supported BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK) scheme. This time, it's Airband who should have delivered by Q2 2024. Jurassic Fibre, who were working on a fully commercial build, have also stopped building into new areas.

In other rural areas—especially parts of Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire—community initiatives with volunteer effort have been successful in delivering where commercial and subsidised builds haven't worked.

So—is there interest in doing this for Branscombe? With goodwill and hard work, it would be possible to achieve first connections with a year of starting. Please contact me if this is something you'd be interested in—no experience necessary!

Mike Pellatt
Chair, Branscombe PC

Planned Road Closures/Delays

2-7 Dec 2024	Road from Branscombe Cross—Northern Lane between A3052 and lane to Edge Farm —BT Openreach Workzone—delays likely
13-17 Dec 2024	Road from Higher Barn—The Old Cider House, below the eastern end of Parkfield Terrace—South West Water, permanent carriageway reinstatement

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
15/07/24	24/1426/FUL	6 Hillside Branscombe Devon EX12 3BQ New access to the highway with parking and associated works.	Parish Council did not receive notice of application	Approved 04/09/24



Mental Health in Farming is something that is not spoken about enough!

The stresses and pressures on British Farming are at an all time high.

A useful downloadable document from our friends at Farm Safety Foundation - Yellow Wellies is available here- <https://www.yellowwellies.org/the-little-book-of-minding.../>

If you need help in Farming there are a number of support services out there to address mental health, financial and general support, such as <https://www.yellowwellies.org/>, <https://fcn.org.uk/> and <https://rabi.org.uk/> amongst others.

There is someone out there who can help! Don't struggle alone!

See our latest Facebook post about Mental Health here- www.facebook.com/dcpolicerural



AVMT BUSES CHANGES TO 899 and 885 BUS SERVICES

899

We have re-routed the 899 bus service from Coxes Corner and we will now be going up Bulstone to the A3052 then turn down past Oakdown Caravan Park to Weston Cross to re-join our existing route to The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidford and Sidmouth. This will enable us to cover three camping sites; Branscombe Airfield, King's Down Tail and Oakdown. Other changes to the 899 bus service are that on the outbound journeys to Sidmouth we will now return to Beer Cross after Underleys, to provide a link for those wanting to use the 885 service to Seaton, Colyton and Axminster. Then we continue to Branscombe and Sidmouth.

We will now be using Vicarage Hill instead of Seller's Wood Hill on both journeys to Branscombe and Sidmouth and on return to Beer and Seaton.

Seaton to Sidmouth Via Beer & Branscombe						899
Monday to Saturday except bank holidays						
	899S				SD	NS
SEATON, Marine Place	0720	0930	1145	1345	1440	1615
BEER, Cross		0937	1152	1352	1447	1622
BEER, Underleys		0940	1155	1355	-	1625
BEER, Cross		0943	1158	1358	1447	1628
BRANSCOMBE, Village Hall		0955	1210	1410	-	1640
BRANSCOMBE, Airfield Camp Site		1000	1215	1415	-	1645
BRANSCOMBE, King's Down Tail		1002	1217	1417	-	1647
BRANSCOMBE, Oakdown Camp Site		1003	1218	1418	-	1648
WESTON, The Donkey Sanctuary		1006	1221	1421	-	1651
SIDFORD, Spar	0735	-	1224	1424	1459	1654
FORTESCUE, Phone Box	-	1009	-	-	-	-
SIDMOUTH, Triangle Arr.	-	1017	1232	1432	1507	1702
NEWTON POPP'D, Memorial	0743	-	-	-	-	-
NEWTON POPP'D, Robin Orchard	0745	-	-	-	-	-
					899S	
	SD				SD	XX
						NS
NEWTON POPP'D, Robin Orchard	-	-	-	-	1640	-
NEWTON POPP'D, Memorial	-	-	-	-	1642	-
SIDMOUTH, Triangle Dep.	0910	1025	1240	1440	-	1705
SIDFORD, Spar	0918	1033	-	1448	1648	1713
FORTESCUE, Phone Box	-	-	1248	-	-	-
WESTON, The Donkey Sanctuary	-	1037	1252	1452	-	1717
BRANSCOMBE, Oakdown Camp Site	-	1040	1255	1455	-	1720
BRANSCOMBE, King's Down Tail	-	1041	1256	1456	-	1721
BRANSCOMBE, Airfield Camp Site	-	1043	1258	1458	-	1723
THREE HORSE SHOES	0925	-	-	-	1655	-
BRANSCOMBE, Village Hall	-	1047	1302	1502	-	1727
BEER, Cross	0931	1059	1314	1514	-	1739
BEER, Underleys	-	1102	1317	1517	-	1742
SEATON, Sea Front	0938	1109	1324	1524	1708	1749
CODES:						
	NS	NOT SATURDAY				
	SD	SCHOOL DAYS ONLY (School Days denote secondary schools when fully open)				
	XX	RUNS 2hrs 25m EARLIER ON LAST DAY OF EACH COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL TERM				
For A.V.M.T. Timetable Enquiries Telephone 01297 625959						

885

The 885 bus service Beer to Axminster will now terminate all journeys at Beer Cross and not go around Underleys. Timings from Seaton to Beer Cross and return have been amended very slightly. Those passengers who require a bus from Underleys, Beer to Seaton, Colyton and Axminster will now be able to transfer from Underleys, Beer to Beer Cross on the 899 bus services (see below). To return to Underleys from Seaton please use the 899 services from Seaton to do so.

Beer to Axminster via Seaton & Colyton													885		
Monday - Saturday (Except Public Holidays)															
	NS		■	NS	NS		NS		NS		■	S	NS		
BEER, Cross	-	0750	-	0955	1105	1205	1305	1405	1605	-	1705	1805	-	-	-
SEATON, Sea Fr Gardens Arr	-	0758	-	1003	1113	1213	1313	1413	1613	-	1713	1813	-	-	-
SEATON, Sea Fr Gardens Dep	0645	0800	-	0920	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	-	1620	1720	-	-	-
SEATON, Health Centre	0650	0804	-	0924	1024	1124	1224	1324	1424	-	1624	1724	-	-	-
COLYFORD, The Elms	0652	0807	-	0927	1027	1127	1227	1327	1427	-	1627	1727	-	-	-
COLYTON, Square	0656	0811	-	0931	1031	1131	1231	1331	1431	-	1631	1731	-	-	-
WHITFORD, Hampton Lane	0701	0815	-	0935	1035	1135	1235	1335	1435	-	1635	1735	-	-	-
MUSBURY, Garage	0704	0818	-	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	-	1638	1738	-	-	-
AXMINSTER,Rail Station	0711	0825	-	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	-	1645	1745	-	-	-
<i>Train to Waterloo departs</i>	0723	0906	-	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	-	1707	1808	-	-	-
<i>Train to Exeter departs</i>	0737	0903	-	1006	1105	1203	1303	1403	1503	-	1703	1804	-	-	-
AXMINSTER,Trinity Sq Stop B	0714	0827	-	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	-	1650	1750	-	-	-
AXMINSTER,Hospital	0716	-	-	0952	1052	1152	1252	1352	-	-	1652	1752	-	-	-
MILLWEY RISE, Second Ave	0719	-	-	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	-	-	1655	1755	-	-	-
	NS		■	NS	NS		NS		NS		■	S	NS		
AXE VALLEY ACADEMY	-	0830	-	-	-	-	-	-	1530	-	-	-	-	-	-
MILLWEY RISE, Second Ave	0725	-	-	1005	1105	1205	1305	1405	-	-	1705	1835	-	-	-
AXMINSTER,Hospital	0728	-	-	1008	1108	1208	1308	1408	-	-	1708	1838	-	-	-
AXMINSTER,Trinity Sq Stop A	0730	0835	0910	-	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1530	-	1710	1840	-	-
<i>Train from Waterloo arrives</i>	-	-	-	-	1006	1105	1203	1303	1403	1503	-	1703	1804	-	-
<i>Train from Exeter arrives</i>	0723	0804	0906	-	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	-	1707	1828	-	-
AXMINSTER,Rail Station	0732	0840	0915	-	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1535	-	1715	1842	-	-
MUSBURY, Garage	0739	0847	0922	-	1022	1122	1222	1322	1422	1542	-	1722	1849	-	-
WHITFORD, Hampton Lane	0742	0850	0925	-	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1545	-	1725	1852	-	-
COLYTON, Square	0746	0855	0930	-	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1550	-	1730	1856	-	-
COLYFORD, The Elms	0750	0859	0934	-	1034	1134	1234	1334	1434	1554	-	1734	1900	-	-
SEATON, Health Centre	0753	0902	0937	-	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1557	-	1737	1903	-	-
SEATON, Marine Pl Arr	0800	0909	0944	-	1044	1144	1244	1344	1444	1604	-	1744	1910	-	-
SEATON, Marine Pl Dep	0740	-	-	0945	1055	1155	1255	1355	-	1555	1655	1755	-	-	-
BEER, Cross	0748	-	-	0953	1103	1203	1303	1403	-	1603	1703	1803	-	-	-
CODES:	NS		NOT SATURDAY		■		TERMINATES AT AND COMMENCES FROM								
	S		SATURDAYS ONLY		TRINITY SQ, AXE VALLEY ACADEMY SCHOOL DAYS										

Further to this, another change we have made is that on return from Beer to Seaton on both the 885 and 899 services we will continue down Beer Road before turning right onto Tanyards Court and then re-join Sea Hill on our journey to Seaton Sea Front. We have seen many Beer passengers request stops nearer the centre town to access local shops, doctors and dentists. This will provide a closer drop off for these amenities as we will be happy to stop just below the entrance of Orchard Car Park on Beer Road before turning right onto Tanyards Court.

Thank you for your continued support.



CAN YOU HELP ?

Would you like to try your hand at flower arranging
We need people with a love of flowers to join our teams
to decorate St Winifred's. You do not need to be
experienced as help will always be at hand

At present our rota consists of four teams of two. It
would be great to expand to teams of three so that we
can cover holidays etc.

If interested please contact Sallie Herniman tel. 01297
553482.

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 tele-
phone 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)**

Colyton & Colyford Memory Café is run by a committed team of volunteers for
the benefit of residents in Colyton, Colyford and the surrounding area.

Its purpose is to provide an afternoon of company and enjoyment for people
living with short-term memory loss and/or early stages of dementia, and to offer
a support network for them, their carers and their families.

We aim to offer a variety of themed afternoons for all to participate in.

The café is open in Colyton on the second Wednesday of each month from
2pm to 4pm and in Colyford on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 2pm
to 4pm.

There is no admission or membership fee. Everyone is welcome.

Phone: 07767 127685; Email: colymemcaf@gmail.com for more information

We aim to offer a variety of themed afternoons for all to participate in.

BRANSCOMBE FIREWORKS NIGHT SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER



Please come and join us for the
Branscombe Fireworks Night on Saturday 2nd November at Branoc Hall.
The bar will be open in the pavilion from 5.30pm and bangers and burgers will be served outside too.

The bonfire will be lit at 6.45pm and the Fireworks at 7pm.

As always this will be a FREE event but we do rely on donations to ensure that it can go ahead in future years, cash donations preferred as we have a limited number of card machines.

We look forward to seeing you all.

2025 Branscombe Calendar



Featuring twelve new full colour photographs, the Branscombe Calendar 2025 is a sturdy, double page and spiral bound must-have household item which measures 40cm x 26cm when opened out.

There is plenty of space for noting those all-important events and appointments whilst enjoying a different delightful Branscombe village vista every month. All the photography is my own.

The cost is £10 each (+ £2.50 for postage if required). Free collection/delivery within the village.

If you would like to order, please send me an email: paultnew@me.com or phone 01395 579317.

Date		Branoc Hall bookings – OCTOBER 2024
Tu	1 st	
W	2 nd	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	3 rd	Private hire – main hall – afternoon Parish Council meeting – social room – 7pm
F	4 th	Private hire – main hall - afternoon
S	5 th	Private hire – main hall – all day
Su	6 th	Private hire – main hall – all day
M	7 th	Private hire – main hall – morning
Tu	8 th	
W	9 th	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	10 th	
F	11 th	
S	12 th	Private hire – main hall, social room & snooker room - evening
Su	13 th	
M	14 th	Private hire – main hall - morning
Tu	15 th	
W	16 th	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Cake & Chat – main hall & kitchen – 2pm-4pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	17 th	Private hire – main hall - afternoon
F	18 th	Private hire – main hall – all day
S	19 th	Private hire – main hall – all day
Su	20 th	Private hire – main hall – all day
M	21 st	Private hire – main hall - morning
Tu	22 nd	
W	23 rd	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
T	24 th	
F	25 th	
S	26 th	
Su	27 th	
M	28 th	
Tu	29 th	
W	30 th	
Th	31 st	

To book the hall please contact Catherine Newman 01395 579317

BRANOC HALL
**CHRISTMAS
FAIR**

7TH DECEMBER

11AM TO 2.30PM



**REFRESHMENTS/RAFFLE/STALLS
AND MORE**

We have a few spaces left. We would also be grateful for any raffle prizes if you can donate

For more info contact Abi Fuell abibrookes@hotmail.com or Susan Pitt 01297 680703



It's come as a bit of a shock to me to find myself in autumn already. Sometimes the weather effects my mood, especially when it adds to my workload. Extra washing because everyone has come home soaked to the skin, taking longer to find the animals because the hill is shrouded in mist. Add to this the reducing hours of daylight to get the outdoor jobs done, and it can feel quite overwhelming. The other day I gloomily messaged a friend about how I was feeling and her reply included the following ... "the only thing to do is embrace autumn; scrump apples, pick sloes, cook a stew" and how right I think she is. Put some time aside to walk the fields, notice the leaves falling from the trees, pick some sloes, blackberries, haws, and move from eating steaks and burgers to eating slow cooked stews. If I am lucky another friend will make me a jar of her "hedge jelly". Last year I managed to get two jars because she didn't think the first jar set properly so I had "hedge jelly" and "better hedge jelly".

The orchards at Manor Mill and The Bakery are lacking in fruit this year. Generally, I think that people are seeing a good apple harvest and one that started early too. I seem to remember having some really strong winds around the time the blossom was out and wonder whether this had much impact. We are hoping that having the bees in the orchard will help when it comes to pollinating in 2025.

We calve in autumn. The bull is put in with the cows to allow calving to start from 1st September. As I write this on the 10th September we haven't yet got going. The bulls must have been taking their time getting to know the cows!! We have had one set of twins that unfortunately were still born. When this happens, we leave the cow with the calves so that she can come to terms with the fact that they are dead. Sometimes this can take a couple of days. We then remove the calves. All animals need to be accounted for and although we don't need to tag the calves and register them, legally we do need to record their birth and make sure that they are disposed of properly. We can take them to the local registered site and receive a ticket to put in our herd records. Vets, assurance schemes and DEFRA can ask to check these records at any time.

It is becoming more difficult for us to keep the cows in the fields for calving. Cows with young calves can be protective and there have been reports of people being injured or even killed by cows. We are under increasing pressure to keep the cows away from footpaths, but with the number of footpaths through Manor Mill, Seaside and Culverwell this is not easy. We do risk assessments, we look at the behaviour of the cows and if we are worried that they are generally over protective or aggressive when they calve then we keep them away from footpaths and we will even cull them from the herd. Many people seem to love seeing the young animals or even getting the

chance to see one being born. If the lambs aren't here in spring and the cows aren't here in autumn, I often get regular visitors asking after them. I think this is something that will only become more challenging for us in the future. For regular walkers in the village, we do try to update the Branscombe Facebook page when we move them so that people can change their route if they would like to avoid them. It would be interesting to hear if you have any thoughts around this – please feel free to get in touch by email, messenger or WhatsApp,

The lambs have now been weaned. With the lambs going to fields at Salcome Regis. The ewes have a couple of months of peace and quiet before the rams join them in November. We generally put the rams in with the ewes on the 5th November – with fireworks happening straight away the lambs will be due on 1st April. Sometimes we adjust the dates a little to coincide with school Easter holidays.

As a little test to make sure that they are reading my articles ... if the 2 friends mentioned above let me know that they have read this then they can have some meat as a treat to do themselves an autumn stew!



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BRANSCOMBE PROJECT WINTER TALKS

Monday – November 25 7.30pm
AGM & Annual John Torrance Talk
Red River Project

Pollution – Landscape - People
John Wedgewood Clarke

The Red River may be small and ugly in places,

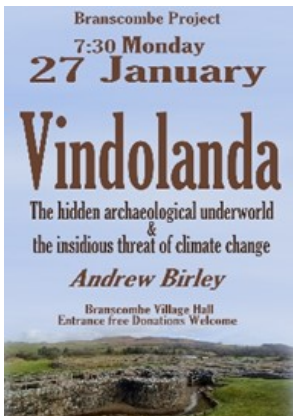
but it tells us a lot about what we value and our attitude to the natural world.

It has been polluted for centuries and evolved its own unique ecological response to the impact of tin mining, including trout adapted to its toxic water. Tidying it up has, in past, involved destroying both industrial ruins and unofficial playgrounds,

as well as unique hot spots of biodiversity.

The most damaged and scrappy places along the river are, paradoxically, the most biodiverse and culturally important.

In this talk Prof Clarke describes his relationship to the river and his poetic exploration



Monday - January 27 - 7:30

Vindolanda

Andrew Birley

Extraordinary finds from the peatlands alongside Hadrian's Wall

Roman letters written on birch bark and much more, under threat as the peatlands dry out.

BRANSCOMBE PROJECT WINTER TALKS Cont/...

Monday – February 25 - 7:30

Dr Rowe & Branscombe's Bastard Fauna Stratigraphy, paleoecology & field study of local Cretaceous chalk

Rob Beard

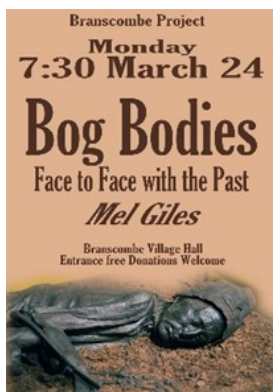
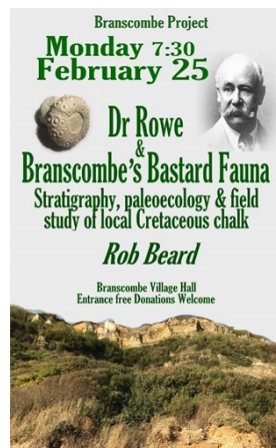
Fossil hunting in the Branscombe area is not nearly as well regarded as in the famous Jurassic exposures of West Dorset. Fossils are fewer in East Devon and harder to find.

When good specimens are recovered, they are often beautifully preserved and find rates are sufficient to support a small group of collectors from the local Cretaceous strata.

This talk will look at the unique lithology and beautiful fossils of the Cretaceous Chalk between Branscombe West Cliff and Salcombe Regis.

We will revisit the work of Edwardian geologist Arthur Rowe whose field study provides the only reference for the fossil assemblage highly anomalous lower Turonian chalk deposits area that he termed "the bastard fauna of Branscombe".

These unique marine fossil communities have received scant academic attention ever since.



Monday – March 24 - 7:30

Bog Burials Face to Face with the Past *Mel Giles*

New work from the author of
'Bog Bodies: Face to Face with the Past'



At a Glance Dates for your Diary

October

Thursday 3rd	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting-Social room Branoc Hall
Sunday 6th	11.15am	Harvest Festival Service with St John's Choir Oxford and Lunch St Winifred's
Wednesday 16th	2pm-4pm	Coffee and Chat

November

Saturday 2nd	6.45pm	Fireworks
Monday 25th	7.30pm	Branscombe Project AGM & Annual John Torrance Talk -Cornwall's Red River Project



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National Trust Update from the East Devon Countryside



THE WILDLIFE THAT LIVES BENEATH THE WATER OF BRANSCOMBE STREAM

National Trust

On a warm summer's afternoon, ten local families joined us to survey the wildlife living in the stream which runs past Manor Mill. Armed with dipping nets and trays, we had lots of fun, and children were captivated by the creatures they found.

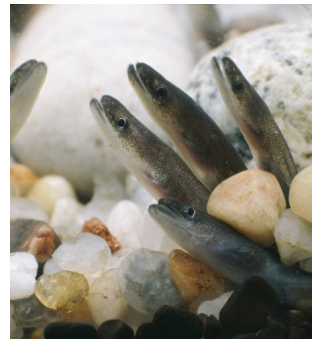
The leat which runs through Branscombe Valley is the power source that turns the 300-year waterwheel at Manor Mill. It is also an important freshwater habitat for many invertebrates living above and below the water line.

We found a wealth of life, from cased caddisfly larvae to bullhead fish. Among the finds, there were several 'healthy stream' indicator species, which is great news as it suggests low levels of pollution in the water.

The creatures that live in our streams often go unnoticed but have fascinating life cycles...

Starting with the star of the show: the European eel! This caused the biggest ripple of excitement when caught in a net. Did you know that despite its name, it starts its life cycle in the Sargasso Sea near Bermuda?

Living for an average of 20 years, the European eel lays its eggs in the deep blue waters of the Sargasso Sea. As they hatch into transparent, leaf-shaped larvae they join the Gulf Stream and are carried across the Atlantic on a 4000-mile journey before reaching the shores of Europe. Here, they migrate inland travelling up freshwater streams, first metamorphosing into finger-length, see-through miniature 'glass eels', then darker coloured 'elvers'. They develop yellow bellies as they mature, and finally change colour again to silver eels once they are ready to reproduce and migrate back to the Sargasso Sea to spawn.



©National Trust Images/NaturePL/Jane Burton.

Sadly, European eels are now considered critically endangered as their numbers have fallen by around 95% in the last 40 years. This is due to a number of threats including blockages to their migratory routes by dams and other structures, habitat loss, pollution, climate change, parasites and diseases.

We also found caddisfly larvae. Caddisflies are fascinating insects that spend the first, and longest, stage of their life cycle living underwater, before hatching into their hairy, moth like adult forms.

Caddisfly larvae live underwater and make cases for themselves by sticking materials together such as stones, sand, and leaves with a silk-like substance which is made in glands close to their mouths. Generally, the cases will be made of whatever is most available in their habitat. This has led to the caddisfly's case-building behaviour being used to produce jewellery by cementing together precious stones when keeping the larvae in an artificial environment.

Like many insects the cased caddisflies are a very important part of the food chain, providing a food source for fish and birds such as dippers

This brings me to the fish we caught - the bullhead, also known as a 'miller's thumb' due to its flattened head and tapering body which resembles a distorted and enlarged thumb. A lovely 'nod' to Branscombe's historical past!

Bullheads live on the bottom of fast, stony rivers and feed on invertebrates. They are crepuscular; spending their days hiding under stones and venturing out at dawn and dusk to hunt for prey.

Next time you wander past the stream beside the valley path towards the beach, consider the life that lives beneath the ripples – even if it looks as though nothing's there!

Thank you to the Westlake family who co-hosted the stream dipping event with us and Ruth from the East Devon National Landscape team.

Meg Vallender,

Visitor Experience Officer at East Devon Countryside, National Trust.





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