

PARISH NEWSLETTER

July/August 2025

***Branscombe's
Grand Village
Luncheon Party
SATURDAY 12TH JULY
See page 4
for full details
All Welcome***



2025

Branscombe Beach

SONGS of PRAISE

with Honiton Band

Sunday 17 August | 6pm

ALL WELCOME
FREE PARKING

A group of people, including children and adults, are playing musical instruments on a green lawn. In the background, there is a body of water and a clear blue sky. A sign for the Honiton Band is visible in the foreground.

HOLYFORD

A service of joy, praise, and community by the shore

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



ST WINIFRED'S CHURCH, BRANSCOMBE

JULY SERVICES

| | | |
|------------------|---------|----------------|
| 6 th | 11.15am | Holy Communion |
| 13 th | 11.15am | Morning Prayer |
| 20 th | 11.15am | Holy Communion |
| 27 nd | 11.15am | Morning Prayer |



AUGUST SERVICES

| | | |
|------|---------|---|
| 3rd | 11.15am | Holy Communion |
| 10th | 11.15am | Morning Prayer |
| 17th | 18.00pm | Songs of Praise on the beach with the Honiton Town Band |
| 24th | 11.15am | Morning Prayer |
| 31st | | Mission Community Service, venue to be confirmed (please check the website www.holyford.org and pew sheets nearer the time) |

There is no longer 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 |



FROM THE MISSION COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

The sun is shining, the bees are buzzing, and the lanes are alive with the sounds of crunching gears, the scratching of coachwork and the swearing of oaths as people who are not very used to reversing their cars under pressure experience the joys of our country byways. It must be summer in Branscombe! And what a joy it is to see our parish coming to life with warmth, colour, and the gentle hum of people enjoying the beauty of the countryside, sea and beach.

St Winifred, our brave and spirited patron saint, reminds us of the strength that comes from faith and resilience. Legend tells us she overcame adversity with grace – and a bit of miraculous intervention. I often wonder how St Winifred came to be chosen as the patron saint of Branscombe (the patron saint of the parish church is also the patron saint of the whole parish). Reading her legend, I think it must have something to do with the water and streams we have flowing by the church and through the valleys. It also seems likely to me that some Benedictine clergy based here would have been familiar or possibly closely linked with her shrine in North Wales.

Winifred gathered a community around her, to share the joys and challenges of communal life and grow in love for God and one another. No doubt St Winifred, if she were with us today and driving through our country lanes, would be the epitome of Christian charity and patience, always willing to back up for a visitor. I often call on her intercession when I knock another wing mirror off on a rogue lamppost having misjudged a retreat, or encounter a nervous campervan driver edging their pride and joy backwards extremely slowly and gingerly, as I am late for a church service.

My bad, impatient driving aside, please mark in your calendars our **Summer Parish Luncheon on 12th July** – details are elsewhere in the magazine. It's a wonderful opportunity to share food, laughter, and a scandalous amount of trifle. And later in the summer, we'll be holding our much-loved **Songs of Praise on the Beach** – date to be confirmed, but start warming up those vocal cords! The Mission Community BBQ will be on Wednesday 27th August from 6 to 8pm at the Vicarage in Colyton. All are welcome. Please let me or Caz Jefferies know if you would like to come (office@holyford.org).

We're also thrilled to welcome **Fr Marc Kastner as our new curate**. Marc was ordained at the Cathedral at the end of June, on the Feast of St Peter. He's full of energy, wisdom, and kindness – and he makes a decent cup of tea, which is half the job already. Please do say hello and make him feel warmly welcome.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says to Peter, *"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."* He wasn't just talking bricks and mortar; he was speaking of a living community, built on faith, love, and service. Here in Branscombe, we have such a foundation – but it only stands strong when we come together.

If you've not been to church in a while – or ever – please consider popping in. You won't find perfection, but you *will* find a warm welcome, a sense of peace, and a group of people trying (sometimes failing, but always trying) to follow Jesus and love their neighbours.

So come along – whether it's to a Sunday service, a summer luncheon, or just for a chat on the bench outside. Our parish church is your home, and there's a place here with your name on it.

With every blessing for the summer ahead – may it be filled with sunshine, laughter, and the gentle whisper of God's love.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Steven.



ST WINIFRED'S CHURCH, BRANSCOMBE

ANNUAL CHURCH WORKING PARTY

FRIDAY 27th JUNE

From 9.30 am

***Volunteers needed to help give the
churtyard and church a good tidy up***

*Please come armed with cleaning equipment, gloves,
hand tools, strimmers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers etc.*

Further details:

Ross Willmington (Churchwarden) 07813 117149

mrw@symondsandsampson.co.uk

***Followed by
refreshments...***

Branscombe's Grand Village Luncheon Party Saturday 12th July

**12.45 for 1.00 pm
at The Branoc Hall Pavilion, Branscombe
*with Bar & Raffle***



**Tickets: £20 adults £10 children
(includes welcome drink and two course luncheon)**

To book a table or places please contact:
Ross Willmington 01297 680264 or 07813 117149
Email mrw@symondsandsampson.co.uk

***In aid of St Winifred's Church, Branscombe
Our 2025 main fundraising event – all very welcome***



ST WINIFRED'S UPDATE

Contactless Giving Machine

Hundreds (if not thousands) of holidaymakers and locals visit our beautiful church each year and some kindly leave a donation in the existing wall safe. Each week we receive some wonderful comments in the visitor's book – my thanks again to those villagers that assist in locking/unlocking the church daily. The PCC have recently purchased a Contactless Payment Machine, it is located by the main church door (next to the font and visitor's book), this hopefully will be a more convenient way for people to donate and help the PCC to maintain our Grade One listed church. Particularly as people seem to use less cash these days. The machine can also be used for the collection/ weekly giving at church services and our fundraising events.

Church Carpark Cone Store

At our last PCC meeting the church council agreed to bite the bullet and order a new wooden cone storage box. The existing plastic one has been discussed for years – it is not a thing of great beauty in such a regular village photo spot, it is also broken, and the lid blows off most times the wind blows (usually landing in the stinging nettles below!) A few villagers have already pledged kind donations to help with the cost of the new box, if anyone else is willing to contribute please contact me or drop a donation (in a clearly marked envelope) in the wall safe or via our new contactless machine (a message to inform us of the amount would be ideal).

With all good wishes and sincere thanks

ROSS WILLMINGTON

Churchwarden

07813 117149

2025

Branscombe Beach

SONGS *of* PRAISE

with Honiton Band

Sunday 17 August | 6pm

ALL WELCOME
FREE PARKING



A service of joy, praise, and community by the shore



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 July

In loving memory of Jean and Eric Crossley
From Alan, Christina and family

10th –16th August

Wishing Happy Birthday to all the Yeabsleys
Having a birthday in August
From Doug, Jackie and The Brock Family



DONATIONS NEEDED

The Food Bank needs non perishable food, toiletries, washing powder or liquid etc. They particularly need:
tins of mixed beans, carrots sweet corn, corned beef cold meat (eg ham/Spam)
tinned/jars of hot dogs chilli con carne*rice pudding, sweet and savoury
biscuits, 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 FRIENDS OF ST. WINIFRED'S CHURCH, BRANSCOMBE

Registered Charity No: 1151031

The Friends of St Winifred's

Notice of AGM Saturday 26 July 2025

Branoc Hall starting at 3pm followed by a cream tea

All members and new members welcome.

St. Winifred's church is one of the most iconic buildings in Branscombe and one that we all know and love. Many of us who live or have lived in the village, have a personal connection with the Church, either being married or christened in the church, regular worshippers, members of the Choir & Bell Ringers, as well those who have family members buried in the churchyard.

St. Winifred's is also the only grade 1 listed building in the village, making it a building of the highest significance on the Historic England register of listed buildings.

The Church is open for all to worship in and enjoy, but maintaining such a beautiful and iconic building comes at a cost. This is where the Friends Of St. Winifred's comes in.

We are a registered charity (1151031) who help maintain the fabric, interior and churchyard of St Winifred's. We do this through a membership of approximately 160 people who each pay a small voluntary annual subscription.

An elected committee make recommendations on projects for expenditure to our AGM, which all members may attend and which takes final decisions on the use of funds.

Since the Friends started over £100,000 in grants has been made with nearly £25,000 being paid this year for works to the tower roof and south side of the wall, chancel walls and monuments. As you can see, it costs a significant amount of money to maintain St. Winifred's.

If you would like to join the friends of St. Winifred's and help to maintain our beautiful church for future generations, please complete the form overleaf and return it to

Catherine Sparks
The Fountain Head
Branscombe,
Devon
EX12 3BG.

Thank you
Emma Cox
Chairman

Welcome to the

HOW TO JOIN US

If you would like to join us in keeping St. Winifred's in good repair for the benefit of the village, its visitors and future generations, please complete this form and send it to our Treasurer:

*Catherine Sparks, The Fountain Head
Branscombe, Devon EX12 3BG.*

GIFT AID SCHEME

If you are a UK taxpayer you can use the Gift Aid Scheme to increase the amount of your donation at no cost to yourself. By completing the form below you enable us to reclaim from HM Revenue and Customs 25 pence for every £1 you give to us.

Please note that:

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time.
2. You should notify us if you change your address.
3. You must pay an amount of income or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on your donation.
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate, you can claim further tax relief on your self-assessment tax return.

If you are able to help us in this way, please fill in the form below and return it to our Treasurer:

*Catherine Sparks, The Fountain Head
Branscombe, Devon EX12 3BG.*

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Name of Charity: The Friends of St. Winifred's
Registered Charity No. 01151031

Details of donor:

Title..... Forename(s).....

Surname.....

Address.....

Post code.....

I want the charity to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Signed..... Date.....



Please help to preserve
the heart of Branscombe's heritage
by becoming a Friend

Registered Charity No. 01151031

I/we support THE FRIENDS OF ST WINIFRED'S and
enclose £..... as my/our first annual subscription.

Please reclaim tax on my subscription
(See Gift Aid Scheme form overhead) ☐

Please complete (block letters please)

Name(s).....

Address:.....

Please complete this Bankers Order too, if you
wish, for future subscriptions

To..... your bank

Address:..... post code.....

Your account number.....

Your sort code.....

Name of account.....

Please pay to:

Lloyds Bank Plc, The Square, Seaton EX12 2QH
Sort Code: 30-90-37
Account: The Friends of St. Winifred's Church
Account number: 01519603

The sum of £..... annually on the day of
..... until further notice.

Signed..... Date.....

Naked Larder

Love food but hate plastic waste??

Naked Larder Sidmouth, based in Weston, is a unique plastic and packaging-free grocery service offering re-fillable dry food goods, eco-friendly cleaning & personal care products ethically, and sustainably sourced at affordable prices. Simple to use - order online & collect using your own containers once per month.

Now open every Monday 2-4pm (except Bank Holidays)

Get 10% off your first order with GIVEUSATRY

www.nakedlardersidmouth.co.uk

DEVON'S FINEST GALLERIES



Marine House at Beer

01297 625257

original art
prints
studio glass
ceramics
sculpture
jewellery



Steam Gallery

01297 625144

Open all year

www.marinehouseatbeer.co.uk



CAKE AND CHAT

All welcome to July's Cake and Chat

Branoc Hall,

16th July 2pm-4pm

Come along and meet villagers, old and new, over a slice of cake and a cuppa.

Please note there is no cake and chat in August, but we will be back in September.

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

We look forward to seeing you



BRANSCOMBE / WESTON DEFIBRILLATORS

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



Camps International Cambodia 2026

As part of my fundraising, I will be continuing to make Fudge

Below are this month's flavours.

After Eight Mint Fudge £3.50

Terry's Chocolate Orange Fudge £3.50

Mini Egg Fudge £3.50

Rum & Raisin Fudge £3.50

To order and arrange delivery

E-Mail: gracecamps2026@gmail.com

Tel: 01297 680447

FAMILY QUIZ

Branoc Hall, Thursday 28 th August
6:30pm £10 a team, of up to 4

GoFundMe



Grace Bass



Easy
Fundraising





Sue's Fundraiser

in aid of
Seaton Hospice at Home

in memory of Roger and Chris

I want to say a huge huge thank you to everyone that supported my fundraiser for Seaton Hospice at Home. The grand total was beyond my expectations an amazing sum of, drum roll!! £4,296.01. It was a fantastic day I was shattered but never mind that.

A big big thank you to Anna, Steve and Karen for their hard work setting up the tombola and selling the tickets. A big big thank to Jill, Tony, Linda and Brenda for selling the raffle tickets and to Barbara on the stall of donated goods. Also great refreshments and thanks to all those involved there. And of course many thanks to the numerous businesses and people who donated items. If I have missed anyone thank you.

Next years date has been booked for 23rd May, put the date in your diaries!!!

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 27th September

7.30 pm to 11 pm

Dance the night away to Jurassic Crocks and food by Sea side Tacos.

Tickets are £20 this includes 2 seafood tacos.

Tickets will be available very soon.

Profits to Seaton Hospice at Home.



THE SEA SHANTY BEACH CAFÉ

The Café is open 9.00am to 4.00pm everyday

The shop is open from 8.30am

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

Lunch menu is served from 12:00pm– 2.30pm

Breakfasts, lunches, and **daily specials**.

Pasties, sausage rolls, and homemade cakes.

Senior Specials

Cod, Chips & Peas, with a pot of tea or small coffee £14.00

Scampi, Chips & Peas with a pot of tea or small coffee £13.00



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.gov.uk/>

Clerk to the council: Nicky Ingarfield

clerk@branscombe-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07814 521538

Next Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 3rd July— Branoc Hall Social Room 7pm

Annual Parish Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Annual Parish Meeting on 31st May, and especial thanks to Beer Coastguard, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue and Devon & Cornwall Police who introduced themselves and were available to talk about, and show us, how they serve our community. I personally found it shocking to hear how many Coastguard callouts involve people in mental health crisis.

Unfortunately, we clashed with a social event in the village, so numbers were well down. We'll consider what day of the week and time to hold this statutory event next year—it must be held after 6pm.

Nutrient Recovery Facility

In April, we were consulted by Devon CC about proposals for a nutrient recovery facility—processing slurry and waste from food processing with methane and fertiliser output—on the triangle of land SW of Hangman's Stone. This was a consultation on the contents of the Environmental Statement that the applicant would submit with the actual planning application—this is at the pre-application stage.

Our current position is that this is a wholly inappropriate industrial facility in the East Devon National Landscape, the impact of which cannot be adequately mitigated. We have created a section on our website with all documentation which will be updated as the application progresses—<https://www.branscombe-pc.gov.uk/nutrient-recovery-facility-proposal/>. We're looking to work with the parishes of Southleigh and Beer, who are adjacent to the site, in opposing this development.

A Tidy Village

The council would like to remind everyone that it's the property owner's responsibility to keep hedging and other growth from growing over our roads—if that's you, please check along your boundary and help keep our village neat and tidy

Southwest Water

As we go to press, the road is closed between Blue Ball Cottages and Pitt Farm while Southwest Water repair the failed sewer. We also suffered a week of closures at the end of May following multiple leaks. Communication from SWW has much improved, and we pass this information on via the BPC Facebook page. SWW tell us the water main replacement will soon be programmed—we continue to press them to carry this out as soon as possible.

Scam Calls and Emails

Opposite are a couple of notices about digital phones and changes to the Winter Fuel payments. Beware of scam calls or emails claiming to offer help with either of these (or any other unsolicited calls)

Mike Pellatt
Chair, BPC

Planned Road Closures/Delays

19 May, up to 5 days Road from Higher Barn to the Old Cider House—"delays unlikely"
Location—Three Willows, near Bennetts Close. Scaffolding

2 Sep 09:30-15:30 Road from Higher Barn to the Old Cider House—closure.
Location—outside telephone exchange. Replacement of pole

PLANNING

4 new planning application this month, none decided by EDDC. No updates on the other outstanding applications.

| Date | App ref | Description | BPC Response | EDDC Decision |
|----------|---------------|--|--|----------------------|
| 11/04/25 | PRE/1750/2025 | Land at NGR SY 20199 90865 Consultation on details to be included in Environmental Assessment to accompany application for proposed Nutrient Recovery Facility (Devon CC as Waste Planning Authority) | See documents at https://www.branscombe-pc.gov.uk/nutrient-recovery-facility-proposal/ | Awaiting application |
| 14/04/25 | 25/0422/FUL | Land And Stables West Of Higherlands Farm Toilet with concrete base and associated Marsh Ensign Treatment Plant | As retrospective, insufficient information for informed comment. No documentation on compliance of STP installation. | Awaiting decision |
| 12/05/25 | 25/1034/FUL | The Sea Shanty Branscombe Seaton EX12 3DP Change of use of land for the siting of a mobile sauna unit (retrospective) | Support | Awaiting decision |
| 29/05/25 | 25/1155/FUL | Higher Coxes Farm Weston Sidmouth EX10 0PG Housing for sows and gilts | To be decided | Awaiting decision |



Landline phones are switching to digital, which could stop telecare alarms working.

If you or someone you know uses a telecare alarm, **you must call the landline provider.**

They will help make sure alarms keep working through the switchover.

To find out more, visit: digitalphoneswitchover.com

BT Virgin Media Supported by UK Government

Scan for more information

The **WINTER FUEL PAYMENT FOR 2025 TO 2026** will be made to everyone in England and Wales born before 22 September 1959, unless you choose not to get it. You could get either £200 or £300 to help you pay your heating bills for winter.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING - PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE AUTOMATICALLY.

If your income is over £35,000, your Winter Fuel Payment will be recovered later through HMRC.

Details of the 2025 to 2026 payment will be available by the end of June 2025.



Craft Thursday at The Old Bakery Thursday 10th July 10.30am – 3.00pm



We welcome anyone who would like to come along to our craft sessions which will be taking place on the second Thursday of the month

Bring an ongoing project of your own, work on one we are doing or just join us for a chat...

Please feel free to come for an hour or the whole session
Maybe stay for a coffee and/or lunch
We look forward to seeing you

For further information please contact:
Joan Pike 680206 or Sheila Wilcox 680126

There will be no meet in August.
The next meeting will be held on the
11th September



BRANOC HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY AT 7:00 PM

As a registered Charity we are required to have a formal AGM every year to which all residents of the village are invited.

Matters included will be:

1. Approval of the minutes of last AGM.
2. Chairman's Report.
3. Treasurers Report and Adoption of 2024 Accounts
4. Election of Officers
5. Outcomes of recent Tea Party Event.
6. Questions from the public.

Item 5 will of course give us the opportunity to discuss all the feedback and outcomes of the recent, and extremely well attended, tea party meeting when so many people had ideas and suggestions for future events and activities that could be held at Branoc Hall. At our last meeting a number of key considerations were presented to the Committee but it was felt prudent to await the appointment of the new Committee before any actions were taken.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for these future events please come along to the AGM and we can discuss the best way to move forward to fully utilise the Hall, and its environs, for the benefit of the village and visitors alike.

At the time of writing this, unfortunately we still have not received any applications for the key vacancies (Chair and Bookings Officer) on our Committee. If you would like further information on either of these two positions please contact either David Lamb (680777) or Catherine Newman (01395 579317) for more information.

David Lamb
Chair of Trustees

URGENTLY REQUIRED
BRANOC HALL BOOKINGS OFFICER

Branoc Hall committee are looking for someone to take up the interesting and important role of Bookings Officer from July. It is a voluntary position which requires the ability to get on with people, both hirers and other committee members. It also requires access to a computer and a reasonable level of IT skills. The amount of time it takes up obviously varies from week to week depending on the number of bookings but is normally a maximum of just a few hours over the week. It is a matter of taking initial enquiries, confirming bookings, keeping an accurate diary and producing invoices to the customer. It is also necessary to liaise with the Chairman, bar management and the cleaners.

Full information, help and advice together with a thorough and complete handover process will be provided and Catherine will be on hand for further guidance should it be required at any time.

As many of you told us at the recent Afternoon Tea, Branoc Hall remains a fundamental part of life in Branscombe and taking on this role and joining the Management committee will enable you to be involved in ensuring that remains in place going forward.

If you think this position would be of interest to yourself or a friend or acquaintance, please could you contact either David Lamb, Chairman (01297 680777 or chairbranochoall@gmail.com) or Catherine Newman, Bookings Officer (01395 579317 or branochoall@gmail.com) and we would be delighted to meet up and discuss what is involved in more detail.



Branscombe Ravens Cricket Club

We welcome spectators If you are in the village any time we're playing at home 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 |
|--------|---------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 27 Jun | Fri | 18:00 | Dorset Knobs | H |
| 30 Jun | Mon | 18:00 | Talbot | A |
| 04 Jul | Fri | 18:00 | Beer FC | H |
| 08 Jul | Tue | 18:00 | Sunset | A |
| 20 Jul | Sun | 14:00 | 6-a-side | H |
| 23 Jul | Wed | 18:00 | Erratics | H |
| 08 Aug | Fri | 18:00 | Yarcombe | H |
| 17 Aug | Sun | 14:00 | Heads & Tails | H |
| 05 Sep | Fri-Sun | | Tour | A |

| Date | | Branoc Hall bookings – July 2025 |
|------|------------------|---|
| Tu | 1 st | |
| W | 2 nd | Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening |
| T | 3 rd | Private hire – main hall – afternoon Parish Council meeting – social room – 7pm |
| F | 4 th | Cricket match – Branscombe Ravens v Beer F.C. – pavilion – 6pm |
| S | 5 th | |
| Su | 6 th | |
| M | 7 th | |
| Tu | 8 th | Private hire – main hall - afternoon |
| W | 9 th | Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening |
| Th | 10 th | |
| F | 11 th | Cricket match – spare fixture – pavilion – 6pm (provisional) |
| S | 12 th | Church Grand Village Luncheon Party – pavilion – 1pm . All welcome. Booking essential. |
| Su | 13 th | |
| M | 14 th | |
| Tu | 15 th | Private hire – social room – all day |
| W | 16 th | Private hire – social room – all day Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Cake & chat – main hall & kitchen – 2pm-4pm Private hire – snooker room - evening |
| Th | 17 th | Private hire – social room – all day |
| F | 18 th | |
| S | 19 th | |
| Su | 20 th | |
| M | 21 st | |
| Tu | 22 nd | |
| W | 23 rd | Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room – evening Cricket match – Branscombe Ravens v Erratics – pavilion – 6pm |
| Th | 24 th | |
| F | 25 th | |
| S | 26 th | Friends of St Winifred’s AGM – main hall & kitchen – all day |
| Su | 27 th | |
| M | 28 th | Private hire – main hall - afternoon |
| Tu | 29 th | Private hire – main hall - afternoon |
| W | 30 th | Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Branoc Hall AGM – main hall – All welcome Private hire – snooker room - evening |
| Th | 31 st | |

To book the hall please contact Catherine Newman 01395 579317

| Date | | Branoc Hall bookings – August 2025 |
|-------------|------------------|---|
| F | 1 st | Cricket match – spare fixture – pavilion – (provisional) |
| S | 2 nd | |
| Su | 3 rd | Cricket match – Branscombe Ravens six a side tournament – pavilion – all day. |
| M | 4 th | |
| Tu | 5 th | |
| W | 6 th | Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening |
| Th | 7 th | |
| F | 8 th | Cricket match – Branscombe Ravens v Yarcombe – pavilion – 6pm |
| S | 9 th | |
| Su | 10 th | |
| M | 11 th | |
| Tu | 12 th | |
| W | 13 th | Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – main hall, kitchen & social room – evening (provisional) Private hire – snooker room - evening |
| Th | 14 th | |
| F | 15 th | |
| S | 16 th | |
| Su | 17 th | Cricket match – Branscombe Ravens v Heads & Tails – pavilion – afternoon & evening. |
| M | 18 th | |
| Tu | 19 th | |
| W | 20 th | Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening |
| Th | 21 st | |
| F | 22 nd | |
| S | 23 rd | |
| Su | 24 th | |
| M | 25 th | |
| Tu | 26 th | |
| W | 27 th | Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening |
| Th | 28 th | Quiz Night—Hall and Social Room-Evening |
| F | 29 th | |
| S | 30 th | |
| Su | 31 st | |

To book the hall please contact Catherine Newman 01395 579317



As I prepare to leave the farm, I've had the opportunity to work with an organisation called Whole Health Agriculture. Their focus is on helping farmers reduce their reliance on synthetic inputs to improve the health of livestock, land, and food. It's been incredibly rewarding to be involved in this work, which feels aligned with my own values and hopes for the future of farming.

I recently attended a conference titled "Pesticide Free Devon", hosted by Greener Futures—Newton Abbot. It was an inspiring event, showcasing the successful pesticide-free initiatives already happening in the region and asking the big question: how can we roll these out county-wide? It was heartening to see representatives from Devon County Council and local councils in attendance, genuinely interested in how they could adopt similar practices.

One of the key topics was "Regenerative Farming"—a term we are hearing more often. Guy Singh-Watson from Riverford made an important point: regenerative farming, as it's currently defined, does not require a reduction in pesticide or chemical use. As consumers, we need to remain alert to the reality that even products marketed as coming from "regenerative farms" may still be grown using synthetic chemicals.

I'm currently preparing the Whole Health Agriculture stand for Groundswell, the UK's leading regenerative farming festival, held in Hertfordshire during the first week of July. It's a mix of agricultural show, conference, and Glastonbury-style energy (and accommodation)! Our focus is on reconnecting farming, food, and health, with sessions on how farmers can integrate livestock into arable systems without using chemical inputs. I attended last year and had a great time—this year will be a bit more work, but I'm looking forward to it (and hoping for good weather!). Continuing to work in agriculture—particularly helping farmers protect the environment and biodiversity, while supporting them to produce healthy food—feels like a good fit for me right now.

That said, leaving Manor Mill and Seaside does bring mixed feelings. I worry about what might happen to the mosaic of habitats here, which benefit so much from the presence of grazing animals. The valley fields had an amazing crop of buttercups this spring, thanks to the absence of sheep. While beautiful, it won't be long before bracken and bramble start to take over unless the area is grazed or regularly cut.

I know many of you have missed seeing the ewes and lambs in the valley over the past few months. We've missed them too—though I must admit, I haven't missed the sleepless nights or the trashy TV marathons that lambing season often brought with it! (Yes, Married at First Sight Australia was my not-so-secret guilty pleasure...)

By the time you read this, we'll likely have taken one of the final big steps towards life after Manor Mill: the remaining sheep are set to leave on June 17th, and from that point, we'll officially become a beef-only farm. (Note to self: must let the shearer know we won't need him.)

The autumn-born calves are growing well. The group that was on Seaside has now moved to Manor Mill, where they're grazing the valley fields, behind the mill, toward the church and hopefully up to Culverwell—provided we can get some fencing fixed behind the school and along the road. Sadly, a few trees came down over the winter, damaging that stretch of fencing. Once these calves are weaned, the cows will be sold, allowing us to further reduce our cattle numbers in preparation for focusing solely on the land at Salcombe Regis.

Another group of cows and calves are currently grazing Clinton Devon Estates land near Pecorama, and they're also doing well. These cows are the ones Wurzel will take to South Combe to keep for future breeding. We're also waiting on progress regarding the new shed—plans have been revised, and we're hoping construction can move ahead soon so that cattle can be relocated before our tenancy ends next March.

Meanwhile, our bird surveyors have completed their breeding bird surveys and will be collating the results by the end of June. I'll make sure to publish their findings in the September issue.

Thanks to the recent fine weather, we've also been able to cut some grass for silage. With fewer animals to feed this winter, we won't need as much, but it's reassuring to get some in the barn.





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THE PACHA POSSE

I am starting to see bits and pieces people have made with the processed yarn. So far, my niece very kindly made me a jumper from Cusco/Lucha and Coca, plus a top for



herself. My mother-in-law made some bed socks from Jester – although this was her first attempt at socks and has sworn never again, so is now knitting a sleeveless jumper from Cusco/Lucha. Finally, we have a baby blanket from Imogen underway by a friend. It's lovely to see all the bits and pieces, I have even started a weaving course in the hope that I can use the floom another way. I must admit I didn't appreciate quite how complicated weaving was, and I was also advised to begin with a basic wool as alpaca yarn is slightly more

complicated. I am now 3 weeks along and I have just woven my first rows, it really did take three 2½ hour lessons just to choose wool, create a pattern, calculate how much is required & basically prep the loom, I didn't realise there would be so much maths involved.



There also seems to be many people out there that are happy to buy the raw fleece, so far 3 of my alpaca fleeces have been requested post shearing. It really is lovely to see that so many people are reconnecting with traditional crafts and it's the younger generations as much as the older wanting to learn and create beautiful items from natural products. No plastics involved and hand made using manpower only – just a small contribution to the attempt to stop destroying the planet. I do agree that it takes longer than just going out to buy something readymade, and not everyone has the time to sit and spin or weave or knit, but I think it's worth it as each piece will be unique so I will continue (slowly) with my very small contribution.

I am also hoping to mate some of the girls later this month so Tim, from Inca Alpacas, advised it was best to have them sheared beforehand for 2 reasons. Firstly, with so much floom the boys struggle to get close and secondly you don't want to shear a just pregnant female as it does cause a certain amount of anxiety and they can then reabsorb the foetus if they get stressed. Unfortunately, as I am such a small herd I tend to get left to the end of the season, which is fair enough, so I was struggling to find a shearer to come this early & do just 3. It transpires it is who you know, I mentioned this to Tim and within a few days he had managed to book a shearer to come, but then when you run one of the largest breeding herds in the South of England you probably will have a bit of sway. I was just amazed that my small herd wasn't below his notice as this is his full-time job, he buys and sells alpacas all over the world but in fact was very happy to help. Anyway, the boys are now on their way, so fingers crossed.

Unfortunately, since I have had them sheared, the temperature has dropped and we have rain too (even though I agree we needed some), this morning at breakfast I noticed the sheared girls were all shivering – poor things. I gave them extra breakfast pellets, a big full bag of hay in the field shelter which I topped up with straw to make a lovely warm and dry bed and they seem to be appreciating it as I haven't seen the 3 bald ones outside all day – I might have to go & refill their hay net.

There have also been a few peculiarities in behaviour too which led on from putting Inti with the boys. I had some problems with Lucha still trying to feed from her mum, Imogen, so I decided to put Lucha & Polly in the small central paddock and leave Reeya, Coca & Imogen in the near paddock. This led to very upset alpacas, Imogen calling for Lucha, Reeya calling for Polly and Inti calling for Reeya – it was all very mournful. So, I put Reeya into the middle paddock with Polly & Lucha (and close to Inti) and all of a sudden peace descended. Imogen was the most interesting, as a general rule she is grumpy and bossy & will not share a food bowl, however now with just her & Coca things seem to work. Imogen will follow Coca around and is happy to share a bowl of food. Since being sheared I have reintroduced all the girls & have noticed that Coca & Imogen are still best buddies and Lucha is no longer trying to suckle – it's all very odd.

I have also been having fun and games with my badger wire that runs the perimeter. The energiser is the box that connect the power to the wire and when it is working has a lovely green light and ticks happily to itself, unfortunately it had lost its tick and there was no power running through the wire which meant free access to the paddock for any foraging badger. As the light was still green I assumed there was an issue with the wire, which was slightly corroded in places, so I spent 2 days crawling through stinging nettles & brambles whilst smacking my head into overhanging branches to try & replace the wire only to discover the wire wasn't the problem. So, then I changed all connectors, still no joy and ended up driving to Axminster to buy a new energiser only to be told that as it was under 5 years old it was still in warranty and they will send it off for repair & lend me an alternative. I was really getting the hang of the Axminster road by the end of the day after I then drove home, collected my faulty energiser & then back to Axminster to drop off & collect loan one, then home again. All worth it as we now have a merry little ticking noise and power through the line.



On the upside, it does mean I now know the wire won't need replacing for a few years, all the weeds are currently under control and the alpaca really enjoyed munching on all the leaves of the branches I pruned.

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National Trust Countryside Update

National
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Young Poets Inspired by The Old Bakery Orchard

On a sunny spring day, children from Branscombe Primary School spent an afternoon in the Old Bakery Orchard, where they explored the blossoming apple trees and natural surroundings as part of a creative writing project. Surrounded by pink blossoms, buzzing bees, and the gentle stream that winds through the orchard, the pupils wrote haiku poems—short nature-themed verses—to connect with the outdoors and express their observations through poetry.

Haiku poems are short Japanese verses traditionally composed of three lines with a syllable structure of 5-7-5. A haiku captures a fleeting moment, often celebrating nature's beauty and simplicity.

Here is one of the poems, written by Arabhi, aged 10.

'Water flows slowly,
Birds flying in the blue sky
Leaves dance in the wind'



The children's haiku poems will be displayed among the apple trees and wildflowers this summer, so that everyone can enjoy their words while strolling through the orchard. Learning outside the classroom offers so many benefits, from sparking creativity to boosting well-being. This experience gave Branscombe's children the chance to slow down, observe the world around them, and express those moments through poetry. Their haiku poems are a beautiful reflection of nature through young eyes.

Look out for the children's poems in the orchard later this spring. Take a moment among the trees to discover the children's words; an opportunity not only to enjoy a beautiful place, but also to glimpse how nature stirs creativity in even the youngest poet and offers us all a moment to pause and reflect.

Meg Vallender, Visitor Experience Officer at East Devon Countryside, National Trust.

branscombe@nationaltrust.org.uk

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