

Carols on the Green

December 26, 2017



Surrounded by a ring of lanterns and glimmering candles more than 50 people attended the annual Carol service on Winsford Village Green. With the tree sparkling and the pub glittering with Christmas lights it really only lacked a little seasonal snow!





All the usual suspects were there (in terms of carols..) and the choir overseen by Brenda Staples led some hearty singing, even if the key was not perfect for everyone!

Afterwards many repaired to The Royal Oak for a seasonal glass of mulled wine and hot snacks and it was good to see so many original faces again populating what is the best pub on Exmoor!





Thanks must go to everyone involved donating ,erecting and decorating a fine tree as well as the choir without whom we'd be all over the place pitch-wise!

A great start to the celebrations and long may it continue.

Carols on the Green

December 13, 2017



•
JOIN THE WINSFORD WAITES
IN SINGING CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

GATHER ON THE VILLAGE GREEN AT 6.30PM

CAROL SHEETS WILL BE PROVIDED, JUST BRING A TORCH AND WRAP UP WELL!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE!

Donations to Children's Hospice South West

COMPLIMENTARY MINCE PIES & MULLED WINE WILL BE SERVED IN THE ROYAL OAK
AFTER THE EVENT.

MANY THANKS TO MARK & SALLY BRADLEY

A Compulsory Thanks to All Volunteers!

October 24, 2017



A Compulsory Thanks to All Volunteers!

The privilege of living in a beautiful village has many facets, not only the location situated in a tranquil valley on Exmoor with the artery of the River Exe flowing through its heart, but the personality characterised by the local villagers who support the ongoing maintenance and upkeep.

In a world defined sometimes as selfish, critical and defensive, we are very fortunate to be served by a hard core of volunteers who give their personal time to ensure the village is kept in great condition both administratively and physically.

We are fortunate to have a diverse and capable Parish Council who manage the ongoing business of the village effectively and as Councillors move on to other things in their lives, we need to ensure continuity by identifying suitable and committed replacements.

The Village Hall Committee, The Recreation Association all give their time to support the leisure and social aspects of the village. We must also make mention of the Church, Choir and Bell Ringers, volunteers in the Oak Shop and the Villagers who do excellent work in maintaining and improving a key feature of the village, the Green, clearing the weeds, planting new shrubs and ensuring the Winn flows smoothly.

It's important to recognise the work done by unpaid volunteers which so often goes relatively unrecognised. We must maintain the flow of willing villagers to participate and offer support for what is probably the most beautiful village on Exmoor!

Building and maintaining community spirit is essential to keeping it this way and the only effective process is to participate and work together!

If you'd like to become more involved and offer help, in any capacity please contact the Winsford website. Thank you.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – The Bridge Cottage Tea Rooms

October 3, 2017

Friday 29th September, saw The Bridge Cottage Tea Rooms, full to overflowing with local residents, eager to taste some of Roy and Theresa's wonderful cakes and at the same time having the opportunity to support this very worthwhile national campaign.



The day was great fun with lots of chat and laughter and was such a success that the fantastic sum of **£609.51p** was raised.

So Roy and Theresa would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their support and for putting aside their dietary constraints !! Also, a special thank you to the volunteers, Sue Hayes, Jean Bunn, Tracey Staples, Nikki Amies, Tessa Church and Steph Catermole.



The next event, gently jogging on the Recreation Field maybe?!!

Macmillan Coffee Morning -The Bridge Cottage Tea Rooms

September 14, 2017

AT

BRIDGE COTTAGE TEAROOM

WINSFORD

TA 24 7JE

10.00 TO MID DAY

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS WORTHWHILE CAUSE.

THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE ON THE DAY,

DONATIONS TOWARDS THIS WILL BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED

Winsford Fete 2017 – Jam and Cake, Dogs and Sheep....A Fine Old Tradition!!

August 18, 2017

Winsford Fete 2017 – Jam and Cake, Dogs and Sheep....A Fine Old Tradition!

At last....the sun shone, the marquees flapped in the breeze, the sheep looked nervous and the stalls were all set with their wares!



Yes, the annual village fete was under starter's orders! They're off..... bang on 13.00.



Aaah...the tables and chairs ready for the tea-drinkers and cake-eaters, right in front in front of the Pavilion overlooking the marquees, full to the brim with various vegetables, cakes, bric-a-brac and books.





Would the second-hand clothes have anything to offer such a well-dressed crowd..?



There may be some way to go to match The Chelsea Flower Show but there was a host of healthy plants on sale and for those traditional teas, homemade cake and jams!



The Raffle stall was doing good business but not quite like the whirlwind Tombola stall which had queues of at least 5 people from time to time! Sold out in just over the hour.



Now what's going on over there? There seem to be a lot of dogs(mmm...), tails wagging like mad and enough barking to muffle the PA system playing old classics like "Trouble over Bridgwater" and Cliff's "The Young Ones". Many classes throughout the afternoon but of course, everyone's favourite, the dog that looks most like its owner.

Oh for an owner with a Shar Pei or a Boxer!





Onward to the stall favoured by those wishing to take their stress out on inanimate china, the crashing and tinkling of breaking crockery to be heard across the recreation ground. 3 balls for 50p has resisted the onset of inflation and the devaluation of sterling for some time now and has to be the best value anywhere! Close by the coconut shy which actually needs a certain degree of accuracy and also...a liking for coconut.



As the first hour whittled away, the PA kept us up to date with the countdown to the star attraction of the whole fete, yes...you guessed it....the Sheep Racing, concerning 6 finely tuned woolly athletes each distinguished by a different colour ribbon. Unless you know a finely turned hoof or had been lurking in nearby fields, colour was really the only form guide.



Studying the form!

So the tension mounted for the first race and the sheep shuffled around nervously warming up... "Yellow is looking a bit anxious, Red has done a ewe-turn and oh dear! Green stop that!..." but the Starter can't wait... They're off!... and a frantic trudge to the finishing line cheered on by an enthusiastic but slightly bewildered crowd. Forget the colour of the first race winner but he was absolutely magnanimous in his tributes to his flock who had supported him through thick and thin!



The big race was the Royal Oak Handicap sponsored by the local pub and like the sheep that won has a really nice baaaaaar! More races and more excitement, the Tote was doing great business.

Meanwhile the children's running and sack races were taking place on the cricket square.

The Raffle was drawn, the dog show and dog agility, were over, all the crockery was smashed and the sheep went back to have a rest and rest on their laurels. The dulcet sounds of the Four Tops with "The Same Old Song" rang in our ears as we headed for the Auction of the produce and the bakery goods. Healthy bidding for the Victoria sponges, brownies & stunning array of vegetables took place before everyone either went off home or retired to the local village green to continue festivities gasping now for a few beers or a glass of wine.





Who knew the tea cosy had so many uses?!!



A very good day and no doubt .. the same again to look forward to next year!

Winsford Fete

July 31, 2017



Winsford Village Green...the work continues!

July 13, 2017

The last few weeks have seen work continuing on the village green, mainly related to the repair of the wall to the Wynn Brook.

Firstly many thanks to Jenny and Sheila who did a great job weeding by the war memorial. Not a favourite job, but one which needs constant and on-going attention.



Over the years continued heavy rain and high water has eroded the wall by the Old Forge, distributing the stones along the brook. So work began to collect as many of the original stones as possible, to begin the repair!



Help was at hand with Steve Blackmore (the professional) and Dave Mileham doing the re-building with the usual suspects – Gerry, Mel and Beverley, helping with the heavy work of collecting the stones.



The result, a beautiful sturdy new wall which will stand up to whatever the weather chooses to throw at it!



Sadly the tree which stood above the crumbling wall had to be removed and it is hoped that funds can be raised to replace it and to add a few more plants! Any donations will be greatly received, just contact Mel or Beverley, through the website.

A Evening on the Green!

June 21, 2017

The sun was shining, the wind had dropped, so what better way to spend an evening with friends, playing skittles on the Village Green.

The alley on the Green has seen better days with many ruts and bumps, but that just added to the fun. Even the professionals would find it difficult to bowl a straight ball down this alley!

That didn't matter and after several visits to the Wynn Brook to retrieve the errant ball, the friendly competition came to an end with the ladies showing the men the way, winning by a mere 15 points, the leading lady being Mel Mileham. However who knows what might happen next time, the competition is on!!



It was such a great evening that we hope to do it again 6pm on Friday 30th June, weather permitting, so come along and join the fun!!

What Just Happened?

June 15, 2017

What just happened?

Another General Election and all the fall-out from Labour's unexpected surge in winning 262 seats, The Tories mis-management of their Campaign and Manifesto, Theresa May's paradoxical "Strong and Stable" message and then not showing up to defend her policies in the TV debates, the new reliance on the DUP to win a majority in the Commons and what will become the longest running soap opera since Coronation St., you guessed it...Brexit! Talk about snatching a defeat out of the jaws of victory! Juncker must be falling about!

Quite a lot to absorb and the more you hear about the potential outcomes, the more confused you get!

An exciting but challenging theatre on the political stage with a cast featuring the doughty pacifist Jeremy, the dismayed Theresa and her new Cabinet including the exiled and smug Michael with the nodding Boris still apparently onside with her views, and you're tempted to ask, where were her key Ministers during this election campaign? Apparently requested to lie low just in case.....but they needn't have worried, Theresa did a sterling job on their behalf (yes it dropped 2 cents) and Jeremy ought to have followed suit with some of his Shadow Cabinet. He must have learned a little from Mr Chump about serving up a lip-smacking buffet of policies which all age-groups could consume.....but put them in to practice? Donald could also assist in advising him that it's far easier to be a spectator than a player!

And all this down to our decision to leave the EU.....no sign of Dodgy Dave now, he's well out of it! Inflation rising at 2.9% and the stock market hitting record highs, both according to our sources, in the main, down to the devaluation of sterling. Mrs May and her team will have their work cut out in Brussels as the EU team will surely want to show that we cannot have our cake and eat it. It will be interesting to review the before and after. Here we go!

And then, when you need an antidote to politics, yes.....turn on the sport. Wow!

The Lions beat Canterbury, England rugby union team beat Argentina in the most exhilarating game, our cricket team slaughtered the Aussies, Lewis Hamilton won the Canadian GP and our under-20's football team won their World Cup! Not a bad weekend and cause for some recovered pride in our nation.

But what of local news....ummmm...down in the village, nothing stirred, just the odd whirr of a mower, a melodic peal of bells on Sunday and locals and visitors enjoying the tranquillity of the village green and its surrounds. Oh....and the odd soft or hard breakfast!



Far from the madding crowd, thank goodness!

GENERAL ELECTION 2017

June 4, 2017



ELECTION 2017

**POLLING IN WINSFORD
THURSDAY 8TH JUNE
7.00AM TO 10.00PM
WINSFORD VILLAGE HALL**

Winsford Parish Council – Vacancy

May 10, 2017

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL



A VACANCY HAS ARISEN FOR PARISH COUNCIL THE POSITION
OF PARISH CLERK FOR
WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL
FOR DETAILS OF WHAT THIS
PART TIME POST INVOLVES
PLEASE EMAIL
winsfordparishcouncil@gmail.com
To apply please send a copy of your
CV to the above address.
Closing Date for applications:
Monday 19th June

What a day for Winsford!

April 7, 2017

What a day for Winsford!

Beautiful weather welcomed 35 eager racegoers as they boarded the coach in the centre of the village for a Day at the Races at Taunton. Amongst them Eileen, Francis and Nicky Ayliffe who were representing the family Ayliffe, as Taunton had granted them a race dedicated to the memory of Nick, our legendary local NH trainer who sadly passed away a few months ago.



To pass the time on the journey we had a little competition to predict the winning time of this race with a clue that over 3 miles a horse runs at about an average 30mph! Kay Tillyer won this with exactly the correct time of 5m.46 secs!

Once at Taunton the various parties went off in differing directions, some for lunch and others to the bars and some just to enjoy the racing and the sunshine.



The Taunton management kindly asked us to pick the “Best turned out” in Nick’s race and Nicky Tillyer, who knows a thing or two about horses, selected Milord who had had his mane plaited and had been well polished!



Muthabir at 9-2 won the race and Milord was fifth with Daklondike from David Pipe’s yard, where Martin Ayliffe works as Senior Head Lad, a disappointing fourth. We had such high hopes and it would have been the perfect finale but.....that’s racing!





However Eileen, family and friends still had the enjoyment of presenting the trophy to the winning owner!



Seven races later we boarded the coach back to Winsford and it appeared that although there were not many winners on the day everyone enjoyed themselves and are all set to do it again at Newton Abbot during the Summer.

The big winner on the day was the feel good community spirit it generated!



The Winsford Recreation Association will be coming up with other events over the balance of this year as we need more..... fun!

Cleverly Everly Show

March 30, 2017

All of those who attended the Cleverly Everly Show in Winsford Village Hall in February had a memorable night.

Somerset brothers Stan and Clinton Rogers together with Uta and their side kick and manager John McGinn took us back in time with classic songs from the 60's, made us laugh and even had us dancing in the aisle!



Delicious canapés were provided by Roy and Theresa from the Bridge Cottage Tea Rooms, who organised the event.

They send a huge thank you to all those who helped in making the night a success, all who donated prizes for the raffle (over 40) and for all the cash donations received from those who could not attend. The event was a sell out and £1652.24 was raised for Cancer Research.

Bridget Ryle

Winsford Annual Assembly

March 19, 2017



WINSFORD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
WINSFORD VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH
7.00 FOR 7.30PM
tea and coffee will be provided

All are very welcome and encouraged to come and hear about what your Parish Councillors have achieved, on your behalf, during the past year, and the plans for the year ahead.

Flooding and Water Related Issues

Guest speaker: **Rob Wilson-North**
(Conservation Manager, Exmoor National Park)

The Winsford Resilience Plan in the Event of Emergencies

The Community Challenge of Maintaining Winsford
As the “Prettiest Village on Exmoor”

Updates on **The Winsford Archive** and **Broadband**
And also the **Chairman’s Annual Report**

Winsford Litter Pick Up 2017

March 5, 2017



Fearless, flexible and fantastic, the Dirty Dozen usual suspects tuned up on a wet and windy day in Winsford to do the annual litter pick. Someone's gotta do it and some of the excuses others gave were really original..!

Wrapped up like a bag of Blue Circle, they tirelessly trudged around the roads and lanes of the village to find a range of objects ranging from Red Bull cans (still No.1!), sandwich, sweet and biscuit wrappers, baccy pouches, toys, a Gary Barlow CD and the odd sign....one found up Ash Lane was a solid plastic sign advertising Conservation services....how ironic!



Unlike previous encounters with the litter louts, there was remarkably less to pick up as we now have a number of villagers who do it on an ongoing basis. We don't need to wait a year to exfoliate the village surrounds and if we could persuade those that pollute the environment to actually put it in a bin or take it home, we wouldn't have to write any more blogs!



Thanks to the dedicated Dirty Dozen and also to Mark & Sally for again offering to refresh those parts that the wet and cold hadn't reached!

Let's now think before we sling and Keep Winsford Tidy!

Winsford Annual Litter Pick Up & Nick Ayliffe Memorial Handicap Hurdle

February 10, 2017



**WINSFORD'S ANNUAL LITTER PICK UP
SUNDAY 5TH MARCH
10.30AM
WINSFORD VILLAGE CAR PARK**

PLEASE COME ALONG AND HELP TO KEEP OUR VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL
LITTER PICKERS AND BAGS WILL BE PROVIDED
PLEASE BRING HEAVY DUTY GLOVES AND
WEAR PRACTICAL BRIGHT CLOTHING or
A HIGH VIZ IF YOU HAVE ONE

Coffee will be served at the Royal Oak after the event courtesy of Sally & Mark Bradley
Please contact Beverley Flanagan on 01643 851762 for information or to register your help



The Winsford Recreation Association invites you to.....

**Yet Another... Day at The Races!
6th April at Taunton including
*The Nick Ayliffe Memorial Handicap Hurdle***

We will offer three packages again to suit everyone's requirements and pocket.....Lunch/Raceday and Standard.

The coach transport is kindly sponsored by
The Royal Oak

Meet in Winsford centre at 12.00 midday
Arrive racecourse 13.00

First Race 14.10

Last Race 17.35

Arrive back in Winsford 19.00 approx.

Tickets (incl. a small contribution to the WRA)

Lunch Package (8 av.) – Coach return/Entrance/Race card/3 Course Lunch/Afternoon Tea/table all afternoon – £62 pp

Raceday Package – Coach return/Entrance/Racecard/Snack & Drink/£6 Tote Voucher – £30 pp

Standard Package – Coach Return/Entrance/Race card – £18 pp

Closing dates for tickets & payment – 24th March

Contact: Gerry or Beverley Flanagan

Phone: 01643 851762

email: gerryflan@hotmail.com or bevflan57@gmail.com for more information and tickets

Six Nations Fever in Winsford!

January 30, 2017

January.....sick and tired of you hanging on me!

Post Christmas and New Year blues, cold, wet and foggy weather, what on earth is there to look forward to? Well, here comes the Six Nations in February with the fascinating prospect of some potentially unexpected results!



England are the current favourites at 10/11 with Ireland at 5/2, Wales at 9/1, France surprisingly 14/1 and the outsiders(as per usual) Italy at 28/1.

The first games are to be played on Saturday 4th February with Scotland and Ireland meeting in Murrayfield. This is a real poser as Ireland, fresh back from beating The All Blacks in the States and then edging Australia in Dublin by three points, are playing the dark blue horses of Scotland who have been quietly getting their form back and will be confident after Glasgow's dynamic performances in the European Champions Cup particularly after annihilating a Leicester team last week. A physical game which will potentially go down to how the two 10's play in guiding their packs as well as always....who kicks their goals. Players to watch? Finn Russell (10) of Scotland and CJ Stander(6/8) of Ireland.



The second game later in the afternoon is England v France and typically this would be a banker for England but they need to start faster and harder than they did against Australia in the Autumn as the one thing the French thrive on is confidence and if you give them anything they will make hay. They are not the side of old and have lost their inherent identity of an attacking running side but they have more Rosbeef than almost anyone even in the backs.

England actually have not played yet to their potential and have a number of players from Aviva Premiership teams(Northampton/Bath/Leicester) who have not been performing to their normal level so confidence could be at issue here, although the likes of Dan Cole, Jonathan Joseph, George Ford and Tom Wood are all class acts in their positions.

Difficult to see England being beaten, in fact it's probably more by how many they will win by, but the question will more about the performance than the result. Players to watch? Battle of the No.8's Nathan Hughes of England and Louis Picamoles of France.



The final game is played on the Sunday featuring Italy v Wales where you will find the Italians typically sprinting out of the blocks for the first 30 minutes but probably forgetting that they have to do it for 80 minutes! Individually Wales have some excellent players but can Coach Robert Howley inject the psychological edge they will need, not just for this game, but for the the whole Championship? He is under pressure in Wales where expectations are always high. Alun Wynn Jones will lead by example but will they be allowed to show their running flair by an Italian team now properly coached by former Harlequins Director of Rugby Connor O'Shea. Players to watch? Sam Warburton, now relieved of the captaincy on the Welsh side and the peerless Sergio Parisse, captain of Italy and No.8, butlook out for



Exeter Chief's Michele Campagnaro who has been looking very sharp in recent games.

We started a 6 Nations competition in 2012 in the village and have expanded it now to include all games,originally just England, and there are currently 11 participants. £5 to enter and half the winnings go to the Somerset & Devon Air Ambulance with the balance to the winner.

If you are interested then call Gerry Flanagan on 01643 851762 or Stephen Hunt on 01643 851804, before Friday 3rd February.

Can't wait!!

AVIAN FLU – UPDATE -IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR KEEPERS OF POULTRY AND CAPTIVE BIRDS

January 6, 2017

The Animal Plant and Health Agency have declared prevention zones covering the whole of England, Scotland and Wales in response to a recent high risk of Avian Influenza.

All keepers of poultry and other captive birds are required to keep their birds indoors, or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds. This order will be in place for 30 days initially and kept under review.

UPDATE

‘If you keep poultry – whether on a commercial scale or simply a small backyard flock – you are now required by law to keep them “housed” (under cover and kept separate from wild birds). **This requirement (the Prevention Zone) will now be extended until 28 February 2017.**’

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-in-winter-2016-to-2017>