

**ST. CATHERINE, WHITESTONE**

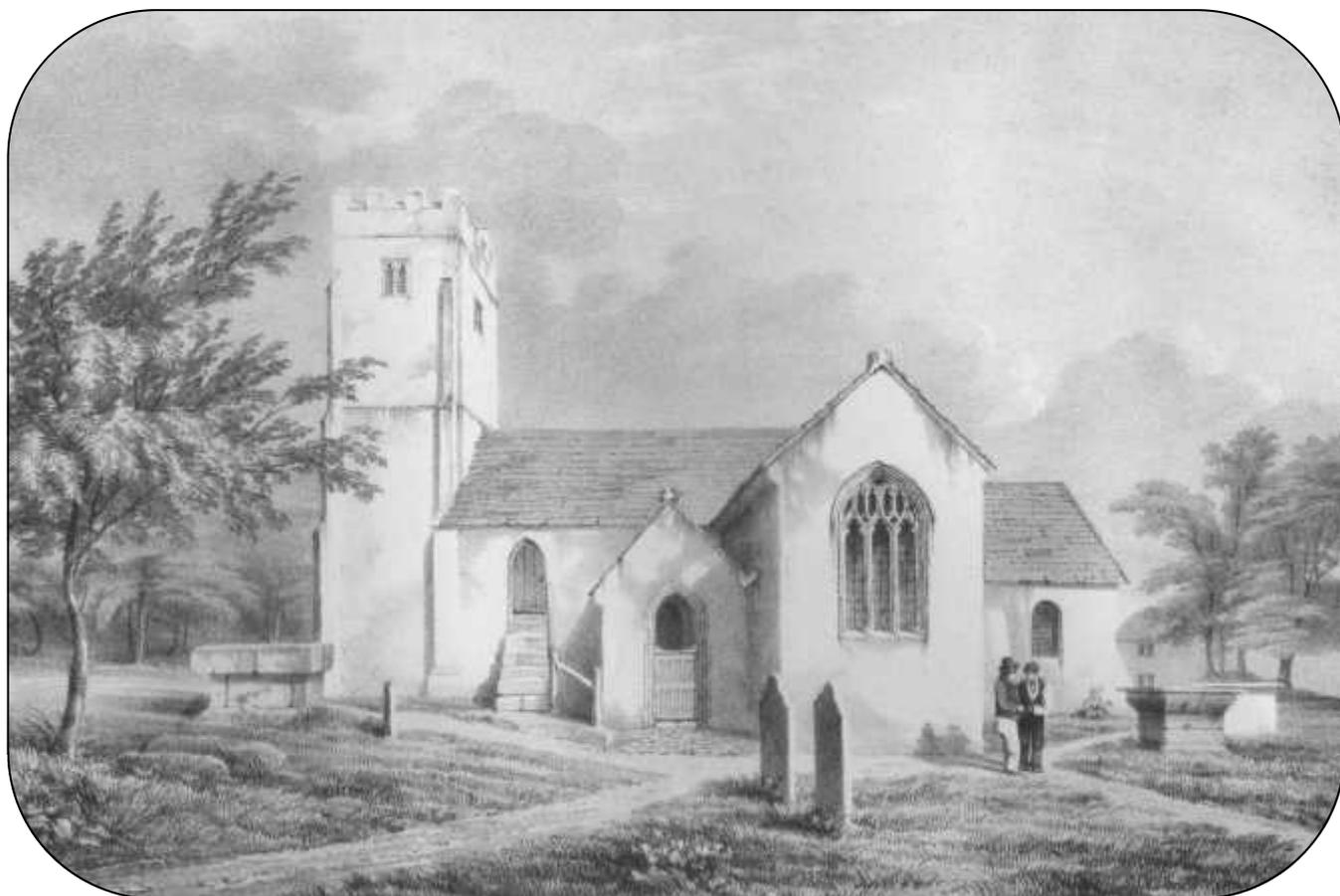
with

**Pathfinder Village**

and

**ST. THOMAS, OLDRIDGE**

*Parish Magazine*



*St. Catherine's Church, Whitestone 1841  
(drawn from Nature and on Stone by W. Spreat)*

**Rector**

Reverend Martin Wood, The Rectory, Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop EX6 6HY 01647 24119

**Whitestone and Oldridge Churchwarden**

Dr. Jane Richards, Quarryfield House, Whitestone (01392 811492)

# NORTH KENN MISSION COMMUNITY

## SERVICES FOR JUNE 2014

### Sunday June 1st

<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>Whitestone</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Canon John Tutton</b>
9.30 am	Holcombe Burnell	Parish Communion	Revd Tim Gorringe
11.00 am	Tedburn St Mary	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3.00 pm	Pathfinder	Anniversary Praise	Revd Martin Wood
6.00 pm	Cheriton Bishop	Evening Prayer	Revd Martin Wood

### Sunday June 8th Pentecost

<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Whitestone</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Revd Tim Gorringe</b>
9.30 am	Holcombe Burnell	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood
11.00 am	Cheriton Bishop	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3.00 pm	Pathfinder	Prayer and Fellowship	Lay led
4.00 pm	Tedburn St Mary	Pentecost Songs of Praise	Lay led

### Sunday June 15th Trinity Sunday

9.00 am	Tedburn St Mary	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood
9.30 am	Cheriton Bishop	Parish Communion	Revd Tim Gorringe
<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Whitestone</b>	<b>Family Service</b>	<b>Revd Martin Wood</b>
3.00 pm	Pathfinder	Evensong	Lay led
6.00 pm	Holcombe Burnell	Evensong	Revd Martin Wood

### Sunday June 22nd

8.00 am	Cheriton Bishop	Holy Communion	Canon John Tutton
9.30 am	Tedburn St Mary	Parish Communion	Revd Tim Gorringe
11.00 am	Holcombe Burnell	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3.00 pm	Pathfinder	United Service	
<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Whitestone</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Revd Martin Wood</b>

### Sunday June 29th

<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Whitestone</b>	<b>Team Eucharist</b>	<b>Revd Martin Wood and Revd T Gorringe</b>
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### Every Thursday

<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Pathfinder</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>	
	<b>June 5th</b>	<b>Revd Martin Wood</b>	
	<b>June 12th</b>	<b>Revd Martin Wood</b>	
	<b>June 19th</b>	<b>Revd Martin Wood</b>	
	<b>June 26th</b>	<b>Revd Martin Wood</b>	

## Midway

We are approaching midway through the year. By the end of the month, the countdown to Christmas 2014 will have started with just 177 days to go to Christmas! We will have also past midsummer's day and we will be looking towards the end of summer, and the days will start to get shorter. Midway or midpoints are interesting because they represent the halfway point. Often in terms of longer time periods getting to halfway is really an achievement as after that the end is nearer than the beginning. When we take on a big project, we are sometimes overwhelmed by the size and amount that there is to be done. The way forward is to break it down into smaller chunks that are more manageable. Keeping track is very important and we use quarters and halves to measure our progress. Going beyond halfway brings the end into focus and we start to feel that the worst is behind us. Sometimes getting to half way can put us in the odd position of being no nearer the end than the beginning. It can sometimes be accompanied by a low point as we realise that there is just as much to do as we have already done! It still takes more effort to keep going and finish what we have started. Sadly some people do not even make it to half way or just give up halfway through. The cost has been more than they expected or they can manage.

At this moment in time, there is real anxiety over the preparations for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. It is around the halfway point and the International Olympic Committee are describing it as the worst situation in 40 years: "This was a worse situation than in 2004, when there were concerns about preparations for the Athens Games." It will be interesting to see how Brazil recovers the situation in time for 2016. Midway can be a really uncomfortable time! With the Olympic Games there is no alternative plan, it just has to work!

As we look at the action of God, it seems to transcend time and there appears to be no half measures. We are reminded that he is there at the beginning, the middle and at the end. By deduction, God is there all the time. It is more of a constant presence than a variable involvement by God. What really does change is our willingness to find God and accept that we are part of his work. We sadly often ignore God and turn away from what we should be doing. It is often a painful experience. Amazingly God welcomes us back wherever we are, it does not matter if we are half way through, or we think we have left it too late. God takes us and works with us. It often comes as a huge relief to lay our burdens down and to look to being guided by God.

*Rev. Martin Wood. The Rectory, Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop EX6 6HY 01647 24119 (Tuesday to Sunday)*

### **DAILY OFFICE (MATTINS AND EVENSONG)**

Martin will be saying the Daily Office (Mattins and Evensong) in each of the churches once a week at 9.00 am and 3.00 pm as follows:

<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Holcombe Burnell</b>	<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>Tedburn St. Mary</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>Cheriton Bishop</b>	<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Whitestone</b>

He will be very pleased to see anyone who wishes to join him or speak to him at these times as well.

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**WHITESTONE CHURCH BELLS**

After receiving the comprehensive report from Nicholson Engineering of Bridport (as mentioned in the Parish Meeting reports under Whitestone Band of Bellringers) on the state of the Whitestone Church bells, a visit was made by the Deanery church bell expert.

Although his written report is still awaited, it was agreed that the most urgent remedial work is for:

- Bell 3 to be quarter-turned on its headstock to prevent the danger of cracking
- All the wooden parts of bell frame to be sprayed to control the woodworm infestation
- The perished leather washers on Bells 4 & 5 (on the bolts securing the bells to the headstocks) to be replaced

Work on church bells is very expensive due to the weights of the bells themselves, the cramped space for working and the location at the top of the church tower. Although the Nicholson Engineering reported that over £30,000 is required to refurbish the bells completely, the estimated cost of the urgent items is £3000 to £4000.

All possible sources of grants will now be investigated before embarking on a fund-raising programme.

**SEAFARERS MISSION**

The PCC agreed at its last meeting that the collections at the Team Service on June 29th and Sea Sunday July 13th would both go to the Seafarers Mission.

Dr Jane Richards

**The last date for contributions to the  
 July 2014 Parish Magazine is  
 Monday 16th June**  
**Please send articles to Jock Kirkpatrick  
 2 Merrymeet, Whitestone  
 kirkpatrick@eclipse.co.uk**



**BISHOP ROBERT**

Robert Atwell is the new Bishop of Exeter after being confirmed by an arcane legal process at Lambeth Palace on the 30 April 2014.

After kissing the hand of the Queen on the 22nd May, he is expected to move into the Palace at Exeter on the 9th/10th June 2014. When settled will spend 4 days going around the diocese to get to know us.

He will be formally installed as Bishop of Exeter at a ceremony in Exeter Cathedral on Saturday July 5th at 2.30pm - all are welcome to attend, there should be plenty of room.

Robert Atwell is 59 and studied for the ordained ministry at Westcott House, Cambridge. He served his first curacy at John Keble Church, Mill Hill, London from 1978 to 1981.

From 1981 to 1987 he was Chaplain at Trinity College, Cambridge. From 1987 to 1998 he was a Benedictine monk at Burford Priory, Oxfordshire.

From 1998 to 2008 he was Vicar of St Mary's, Primrose Hill, and Director of Post-Ordination Training in the Edmonton Area of the Diocese of London. Since 2008 he has been Suffragan Bishop of Stockport.

Robert Atwell is single and his interests include gardening, theatre, films, music and novels.

## JUST FOR FUN

### Dictionary for Dogs

- **LEASH:** A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.
- **DOG BED:** Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.
- **DROOL:** A liquid which, when combined with sad eyes, forces humans to give you their food. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and get the drool on the human.
- **SMIFF:** A social custom used to greet other dogs, similar to the human exchange of business cards.
- **DUSTBIN:** A container which your neighbours put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and mouldy crusts of bread.
- **BICYCLES:** Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards. The person will then swerve and fall into the bushes, and you can prance away.
- **DEAFNESS:** This is a malady which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.
- **THUNDER:** This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.
- **WASTE PAPER BASKET:** This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrappers. It is important to evenly distribute its contents throughout the house before your person comes home.
- **BATH :** If you find something especially good to roll in, humans get jealous and they use this degrading form of torture to get even. Be sure to shake only when next to a person or a piece of furniture.
- **LEAN:** Every good dog's response to the command "sit!," especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.
- **CHILDREN:** Short humans of optimal petting height. Standing close to one assures some good petting. When running, they are good to chase. If they fall down, they are comfortable to sit on.
- **LOVE:** A feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

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*Mary Belt*

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## GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE & CREAM TEAS

Many thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the afternoon.

Thank you to all that contributed plants, raffle prizes and especially to Margaret and Lesley for the wonderful scones and cakes ! Well done to Village Voices for another amazing performance.

A profit of over £300 was made part of which will be donated towards the repair of the church bells.

Looking forward to next year already !!

Gill Oakey  
Chairman

## REQUEST FOR PICTURES OLD FORGE

As we near completion of phase 2 (2 of 18!) of the conversion of the Old Forge, I am putting together a presentation on the project hopefully to share with the village at a social club evening. I have plenty of pictures of the build and 3 shots of the forge prior to 1989, Dr Richards also had an early image taken from the field below. What we are missing are pictures of the Forge when it was working and would be very grateful if you could look through your collections / draws to see if you can help fill in the gaps.

During construction a gentleman, who said he lived near or just beyond Heath Cross, stopped to chat about the work and said that he had some pictures of the blacksmith, Mr Hole, outside with a horse, I haven't seen him since.

If you have any images, even if the Forge is well in the background, which I could copy then please get in touch.

Thank you



Nick, Julie and Tabitha Thom  
The Old Forge,  
Church Lane End.  
01392 811327 / 07890047121  
njtthom@gmail.com

## JUST FOR FUN

John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity.

John tried hard to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's language.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot by the neck and the parrot got angrier and even more rude.

John, in desperation, threw up his hands, then grabbed the bird and stuffed it in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot screamed abuse, then suddenly there was total quiet.

Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the freezer door. The parrot stepped out onto John's outstretched arm and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my vulgar and unforgivable behaviour."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. Then the parrot spoke again and said, very softly, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

## BEE SWARMS

This is the time of year when honey bees are likely to swarm. They do this when their hive gets too crowded and it is their way of increasing the number of colonies. If a swarm collects in your garden or in your neighbourhood, it is nothing to be alarmed about.

The bees are very docile at present and do not mean to do you any harm. We need to try and collect the bees as they are in decline. If you phone me, I will try to collect them for free and put them in one of my hives.

Additionally, if you fancy a local delicacy, I have jars of "Whitestone Honey" for sale.



Tricia Millinson  
01392 811407



**Sally White**



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## WHITESTONE PARISH COUNCIL - MAY 2014

DRAFT Minutes of Whitestone Parish Council held at Whitestone Parish Hall on Thursday 8th May at 7.30pm to be ratified at Parish Council meeting on 12th June

Attendance:

Chairman – Councillor P Nierop  
Councillors Mrs M Belt, Mrs B Bramhall,  
Mrs P Fisher, S Heathcote, L Hickman,  
D Munro, R Phillips, M Quinn, A Reed  
Mrs P Vaughan, Clerk to the Council  
Mrs B Netherway, Mrs T Taylor, Mr R Jordan,  
Mr and Mrs A Greenfield, Mr C Hodges.

Apologies: District Councillor P Bromell

The meeting was preceded by the May Draw for the 100 Club in support of the Parish Hall Development Fund. The number drawn was 86 and belongs to Paul Barton.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Jordan, Mr Hodges, and Mrs Greenfield spoke at length and all registered their concerns and disapproval of the proposals put forward in the Working Group Report that 1 and 2 School Houses should be sold and felt that parishioners should be involved in any decision.

Mr Jordan also raised his disapproval that the planning permission should have been granted for the erection of a replacement barn at Springdale Farm, Longdown, and asked why the Council had not objected. The Clerk said that she would supply him with a copy of the reasoning why the Council's objections had not been upheld.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Councillor P Nierop, the retiring Chairman, opened the Annual General Meeting and stood down as Chairman in order for the election of officers for the year 2014/2015 to take place

#### Election of Chairman

Cllr P Nierop proposed and seconded. However Cllr Munro pointed out that the Standing Orders did not allow a Chairman to serve for more than two years consecutively and Cllr Nierop withdrew. Cllr Mrs M Belt was proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Reed.

Cllr Mrs B Bramhall was proposed by Cllr Hickman, seconded by Cllr Nierop.

As there were two candidates a ballot was held resulting in Cllr Mrs Bramhall being successful and thereby elected.

#### Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Mrs Belt proposed by Cllr Phillips seconded by Cllr Munro

Cllr Hickman proposed by Cllr Quinn, seconded by Cllr Heathcote

As there were two candidates a ballot was held resulting in Cllr Hickman being successful and thereby elected.

#### Asset Group Committee

Proposed by Cllr Quinn seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher that Councillors Phillips, Hickman and Nierop be elected en bloc. All in favour.

#### Footpath Warden

Councillor Munro proposed by Cllr Belt, seconded by Cllr Phillips. All in favour.

#### Church House Foundation Member

Councillor Mrs Belt proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Reed. All in favour.

#### Crossway Park Officer

Councillor Mrs Fisher proposed by Cllr Belt, seconded by Cllr Munro. All in favour.

#### Parish Hall Committee

Proposed by Cllr Nierop and seconded by Cllr Fisher that Councillors Belt, Phillips, Hickman and Bramhall be elected en bloc. All in favour.

#### Parish Hall Liaison Member

Councillor Belt proposed by Cllr Hickman and seconded by Cllr Quinn. All in favour.

#### Responsible Financial Officer

Mrs P Vaughan proposed by Cllr Belt, seconded by Cllr Nierop. All in favour.

#### Independent Internal Auditor

Mr Ken Abrahams proposed by Cllr Nierop, seconded by Cllr Quinn. All in favour.

The Chairman then thanked the meeting for her election and thanked Cllr Nierop and Cllr Belt for their services to the Council over the past year.

The Council then proceeded to the business of the Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council meetings held on the 10th April 2014 had been circulated and Cllr Munro wished it recorded that at the April meeting he had voiced his objection that the report from the working group did not give enough time to assimilate all the necessary information and this had been omitted from Minute 24.5. His complaint was noted and the minutes were duly signed.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2014 having been circulated were taken as read with the addition of Cllr Mrs Belt's apologies for absence having been added as they had been missed out by the Clerk from the original and these were signed as a true copy by the Chairman.

### REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR / DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Councillor Peter Bromell had sent his apologies and asked the Clerk to convey the information that at the annual Teignbridge District Councillor meeting Cllr Anthony Ballinger had been appointed Chairman of the Council and that the Teignbridge Local Plan 2013-2033 had been adopted. It was noted that the Inspector's report precludes the Attwells Farm site for building as Exeter City Council have stated that it is not needed to meet the City's needs.

## PLANNING

Granting of Conditional Planning Permission  
13/02716/FUL Erection of replacement barn at  
Springdale Farm, Longdown

## MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### Open meeting to discuss Report on School Houses – Wednesday 21st May

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the advisability of postponing this meeting as a letter had been received from members of the public that they did not feel sufficient publicity had been given to a consultation that could result in the sale of the houses. Cllr Nierop responded that the meeting was to inform and discuss and not to consult and in answer to a request that the report from Teign Housing should be made public, the Clerk distributed some copies to those present. A decision was reached that the meeting would not be postponed and it was agreed that a leaflet distribution should be carried out advertising the meeting further and some Councillors volunteered to carry this out within their areas.

### School Houses

Cllr Reed reported that the electrical repairs as designated at the April meeting have now been carried out in No 2. He reported that the tenancy agreement for No 1 School Houses had been signed but the tenancy agreement for No 2 School Houses was still awaiting signature.

## FINANCE

The Annual Audit was presented to the meeting for authorisation and it was resolved by the Councillors that this was approved and agreed for presentation to the Audit Commission and the Return was duly signed by the Chairman. The Internal Audit will be conducted by Mr Abrahams on the 29th May following which the Return will be sent to the Audit Commission.

### Authorisation for continuation of Grants

It was proposed and seconded that the following grants be continued. All in favour.

- Whitestone Parish Hall Management Committee - £125 per month.
- Parochial Church Council (for the Church Magazine for inclusion of Council Minutes) £165
- Whitestone Gardening Club for tending the Community Garden adjoining Park - £125

Nat West Bank Statement as at 30th April 2014

Current Account	£200.00
Business Reserve Account	£14,182.35
Business Reserve Account	<u>£3,399.08</u>
	£17,781.43

This balance includes £100.64 P3 Grant Money

### Income

- School Houses rents for May £1,425 – Letting Agency fees £136.80 (including £22.80 VAT) = £1,288.20

- Teignbridge District Council – half year Precept £3,000

### Expenditure

The following expenditure was proposed and seconded for payment. All in favour

- Whitestone Parish Hall Management Committee (May) £125.00
- Hire of meeting room for meetings £26.00
- Parish Council Insurance £834.74
- Clerk's expenses £64.26
- Renewal of Website domain £10.00

## CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Bramhall declared an interest in the following item as she lives in Halsfordwood Lane.

A letter had been received regarding a parking issue at the south end junction of Halsfordwood Lane with the top road. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that this was not a Parish Council matter.

### Public Path Diversion Order for Bridleway 14

Notification has been received from Devon County Council of the making of an Order dated 9th May and this has been displayed on the Council's Parish Hall notice board.

### Electors Fund Application

At the April meeting an application had been submitted for a Zoll AED Plus defibrillator which will be based at the Parish Hall and the Clerk reported that she has been informed that the £900 has been granted and she will pass on this information to the Parish Hall Management Committee who had expressed the intention of taking the lead in offering specific training in its use, together with general CPR, to persons/groups so interested for the benefit of the parish.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Greenfield queried some differences contained in the report which was given to the Councillors and the report now published and Cllr Nierop gave a clear and thorough explanation.

Mrs Greenfield gave the following update on the progress of the Parish Plan Steering Group:- "We are continuing to progress conversion of the questionnaire to become web enabled - the Bank Holiday having rather intervened."

Cllr Nierop asked Mrs Greenfield if the question of the Parish Plan bank statements has been resolved as Mrs Nierop is still receiving information from the bank although she is no longer a member of the Group. Mrs Greenfield said that this was in hand.

Mr Hodges said he did not see the urgency regarding the issue of selling the houses and reiterated his disapproval of this action.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

## MINGO FABRICATION

*Tony Mingo*

Oak Lodge, 11 Merrymeet, Whitestone, Exeter EX4 2JP

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## THE HEALTH CORNER

Do we need to eat more fibre?

The National Diet and Nutrition survey says 70% of men and 90% of women eat less than the recommended 18g a day. A study published by the British Medical Journal followed over 4,000 men and women who had no history of heart problems when the study started but then went on to have a heart attack.

Researchers took into account all the factors which influence repeat attacks such as smoking, exercise, family history, weight, medicine use and fat intake and found that those who ate 10g of fibre a day extra after their heart attack were 15% less likely to die from any cause during the study.

There are two sorts of fibre, the soluble sort which dissolves in the body and is thought to reduce levels of "bad" cholesterol and insoluble fibre which speeds the passage of food through the bowel. Sources of soluble fibre include oatmeal, oat cereal, lentils, apples, oranges, pears, oat bran, strawberries, nuts, flaxseeds, beans, dried peas, blueberries etc. So porridge in the morning with fruit on top with wholegrain toast to follow for your insoluble fibre would seem ideal!

Peter Hanson

## WHITESTONE BIRDING

It is so lovely to see the house martins and swallows back over the houses and being alerted to their presence by their calls. Summer has really arrived. However, do swallows and house martins confuse you? Well, a quick run down on the different species. As a whole the group are known as hirundines.

Let's start with the swift. This is the last hirundine to arrive and the first to leave. Locally, this area never seems to attract large numbers. Sometimes you can see a couple up near the church. These are very dark looking birds with thin curved wings. They tend to fly high in the sky and do not land – they eat, sleep and do everything else on the wing. They breed in dark places, for example in lofts and church roof spaces. I am not sure where they nest 'in the wild' and the reference book gives no indication. Interestingly, they pair for life.

Next, there is the well-known swallow. These are those lovely birds with a rich blue upper colour, white bellies and rusty heads. The males have long forked tails. These nest on rafters in barns and in porches. The nests are made of mud and straw but they are an open cup nest. The adults can often be seen hawking – that is flying low over fields to collect insects for themselves and their young. They will often have two breeds of young and, in a good year, three.

Finally, the house martin. This is the bird that builds mud nests on the eaves of houses. The nest is almost fully enclosed with a small hole that the adults zoom into and later in the season you can see the little heads of the young poking out. The house martin is a more compact bird than the swallow and darker looking.

However, the easiest way to distinguish the two is to look out for the white rump on the house martin. It is easy to see in flight. Again, you will see these birds hawking over the fields but you will also see them flying high in the evenings and on fine days.

The sand martin also belongs to this group. A very pretty light brown bird which is seen along the flood relief channel amongst other places but not generally in the village.

We are just getting to stage where there are young birds everywhere. The great tits in the apple tree box have been ringed and must be about ready to fledge. In the front garden the house sparrows have just fledged at least one brood. The youngsters sit there fluttering their wings and demanding to be fed. There are also young dunnocks around and any day now there should be young robins and blackbirds. Before they start moulting, the young robins look all speckled and do not have any red on the breast.

I have seen a number of nest boxes round the village which is great. I know that one had great tits nesting in it but am not sure about others. Sadly, the webcam box was not used this year. The blue and great tits will only raise one brood in a year whereas many of the other species will have two and possibly even three broods. This time of year does have a small drawback in that it is light early in the morning. The birds make the most of it with the dawn chorus starting around 4.30 a.m. The robin is often one of the first with its thin song followed by the much more throaty and rich song of the blackbird.

The song thrush will be in there too with its repetitive song and against this is the much harsher calls of the rook and the jackdaw, the latter calling its name – “jack-dack”. This ‘orchestra’ can have any number of parties. You may hear the chiffchaff, again calling its name or just the house sparrow twittering away. As many people comment – they can be pretty noisy!

There was an interesting piece of information from a ringed female blackbird the other day. LB19415 was ringed on 15th March 2009 as a bird that had hatched the previous year. It was found dead on the road, outside my house, on 28th April 2014 making it six years old. This bird had not been caught between these two dates so there are lots of interesting questions such as where has it been, did it stay in the area or migrate east for the winter months and return to breed. Sadly, in this case we will never know and, unfortunately, it is highly likely that a brood of young also died as a result of this accident.

Now some good news! Our tawny owls are calling on the evenings (provided it is not one of our local residents doing a good impersonation!). Hopefully they are breeding close by. The owl that I have never seen around here is the barn owl. These beautiful birds have suffered over the last couple of years with very poor breeding raising serious concerns as to the survival of the species. However, it looks as though they are doing well this year. Many people have reported early nesting with broods of 4 or more young. So let’s keep our fingers crossed that the weather stays good for them. The barn owl is very dependent on the mouse and vole population for its survival. Unless the female barn owl reaches a certain weight she will not even attempt to breed.

Some species have been and gone since that last piece of Whitestone Birding. One example is the siskin. These tend to be a winter species although they did breed in the area last year. They are not visiting the garden at the moment but this may be that there are no sunflower hearts out which appears to be their preferred food. It is often said that they like nyger seed in particular but it is spurned in my garden!

The siskin – a pretty, very slight yellow and black bird - and the greenfinch are sometimes confused but the greenfinch is a much bigger, chunkier bird. It is the greenfinch that you will sometimes see at the feeders looking very fluffed up and unhappy with life. They are prone to a bronchial type infection which may originate from unclean feeding areas and are unlikely to recover.

Back at the start of the year I added a rather surprising species to my village list – a red legged partridge. It crossed the road almost in the middle of the village. That is the joy of birding - you just never know what you are going to see! There seem to have been few birds spotted on local walks recently (or I have been walking around with my eyes closed!) but along the top road there are a number of skylarks singing – 3 individuals at any one time but this is probably a conservative count.

So, keep your eyes open for the unusual and the interesting. Even our ‘common birds’ can surprise us sometimes! In the meantime – Happy Birding – and enjoy!

Judith Read

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# MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT WHITESTONE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2014 AT 7.30PM

Attendance: Chairman of the Parish Council – Councillor P Nierop  
County Councillor J Brook

Councillors Mrs B Bramhall, L Hickman, T Reed, R Phillips  
Pat Vaughan (Clerk to the Parish Council)  
Belle Netherway, Lesley Hickman, Sandy Oxford, Jennifer Kellagher,  
Anna Kellagher, Wendy Tume, Peter Hanson, Andrew and Sheila  
Greenfield, PC 10658 Robert Condy-Young, PCSO 30234 Paul Tucker,  
Tina Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs M Belt, and Mrs P Fisher, Mr J Bryant, Mrs C Piper, Mrs L Watkins, Mr D Fisher

## Minutes of the 2013 Meeting

These Minutes having been distributed were taken as read having been approved and signed at the Parish Council meeting of 9th May 2013.

## Parish Council Chairman's Report Report by Councillor Phillip Nierop

We are now entering the fourth year of this Parish Council. Unlike many Parishes we still have a full complement of Councillors, as despite the resignation of Tony Skeet and Lynn Luxton, we have been fortunate to be joined by two new members, Cllr Beryl Bramhall and Cllr Les Hickman.

In May 2015 there will be elections in this area across all levels of Local Government including Parish Councils and I would encourage people to consider standing for election at this time as it is important that the Council has a good mix of ages, skills and experience.

During the past twelve months the Council has carried out or been involved in a number of activities on your behalf: Litter picks, all well supported by villagers, including some of our youngest, that removed an astounding quantity of litter from the hedgerows and ditches of Whitestone. The erection of Anti dog fouling notices in the Playpark in response to reported problems there; the removal of abandoned vehicles and other fly tipping issues, improved street signage in Merrymeet, the repositioning of a telegraph pole blocking the site line at Heath Cross, the clearing of vegetation and restoration of walling around the village pump at Nadderwater and in response to Nadderwater residents we have secured funding from Cllr Jerry Brook for the installation of Nadderwater signs which should be in place in the near future. We have also responded to complaints about air pollution from sewage waste and carried out a survey to determine the state of drains in the Parish (in summary, blocked).

The Play Park inspection in 2013 found no major issues but did highlight a potential problem with the Trim Trail apparatus that is now in the process of being replaced. Thanks are due to Cllr Fisher for her work in carrying out weekly inspections of the play park and I would like to thank all Councillors for their contribution to the work of the Council and in particular, Tony Reed and Les Hickman who have worked tirelessly to implement year two of our Asset Management programme for School Houses and to tackle other issues relating to these properties.

School Houses have also been the focus of attention by a Working Group that reported to the Council in April. Their majority recommendation was that School Houses should be sold, as, looking forward, projected repair and maintenance costs are beyond the current resources of the Council. A decision has not yet been made by the Council and this report will be the subject of a special public meeting on 21st May at 7.30 in the Parish Hall, to which all members of the Parish are invited.

I would also like to mention the work of two residents and thank Peter Joll, who kindly repainted the bus stop and has agreed to take on the maintenance of the adjacent Whitestone sign and garden following the recent death of Mrs Pike and Peter Bartley who kindly and skilfully reinstated the collapsed stone work around the Nadderwater pump.

A brief word about the state of our roads. DCC face an uphill task in repairing and maintaining our roads within constrained budgets. They are prioritising roads that carry significant volumes of traffic or where safety issues are involved. Conversely, minor roads that are lightly used will be allowed to decline and may ultimately be deemed unsuitable for normal traffic. As in previous years I would urge Parishioners to report potholes direct to County rather than waiting for the Parish to get involved. This is more cost effective and ensures potholes are dealt with more quickly.

## Devon County Councillor Report Report by County Councillor Jerry Brook

"The past year began with the County Council election in May. The outcome of this election saw a number of new councillors joining the council including two independent's and three members representing the

United Kingdom Independence Party. There was however no change in the administration which maintained a clear majority.

The budget, which was agreed in February, reflected further savings the council were making under the Governments comprehensive savings review. Whilst this continued to drive efficiencies throughout the council, front line services remained relatively well supported.

The previous twelve months experienced the highest rainfall recorded for a long time, with serious flooding effecting major transport routes. The consequent damage to the road infrastructure was extremely severe. The council were, however, successful in negotiating additional funding from central government using the Bellwin formula. This additional revenue was used to repair larger patches of the road network that were severely damaged. The network regrettably succumbed to more damage through the winter period of 2013/14 which has left many roads particularly in rural areas in a bad state of repair. Teams of engineers have been working throughout the past three/four months to fill potholes in very difficult conditions. The consequence of the working conditions has meant those repairs have not always been successful. The council continues to lobby central government for more funds.

From April last year the council took on the responsibility for Public Health in the county. This was previously the role of the NHS. The role of the Public Health team is to provide for all aspects of addiction rehabilitation, proactive health and well-being education, and to document and analyse health trends across the county. The funding at the disposal of the Public Health Team is directed towards the above issues, with particular emphasis placed on areas of deprivation. To support the Health and Well-being Board there is a councillor scrutiny committee which has the responsibility of investigating the work of the Public Health team and to identify and promote improved strategies for healthier living.

One of the bigger threats to the annual budget is the demand on adult and children services. With an aging population in Devon and with individuals living longer the needs of the elderly are increasing in both numbers and complexity. For the past year this part of the council's budget has at times been under severe strain with the possibility of there being an overspend in that department. Young peoples' services have also been under a certain amount of strain but not quite to the same extent. Well reported difficulties resulted in two of those homes being closed. Both areas of the service are demand led and it is very difficult to calculate accurately the needs of that service in advance. It is important though that we find better and most cost effective ways of providing the service.

Innovation is the buzz word these days. The council continue to look for different models of service provision just to maintain what we currently do. However, Central Government announced last year that all local authorities were going to have to find more savings in the future. Whilst this current financial year is the last of the four year comprehensive review period, it was announced that Devon's contribution to this process was a further £100m saving in the second four year period. This is a devastating blow for Devon's residents. The savings to be made in 2015/16 are scheduled to be 49m. Currently the council is consulting on the following services, Youth, residential care, day centres, meals on wheels and children's homes. All of these services generate emotional thoughts and feelings, but we do need to find ways of continuing provision at a lower cost. I'm sure this will result in more voluntary contributions by community individuals.

Looking to the future I believe this trend will continue. As the authority has to find more ways or reducing revenue spending so service provision will change. In many cases that will mean a greater reliance on voluntary help and communities having to decide which services they may wish to add to or take total responsibility for.

Currently there does not appear to be any indication from any of the political parties, that should they win the next election that they intend to reverse the current CSR cuts. Whilst the nation lives in this perilous financial state I believe we can only expect more of the same for quite some time to come."

Councillor Nierop thanked Councillor Brook for his report and he then answered some questions from the public before he left the meeting.

## Devon & Cornwall Police Report PC 10658 Robert Condy-Young

PC Condy-Young introduced himself to the meeting as having responsibility for this area and included PCSO Tucker. He said that there were very low crime figures for the area which he covered and only 18 offences, the majority of which were thefts from motor vehicles. There were 2 in Whitestone concerning commercial properties. He advised on the need for security of outbuildings as again these proved a temptation for thieves looking for tools, machinery and keeping cars and vans locked. The Police can be contacted by 999 for urgent matters or contacted for non urgent matters via the central switchboard on 101

(although he did say that the waiting time on this line is sometimes very long) or by e-mail on teignbridge @devonandcornwall.ppm.police.uk. In answer to questions he said that it was true that the Chudleigh Police Station would be closing shortly but would be moving to another location within the town.

Councillor Nierop thanked him for his report and the officers then left the meeting.

### **Creative Whitestone**

Report from Peter Hanson

"As reported last year, Creative Whitestone will not be putting on any more art and craft shows. The bank account has therefore been closed and the balance of the money in the account has been used to purchase a device for the Parish Hall called an Immersun, which allows all the surplus electricity generated by the solar panels to be diverted to a heater located inside the hall and so help to keep heating costs down. There is no cost to the hall in doing this, - the hall receives money for the 50% of the energy generated which is deemed to be exported - whether or not the electricity is actually exported. The plan is to eventually connect a storage heater to this supply to enable the stored heat to be released in the evening when it is more likely to be needed."

### **Whitestone Pilates Group**

Report from Peter Hanson (Organiser)  
Mary Belt (Treasurer)

"The Pilates group has been running for four years now and our current teacher is really good. Each week she seems to find muscles we never knew we had and gives us moves to strengthen them and generally make us more flexible. It might be a slight exaggeration to say we feel younger and rejuvenated each week but at least we are trying! Numbers attending are steady and sufficient to keep our head above water financially speaking, helped in no small measure by a number of people coming from Tedburn St Mary. Indeed, as we have been able to make a small profit, - after keeping a reserve to see us through lean times, we have been able to help out the hall financially with small things like buying paint, a rug for the Green Room and some LED spotlights."

### **Whitestone Social Club**

Report from Mr. Peter Hanson, Secretary

"The Social Club is now over eight years old and has 51 members. Everybody is very friendly and it's a great way for newcomers to meet others in the village. Meetings in the Parish Hall usually take the form of either a talk or some form of entertainment followed by a bring and share of food and drink during which we drink and socialise. Our programme has been as diverse as ever this year including very interesting talks by members about what they did in their earlier lives; fun evenings such as a wine tasting challenge; a very enjoyable mid-summer music evening; talks on things like drug-smuggling (not how to do it!) and trekking in Nepal. The latter was to raise money for a Nepalese charity that builds toilet blocks in schools that don't have them so as to enable girls to attend. Of course we must not forget our ever popular Christmas buffet in December and the Anniversary Meal in March."

We look forward to another successful year.

### **Sustainable Whitestone Group**

Report from Annabelle Birchall  
(co-ordinator), Jock Kirkpatrick, Liz Watkins and Peter Hanson

"Our group exists to find ways of helping each other to live more sustainably (and also more cheaply!). During the year we clubbed together to buy 14 bulk containers off Ebay for water storage. Each is over a cubic metre in size so should allow us to keep our veg. patches watered during dry spells. We have also started to offer unwanted items around the village to anyone who can make use of them. This has proved to be very successful, - so far this year we've found homes for a large pool table, a guitar, a mountain bike, orchids, a Winnie-the-Poo table and chairs, a DJ and blazer, 4-shelf storage unit, an oak bookcase, mosaic materials, cordless phone, computer keyboard, woven cane baskets, a flat screen VDU, garden hammock, wheelbarrow, garden shredder, soil testing kit, not forgetting a Nissan Micra car and two Shetland ponies!

The offer goes out to 170 people in the village but it doesn't say who is offering. When someone says they want something, the two people are put in touch. People are also encouraged to place a "wanted" notice for something they need in the hope that someone has some to spare. The idea is that it saves the energy and raw material cost of making something new, saves energy cost of it being delivered and of you going to the shop to buy it, as well as the energy and landfill costs of disposing of it. So everyone's a winner!

We also hold a number of items for people to borrow as they wish, - like an arc welder, a large diamond blade angle grinder, a "Kango" hammer drill (both currently on loan), a diamond wheel ceramic tile cutter and a garden shredder. All we ask is that they are returned in the same or better condition.

We also organised an infra-red house survey which pinpoints heat losses and draughts which threw up some very interesting results.

We continue to place articles of interest in the Parish Magazine and on the village website and alert members to events with neighbouring organisations in particular Transition Exeter and the SEARCH group in Cheriton Bishop. Although more can always be done, every small step will help make Whitestone a better place to live."

### **Arts and Crafts Mornings**

Report from Sandy Oxford

"The name change reflects the fact that this is not a club where people join and are expected to attend every session. Some people do come along regularly whilst others come now and again, when they are able to. Every three or four weeks a room is hired in the parish hall: people bring their projects and materials and work on their chosen task. A wide range of arts and of crafts have been undertaken which has inspired some people to try a new activity.

A photographer from Crediton, Cyril Chudley, came to talk to those interested (14 people) about getting the best from our cameras. As a result a small group went on to learn some principles of photography and on a field trip. All were much encouraged by Cyril's feedback on their photos taken that day and future photography meetings are hoped for.

Another first was a Fused Glass Workshop led by Catherine Packham, a teacher from Bovey Tracey. This was much enjoyed by all who attended and many would like to pursue this further.

Everyone is welcome to attend Arts and Crafts mornings, where mutual support and the company of enthusiastic "artists and crafters" creates a stimulating creative environment - and there is much joyful celebration when someone actually finishes something!"

### **Whitestone Book Club**

Report by Sandy Oxford

"The book club continues to thrive with enthusiastic readers discussing, each month, a set text provided by Devon Library Services. In 2013 we lost one member, who moved to Tiverton and gained three new members who came armed with questions such as "what is the point of fiction?" A membership of twelve means enough people for lively discussion but not too many so that some miss the opportunity to talk about the book. Again we have read a wide variety of genres with the biography/autobiography "Dotter of Her Father's Eyes" being, for most, a further experience of adult graphic form.

Several of the books read this year have also been enjoyed on film. One piece of luck was F.Scott-Foitzgerald's "Great Gatsby" being in the cinema at the same time as we were reading the book.

Linked to the Jane Austen celebrations we had a visit from local author Lesley Adkins. Lesley set the scene for us about life in Austen's time, being a mine of information on the subject as she and her husband had recently published "Eavesdropping on Jane Austen's England" - itself a very readable history. We then read "Persuasion" and watched that film at the home of one of our members.

It has been an enjoyable year reading a wide range of literature and hearing what other people thought about it."

### **Whitestone Baby & Toddler Group**

Report from Wendy Tume

"Thank you again for inviting us to your meeting this evening. We have been successfully running the group at Whitestone Parish Hall for 12 months now. It has been an excellent year and our numbers are still growing, we have 46 members at present and on average we have a weekly attendance of between 15- 20 babies and toddlers. These are made up of Whitestone children, Tedburn St Mary, Cheriton Bishop, Dunsford, Exwick and other surrounding areas.

We still have a good relationship with our local Health Visitor Chris Bradley and Crediton Children's Centre, some of our Mums/carers attend the centre and then encourage others to come and visit us.

The Whitestone Baby & Toddler Group continues to provide a friendly, safe environment for children to participate in various activities and for parents/grandparents and carers to meet and have a chat and a coffee. Our craft table is a very popular place to be on a Tuesday and the children have enjoyed various activities over the year. Christmas Cards, Holly Wreaths, Valentines, Mother's Day, Spring birds, cooking and recently rainbows.

In fine weather we use the playground at the back of the hall to offer extra play and activities and of course enjoy the view!

We took part in Barnardos Big Tiddle in June 2013 and used the playfield as our 1 ½ mile tiddle which is approximately 4 times around the perimeter. We raised a fantastic £350 for the charity and were able to keep 25% of this for our group too. We are taking part again this year so will be looking for sponsors soon!!

We were also one of the first recipients of the ARISE Group Community Grant project. ARISE are made up of a consortium of Exeter's Princess Hay Shopping centre businesses, they asked in the local papers for charities, volunteer groups to contact them. We were awarded £450 which we have put to buying new equipment for the group.

/continued

Whitestone Baby & Toddler Group (continued from previous page)

We continue to run the group voluntarily and without our team we would not be able to offer the sessions we do. Everyone is required to do their bit from setting up to making the first cup of tea. Our small admin team continues to oversee the running of the administration side of the group i.e. banking, newsletters and admissions.

We still organise night outs and get-togethers for the grown-ups these have proven to be successful and we have enjoyed a few good meals out too. Last year we also ran a summer holiday club here at the Parish Hall during the school holidays and provided a place for everyone in the local community to come and play. We enjoyed Pirates Day, Safari Day, Sport's Day and also did a cooking school day.

The group will carry on holding various fund raisers throughout the year so that we are able to maintain and provide new equipment and art /craft materials for our children to learn and grow through play. We nevertheless welcome any offers of funding and have applied for a few grants to help us continue the group's achievements. We will shortly be attending local Car Boot Fairs to raise more funds for a summer trip this year.

We are celebrating our 1st Anniversary on Tuesday 29th April 2014, with a special party to thank our supporters and families. If any member of the committee would like to join us on Tuesday morning between 10 - 12noon for a coffee and to see how our session is run you are more than welcome to come a long and meet the children and parents of our local community.

We thank you for your time and the continued support from both Whitestone Parish Council, the Parish Hall Committee and the lovely community of Whitestone, you have made us most welcome.

Matters to mention:

- A big Thank You to the Parish Hall Committee for installing the new lock on the Main Hall door it has been a great help in stopping children from escaping!!
- Prices to hire the Hall for Children's Parties, we have been approached on several occasions by our mums, carers etc. what the charges are for using the Parish Hall as the facilities here are brilliant."

#### **Whitestone Parish Hall** Report from Derek Fisher (Secretary) Whitestone Parish Hall Committee of Management

Owing to apologies from Mr Fisher this report was read by Dr Kellagher. The year saw the new kitchen and lobby areas formally opened by the chairman of the Rural Aid at a social evening held especially to celebrate the involvement of the Community in achieving the widely acclaimed improvements to the hall. Other work has included the final area of flat roof being re-felted and consideration is currently being given to insulating that same area from below as well as completing the replacement of all windows with double glazing.

The main hall, Billiard Room and Green Rooms have all received a coat of paint, the latter being turned into a more comfortable, relaxing area, whilst the stage toilet and outside WC have also been upgraded.

Apart from these developments the year has been one of consolidation with work progressing towards obtaining the Hallmark Quality mark from the local Community Council. This has meant a thorough review of all administrative procedures and the adoption of a number of Policy Documents in connection with Conditions of Hire, the Booking Procedure and Fire Safety. Work continues in respect of Health and Safety and Disabled Access.

The employment of a new cleaner/caretaker has seen an improvement in the overall cleanliness of the hall though this has been at a greater financial cost than previously. A list of assets has been drawn up which, together with a professional valuation of the building and contents, has provided a new but more beneficial insurance package. The FIT repayments on the solar panels continue to attract a good return enabling the Committee to make substantial inroads into paying back the loans that were required for the installation.

The improvements have attracted a greater number of children's parties than previously experienced and the kitchen is now used regularly as a training facility to help young people to live independently. A Baby and Toddler Group has started and, twice weekly Short Mat Bowls sessions are being held after the Committee secured funding from Active Devon to purchase the necessary equipment. On a sad note we have just lost one of our long term hirers after 12 years – the ballroom dancing group, who were unable to sustain membership numbers sufficient to allow continued hire to be viable.

Health and Safety checks have continued to be carried out during the year and, although not due, a further periodic electrical check was carried out in view of the major alterations carried out over the past year.

We must, once again thank the Parish Council for its continuing financial support in helping to cover the cost of the employment of the caretaker, the building insurance and towards major improvement projects.

#### **Whitestone Parish Hall Appeal Fund** Report by Dr Anna Kellagher

During 2013 the Appeal Fund had receipts of £4,281 and made payments of £10,555, thus ending the year in December with assets of £3,074. During the year we were very grateful to receive grants from Rural Aid (£1,850) and the Parish Council (£1,000). Hours spent by volunteers on the refurbishment was tracked during November 2012 to July 2013, and nearly 700 hours were logged during this period. There remains some work to be done but the majority of the refurbishment project has been completed. We are continuing to run the 100 club lottery to raise funds.

#### **Church House Education Foundation** Report by Dr Anna Kellagher

This Trust was set up in the 18th Century by Mr John Splatt, a successful candle maker in Heavitree. It is intended to provide financial assistance for residents of the ancient parish of Whitestone who wish to further their education or training. All applications are assessed in confidence by the Trustees with reference to the provisions of the Trust Deed. Successful grant applications range typically from £50 to £500, depending on particular and personal circumstances.

The Trustees met twice during the year. Grants totalling just over £5,800 were made in response to 15 applications during 2013. The Charity Commission has agreed to an amendment to the Trust documents that replaces the Ancient Parish of Whitestone with the current ecclesiastical parish in order to bring the definition of potential beneficiaries into line with the current understanding of the parish boundaries.

Applications for grants, with details of what is needed, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs J Thomas, 2 Barton Cottages, Whitestone, Exeter, EX4 2LB (Tel: 01392 811547)

#### **Parish Plan Steering Group** Report from Sheila Greenfield

"Parish Plans are a statement of the community as it is now and how it sees itself developing over the next few years. The Groups has had a busy year. Three members of the initial group have left, Margaret Nierop, Parish Councillor Tony Reed and Sam Coulson. All have made an extremely valuable contribution to the initial set up of the group and to the development of the questionnaire phase of the Parish Plan process and we thank them for their time, commitment and input.

We have given monthly updates to the Parish Council on general progress throughout the year and are grateful to the Parish Council for its continued financial support, which assists us in progressing the Parish Plan.

The headline for the year is that we have now completed our development of the questionnaire and have sent our finalised 'hard copy' version off, hopefully to be 'converted' from a physical questionnaire into a format suitable for operating over, and being accessible via the internet, whilst still preserving the respondent's anonymity.

Any 'conversion' needs to be a very close match to our drafted paper questionnaire and we will need to do a 'dummy trial' to make sure that the web-enabled version of the questionnaire works, looks, and feels as close as is possible to the paper version. Once formats have been finalised and protocols for anonymity agreed, we will then set a 'go-live' date and get the physical copies printed. We will then be delivering the physical paper questionnaire to every household within the parish, hopefully with the availability of the option, for those who wish, to make their responses 'on-line.

Within the group, over the last year, we have all learnt that drawing up questionnaires from scratch takes much longer than you would ever expect and since we are sure that others will have been wondering just what has taken us so long we would just like to give you a brief insight into what we have been doing...

Firstly we needed to identify:- (a) key issues that are of relevance to the Parish (we gathered these through the open drop in sessions, coffee mornings etc.) and (b) a set of basic questions to gather appropriate demographics for the Parish.

We then needed to consider how to phrase each issue based question so that it is fair, as neutral as possible and not biased, or leading. The questions need to be targeted, clear and unambiguous, and where necessary have a note for clarity to explain items or terms or wording used in the questions. The range of possible answers needs to cover all reasonable options and to be worded so that when we receive the questionnaire back, the responses can be subjected to relatively simple analysis. We also wanted to give people the opportunity to comment in a free format way, so we have also included space for that, although this free format does make later analysis longer and more complicated.

We have had supportive assistance from both the Community Council

for Devon and Teignbridge District Council in developing our questionnaire. We shared our draft questions with these organisations, and received considerable, honest, objective and in some instances @devils advocate@ feedback. This had led us to receive, reflect and in some cases revise the wording, nature and number of questions from our initial drafting.

We also wanted to try to avoid the questionnaire being either boring in content or confusing in format so we have also trialled a draft of the questionnaire (in confidence) with some individuals within the parish aiming to span the potential age range or respondents, to check whether the questions make sense on first reading, whether the layout is clear etc. We have had very positive and supportive feedback from this exercise and carried out appropriate tweaks.

This has been an iterative process of improvement but it does all take a considerable amount of time.

Of course nothing is perfect but we have tried to take all reasonable precautions to ensure that this whole exercise will be worthwhile. The questions asked and the responses to them form the basic information on which to build the Parish Plan and Action Plan. We thought that was worth taking the time to try to get this phase as good as we possibly could.

**Forward Look.** Once we have had the completed questionnaires back, contents of the survey will be analysed. We will produce survey results and a draft Action Plan for comments. We will then produce the full Parish Plan and an Action Plan to try to take the key ideas forward that have a significant community backing. We will send a summary leaflet of our findings and the main outcomes to every household. We will send you a full plan if you request it.

We would like to thank both the Parish Council and the parishioners for your patients with our efforts. If you do want to discuss anything in connection with the Parish Plan please do contact any member of the Steering Group – Sheila Greenfield (Chair), Andrew Greenfield (Treasurer), Peter Hanson (Secretary), Parish Councillor Mary Belt, Vicki Bryant and Marian Durrant.

#### **Whitestone Parish Council**

The Clerk reported the completion of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 as follows:

Balance Sheet for Year ended 31st March 2014 to be presented to the Audit Commission on 30th June 2014

Opening Balance	£17,283.03	Expenditure	£30,805.79
+Income	<u>£24,547.26</u>	Closing Balance	<u>*£11,024.50</u>
	£41,830.29		£41,830.29

\*closing balance includes  
£100.64 P3 Grant money

The following reports having been received with apologies for non attendance were read to the meeting by the Clerk to the Parish Council

#### **Whitestone Handbell Ringers** Report from Mrs Christine Piper

Whitestone Church Handbell Ringers have been meeting every Wednesday afternoon during the year but sadly the numbers have not increased. We spend enjoyable afternoons practicing and the standard is progressing. We are still seven in number and although we continue to advertise in the Parish Magazine and on the Village Web Site there have been no additions during the past twelve months.

We rang a few carols in Treelands Residential Home at Christmas. Later in the year we rang a short programme at the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall and this was very well received.

#### **Crossway Park** Report from Councillor Mrs Pauline Fisher

Facilities at the Play Park continue to be improved and updated. Thanks to help from Community Service Offenders all the wood has been varnished helping to preserve the equipment and to enhance its appearance. Poles that were rotting have been replaced and repairs carried out, as necessary, as highlighted by the Annual Inspection. This is no longer being done by ROSPA but by a company through the auspices of Came and Company. As this is the company used by the Council for the insurance and its buildings we have simplified matters as well as saved money. Thanks to a grant from the District Electors' Fund we now have a see saw suitable for younger children.

At present a section of the Trim Trail is unsafe to use due to rotting timber but this is being repaired in the near future and may have been done by the time of this report. We are very lucky to have a Play Park in such a beautiful location to be enjoyed by the children of Whitestone and surrounding areas. Proof of this is the number of times parents are heard to make complimentary observations

#### **Whitestone Band of Bell Ringers** Report from James Bryant

The Whitestone Ringers have seen steady improvement in the quality of ringing over the last 12 months. We now have a core of six to seven ringers ranging in experience from 6 months to 20 plus years – however we do still struggle at times to raise 6 for Sundays. We still need new recruits to build on our current band and would warmly welcome anyone who would like to have a try at bell ringing and support this long standing village tradition. We meet for practice on Thursday evenings between 7.30 and 9pm. Please give me a call if you are interested in having a go on 01392 811391.

We have recently commissioned a report from Nicholson Engineering of Bridport regarding the bells and associated equipment and although the report has yet to be received preliminary feedback indicates that there is some essential maintenance required in the tower. This includes relocating the bolts holding the headstock onto the number 5 bell and replacement of the leather washers which are located inside the top of the bell. More seriously we have been advised that there is a danger that the number 3 bell may crack if the bell is not rotated on its headstock. This is because of the repetitive striking of the clapper on the same part of the bell. The ringers are willing to assist with this work or undertake it themselves, as far as possible. However the bells are extremely heavy and some of the work will require specialist engineering input. Finally we also need to invest in repairing our bell ropes or purchasing new ropes. New ropes, for example, are anticipated to cost between £150 and £200 each although the possibility of repairs are being pursued at present which would be much cheaper. As yet we do not know the anticipated costs of the bell repairs. We have some limited funds available but are likely to need to fund-raise to meet anticipated costs. We were also advised that there continues to be a leak in the roof which if not addressed would affect the wooden frame which holds the bells in place and we have detected woodworm in the timbers in the tower which probably needs treatment.

On a more positive note a few weeks ago Whitestone hosted the Deanery Ringing Evening and this was well attended by ringers from across the deanery with about 30 attending. Many thanks are due to members of the band for providing refreshments and cakes for the visitors. There have also been a number of visiting touring bands of ringers who have visited the tower this year including a group from Leicestershire. In general it has been a positive year for the ringers, however, we need to address the maintenance issues to prevent any serious damage to the bells.

#### **Village Voices, Whitestone Community Choir** Report from Liz Watkins

The choir has had a very successful year with several concerts and participation in the Devon Performing Arts Festival. The group sang at the Gardening Club afternoon in May last year and have been invited again this year. We then sang in the hall in July although the evening was entitled Music in the Gardens.

We returned to the hall for its opening following refurbishment in September and composed a song "Brand New hall" especially for the occasion. It was received well.

Christmas seemed to come quickly after that and we went to Carousel Court (Sheltered accommodation) in St Thomas to entertain, putting on a half hour programme of Christmas Music, including part of the Hallelujah Chorus and Santa Claus is comin' to town. We also sang at the Social Club Christmas Meeting the following week.

We have a well balanced group of ten sopranos, ten altos and eight baritones, who are very hard working and attend well.

We invited Colin Rea of "Big Noise Chorus" to coach us in February. He came and worked with the choir for an hour and a half one Saturday afternoon and was able to help with group and individual problems. I recorded the whole session and placed it in the Village Voices DropBox facility so that all members can refer back to the advice. We hope to invite Colin again.

The high point of the year was competing in the Devon Performing Arts Festival where we narrowly lost to the St Thomas Gospel choir. It was an enjoyable afternoon, a first for the choir and for many members. We sang very well and the adjudicator was complimentary ending her remarks, "A brave choice of programme with the second song, "Rhythm of Life" particularly impressive.

#### **Whitestone Gardening Club** Report from Derek Fisher

Membership continues to hold up well, despite losing Jean Christopher, a long standing member at the end of the year. We have finally managed to obtain the geranium "Patricia" which has been planted in the Community Garden in recognition of the involvement of Pat Martin in both the club and indeed the whole community.

/continued

## Whitestone Gardening Club (continued)

The club held its annual plant sale and cream tea during July, this time with a draw and entertainment from Village Voices and were pleased to be able to donate some £120 to the Force Cancer Charity from the proceeds.

Winter meetings included talks on Rosemoor in Winter, specialist plants for shade, pruning trees and shrubs and how to grow delicious vegetables and the history of Veitch orchids.

A most enjoyable evening was spent visiting the garden of Lewis Cottage at Spreyton followed by an evening meal at the Tom Copley. The day visit to Cothay Manor near Wellington was poorly attended but the club came together in numbers for the annual Christmas Dinner at the Travellers Rest.

The club continues to maintain the Community Garden and plant up other areas in the village as well as including a 'Garden Tips' feature in the Parish Magazine.

### Public Participation

Parishioners Mrs Greenfield, Mrs Taylor and Mr Hanson raised concerns about Councillor Nierop's report regarding the possibility of selling School Houses. Cllr Nierop suggested that they first read the report and that discussion should be left to the special public meeting will be held on 21st May at 7.30 in the Parish Hall, to which all members of the Parish are invited. The meeting was informed that the Working Party Report would be placed on the Whitestone Website and the Parish Clerk distributed copies to those interested parties.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm with Cllr Nierop thanking everyone for their interesting reports.

The following reports were not read to the meeting as they were not received in time but were reported to the Parish Council meeting on 8th May 2014

### Cuban Airwaves - Whitestone Parish Hall Report for Dave Lee

Cuban Airwaves is a group of amateur musicians who meet once a month in the Parish Hall to play Cuban and Latin style music. It consists of five guitarists, a flautist, a clarinettist, a bongo player, a drummer, a pianist, a singer and three maraca players who also accompany the singer and dance a little.

At present around 14 regular attendees who pay £1.50 per session. All comers are welcome and enthusiasm is probably more important than competence. A number of people had musical instruments in their attics and welcomed the opportunity to play them again along with other people.

We started in Spring 2013 when the village pantomime trio decided to meet more often and invite other interested people to join them. It has grown and developed and the group have performed at the social club music evenings, the village fete, the New Year's Eve party and other local events. The emphasis is on making as good a sound as possible and having fun with music.

### Table Tennis - Whitestone Parish Hall Report for Robert Prouse

Table tennis takes place regularly in the Parish Hall on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 10 pm, except on Bank Holidays or when the Social Club is meeting on a Monday. It costs just £1.50 per session and there are up to four tables available.

Over the last year everyone's standard of play has improved. A doubles tournament, with pairs drawn at random, added interest to the Autumn programme. It revealed some strongly competitive players - and one outstanding score keeper!

These sociable evenings are well supported, attracting a wide range of age and ability. Whilst being good fun they also contribute to fitness. Everyone is made welcome though children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

### Ecclesiastical Parish of Whitestone with Oldridge Report from Dr J Richards (Churchwarden)

There are three churches in the Parish: St Catherine's - the parish church, St Thomas - a daughter church at Oldridge and St John - a building licensed for worship at Pathfinder. The churches are part of the North Kenn Mission Community. The incumbent of the Mission Community is Revd Martin Wood who is assisted by Canon John Tutton and Revd Professor Tim Gorrige. There are 17 members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Services are held every week in either St Catherine's church or the Parish Hall for Saturday Surprise, and generally twice a week at Pathfinder. Three services were held at Oldridge - at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. A Lent course was held in various venues across the Mission Community, and a 'Christianity Explored' course was run at Whitestone House between October and December. A Family Service in August was followed by a picnic in the churchyard, a treasure hunt and visits up the tower. The Harvest Service was followed by a supper with music from the Handbell Ringers and a 'Great British Bake Off Competition' for the best Harvest Loaf. Donations from the Harvest service were taken to St Petrock's.

A new native hedge was planted by volunteers round the Churchyard Extension inside the replacement fence, and a new set of hymn books was donated to the church. The production of the Parish Magazine is coordinated by the PCC.

Successful fund-raising coffee mornings have been held at Pathfinder church to assist with financing the installation of a church toilet, catering area and improvement to access to the building as required by Health and Safety Regulations.

The Benefice choir have provided music for festivals and team services, and the bellringers have rung for Sunday services through the year.

These Minutes were presented to the Whitestone Parish Council meeting on 8th May 2014 with the addition of the reports from Cuban Airways, Table Tennis Club and Ecclesiastical Parish of Whitestone with Oldridge when they were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true copy.

## Tandem Skydive Guinness World Record Attempt!

At the beginning of 2014 Hospiscare were looking for volunteers to help them raise money by taking part in the biggest ever tandem skydive event on 21st June at Dunkeswell Airfield.

Jennifer (magazine editor) and Anna Kellagher have each had a rush of blood to the head and will be jumping out of an aircraft at 15,000 feet (attached to someone who hopefully knows what they are doing). This is in aid of Hospiscare, and all money raised will be going to this local charity.



We would be delighted if you would be able to sponsor either or both of us for this skydive. We have a Just-giving page ([www.just-giving.com/Anna-Kellagher](http://www.just-giving.com/Anna-Kellagher)) and sponsorship forms (if you happen to see us) or can be contacted on 01392 273864.

Thank you in anticipation!!!

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## THE GREEN CORNER

Now that Summer's here(?)

If you've got a boiler and hot water cylinder with an immersion heater in it and you need some hot water, which is better - put on the immersion heater or switch on the boiler? You'll probably be paying about 12½p per kWhr for heat from your boiler if it's LPG powered (assuming £60/47kg cylinder of gas) but electricity will generally be more - unless you're on an off-peak electric tariff.

But that's not the end of the calculation. For a start, when you put the boiler on, it takes time to warm up so the gas that's used for this is wasted. Then you've got wasted heat lost from the pipes between the boiler and the hot water cylinder to account for. And, assuming you've now switched all your radiators off, you may well still have a towel rail switched on.

So you may well find the heat to warm up your hot water is costing you more like 18p per kWhr,- which could well be more than what you're paying for electricity.

As this is the green corner, we should also compare the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from various fuels. For coal, oil and LPG these are in the ratios: 8.3, 6.3 and 5.2. Natural gas is only 4.5 but of course not available to us. Some of the electricity supply companies can put you on a "green" tariff where your electricity comes 100% from renewable sources so, if you want to be really green, this is the way to go.

Hopefully that's been of some interest and use to you. Just to finish though, you may have read about the Renewable Heat Initiative, with which you can get paid for installing various renewable heating systems. If you have, and were thinking of getting a solar hot water panel, it would be worth looking at an alternative which is to get a solar PV (electricity) panel (and get paid for what you produce) and also get a device called an "Immersun" which costs about £450 installed and allows you to divert all your spare PV-generated electricity to your immersion heater - effectively doing what a solar hot water panel would do but at much lower cost and without any maintenance worries.

## CARLING LAGER NEEDS A HOME!

Whitstone Players has 28 cans of Carling lager which didn't sell at the panto. They are dated August 2014 and are 440ml each, 4%.

67p each (Sainsbury's price 75p). If you'd like them, please call Peter Hanson on 811878



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# GOOD COMPANIONS

Meeting In Pathfinder Village Hall --- 2.30pm  
Agenda for June

4th June.....Christine Trigger.....Tommy Cooper,  
Magician/Comedian  
18th June..... Gay White.....Various Verse

For our last meeting in April we welcomed Val Facey who gave us an insight to the wonderful work that is done by all those who man the 'Mercy Ships' delivering hope and healing to some of the world's poorest people.

Our next speaker, Simon Dell ,gave us a very interesting talk on the history of The Ten Tors challenge from when it first started in 1960 until the present day, over 50 years, and still going as strong as ever. His talk, with the aid of slides, was very appropriate as it was this weekend that the challenge was taking place.

We are all looking forward to our coach outing to the Swannery, and Sub Tropical Gardens, praying for good weather.

We look forward to seeing you all again in June.

Angela Paddy, Chairman 01647 61934  
John Hunt, Secretary 01647 61958

## JUST FOR FUN

"THE £1.99 SPECIAL"

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the 'Seniors Special' was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for £1.99

"Sounds good", my wife said. "But I don't want the eggs".

"Then I'll have to charge you £2.50 because you're ordering a la carte", the waitress warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously.

"Yes!" stated the waitress.

"I'll take the £1.99 Seniors Special then", my wife said.

"How do you want your eggs?", the waitress asked.

"Raw and in the shell", my wife replied.

She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

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### BOOKING THE PARISH HALL

Please contact the Booking Clerk, Pauline Fisher to arrange bookings for the Parish Hall.

Pauline Fisher

Tel: 01392 811979

email: [kingfisher.dormers@gmail.com](mailto:kingfisher.dormers@gmail.com)

If you have any comments to make on the content, layout or any other matters concerning this magazine, please contact the Editor: Mrs Jennifer Kellagher, East Rowhorne, Nadderwater, Exeter EX4 2LQ 01392 273864.

We always welcome any suggestions to improve the magazine.

If you wish to place an advertisement, please contact the editor for the current rates.

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## MAY ON THE FARM

Glorious May, everything growing and alive, making up for the dead time of winter. Greens of every shade, life popping out everywhere. We watch to see how many deer we have. We used to rent the deer shooting out and it made sense for the stalker to ensure there were a lot of deer to pay the rent with. When we said we'd do it ourselves, as a present, the stalker shot as many deer as he could. We are very happy to see only 20 at a time, not 200, which decimated the crops. I'm expecting the roe deer to revive in numbers; they were crowded out by the bigger deer. They hide up in little bits of scrub, less than you think could hold a beast. I walked in the Arboretum, and one jumped out and ran to another bit of undergrowth, hidden from my view.



The wild boar also took a hammering. They are bright and very mobile, so left the farm while the stalkers were so active; we'll see how long they take to return. They and the large badger population have made life difficult for hedgehogs. With less boar, it will be interesting to see who gains, badgers or hedgehogs. For myself, I'd love to see more hedgehogs, quiet, snuffling creatures.

**CROPS** - after the wet winter, just like in the garden, the soil took ages to be able to handle without damage on the clay ground. We got spring barley drilled in March on the lighter red land, and then some we put in last month on the heavy clay. The later crop will never yield as much, so we changed our plans on some and put in a very early growing grass, Westerwolds, and we'll cut that and turn the cows out on it early in the spring next year. I've always wanted to grow it, and it's never fitted our rotation. The wet spring gave us the opportunity to try something new.

The maize is drilled, and just coming up, pale green lines threading across the red soil. In four or five months it will give about fourteen tonnes to the acre to feed to cows. Looking at the seed, and then the little plants, you can't imagine it could do that, trapping so much summer sun to produce winter milk.

**YOUNGSTOCK** - The heifers are growing on. We calve cows in February and then in August, and heifers take two years to become milking cows. That means we've always got at least four lots of heifers to think about. We have the baby calves exploring the world for the first time; self reliant nine month old heifers, the fifteen month old teenagers getting in calf themselves, and the heifers to calve in August, now getting a little slowed down by the calves inside them, due this August. Each group has its own needs, and James has taken on their responsibility. It works much better to have someone whose first job is the heifers, and they are benefiting from the attention, growing better and shiny with health.

**COWS** - The cows are in a comic chaos of lust. We delay serving them till mid May, so almost all the spring cows have their minds on sex for three or four days out of each twenty-one. They ride each other, alluringly rest their chins on another's flank, and stand with what must



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be frustration while another cow jumps, making pelvic thrusts. 'Bulling well', we say, and it is funny to watch. We serve them to dairy bulls, straws of semen at this stage. They will meet our Belted Galloways later, for now we want calves that will come into the dairy herd. We are trying out some Jersey bulls, for the creamy full flavoured and firm-proteined milk, as well as the efficiency of those little cows. We'll see how they look next February as calves, as cows in February 2017, and as cheese this time four years' away.

**CHEESE** - It's the busiest time in the cheese dairy, with all that rich milk from the fast-growing grass. Our little hybrid cows keep the richness of their milk even with just a grass diet, unlike the big Holstein cows, whose milk goes thin if you don't feed them lots of corn. So the cheese stays in good balance all the way through the year. Our gentle handling of the milk now means we keep more of the solids in the cheese, and the cheese has been grading beautifully for the last year since we put in very measured pumping. That all means even more curd to handle in the coolers. In the warmer weather, we use large fans to cool the curd while cheddaring, salting and moulding. We want to put the curd away in the moulds cool enough so that the cheeses do not generate carbon dioxide - we aren't making Swiss cheese.

More cheese made is more young cheese to turn by hand, so the work increases in the store as well.

We cut, pack and box cheese to send all over the globe. Now about a third of our cheese goes abroad, mainly to America and Australia, and also to all places in between. I'm very proud to hear of it on its travels, so please send me pictures of our little bits of Newton St Cyres if you see it anywhere.

We are excited to announce the opening of Quicke's Farm Kitchen with an official Royal opening June 10th. Quicke's Farm Kitchen will be headed by local celebrity chef Deborah Custance Baker and offer a delicious array of local artisan cuisine.

Dates for your Diary - The first event being held in our new kitchen will be Quicke's Cheese and Wine Evening taking place May 29th

Open Farm Sunday June 8th 11am-4pm, we will have a variety of activities, including trailer rides, cheese making, cow milking and much more!

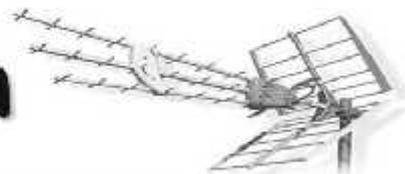
**AWARDS** - In the process of writing this diary, I received great news from the Taste of the West Awards 2014, we picked up two golds (Vintage & Mature), two silvers (Smoked & Goats) and bronze (Buttery) this result is a real testament to all the hard work from the Quicke's teams!

**RECIPE** - Elderflower Cheeseburger.

Ollie Vallis of Cheese Cellar sent me this lovely recipe. I love our elderflower cheese; you can't tell where the elderflower stops and the butteriness of the cheese starts. Ollie made a burger with some really good minced beef, grilled it over a barbeque, added a slice of Quicke's Traditional Elderflower Cheddar. I had mine with salad from the garden and sat in bliss in the sun.

Mary Quicke

# Kevin Osborne



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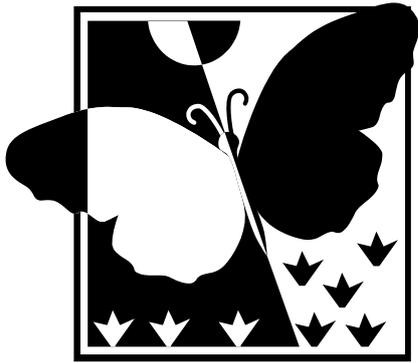
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## Cuban Airwaves Whitestone's own Salsa Band

Every month "Cuban Airwaves" meet to play a set playlist in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome, especially any budding acoustic musicians, singers or percussion players.



We play popular Cuban and other Latin music and sheet music is available if required. We meet on a Friday evening at 7:30 pm so please ring if you are interested to find out details of this month's session.

The next date for our meeting is:

**20th June** (Main Hall)

Please make a note in your diary.

Call Dave Lee on 01392-811579 or email at [dave.lee1071@gmail.com](mailto:dave.lee1071@gmail.com)

There is a small charge of £1.50 to cover hire of hall.

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Next meeting: 17th June

Royal Oak

Nadderwater

## LONGDOWN VILLAGE FETE

Longdown is holding its annual village fete at **Holcombe Burnell Barton** on **21st June at 2pm.**

The Barton is a picturesque setting for the fete and is next door to the 15th century church, St. John the Baptist. There will be games, a family dog show, tea and beer tents and a bar-b-que. Also on offer are various stalls including cakes, ice cream, books, bric-a-brac, cosmetics, jewellery and more.

For further details or if you want to hold a stall at the fete contact Marg on 01392 811315.

Sheila Friend 01392 811821

# WHITESTONE GARDENING CLUB

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Then join our friendly gardening club

We meet every third Monday of the month  
at 7:30pm in Whitestone Parish Hall  
Contact - Gill Oakey, 811585

## JOBS TO DO FOR JUNE

This should be summer at last ! and time to enjoy  
the fruits and flowers in your garden.  
Here are a few tips for good fruit crops.

1. Heavy crops of plums can be thinned early in  
the month as this prevents the brittle branches  
breaking.
2. Apples and pears should not be thinned until  
after the June (drop)!
3. Gooseberries can be thinned this give larger  
fruits, the prunnings can be stewed !
4. Strawberry runners can be pegged down to  
make new plants for next summer.
5. Tie up blackberries to keep tidy and for easier  
fruit gathering, after fruiting old canes can be  
cut out.

A month to enjoy the long summer evenings ,

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## GENERAL REMINDER

If any club or group has used or moved chairs or tables in the Parish Hall, would they please ensure that items are returned to their proper location .

## TABLE TENNIS

Regular Table Tennis takes place in the Parish Hall on Monday evenings 7:30 to 10 pm except when the Social Club is meeting on a Monday or it's a Bank Holiday. This means, for **June**, we will be meeting on the **2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th**.

Everybody is welcome for an evening's fun, entertainment and fitness workout for only £1.50. Up to four tables available.

Just remember that children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

## WHITESTONE WALKERS

Next Walk - **8th June 2014**.

Meet at Whitestone Parish Hall car park at 9:30 am or at Crediton Station car park at 10:00am.

The circular walk starts at Crediton Station and goes along quiet roads and footpaths.

Please wear suitable footwear as some of the footpaths can be muddy..

Distance approximately 5 miles.

## CHURCH BELL RINGING

We practise most Thursday evenings at St Catherine's Church from 7:30 to 9:00 pm with the first 30 minutes reserved for beginners.

If you would like to learn, find out more, or are a visiting ringer, we would be very pleased to see you. To confirm that we are practising on a particular Thursday, please telephone James Bryant on 01392 811391.

## WHITESTONE ARTS & CRAFTS MORNING

(Co-ordinator Sandy Oxford on 078669 20719)

Autumn meetings will begin on **Thursday**

**11th September 2014** and that may be when you try your hand at something new, inspired by something seen over the summer!

For more information, please contact Sandy Oxford.

## WHITESTONE BABY & TODDLER GROUP

For all children aged 0-5yrs. Tuesday - 10:00am to noon.

A place to play, make friends and have a chat!  
£2.00 first child and 50p for each additional child.

To see the full list of activities and fun, please contact us at:

- [whitestonebabyandtoddlergroup@live.co.uk](mailto:whitestonebabyandtoddlergroup@live.co.uk)
- our Facebook page, or
- our [whitestone-devon.org.uk](http://whitestone-devon.org.uk) page

## BOOK CLUB

(Co-ordinator Sandy Oxford on 078669 20719)

Our May meeting saw a very enjoyable first for us: a playreading!

Next month is another first for several of us. It is John Le Carré's, "A Most Wanted Man".

The next Book Club meeting, at the Parish Hall, is on **Monday, 9th June** - 2 to 4 pm. Cost £1.50

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Whitestone Parish Council meeting will be on: Thursday **12 June** at 7.30pm.

Members of the Public and Press are invited to attend.

### WHITESTONE SOCIAL CLUB

(Coordinator Pauline Fisher, tel. 01392 811979)

Forthcoming Events are usually on Monday:

**23rd June Music Evening**

**28th July Games Evening.**

**August TBA Possible Treasure Hunt !**

**22nd Sept Cheese Talk**

All 'Bring & Share' food & drink evenings are a great way to meet other people in the village. In particular newcomers to the village can get to know people, make new friends and find out what is going on. There's also a book swap club. Most meetings are in Parish hall and start at 7:30 pm but please note the exceptions.

### WHITESTONE HANDBELL RINGERS

(for information, contact Mrs Chris Piper 01392 811365)

If anyone would like to join us, we welcome both experienced and learners alike. At present we practice every Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 3 p.m.

### GARDENING CLUB

(Secretary: Derek Fisher, tel. 01392 811979)

The warmer months are now with us and June sees the start of our outdoor Summer programme. As usual the first event on **Monday, 16th June**, is an evening visit to a local garden - Helen Brown's garden at Fenny Bridges, followed by a pub meal at the Tally Ho at Countess Weir. All members have received a separate flyer on the Summer programme but I do need the slips returned indicating numbers.

Meet at the Parish Hall at 6pm to share transport. Non members are welcome to join us for the evening at a cost of £3.50 (excluding food!!) but must contact me by 13th June.

### PILATES IN THE PARISH HALL

Please join us for Pilates with an expert instructor.

Thursdays 6.45pm. Classes cost £6.50 or £30 for 6.

### BENEFICE CHOIR

Anyone who would like to join the choir and sing please contact Jackie Lightband (811527). New recruits always welcome.

### SHORT MAT BOWLS

(Contact David Oakey tel. 01392 811585)

With three sessions a week, it should be easy to find a time suitable for a game of short mat bowls. Talk to anyone who has played and they will confirm what fun everyone is having. So if you have not played short mat bowls come along and give it a try! £1.50 per session includes tea/coffee and a biscuit at the break.

Flat soled shoes with no heels, or socks please.

Tuesday 7.30 to 9.30 pm

Wednesday 10.00 to noon

Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm ( Not 20th June)

### VILLAGE VOICES

(Liz Watkins tel.01392 811285)

This month, rehearsals and performances are booked for the following : **June 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th**

Same times as usual: - Thursday at 7.45 - 9.30 pm

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<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>		
Wed	04 June 2014	Pathfinder Good Companions - "Tommy Cooper, Magician/Comedian" - Christine Trigger - Pathfinder Village Hall - 2:30 pm
Sun	08 June 2014	Whitestone Walkers - Meet at Parish Hall car park - 09:30 am
Mon	09 June 2014	Book Club - Parish Hall - 2.00 to 4.00 pm
Thu	12 June 2014	Parish Council Meeting - Billiard Room - Parish Hall - 7:30 pm
Mon	16 June 2014	Gardening Club - Visit to garden at Fenny Bridges - Meet at Hall - 6 pm
<b>Mon</b>	<b>16 June 2014</b>	<b>LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR JULY MAGAZINE</b>
Fri	20 June 2014	Cuban Airwaves - Parish Hall - 7:30 to 9:30 pm
Tue	17 June 2014	Folk at the Oak - Royal Oak - 8pm
Wed	18 June 2014	Pathfinder Good Companions - "Various Verse" - Gay White Pathfinder Village Hall - 2:30 pm
Sat	21 June 2014	Longdown Village Fete - Holcombe Burnell Barton - 2 pm
Sat	21 June 2014	Hospiscare Tandem Skydive - Dunkerswell Airfield - Please sponsor.
Mon	23 June 2014	Social Club - Music Evening - Parish Hall - 7:30 pm

<b>WEEKLY EVENTS IN MAY 2014</b>		
	Dates	Event
Mon	2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th	Table Tennis - Whitestone Parish Hall - 7:30 to 10:00 pm
Tues	3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th	Baby & Toddler Group - Whitestone Parish Hall - 10 am to noon
Tues	3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th	Short Mat Bowls - Whitestone Parish Hall - 7:30 to 9:30 pm
Wed	4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	Short Mat Bowls - Whitestone Parish Hall - 10:00 am to noon
Thu	5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	Pilates - Whitestone Parish Hall - 6:45 to 7:45 pm
Thu	5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	Village Voices - Whitestone Parish Hall - 7:45 to 9:30 pm
Fri	6th, 13th, 27th	Short Mat Bowls - Whitestone Parish Hall - 7:30 to 9:30 pm