

Raleigh Rag



RETIRING FROM THE PCC - THANK YOU LADIES

The Combe Raleigh Newsletter
ISSUE 209 June 2026

Parish Meetings

There has been one Parish Meeting in May 2026. The Minutes are summarised here (full Minutes are on <https://comberaleigh.org>):

The **meeting on 7 May 2026** was chaired by Tony Dezell and attended by 24 local government electors of the Parish.

The Chair and Vice Chair stood-down. T Dezell was nominated and duly elected as Chair. S Sexton advised the meeting that she did not wish to stand as Vice Chair for a further year. Mr C Kemp was nominated and duly elected as Vice Chair. The following appointments were made: J Wardle - Clerk; I Downs - Internal Auditor; Chris Padget - Tree Warden; and Ollie Williams - Emergency Committee Chair. The Planning Sub-Committee (the Chair, Vice Chair and B Churchill) was reappointed. Discussions are ongoing with EDDC re Powers to pay a Clerk (if required) and to buy insurance. It was agreed that a 200-litre grit bin should be purchased for the crossroads at the top of the hill; and that an application should be made to the DCC Locality Budget. Church clock maintenance – the two quotes were discussed, and it was agreed to accept the quote from Gillett & Johnson.

An update was provided on the various water and debris issues on Clapper Lane. The timescale for the work on the road adjacent to Edwards Close would be Tip Top Trees to thin and cut back hedge ASAP; Glendinning to start verge/gulley works during school summer holiday with a road closure for 2 days and a parking restriction for approximately 10-12 days (while the concrete sets). The pros and cons of putting up signs to discourage dog fouling were discussed and it was agreed not to purchase signs. Exposed sewer pipe – the response from the Environment Agency was discussed and agreed to be totally inadequate and unacceptable given the pollution risk should the pipe rupture. A further letter will be sent to the Environment Agency (copied to Southwest Water and the MP) emphasizing the serious nature of the situation. Volunteers were sought for undertaking minor road repairs in the village to help prevent the formation of more serious potholes.

The Annual Accounts showed a balance of £20,173 with £3,820 being attributable to the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund. The Annual Governance Statement, Annual Accounting Statement, Certificate of Exemption were approved. The exercise of public rights to inspect financial records for 2025/2026 will be available 3 June 2026 to 14 July 2026.

B Churchill reported on the Village Hall activities during the last 12 months and thanked all the Committee members and other volunteers who have helped to improve the facilities and deliver enjoyable events. The Chair thanked O Williams for stepping into his role as Emergency Committee Chair at short notice. R Mapleston reported that a new Rector has been appointed and that the Friends of St Nicholas Church has been established to raise funds for the maintenance of the fabric of the church building. V Moran reported that given the decision to revert to black and white printing of the Rag, it is anticipated that the current available funds, together with any contributions from the Parish Meeting to cover the distribution of official Parish Meeting information, will be sufficient to cover production costs for 2026/27.



Combe Raleigh Village Hall News – June 2026

Events Round-Up

Our Easter Bingo on Saturday 11 April was a great success, with the hall filled to capacity. The Easter egg prizes were enjoyed by both adults and children, creating a wonderful atmosphere for everyone who attended. A big thank you goes to Helen and Jenny for organising the bingo and prizes, and to Brian for his unique and entertaining bingo calling, which kept everyone smiling throughout the evening. Together with the bar takings, the event raised a very welcome profit, which will go a long way towards helping with the ongoing maintenance of the hall.

Upcoming Events

Craft and Produce Show – Sunday 19 July, 2.30pm – 4.30pm

We are delighted to welcome back the ever-popular Craft and Produce Show to the Village Hall, now celebrating its 35th year. There will be classes for flowers and floral art, fruit and vegetables, produce and baking, crafts, photography and children's entries, giving everyone the chance to take part and perhaps even win a prize. Visitors can also enjoy refreshments, browse the plant stall and try their luck in the raffle. Open to all, this much-loved community event promises an enjoyable afternoon for exhibitors and visitors alike.

Funday – Saturday 29 August

Join us for an afternoon of family fun, games and entertainment at the Village Hall.

Harvest Supper – Saturday 3 October (provisional)

Our traditional Harvest Supper returns this autumn, bringing the community together for an enjoyable evening of food and friendship.

Bonfire Night – Friday 6 November

Wrap up warm and come along for our annual Bonfire Night celebrations.

Village Hall Centenary

This November, our Village Hall celebrates its 100th anniversary. To mark the occasion, we are planning a small exhibition of village life over the past century, along with a celebratory tea on Saturday 28 November. We hope past and present villagers will join us to celebrate this special milestone at the heart of our community. If you support the idea or can share items or stories, please get in touch.

Maintenance & Ongoing Work

In conjunction with our centenary celebrations, we are prioritising maintenance work on the building's frontage, including repairs to the steps, improvements to the garden, and freshening up the paintwork. These enhancements are aimed at improving the hall's appearance and supporting future bookings.

Can You Help?

The Village Hall Committee is always pleased to welcome new members who are interested in village life. You are invited to attend a meeting as a guest with no obligation to join, and your ideas and enthusiasm can help shape the future of the hall. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports the Village Hall, whether by volunteering, attending events, or sharing news. Your contributions help keep the hall at the heart of our community.

COMBE RALEIGH VILLAGE HALL

35TH ANNUAL

CRAFT AND PRODUCE SHOW

19TH JULY 2026

2.30 – 4.30 pm



ADMISSION
(includes a hot
or soft drink)

ADULTS £1
CHILDREN 50p



FLOWERS AND
FLORAL ART



FRUIT AND
VEGETABLE



PRODUCE AND
BAKING



CRAFTS



PHOTOGRAPHY



CHILDREN'S
CLASSES



REFRESHMENTS



PLANT STALL



RAFFLE



PRIZES



OPEN TO ALL

SCAN QR CODE
for more details,
SCHEDULE, ENTRY FORMS



St Nicholas Church News

“Wow! What a space.” It’s so much lighter and brighter!”

If you’ve been into the church in the past couple of months these thoughts may have flashed through your mind. With the removal of some of the pews (photos on the next page) a large welcoming space has been created that has already been favourably received and put to good use. We now have somewhere to sit and chat after services on Sundays, and an area where refreshments can be served after concerts or performances. Although this is only a temporary arrangement we intend applying for a faculty to make it permanent.



Running through church events of the last couple of months there are several that are worthy of note. We are absolutely delighted that the appointment of Revd Tracey Voysey as the new Rector of Honiton has been confirmed. Tracey has become a familiar figure in the area, taking services and supporting activities in all of her six churches.

Easter was, as always, a joyous celebration and the beautiful colourful floral arrangements on Easter Day added to the promise of renewed life. A few weeks later the Waterfolk concert was a huge delight as we listened to a mix of music and songs from around the globe. Afterwards wine, nibbles and conversation rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The Plant Sale (and we were grateful to be blessed with good weather) was another occasion for Combe Raleigh to show hospitality to gardening enthusiasts (and to refresh them with tea and cake!) The profit of over £2700 is testament to the organisational abilities and hard work and of Sue Farrell and Val Moran along with all the back-up they have received along the way and on the day itself.

Following Steve’s Polhill’s unexpected death we have no regular church organist but we are grateful to Ken Wood who has been filling in on the Sundays when he is not playing elsewhere. We’re also delighted that two other musicians have offered to help out whenever possible. Janet Reynolds, one of our stalwart bell ringers and also a pianist, has ‘taken on’ the organ and John Twaddle, a very competent flautist, has kept our hymn-singing ‘in tune’ on other Sundays.

Changes are afoot in ‘who does what’ in the church. Following the APCM there is a new PCC. After many years Carol Thompson, Ruth, Rosemary and Valerie Brabrook have retired from playing an active role in church affairs, although they will not disappear completely! They were each presented with a bouquet and thanked for all they have done over the years.

Rosemary





GARDEN FÊTE

Saturday 1 August • 2–6pm

Combe Hill

Combe Raleigh, Honiton

By kind permission of the Lazarus family

Entrance: Adults £5 • Children free
Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome

Cream teas and entertainment on the terrace,
garden games on the lawn,
garden and woodland walks

Extra charges for stalls, sideshows,
pony rides, competitions, raffle,
silent auction and lots more...



In aid of the St Nicholas Church building and grounds fund

Happy Wanderer

Our walking group continues to explore this wonderful area and recently passed Cannington Viaduct. Some of you will know this relic of the Axminster to Lyme Regis light railway.

Before the advent of larger ships Lyme harbour was a flourishing port and Lyme itself a popular holiday destination. Both features suggested that a rail link would be popular. It was well used, if never profitable. Work started in 1900 and the line operated until Nov 1965.



As you might imagine the track from Axminster to Lyme required a gradient of 2.5% and very tight bends leading to a variety of locomotives being tried before the two 4-4-4 units were discovered. They worked continuously until 1947 when a third was added to haul the 6 coaches and freight, on up to six return journeys a day in summer.

Following the contours of the land led it to the highest point where the 100m long viaduct was needed to span the River Lim. The viaduct was cast on site layer by layer using local aggregate and cement hauled up from the harbour by a wire cable system. The second tallest such structure to be built, but one with an issue! The embankment to the west was not properly stabilised and began to squeeze the arches at that end, hence the brick infill of my picture. This did the trick and the line opened successfully.

It was possible to board your Lyme Regis carriage at Waterloo and, having been split away from the mainline carriages at Axminster, arrive at Lyme station high up above the town, stopping at the buffers just before the land slopes rapidly away to the sea!

A rumour, no more, is that the local amateur model railway enthusiasts are seeking permission to run trains over the viaduct again shortly. Possibly a chance to walk across this local landmark. Although walking under or over this truly spectacular grade 2 listed structure is sure to give you a great thrill. Check it out if you don't know it.

Blackdown Hills Eco Hub - right here in Combe Raleigh



It's 3 years since we started our food growing journey at the Eco Hub! We had over 30 people join us at the start, planting rows of potatoes and onions in the corner of a field - so much has changed since then! Over the past three years, our community veg garden has produced many kilos of organic vegetables and herbs - a lot grown from heritage seeds, all shared freely with the people who helped grow them and with local food larders and food sharing projects across the area. In a world of ultra-processed food and fragile supply chains, there's something quietly radical about putting your hands in good soil and growing real food together.

We'd love more people to join us. Whether you can spare an hour a week or a full season, your help directly strengthens our community's food resilience - one seed at a time. Come grow with us at Blackdown Hills Eco Hub. No experience needed - just a willingness to dig in. You're welcome to come along whenever you wish from 14-16:30 hrs. on Wednesdays and 11-13:00 hrs. on Saturdays. You can find us at Trimplants Nursery, Combe Raleigh EX14 4UL



Free Basil

Here is an easy money-saving tip courtesy of Val Moran. Buy a pot of supermarket basil (designed to die quickly). Cut some of the longest stems, strip the lower leaves and put these cuttings in a glass of water.

Within a couple of weeks they will have grown roots and can be potted into multipurpose compost, (or soil if you don't have any compost).

Repeat as necessary and you will never have to buy basil again!



A30/35 Renewals Programme

In September 2026, the responsibility for the day-to-day operation, maintenance, and renewal of the A30/35 route will transfer to National Highways. In preparation for the handover, a significant renewals programme will be undertaken in stages:

23 May to 6 June - A30 in both directions between Turks Head and Langford
Closed overnight (8pm – 6am), weeknights only.

7 to 20 June - A35 in both directions between Honiton and Taunton Cross
Closed overnight (8pm – 6am), weeknights only.

21 to 27 June - A35 in both directions between Taunton Cross and Axminster
Closed overnight (8pm – 6am), weeknights only.

1 to 18 July - A35 in both directions between Axminster and Bridport
Closed overnight (8pm – 6am), weeknights only.

19 July to 8 August - A35 in both directions between Bridport and Dorchester
Closed overnight (8pm – 6am), weeknights only.

10 to 15 August - A35 Dorchester Bypass in both directions
Closed overnight (8pm – 6am), weeknights only.

17 August – 5 September - A35 in both directions between Stinsford and Bere Regis
Closed overnight (8pm – 6am), weeknights only.

Signed diversions will be in place. Please follow signed routes, not Satnav instructions.

Please remember that closures can change at short notice. You can check the latest information on the Traffic England site [Maintenance schemes - South West - National Highways](#)

What's On Locally – June and July

<https://beehivehoniton.co.uk/>



COLOURS OF TIME (15)

Thurs 4 Jun 2pm Adult £8 U16 £7 In French with Subtitles

KISS THE TEACHER (ABBA TRIBUTE) Fri 5 Jun 7.30pm £23

EXETER OPERA GROUP PRESENTS CARMEN

Sat 6 Jun 7.30pm General Admission (21+) £15. Students (16 -21) £12. Children 12-16 £8

WOMEN IN ROCK - 10 Year Anniversary Tour Thurs 11 Jun 7.30pm £28

GLENROTHAN (12A) Fri 12 Jun 2pm / 7.30pm Adult £8. U16's £7 + Optional Lunch £7

THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE (PG)

Sat 13 Jun 4pm Adult £8. Under 16's £7. Family of 4 £27

THE LEGACY SHOW: FLEETWOOD MAC, STEVIE NICKS & TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS Fri 19 Jun 7.30pm £27

MADFABULOUS (12A) Sat 20 Jun Adult £8. U16's £7

THE ODD COUPLE (PG) Thurs 25 Jun 2pm £5 - includes hot drink, biscuits and chat after the screening.

NTL 2026: LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES (15)

Thurs 25 Jun 7pm Adult £17 Under 18 £13 - No under 15's

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (PG) Fri 26 Jun 2pm / 7.30pm

Adults £8 U16 £7 + Optional Lunch £7

MICHAEL (PG-13) Sat 27 Jun 7.30pm Adults £8 U16 £7

MAD DOG MCREA (18+) Fri 10 Jul 7.30pm General Admission £24

GRAND SLAM WRESTLING

Sat 11 Jul 7.30pm For all the Family. Check website for more details

PSYCHIC SCOTT STONEBRIDGE Thurs 16 July 7.30-9pm £15

FLATS & SHARPS Fri 17 July 7.30pm Advance £19.50. On the door £22.

WILLY WONKA & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Thurs 23 July 2pm £5 - includes hot drink, biscuits and chat after the screening.

SCOTLAND YARD INVESTIGATES Sat 25 July 7.30pm General Admission £14

What's On Locally – June and July



Thelma
Hulbert
Gallery

<https://www.thelmahulbert.com>



All This Useless Beauty : Mellony Taper

16 May 2026 to 27 June 2026

Solo exhibition of work by artist Mellony Taper, winner of the THG Open 2025.

The works explore female stories, inviting us to consider how inherited experience and repeating generational patterns have shaped women's lives. The works can be seen as real and imaginary objects and pictures, two- and three-dimensional, often blurring the line between both. They feature inherited objects and domestic relics, and items

with a vague or lost provenance, chronicling fragments of history and hints of past lives.



The Last Post

16 May 2026 to 27 June 2026

The THG upper stairwell features Gillian Taylor's new artwork commemorating the end of the Danish postal service. At the end of last year, PostNord stopped delivering letters and removed all the post boxes.

To mark this moment, Gillian invited people in Denmark to send one last letter. They wrote about memories of meaningful letters received in the past,

and shared their thoughts on PostNord's decision to end letter deliveries, reflecting on the effort and time taken to write a letter by hand.

One writer recalled the family gathering round the kitchen table with the smell of coffee, listening to her mother reading letters from an aunt in Norway. Others included old Christmas cards, pictures, and an envelope from 1926 addressed to Berlingske, Denmark's oldest newspaper.

The hanging installation uses daisies made from copies of the letters and their envelopes. The daisy is the national flower of Denmark as well as a symbol of new beginnings and hope – offering an optimistic note, despite the sad end of the handwritten letter.

Local advertising - free advertising for anybody who lives in Combe Raleigh or who regularly trades there - please send your details to raleighrag@gmail.co

Airfield Classic Cars

Specialists in classic car restoration, repair, maintenance and servicing
Tel: 01404 891713
Email: info@airfieldclassics.co.uk

Churchill's Body Repairs Est 1986

We carry out insurance and private work to all vehicles in our fully equipped body repair shop.
Tel: 01404 42441 or 07810 373870

Nicky Salter Counselling

Confidential counselling service
Tel: 01404 519181 or 07922317465
Email: salternichola@gmail.com

Tip Top Trees

Specialists in tree work; landscaping and fence works; general gardening; logs
Tel: 01404 47103
Email: info@tiptoptrees.co.uk

Connetts Farm *Mushroom compost, ornamental bark, wood chip, topsoil, manure - bulk orders can be mixed. Small bags or dumpy bag. Delivery available at cost.*
Tel: 07809 870230 or 01404 891684 or 07860 459745 or 01884 841694
Email: connettsfarm@outlook.com

FAB Trim Landscaping

Landscaping, patios, ponds, stone walling, digger work, fencing
07411 465374 fabtrimlandscaping@outlook.com



If someone appears to be having a heart attack

CALL 999 immediately

Answer the questions and ask for an ambulance

Then go or send someone quickly to get the

Village Defibrillator

It is kept on the veranda of the Village Hall, which is halfway down the village street

Postcode EX14 4TQ

Go up the steps and turn right, lights will come on to help you if it is dark.

The defibrillator is not locked and is ready to use

On returning to the patient the machine will tell you exactly what to do

It is not possible to harm the patient.

The only risk is DELAY

Even in a little village like ours this machine has already saved one young life, they really are a "life saver"

Hembury Fort House

FAMILY & FRIENDS FUN DAY & FETE

★ Teas & Cakes

★ Miniature Ponies

★ Live Birds of Prey

Thai Food ★ Shabbi Chic

Tombola ★ Plants ★ Raffle

Please bring CASH!

★ Games

Hembury Fort House, Awliscombe
EX14 3LD 01404 841334

1.30 TIL 4PM

4TH JULY

FREE ENTRY

Coffee Mornings

The bi-monthly Wednesday coffee mornings seem to have reached a turning point, and after (I think) about two decades, there is a question about whether they are still needed/wanted. There is no rota organised for the next two months, but watch the Village Whatsapp for further information - if this particular door closes, then, in true CR fashion, another one will surely open.



Val M.

The Raleigh Rag and Village Website

Published for the Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting by volunteers: David Jackson, Val and Mark Moran, and Jill Wardle.

Contact details for queries and submissions are on the Contacts page.

Distributed by village email and as hard copy on request. Also published on the village website <https://comberaleigh.org/raleigh-rag-newsletter/>

Next Edition

The Raleigh Rag is usually published every two months. Please send articles and pictures for inclusion or for the website to raleighrag@gmail.com. **The copy deadline for the next edition is 15 July 2026.**

Disclaimer

The views expressed are those of the contributors. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the information included is accurate, responsibility cannot be accepted for any omissions or inaccurate information. We reserve the right to edit any contribution for the purpose of clarity, consistency and layout limitations. By supplying material for publication, you are giving consent for its publication on the village website at <https://comberaleigh.org/>

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Useful Contact Information

Emergency and Help Services

Emergency No (All Services)	999	(112 from mobile worldwide)
Non-Emergency (Police)	101	
Non-Emergency (Medical)	111	
Samaritans		116 123
Citizen's Advice		01404 44213
Childline		0800 1111
Age UK Advice Line		0800 6781602
Trip (Meal deliveries for the vulnerable)		01404 46529
Devon Freewheelers (Prescription deliveries)		0300 800 0109
Kings Centre Foodbank		01404 43800
Volunteers needed for a wide variety of support - please contact the Advice Line: 01404- 354080		
Neighbourhood Watch (Rob Sexton)		01404 41362 rob@sexton.me.uk

Medical

Honiton Hospital	01404 540540
Honiton Surgery	01404 548544

Devon CC General enquiries	0345 155 1015	customer@devon.gov.uk
Cllr Cathy Connor		cathy.connor@devon.gov.uk
Highways and Rights of Way	0345 155 1004	csc.roads@devon.gov.uk

East Devon District Council

General enquiries	01404 515616	csc@eastdevon.gov.uk
Cllr Colin Brown	01404 42309 / 07761 281156	cbrown@eastdevon.gov.uk
Cllr Yehudi Levine	01823 602772	yehudi.levine@eastdevon.gov.uk

Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting

Chair (Tony Dezell)	07711 651676	chair.comberaleigh@gmail.com
Vice Chair (Chris Kemp)	07305 979791	vicechair.comberaleigh@gmail.com
Clerk (Jill Wardle)	07702 274492	clerk.comberaleigh@gmail.com

Combe Raleigh Village Hall

Chairman (Brian Churchill)	01404 42441	kay.churchill@btconnect.com
Secretary (Chris Kemp)	07305 979791	vhc@christopherkemp.com
Bookings		bookings@comberaleigh.org

St Nicholas Church

Team Rector (Revd Tracey Voysey)	01404 44035	office@honitoncofe.org
Churchwarden		Vacant
Secretary (Val Moran), Treasurer (Claire Kemp), PCC members (Sarah Butler Evans, Elizabeth Downs, Gill Jackson, Carol Lazarus, Chris Padget, John Twaddle)		

The Raleigh Rag and Village Website

David Jackson	07770 576222	davidjackson1345@me.com
Val and Mark Moran	01404 41107	markmoran@btinternet.com
Jill Wardle	07702 274492	raleighrag@gmail.com
Chris Kemp (Website)		kc@christopherkemp.com