

Raleigh Rag



**Marian Brion celebrating her 90th birthday
in St Nicholas Church**

The Combe Raleigh Newsletter
ISSUE 210 August 2026

Introduction to our August issue by David Jackson

Firstly, this comes with an apology: it's very late but for good reason. July brought us our Craft and Produce Show somewhat diminished by the weather but none the less enjoyed by many of you. A perfect excuse to use colour after what was a rather dull return to the black and white of our last issue. We hope you agree!

We also illustrate the Fete at Combe Hill, the beautiful setting above the village, thrown open to raise funds for the St Nicholas fabric fund. We are grateful to Carol and Edmund Lazarus for hosting this event. Many of you will have attended or helped before or during the event.

The other notable event was the passing of Brian Trim after a long illness. We were witness to a true Farming Funeral, two hundred in the church and almost as many outside. A wonderful tribute to a quiet and talented man, hugely respected by his peers.

It's not our practice to repeat eulogies in the Rag but we felt that the piece we do reproduce below is a fitting memorial to Brian. It is a timely reminder of the true work of the farming industry that goes on every day, year in year out, aimed at keeping bread on their table and dairy products in the shops for the rest of us.

I have read this memorial written by Rikki in tribute to his father several times, I invite you to do the same, I know you too will find it a remarkable work from a young man who has so recently lost his dad. Thank you Rikki.

A Herd's Words.....for Him

Long before daybreak, and the sky still to reveal its daily colours, we knew Him. Every morning, whatever the weather, whatever the year had thrown at Him, before the night had cleared... there were boots in the yard, parlour hat on, calling us, in the same unhurried voice He always used. Milking one at a time, always by character, He knew who liked to go in first and who needed encouragement. He knew a limp before it became a problem, and a cough before it became a worry. He always had a hunch, an idea, with a pencilled-out plan on a torn-up packet. Not something taught...that is something a person gives and is given.

We remember the working year in the way He shaped it...

Autumn... after our holidays, out at the Sages, our little calves began to arrive in the dead of night, sometimes in conditions no sensible man would have chosen, and yet, there He always was, sleeves rolled, patient, steady, waiting for a wet nose and a first breath before He'd rest.

Continued on the next page

A Herd's Words.....for Him (continued)

Winter... when we came inside... He came in with us, forking the silage, thawing of ice, fluffing our beds, making sure the blizzards never became cruelty, and for a treat to have the caring AI ladies call by, for the briefest of visits!

Spring... when He opened the gates, and stood back to watch us run at the grass, like it was the first grass that had ever grown! He loved that moment as much as we did. And the green tractor contractors were never at all far behind.

Summer... longer light, hay getting wilted and a digger altering our land in the distance. The parlour would be... fans on, and Him teasing or whistling something none of us recognised but all of us had come to expect.

He was not alone in His work, though He often stood alone in it. Visitors came and went. The vet would visit monthly and He stood beside us, with His arm resting along our backs in reassurance. The nutritionist dropped by, in checking for our sakes, that He fed us as well as could be. The milk tanker drivers trundled on yard at high noon, and He was always there to meet them, for all the local news, ribbing and banter.

We remember too, any gap or open gate, seen by us for happy trespass, of exotic herbs at the nearby nursery...this caused us a red-faced farmer, shouting words we didn't understand, but we didn't much mind, it was always a thrill!

We were never just an enterprise to Him. We were never just a number on His blackboard. We were His responsibility, and He wore that responsibility the way some men wear medals. Quietly, constantly, without ever asking to be noticed for it, we are a family He took pride in and we are proud to call Him our farmer.

We are the result of the generations, who knew this ground before us, and through them we have felt the passing down of His wisdom, His determination, and all that He built here at Raddishayes. Season upon season, we carry on that inheritance, and we hope with everything we have, that it is carried forward for the better.

So, this is what we would say, if a herd could gather words the way it gathers in a field at the sound of a gate: we were honoured to be His. We knew, every single day whose hands were on the latch, whose voice called us in, whose cowboy swagger & stride with dog at heel, kept this small world turning. We do not know how to measure a man like that except in the only currency we have, that we followed Him, had faith in His decisions and we trusted we always had the best we could get.

He is missed here! The gate still opens! The parlour still hums! The grass still grows! And somewhere in all of that, we feel, He is still here, with us.

Parish Meetings



There have been no Parish Meetings in June or July 2026.

Could you help keep Devon moving? Volunteer drivers needed

Every year, volunteer drivers across Devon help thousands of people get where they need to be – from hospital visits and healthcare appointments to shopping trips, social groups and wellbeing activities. Last year alone, an incredible 106,561 journeys were provided by volunteers. For many people, particularly those living in rural communities, this support is essential in helping them stay independent, healthy and connected.

Are you looking for a volunteer role that fits around your lifestyle, family and work commitments? If you have a full driving licence, are over 21 with two years' driving experience and access to a vehicle, becoming a Devon Community Driver could be the perfect opportunity. Whether you're available once a month, three times a year or several times a week, every journey makes a difference. Volunteers can choose when and where they drive, with no minimum commitment required, and mileage is reimbursed.

To find out more or register your interest as a volunteer driver, visit:

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-community-drivers

DROUGHT!!!!!! by Sue Farrell

I'm sitting in the garden this evening looking at the Mediterranean blue sky and wondering how the countryside will recover from this extreme summer. Trees are losing their leaves as a defence against water loss and some have turned brown with sunburn. Hopefully most of them will recover in the spring but I fear that those that were already struggling through disease or old age may succumb.

It is too simple to suggest that we fill our gardens with silver leaved Mediterranean plants because in many positions they will not tolerate the wet winters that seem to be becoming the norm. Let's see what the next couple of years bring before we change all our garden planting. I have been looking round unwatered village gardens to see what is thriving ... my list: ROSES, wisteria, agapanthus, magnolia, sedum, small leaved salvias, red hot poker, some hardy geraniums, cistus, lavender and many grey leaved plants. If you have other plants [unwatered] that are doing well do message me as I would like to know!

In the meantime:

Only use large pots with a drip saucer 60cm plus.

Grow plants closely together to provide shade at the roots.

In spring, when the soil is wet, mulch with woodchip, grass clipping, etc.

Save water when it is plentiful. Place water-butts where the water will be needed in the summer.

Make shady pergolas and cover with wisteria and grapevines.

Plant more roses - they love our clay soil, and tolerate the winter wet and hot summers.

It has been a great year for plums though!

Combe Raleigh Village Hall News – August 2026

Events Round-Up

This year's Village Hall Craft & Produce Show was another enjoyable community event, with 21 exhibitors submitting a fantastic 135 entries across the various classes. The high standard and variety of exhibits made for an excellent display and a wonderful afternoon for everyone who attended.

The exhibits were expertly judged by our local quiz master, Max, and his wife, who had the difficult task of selecting the winners from so many excellent entries. Max also presented the trophies and awards to the successful exhibitors. A sincere thank you goes to the organising committee, Heather, Rose, Helen, Claire Kemp and Claire Turner for their time, enthusiasm and dedication in planning and running the event.

And the winners were (see some photos on the centre pages):

- Jack Real Memorial Trophy - Cup - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Section A - Fruit and Vegetables - Sue Farrell
- The Charlie Bower Memorial Trophy - Rosebowl - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Section B - Flowers - Claire Turner
- Torswood Salver - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Section C - Floral Arrangements - Sue Farrell
- Joan Davey Cup - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Section D - Home Produce - Jill Wardle
- Margaret's STAR BAKER Trophy - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Section D - Cookery - Claire Kemp
- Admiral Graves Cup - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Section E - Photography - David Jackson
- Grower's Challenge Trophy - Barrow - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Sections A and B combined - Sue Farrell
- The Ellishayes Cup - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Sections B and C combined - Sue Farrell
- George Morton Moncrieff Memorial Plate - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Sections D and E combined - Claire Kemp
- Kendall Davey Cup - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Section F - Tallest Weed - Harry Churchill
- Combe Hill Cup - awarded to the competitor with the most points in Section F - children aged 14 and under - Dylan Williams
- The Gould Cup - to the competitor winning Section G - Special Section - Sue Farrell
- Runner-Up Challenge Trophy - Green Finger - awarded by the show team - Zara Williams
- Best in Show Prize – awarded by the people's choice – Tim Lynn for his Garden Ornament entry

Combe Raleigh Village Hall News – August 2026

Upcoming Events

Funday – Saturday 29 August

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

Harvest Supper – Saturday 10 October (confirmed)

Our traditional Harvest Supper returns this autumn for a warm evening of food, friendship and community, with the Harvest Service taking place at the church the following day.

Bonfire Night – Friday 6 November

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

Village Hall Centenary

This November, the Village Hall marks its 100th anniversary. To celebrate, we are planning a small exhibition on village life over the past century, followed by a celebratory tea on Saturday 28 November. We hope past and present villagers will join us to mark this special milestone at the heart of our community.

If you would like to support the event or share items or stories, please get in touch. We are also looking for display boards if anyone has access to some.

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.



**Some of the happy
prize winners at
the Village Hall
Craft & Produce
Show**





More from the Village Hall Craft & Produce Show



A Village Affair by Val M

On Saturday 1st August, the sun shone all day. This was a great relief to those many people who were involved in the organisation of this big fundraising event in aid of the church fabric, especially the folk who had helped with the last one. That one was exactly ten years ago, raising money for the bell project. On that occasion it rained. And rained. And really, really rained.

But not this time. The weather was glorious. All day. And what a lovely event it was. Our visitors walked Combe Hill's lovely grounds. They ate cream teas, drank cold drinks, licked ice creams, admired the bunting. There was a small market area, where one could buy books and DVD's, craft items, toys. The U3A Knitwise group provided a wide selection of knitted items. Local produce included Combe Hill honey, homemade jams and chutneys, dried herbs for tisanes. Plants and dried lavender could be had. And the Honiton Town Band played beautifully all afternoon.



A Village Affair (continued)

Children were not forgotten - miniature golf, penalty shoot-out, doughnut-eating challenge AND pony rides – I am reliably informed that these were cool - as well as free goes on things like giant Jenga.



As the day drew on, the band made way for Avi Clarke, a very talented young singer, whose songs reminded me of the days of my (?mis-spent?) youth. Teas and coffees gave way to Pimm's. The raffle was drawn and excellent prizes won. There was a last call for bids for the Silent Auction of goods. Eventually, our guests wended their various ways home, tired but (we hope) happy.

It was a super village occasion, organised by an enthusiastic team, ably led by Carol Lazarus, who, with her husband Edmund, very kindly gave us free range of their delightful estate. At the time of writing, the final figure is not yet available, but it's likely to be in excess of £5000, a sum which will help to keep the roof on the tower, the woodworm at bay, the plaster on the walls – the list is never ending, and we are grateful to all the people who attended and spent their money at our Village Fete. I hope you will keep an eye out for future events, and join us again.



St Nicholas Church News

The Heart of Our Community

One of the things I have always loved about village life is that people know one another. Whether it is a friendly wave across the road, a conversation whilst out walking the dog, catching up over a cup of tea after church, or neighbours quietly helping each other when times are difficult, these simple acts remind us that community is one of God's greatest gifts.

Our churches have always been woven into the fabric of village and town life. They have marked baptisms, weddings and funerals, celebrated harvests and Christmases, rung their bells in times of joy and sorrow, and provided places of peace, prayer and hope. They stand as quiet reminders that God is with us in the ordinary moments of everyday life, as well as the extraordinary ones.



As I write this, it is the day after Brian Trim's funeral. It was deeply moving to see the church filled and to witness the love surrounding Heather and her family. In moments of loss, we are reminded that grief is never something we are meant to carry alone. The hundreds of people who came together spoke of a community that knows how to stand alongside one another with compassion, generosity and faithfulness. It was a powerful reminder that belonging matters, that every life leaves its mark, and that places like Combe Raleigh are sustained by people who quietly care for one another across the generations.

As your new Rector, my prayer is that we will continue to cherish all that makes this community special. It has its own character, traditions and stories, and each one reflects something of God's goodness. May our church continue to be places of welcome, where friendships are nurtured, burdens are shared, hope is renewed, and all are reminded that they are loved by God.

May God bless every home, every farm, every business, and every person who lives in Combe Raleigh.

Revd Tracey Voysey
Team Rector, Honiton Mission Community

What's On Locally – August and September

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



GLASTONBURY THE MOVIE: 30th Anniversary Edition

Thurs 13 Aug 2pm / 7.30pm Tickets: Adult £8 U16 £7

SPECIAL OFFER: Buy 2 Tickets get a FREE CD of the Soundtrack. Buy 4 tickets get a FREE 3 disc DVD of the Film and extra Audio

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN SING-A-LONG

Sat 15 Aug 4pm Adult £8. Under 12 £6. Adult + Picnic Box £17. Under 12 + Picnic Box £14

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: DAVID HOCKNEY

Thurs 20 Aug 2pm/7pm Tickets: Adult £13 U16 £10 +£7 Optional Lunch

BOOGIE WONDERLAND 18+

Fri 21 Aug 7-11pm Tickets: £10.00

NOTHING CONCRETE

Sat 22 Aug 7.30pm Tickets: General Admission £19. On the door £21

THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING + Q&A 16+

Mon 24 Aug 6pm FREE ENTRY - Book your Free Seat Now

WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT

Thurs 27 Aug 2pm Tickets £5 Includes a hot drink, biscuits & a chat after the screening

DIRE STREETS

Fri 28 Aug 7.30pm, Tickets: General Admission £26

FOREVER QUEEN

Fri 4 Sept 7.30 Tickets: General Admission £22

AN EVENING WITH JOANNA COOKE & HER BAND

Sat 5 Sept 7.30pm Early Bird £16. General Admission £17. On the door £18

ZZ TOPPD

Fri 11 Sept 7.30pm Tickets: General Admission £22. On the door £25

THIS FLIGHT TONIGHT: THE SONGS OF JONI MITCHELL

Thurs 17 Sep 7:30pm Tickets: General Admission £26

SERIOUSLY COLLINS - A TRIBUTE TO PHIL COLLINS & GENESIS

Fri 18 Sept 7.30pm Tickets: General Admission £27

A SHOT IN THE DARK

Thurs 24 Sept 2pm Tickets £5

Includes a hot drink, biscuits & a chat after the screening

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: THE MISANTHROPE

Thurs 24 Sept 7pm Tickets: Adult £18. Under 18 £13.

HUDSON & HUDSON - MARRIED AT FIRST SLEIGHT

Sat 26 Sept 7.30 Tickets: Advanced £16. General Admission £19

THE BEEHIVE'S CHEESE & WINE EVENING WITH CHRISTOPHER PIPER WINES

Wed 30 Sept 6.30-9pm Tickets £20 18+

CAFÉ OPEN 1000 – 1430 WEEKDAYS FREE WI-FI

SNACKS, HOMEMADE CAKES, HOT AND COLD DRINKS

BAR OPENS 1 HOUR BEFORE EVENTS

The café is suitable for small meetings of up to an hour - please purchase refreshments during this time while using the café. For longer business meetings, rooms can be booked and catering arranged. Please contact roombookings@beehivehoniton.co.uk

What's On Locally – August and September



Thelma
Hulbert
Gallery

<https://www.thelmahulbert.com>

Double Elephant: 30 Years Shaping Print 11 July to 29 August 2026

This exhibition of work of over 30 Double Elephant members reflects the vitality of a community of printmakers who explore, adapt and expand the possibilities of print.

The works on display range across intaglio, relief, planographic and monotype processes, alongside hybrid experimental approaches. Together, they reveal printmaking as a tactile, inventive and expressive medium.

This exhibition shines a spotlight on both the timeless traditions of printmaking and the experimental, innovative approaches shaping its future. Discover the tools, papers, plates, and blocks that bring each process to life, and gain insight into a variety of printmaking methods.

A wide selection of original prints are available to purchase.



Yasmin David: The Nature of Light - 12 September to 31 October 2026



Solo exhibition by post-war British landscape painter Yasmin David (1939- 2009). The works remained hidden for decades. After her death, her daughter, filmmaker Clio David, discovered hundreds of previously unknown paintings, drawings, notebooks and poetry - material which has since been brought to light through exhibitions, archiving and scholarly work.

Yasmin lived and worked in South Devon for over fifty years. Her work explores the particular light and landscape near her home on the edge of Dartmoor.

Yasmin David was the daughter of Lorna Wishart (née Garman) the youngest of the beautiful and unconventional Garman sisters, and muse to both Laurie Lee and Lucian Freud. Yasmin was born during Lorna's affair with Lee. She was named Yasmin as the Y can be seen as two conjoined L's. She only found out the identity of her biological father at the age of 19.

**Please send any recommendations for What's On to
raleighrag@gmail.com**

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"

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 September 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@christopherkemp.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 (Rev'd 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

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