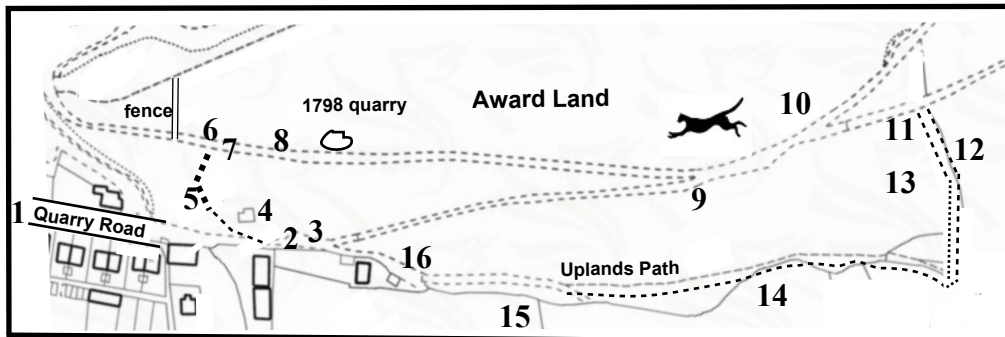


A Christmas walk on your Award Land



When Christmas is over, why not take a walk on your Award Land? Drive down to the end of Quarry Road (1) - then a little further onto a tiny car park (2). Nearby is a boulder with a descriptive plate (3). Walk through the gate towards the old forge (4). Originally it contained a cupola furnace that was used for making the giant nails that fastened the Brunel-type rails on the Cheddar Valley Railway line.

Go up the steep steps (5), perhaps without knowing that you are walking above a 1970's heap of waste for which we must blame the M5 builders. You are now on Mike's path (6), an ancient tramway. The way to your left is blocked by a quarry fence but nearby is a seat (7) with a splendid view over Banwell Wood and down to the M5. Look out for a dilapidated 1950's railway wagon that was used to store dynamite for the large, nearby quarry.



Further East, past the tiny 1798 quarry, you could sit and view Winscombe Church and Crook Peak in the distance, but then keep on to a gate (9). Once there were several large boulders here on which, it is said, often sat a Cougar, whose residual smell, so it is also said, made dogs freeze in their tracks. I once nearly took its picture!!

You are now on a bridleway (10). Take the right fork up the hill and around a gate. Now go sharp right down Westlake's Rocky Path (11). The 'doomsday' wall (12), once the parish boundary, is on your left and in springtime there are bluebells galore (13). At the bottom, turn sharp right to follow along Uplands Path (14) and so back to the car park. On the way you will see remnants of the the world war on both sides of the road, including a prisoners of war toilet (15) and a canteen (16). This is where Winscombe Pottery was made by Harry Swan.

I am sure you will enjoy the walk. Do come again and be amazed by how the seasons affect the views!

John Westlake



The Occasional
Parish Council
Newsletter Number 8
Christmas 2013



Hopefully this Newsletter will enable you:

to find out what your Parish Council is doing and thinking of doing;
to tell us what needs doing;

to find information about the parish;

to make contact with North Somerset District Council.

We like to hear of your concerns and of any issues that you wish to bring to our notice. You can do so using any of the following:

calling at the Parish Office, Community Centre Building, BS25 1JA,
(open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am - 12.00pm);

telephoning, (01934 844257);

Emailing, (winscombecp@lineone.net);

or writing to **Lynne Rampton**, our Parish Clerk.

Councillor Resigns

A short tribute to the work of Sue and a description of how she will be replaced.

This finalised document needs to be with Lynne by 8th November at the latest - so that it can go to the printer and then be available for the distributor by the required date in mid November. We cannot negotiate over these dates.

We will not know whether this replacement will be by a general election or by co-option until November 8th.

I am away examining in Cambridge from 7th to 10th November. So, Lynne and I will produce two pieces to fit in here and two finalised copies, one describing the election and the other the co-option. On November 8th, when I am away, Lynne will be able to make the decision which of the two copies is suitable and send this copy off for printing.

Gerald

Parish Council Meetings 2014

Monthly Meetings Sandford Village Hall 7.30pm.

January 27th and February 24th



Christmas Shopping. Do support our traders!! We have a wonderful range of shops and services in Winscombe and Sandford. Where would our community be without them? This year, the Parish Council has been asked to support traders even more by advertising their presence. You may have seen a poster describing Winscombe's 'late-night opening' in shop windows or on parish notice boards. And, depending upon how this newsletter is delivered to you, you may still have or may already have had the opportunity to make some 'late-night shopping'. Whenever you are reading this do continue to support our traders throughout the year!



“ Blooming marvellous” - we could say that already about Winscombe and Sandford, but now we are thinking of next year's 'South West in Bloom'. We would like to hear from any green-fingered parishioners willing to help our parish take its place in the campaign. Enthusiasts already organise the floral displays in the parish, but entering the South West in Bloom competition in 2014 would involve many more of us.



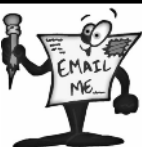
Our entry will be judged on horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation. There is a 'picture' competition for children, and help in planning the event is given by the organisers.

This is a wonderful chance to enhance our parish, get everyone working together, and help attract even more visitors, which can only benefit our local businesses. Whether we enter or not depends on the level of interest shown. So please contact the Parish office if you would like to support Winscombe and Sandford in Bloom for 2014.

Our library has hosted an increasing number of popular events since re-opening, and now plans to offer even more services. But can enough community volunteers be found? If story-telling for pre-schoolers, helping children to read, or volunteering to help with adult library services appeals to you, then you can take part, and so strengthen our community. For more details, contact the library volunteering team on 426657.



Email version of your newsletter. To send you a colour copy, the Parish Council must have your permission. To give this, use the panel on the corner of the front page of the parish council website . www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk



All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Community Resilience. Many more parishes have joined the Community Resilience network, which is now applying for charitable status and so enabling more funding through grants. At the October meeting in Winscombe volunteers successfully completed the first round of training, which is also available online, making our parish one of the front runners in the training programme. North Somerset Council's Emergency Manager, Ian Wilson, who heads up the CR training workshops at Castlewood, attended by parish representative Cllr Boase, had to answer some difficult questions about how badly the cutbacks had affected the emergency services, and just how much will be expected of CR volunteers.



No-one is expected to take the place of the emergency services, but being trained within a programme shared with neighbouring parishes will ensure our parish is prepared and supported in the event of any emergency. All parishioners are encouraged to contact the Parish office to sign up in support of Community Resilience, and will be very welcome at any of the meetings, details of which are available through the Parish office or Parish website.

Flooding and drainage

We still need your help! Please continue to send in your reports about problem flooding and drains. We are liaising with North Somerset Council to resolve the problems. We are keeping a comprehensive record which is being updated as your reports come in, and thank you to the many parishioners who have already responded.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Neighbourhood Watch, a key partner in local strategies to reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime, is a voluntary and independent community group that works in partnership with the Police, local authorities and other agencies. It is completely independent, but does receive Police assistance.

Achieving NHW's potential can greatly assist the capacity to deal with crime in the area; NHW is the eyes and ears of the community, members being the most enthusiastic of volunteers, passionate about cutting crime and helping the Community.

In the next few months, we are seeking to increase the NHW schemes to 100% in Winscombe and Sandford . Soon Police cadets may deliver you a letter asking for new co-ordinators in streets not already covered and not getting the benefits of a scheme.

It may be of interest to know that many insurance companies offer to registered members of Police recognised NHW groups either discounts of between 5% - 25% or a cash back incentive on house insurance.

