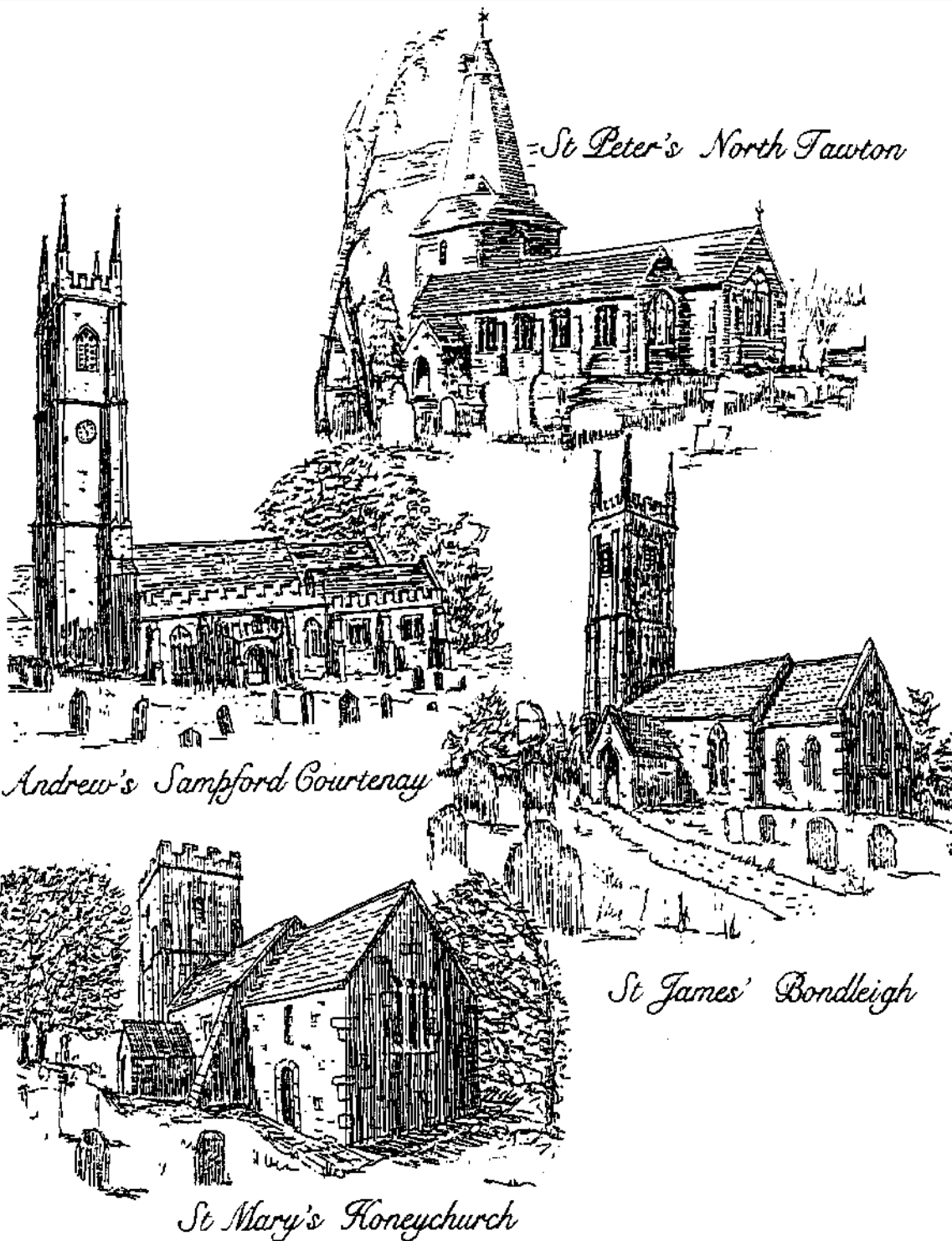


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# From The Rectory

## Transgender?

Looking at my diary a moment ago, I thought to myself, this is going to be an interesting week. Tuesday – interviews for a new teaching assistant at North Tawton Primary School. Thursday – local clergy debate about “gender dysphoria and the church” (I’ll explain in a moment!) Saturday – St Peter’s Church Fete in the Rectory garden. By the time this is read, all of the above will have happened. I wonder how they will go? You’ll have to ask me. At the moment I’m not quite sure which one I am looking forward to the least or the most. Trying to pick a winner from a very strong field of candidates for the teaching assistant job; policing a debate about how the church should respond to people who seek to change their sex (that’s the gender dysphoria one); having wet sponges thrown at me whilst eating a cream tea at the church fete... welcome to my world! Maybe I should have been a train driver.

Actually, I love it really. It is a great privilege to support the school in the education of our children here in this community. And I relish healthy, honest, theological debate about the ethical issues of our day and how they affect people’s lives. It’s also great to open our home and garden to the parish for fun in the sun (we hope). Just an average week? Thankfully not, but not unprecedented.

The “gender dysphoria” one has really taken me by surprise in the last few months. I don’t think I had even heard that phrase a year ago, let alone knew what it meant. Now it appears everywhere. It means the distress a person feels when there is a miss-match between their sex given at birth and their perceived gender identity. I did know a year ago that there were people who identify themselves as “transgender”, meaning... a person whose present gender identity does not correspond with their gender at birth, but I had never really thought about the distress it could cause someone if they feel they have been born in the wrong body. I think I also knew what it meant to “transition;” meaning, to undergo gender reassignment by medical intervention so that a person born male is now considered female, or vice-versa. I knew of the high profile celebrity cases like Bruce, now Caitlin Jenner, and I knew that it was a growing phenomenon in the western world. But over the last year the concept of gender fluidity seems to have gone viral. When we had a discussion about it at Thirsty (St. Peter’s Church youth group) it was not only a concept that the teenagers were very familiar with from school, there were also young people they knew for whom gender dysphoria was an issue. As one commentator has wryly put it, “when I was at school the biggest decision I had to make was which GCSE’s to take, now you have decide which gender you want to be as well.”

As you can probably tell, this concerns me. I guess it

concerns quite a few of you also. The pace of change in the area of what is acceptable in society has never been so rapid. It worries me, as I look into the eyes of my own children, realising that what my wife and I are teaching them seems increasingly at odds with the society in which they are growing up. At least, that is how it feels quite a lot of time. I suppose every parent thinks this, but I ask myself “are they going to be okay?” “What choices will they make?” “How will I react when I might not agree with some of those choices?”

Some might say that Jane and I are being unkind to our children by teaching and modelling to them what it means to be male or female in the traditional sense. Some would argue that we are placing a cruel restriction on them by only encouraging them to discover who they are based on their birth gender. We should be encouraging them to explore their identity without the pressure to conform to traditional gender norms, they would say. Well, broadening the ancient categories of “boys play football and dress in blue” and “girls play with dolls and dress in pink” would be a good thing. I think most people would agree that those stereotypes are not always helpful for individual flourishing. But to encourage young people to follow a path that could lead to them to seek gender reassignment is another level altogether. It’s a choice that will deeply affect the rest of their lives and every close relationship they will ever have.

Perhaps you are thinking I should relax a little about this gender thing and focus on the church fete. After all, it is not as if there are loads of transgendered people about. Well, you’d be right in that respect. Studies suggest that about 1 in 20 thousand people have gender dysphoria. But the numbers and the rhetoric are growing fast, particularly in educational settings, and that worries me instinctively. Is that worry merely a result of this transgender stuff cutting across my very blessed, stable, middle class, shielded upbringing (by two parents who are still married to each other)? It might be. Or, am I worried because I genuinely believe that when God made man male and female, he made billions of little unique masterpieces, each one in need of restoration work from time to time, but he never intended that we should change his design?

This is a complex subject, far beyond what can be dealt with in 1000 words. So I would really welcome responses from readers on this one. My details are below. And if there are enough responses then perhaps another forum could be found for a wider and more in depth discussion of these issues. Let me know.

**Rev’d Nick Weldon (Vicar)**  
**01837 880183**  
**npweldon@gmail.com**

## Roundabout

is published for the community on behalf of the four parish churches of North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay, Bondleigh and Honeychurch.

Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by the Vicar, by the PCC, members of the four churches, or by the Editors.

Contributions should be sent to  
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Shellsley,  
Exeter Street,  
North Tawton,  
EX20 2BZ  
(tel. 01837 82376)

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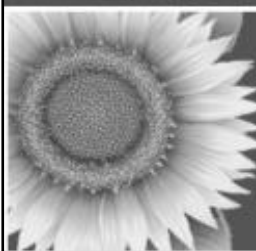


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# NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Mrs Rosalind Rice  
14A The Square  
North Tawton  
EX20 2EP  
Tel: 01837 880121  
e-mail: [northtawton.towncouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:northtawton.towncouncil@yahoo.co.uk)

## **New North Tawton Town Councillor**

At the recent meeting on Tuesday 4th July 2017, the Council considered applications from four candidates for the vacant post as NTTC Councillor. Mr. Ray Aplin has been duly co-opted on to the Council and will serve as one of the 12 local Councillors. The Council would like to thank all of the candidates for their applications. Just to remind residents, the Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month, normally at 7.30 pm unless indicated otherwise, at the Council Office in The Square. Members of the public are very welcome to attend the meetings, and there is an opportunity for questions and comments from residents (on agenda items only). There may be additional meetings, please check the Council noticeboard for ongoing information.

## **Den Brook Community Fund – Application Criteria**

The Den Brook Community Committee comprises members of the parish councils in the Den Brook area – North Tawton, Bow, Spreyton, South Tawton and Zeal Monachorum. The purpose of the Committee is to administer the Community Benefit Fund paid in respect of the Den Brook Wind Farm. The Committee is looking at the evaluation process to be undertaken for applications to the fund, and would like residents to help by looking at the criteria proposed to date, and suggesting appropriate criteria, taking into account the objective of the fund, which is to 'promote social and environmental sustainability initiatives for the benefit of the community, within the environs of the Den Brook Wind Farm'. The fund is not set up to provide general donations but to fund change projects which meet the criteria. The wind farm company defines "appropriate" project applicants as "a registered charity, charitable club or society, or other not-for-profit entity based within the five parishes". Please look at some of the assessment criteria suggested so far, and if you have any additions to this list or any comments you want to make, please either email the Town Council on [northtawton.towncouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:northtawton.towncouncil@yahoo.co.uk) or post your suggestions to the NTTC Office, 14a The Square, North Tawton, EX20 2EP. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

## **Suggested application criteria:**

- Reducing poverty and disadvantage
- Improving the health of residents
- Promoting care and support of vulnerable people
- Improving Community Safety
- Ensuring easy access to employment opportunities
- Achieving parity with national educational attainment levels
- Promoting a wide range of recreational, sporting and cultural activities
- Improving rural transport facilities
- Improving rural employment opportunities
- Promoting environmental awareness and energy efficiency measures
- Building the capacity of voluntary organisations to learn skills and develop experience with a view to them becoming sustainable organisations.
- Will the project benefit the community over an extended period of time?
- Will it benefit more than one of the relevant parishes (as listed above)?
- Is the project environmentally friendly?
- Is it neutral/apolitical?
- Will the project encourage and support voluntary spirit, activity, and participation in our community?

## **'Speed Signs'**

Speeding traffic is an issue in many towns and villages – with the help of North Tawton Primary School pupils the Council has tried to take a different approach to raising awareness of the problem by putting up signs designed by the pupils, to remind drivers to think about their speed. We hope that these thoughtful, colourful and very individual posters will really attract people's attention to think about the speed of their vehicles within the Town. The Council would like to offer sincere thanks to all pupils who helped with this project, for their enthusiasm and originality.

## **Electricity Cables – Memorial Park/Barton Street**

With reference to the electricity cable that came down recently at the above location, the Council has been advised by Western Power that it was a lighting cable that is not actually needed now as the lights have an alternative supply, so it has been removed. The remaining cables are much thicker and stronger and will not be damaged by stray footballs! Apparently the fuses did their job and the fallen cable was not dangerous, but no-one was to know that – the Council would like to thank those who acted so quickly in advising Western Power and contacting the emergency services to ensure everyone's safety.

Rosalind Rice Clerk to North Tawton Town Council or Sarah Say, Temporary Clerk to North Tawton Town Council  
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## North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017

Before our meeting Peter Cripps, whose wife had been President of our W.I., kindly made a presentation to us of a keyboard.

Our Speaker this month was Carol McFadden who gave a fascinating talk entitled "The Social Life of a Lace Maker". Carol detailed the history of the craft, the important theme being that the act of lace-making was definitely not the genteel pursuit commonly imagined. Lace making was carried out in the county of Devon from the 1700's and most often by the poorer members of society. Children from the age of 5 years also attended "lace schools". These were presided over by a "Dame" who was not adverse to using a stick on her charges, both girls and boys. Carol showed us a variety of lace patterns and the methods used for their application and described patterns which were particular to an area or group of lace-makers. Of particular interest was a very large piece of black lace, finely decorated and we were invited to guess exactly what this piece of lace might have been used for. It transpired that it was a pall to cover a bier and it seems quite a few of Carol's friends are keen to have this beautiful piece adorning their own biers – hopefully in the very far future! We looked at various styles of lace and their provenance both in the British Isles and abroad. The well-known town of Honiton was of course mentioned as well as Colyton. This was a most enjoyable talk. Instead of a competition members were invited to bring old lace in for an exhibition.

After a break for tea the business part of the meeting followed. Bow W.I. is holding a "Tea at the Savoy" event on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September between 3 and 5 p.m. and members were invited to attend.

Trips are being organised to the Dartmoor Zoo in September and Cothelstone House for 11<sup>th</sup> October which will include looking around the house and afternoon tea.

A supper quiz will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> October. David Arney will preside and Richard Edwards will keep the score board.

We were pleased to hear from Karen Austen that her son Ross (who gave a talk in November 2016) has once again been chosen for the "power lift" event in the Invictus Games this Autumn.

Our next meeting will be "Pimms on the Pitch" on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and there will not be a speaker. This will be a social occasion and members are asked to bring a plate of food for sharing.

*Jane Hunt-Ward*



## Sampford Courtenay Flower Club

There is no meeting in August



### READING GROUP

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### FRIDAY *monthly*

#### August 11th

NORTH TAWTON	The Square
09:45 to 11:15	
BONDLEIGH	Old School
13:55 to 14:15	

### SATURDAY *monthly*

#### August 26th

NORTH TAWTON	The Square
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#### NORTH TAWTON BOWLING FIXTURES FOR AUGUST

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02-Aug	Wed	2.30	B v Feniton B	AWAY	16-Aug	Wed	2.30	B v Exonia C	AWAY
02-Aug	Wed	2.30	A v Pinces B	AWAY	16-Aug	Wed	2.30	C v Heavitree C	AWAY
02-Aug	Wed	2.30	C v Topsham C	AWAY	17-Aug	Thu	2.00	Tavistock	AWAY
04-Aug	Fri	2.30	St. Thomas	HOME	19-Aug	Sat	2.00	Yelverton	AWAY
05-Aug	Sat	2.30	Heavitree	HOME	22-Aug	Tue	2.30	Crediton	HOME
08-Aug	Tue	2.30	Morcharad Bishop	AWAY	23-Aug	Wed	2.30	A v Chardstock A	HOME
08-Aug	Tue	6.30	'A' v Morcharad Bishop	AWAY	23-Aug	Wed	2.30	B v Culm Vale C	AWAY
09-Aug	Wed	2.30	B v Crediton C 3 4	HOME	23-Aug	Wed	2.30	C v Topsham B	HOME
09-Aug	Wed	2.30	A v Crediton B 1 2	HOME	24-Aug	Thu	2.30	Torrington	AWAY
09-Aug	Wed	2.30	C v Seaton B 5 6	HOME	26-Aug	Sat	2.30	Tiverton Borough	AWAY
10-Aug	Thu	2.30	Torrington Top Club	AWAY	28-Aug	Mon	9.00	Club Triples Day	HOME
10-Aug	Thu	6.15	'B' v Hatherleigh	HOME	30-Aug	Wed	2.30	B v Tiverton Borough	AWAY
12-Aug	Sat	2.30	Morcharad Bishop	AWAY	30-Aug	Wed	2.30	A v Tiverton BC A	AWAY
14-Aug	Mon	6.00	'B' v Bradwothy 'A'	HOME	30-Aug	Wed	2.30	C v Budleigh	AWAY
15-Aug	Tue	6.00	'A' v Morcharad Bishop	HOME	31-Aug	Thu	2.00	Nora Gee	HOME

# Lammas-tide Service

a service of thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the harvest  
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**t: 01837  
82824**

# North Tawton Fire Station

## We are Recruiting.....NOW

On-Call Firefighters are a group of community-spirited men and women who are called into action by our Fire Control operators. They come from a variety of backgrounds – for example, self-employed, full time parents, trades people, administrators, shopkeepers, but they all share a common purpose of wanting to give something back to the community.

You will be providing a part time service, responding to fire and emergency calls. This is an opportunity to be part of a highly trained tight-knit team - it is exciting, challenging and most of all, rewarding. Incidents can range from attending fires, floods, road traffic accidents, chemical spills, and talking to your community about fire prevention.

You may be called out two/three times a week for one/two hours. This can be during the day, evenings or weekend, but you choose the hours when you are available; all we ask is for you to be flexible. The availability hours contract that we are looking to fill is 84 hours per week (full cover). This will spread across Weekdays, Evenings, Nights and a weekend rota system.

Your employer may be interested in the benefits and transferable skills the Service can offer in your workplace – for more information visit our website (a career with DSFRS/retained firefighter)

There are no qualifications but you must be:

Aged 18 or over

Able to respond from home/work within 5 minutes

Physically and medically fit with good eyesight and hearing

Prepared for the commitment and discipline of being a Firefighter

Preferably hold a full UK driving license

**For more details:**

**See our North Tawton Fire Station Facebook page**

or

**Call: 07850963608**

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### **Sampford Courtenay Flower, Vegetable and Craft Show**

will take place on Saturday 19th August 2017 – the usual exhibits are included and a full schedule will be posted on the Sampford Courtenay Website and delivered through your door. However, below is a list of some of the exhibits you can start thinking about now:-

1. New craft item – Hand Woven item
2. This year's Adult photo themes are Comedy, Wildlife and Pink.
3. Adult homemade Greetings card for a 90th Birthday.
4. Children's collage on animal theme.
5. Children's photograph of feet
6. Miniature model of a picnic on a plate
7. Homemade Scarecrow – max 12" tall
8. Home made Holiday Postcard
9. Short story on a Bedtime theme.

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## NORTH TAWTON BOWLING CLUB

**Continuing the item in last month's Roundabout on the opening of the new club house, this additional information has been received:**

The ribbon was cut by club secretary Gordon Denham assisted by President Paul Andrews, Treasurer Robert Arscott, club life members Joyce and Des Vallance and Devon Bowls President Colin Healy MBE. Paul Andrews praised all those who had been involved in making the new club house possible, particularly Gordon Denham, and described the new facilities as a credit to the club and the town. Mr. Healy praised the club efforts, dedication and perseverance in overcoming many difficulties resulting in this tremendous facility. He then presented the club with a glass memento of Bowls Devon's visit.

The club house was also made possible by funding from Sport England and Viridor Credits Environmental Company. Additional funding was provided by the Durant Legacy run by North Tawton Town Council, Devon County Council, Mr and Mrs Gregory, Taw Valley Creamery and members of the Bowling Club.

Thanks were given to Paul Tucker, fund raising adviser, the contractors and our architect Geoff Cawse who guided us step by step. A great day for North Tawton Bowling Club and huge thanks to all involved.

*Mike Thwaites*

### ***FONTS (Friends of North Tawton School)*** ***FONTS NEWS***

Firstly the FONTS committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made our slightly drizzly June Jamboree a success this year. Unfortunately we were driven inside by a very grey damp Saturday morning, but in true traditional Brit style we soldiered on.

It was very busy with lots of stalls for both young and old. After a count up the grand total raised was an amazing **£1200.00**

So, again, thank you if you donated a prize, helped set up, helped man a stall, helped pack up and to those who turned up to spend your valuable pennies.

We really are truly grateful.

#### ***SUMMER SWIMMING***

Every year we like to open the pool to local primary school children during the summer holidays, for a bargain price of £1.00 per child.

The opening times are Monday 10am – 12pm, Wednesday 2pm – 4pm and Friday 6pm – 8pm.

We can only do this if we can organise three volunteers per session to supervise (one must hold a current First Aid Certificate).

Children will still need to be accompanied by an adult during the session. They will also need to wear a swim hat.

If for any reason we are not able to open then I will post on Facebook so please keep an eye out for this.

We look forward to see a full pool this year.

Jo Reynolds  
Vice Chair



### **Auditions for ANTS Pantomime 2018**

ANTS will proudly present the Panto "Happily Ever After" from Tuesday 13th February 2018 to Saturday 17th February 2018 inclusive.

AUDITIONS will take place at the Town Hall in North Tawton on Sunday 24th September at 2.00 p.m..

Everyone welcome – members and non-members alike. Come and take part in this exciting Panto, which was written by one of our members and has many local references. So come and support him and join a fun and exciting show. The characters are all based around traditional Panto characters – Prince, Princess, King, Queen, Dame, Baddy, Fairy, Henchmen etc and we are looking to have a good sized Chorus for this show.

If you wish to audition in a singing role, please bring along your backing track. This can be through your phone, memory stick or CD.

We look forward to seeing you all there and can't wait to get started on this new show. Rehearsals will start on Wednesday 27th September, come along and meet new and old friends.

If you require further details please contact Nigel Davies on (01837) 82138.

### **1940's Tea Party**

**Sunday 30th July 2017 3pm - 5-30pm**

**at Northcote Hall, Iddesleigh**

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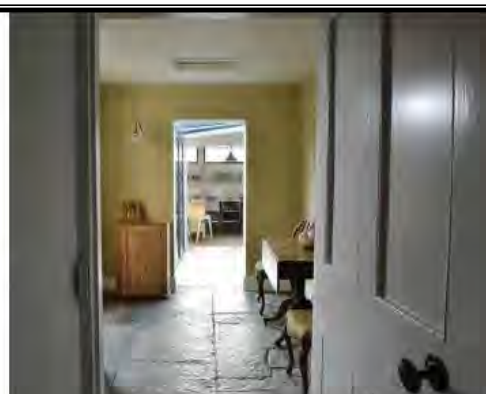
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## Notes from Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

Full minutes can be viewed on our website

[www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk) where any useful links are live.

### Replacement Play Equipment

SCPC have managed to obtain funding from Cllr. James McInness – DCC, and Cllrs. L. Samuel and L. Watts – WDBC, together with this year's Grant funding from Chase Milton Wind Turbines to cover the cost of replacing the two swings which were deemed dangerous at our Annual inspection last October.

### Planning

- a) **1095/17/HHO – Mr R Turner** – Springfield, Sampford Courtenay – Householder application for demolition of existing conservatory and replacement extension.  
SCPC – Support
- b) **1990/17/LBC – Mr Viggers** – Paize Cottage – Listed Building Consent for domestic workshop/store.  
SCPC – Support

### WDBC Decisions :-

- c) **Correction – last month should have read – 0412/17/PDM – Mr & Mrs R Board – The Barn (Part) Cricket Farm - Refusal**
- d) **0696/17/ARC – Mr & Mrs Gillespie** – Discharge of conditional approved
- e) **0961/17/PDM – Hawking, Peard & Collims** – Prior approval given
- f) **3687/16/FUL – David Cruden** – Conditional approval
- g) **158/17/HHO – Mr & Mrs Hammans** – Conditional approval
- h) **1085/17/HHO – Mr Dave Viggers** – Conditional approval
- i) **0309/17/PHH – Mr Coldrick** – Prior approval given
- j) **1208/17/FUL – Mr & Mrs Tucker** – Conditional approval

### Phone boxes

- a) **Do SCPC/Parishioners wish to maintain the 3 BT Public Phone boxes as working phone boxes?** SCPC would then need to persuade a reluctant BT to service and maintain them.
- b) **Do SCPC/Parishioners wish to Adopt all 3 phone boxes and maintain as Village Landmarks as a Community Project?** (On the understanding that they have to be disconnected to do this; and BT stipulates they cannot be used for other communication e.g. Wifi masts.

If you have any views on this matter please contact the Clerk or attend the next meeting.

**Highways** – the Clerk had received several emails in response to maintenance of roads around the parish – a summary of the main points will be posted on the website & are listed below:-

- a) **Highway Inspections** – “A” roads are inspected monthly, “B” and “C” roads are inspected 6 monthly and minor roads annually. In addition DCC responds to reports of individual defects on highways from parish councils and members of the public.
- b) **Preventative Maintenance** – with a limited funding available DCC strategy is based on preventative maintenance and timely intervention rather than adopting a “worst first” policy which is not cost effective. (a number of roads that are in “reasonable” condition can be patched and surface dressed for the

same cost as reconstructing one road that is in poor condition.)

- c) **Report a problem** – It is helpful for Parishes and individuals to report potholes that meet the criteria online via the [website](#) These go straight to the contractor for repair.
- d) **Beware Children Playing signs** – a member of the public asked if SCPC could ask for “Beware Children” signs on roads approaching the village to try and slow down vehicles. Cllr. A Thorley was actioned to investigate this.
- e) **Community Self Help** – DCC also provide funding and training for volunteers from the parish to become Road Wardens. If any of you are interested in becoming a SC Road Warden please contact the Clerk.

Please contact SCPC Clerk – Marion Pratt at [SCPCclerk@aol.com](mailto:SCPCclerk@aol.com) or on 01837 82285 if you would like to raise any issues. Even better, come along to a meeting. Next meetings Aug 18<sup>th</sup> and Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Sampford Courtenay Website Archive Photos

Thanks to the Miles family I have been able to scan several archive photos of the parish and parishioners to our new website. [www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk) If you have a look at the “Pictures and Stories” page I have tried to post them in areas around the village. In the “People” category – there are lots of people I can not name – but perhaps you can. Have a look and let me know – so that I can update the website. Also, if you have any interesting snaps of the parish over the ages – please may I borrow them to scan to the website. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Marion Pratt



### **Sampford Courtenay Parish Website:**

<http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/>

The website is managed by **Janice Brown** who can be contacted on [brownstheword@btinternet.com](mailto:brownstheword@btinternet.com) or [admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk) or by phone:

**07725 738437**

**01837 82143**

## **New Energy Guidelines for Landlords**

We would like to draw your attention to a new government policy which means that landlords will soon be unable to rent out any private rental property with a low scoring EPC rating (from April 2018) in England and Wales. The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) legislation is currently set so that no domestic properties with an F or G rating can be let from this date. This means that unless your property scores an EPC rating of E or above it will be against the law to rent this property out\*.

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We are offering a consultancy service to private landlords to help them meet the requirements of this new policy in order to make the changes needed to ensure their property can be let in the future. The industry believes that there will be a surge in demand for the services of assessors and installers in April 2018 and so to avoid disappointment, long lead times and loss of rental income from the property being unable to be let, we are making you aware of what we can currently offer you.

For more information regarding our services please visit our website [www.devondare.org](http://www.devondare.org) or telephone us on 01837 89200 for an informal chat.

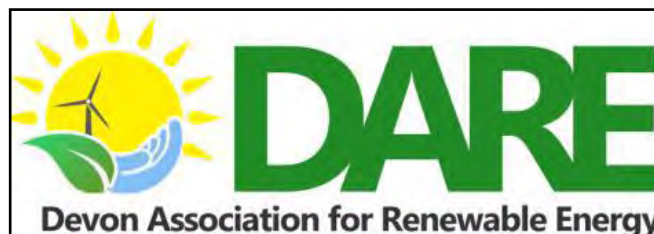
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\*Exceptional circumstances apply.



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## **Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay and Jacobstowe W.I.**

The latest meeting was held in the village hall on Thursday, July 6th. The president welcomed everyone and Jerusalem was sung. There was a good attendance to hear the speaker, who was Bernie Little from the Devon Grandparents Support Group. His daughter stopped him and his wife from seeing their grandchildren in 2011. It was a devastating blow and they were completely lost and obtained a dog to help fill their lives. The Group was started in 2014, so that people suffering from the same as them had someone to contact and talk to. There are about one million children in the country, who do not see their grandparents and according to the law, children and grandparents do not have any rights. It is very difficult to get any contact via the courts. Luckily, Bernie and his wife are now in contact with their grandchildren again.

After tea the small amount of business was dealt with. There was a lot of correspondence, which included details of a trip to Cardiff Christmas Market, Denman break in May 2018, speakers preview day and the result of the 2017 resolutions.

There was an update on the entry for Okehampton Show and final arrangements were made for the outing to the Garden Cottage on August 3rd. The next trip for the Walking Group is to Fernworthy Reservoir on July 28th and there is to be a Jumble Sale in the village hall on Saturday September 2nd. Margaret Cleveland won both the Flower of the Month and the competition, which was for a family photograph. Well done, Margaret!

The next meeting is in Sampford Courtenay village hall on Thursday September 7th when the speaker will be Sophie Goodwin-Hughes of the Dartmoor Soap Company. Visitors are always welcome.

*Margaret Weeks*



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For further information contact  
Charlotte Sampson 07706 942901 or  
[charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com)

### Okehampton Table Tennis Club

Our new session has now started at the club, which is situated  
behind the Post Office building in Castle Road, Okehampton.

Monday evening from 7pm -10pm open to beginners or  
anyone renewing their love of table tennis perhaps.

The session is a fun and social session open to all ages and  
abilities.

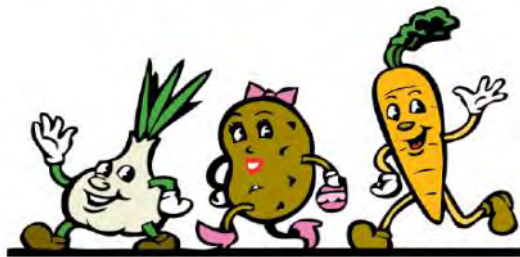
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### Okehampton & District Local History Society

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9th September	Coffee Morning
19th October	Quiz Night
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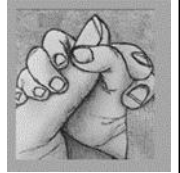
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## Bondleigh Rainfall

June was a very variable month, typical English summer weather! The first ten days of the month were damp and drizzly. Then two weeks dry and warm, culminating in a short 'heatwave'. The last week was back to normal, much cooler and wet. Total rainfall was 73.3mm. Although quite high it was less than last year.

*D.Semorad*



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**Dates: 25<sup>th</sup> July, 22<sup>nd</sup> August,  
5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017**



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### ROUNABOUT DEADLINE:

#### Community News, Articles, and Events

are published (free of charge) in any edition, but must be received by the Editors no later than the 13th of the month before publication.



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## Alf Bolt receives his Legion d'honneur medal



Alf's daughter Jane writes:

The ceremony went very well and we were all very proud of Dad watching him receive such an honour. The event took place on the 21st June at 2 p.m. in the Royal Marines Barracks at Chivenor, near Barnstaple, in their Chapel. There were eight other recipients beside Dad, not all Royal Marines.

The French Consul presented Dad with his medal, reading out Dad's service record and saying he had served the French Government and the people of France well.

Dad sailed to Normandy on the 6th June to provide close Anti-Aircraft support at Gold beach. He was a Gunner on a Royal Navy Tank Landing craft LCF25 and he also patrolled the coast line for 12 weeks and helped maintain the barricade of the River Seine.

*New exercise class starting in Winkleigh and North Tawton  
in September:*

### *'Ballet Fit Fifty'*

*A low impact exercise class suitable for ages 50 plus using Ballet to  
improve posture, flexibility and tone up.*

*Winkleigh Sports Centre - Monday 9:30am - 10:30am  
North Tawton Town Hall - Wednesday 9:30 - 10:30am*

*First classes begin the week commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September and  
will be only £1 - come and try the class and see if you enjoy it! After  
that classes will be £24 per six weeks or £5 pay as you go.*

*For more information or any questions email Sophie on  
[sophie\\_sian@rocketmail.com](mailto:sophie_sian@rocketmail.com) or call 07545184936*





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In "From the Rectory" in April, Nick Weldon outlined a partnership scheme St. Peter's Church is undertaking to support five different organisations over the next three years.

This is the fourth of five articles about how the church community at St. Peter's in North Tawton has committed itself to aiding five charities over the next three years. Maurice Poole here explains his interest in Farming Community Network for which he is acting as the church's local "champion":

I have been asked to represent FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK (F.C.N.) for St. Peter's Church at North Tawton as part of the new partnership networking.

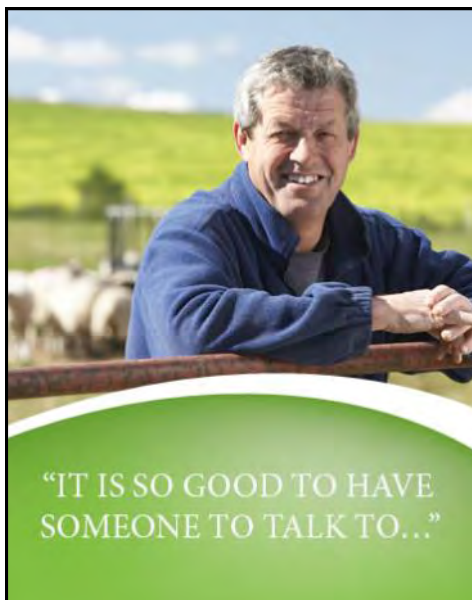
Farming Community Network was formerly set up as Farming Crisis Network in 1995 by a few farmers who saw the need for a listening ear in times of trouble. Each farm must survive and thrive to remain as a business; just consider the problems surrounding animal health and welfare: having to rely on the right sort of weather to produce a decent crop; complying with all the regulations and red tape that go with food production; negotiating tenancy agreements and so forth. Then add the problems we all face: accidents, ill health, domestic and family difficulties, retirement plans etc.. When a farmer is forced out of business, for whatever reason, not only are jobs lost and a family home lost, but farming families are displaced, while generations of expertise in caring for the countryside can be lost for ever. F.C.N. is a Christian organisation and registered charity which continues today with a network of three hundred volunteers organised into county groups throughout England and Wales, many of whom are members of the farming community or have close links with agriculture. They provide pastoral and practical support for as long as needed and help people find a positive way forward through their problems.

It doesn't matter whether they need help in filling in forms or in being accompanied on a visit to the Bank. They may need encouragement when they find things are going badly or someone to help when they are upset or grieving. F.C.N. volunteers can be at their side. Much of the work goes on quietly and unseen because it is offered confidentially. Farming has the highest rate of suicides of any other industry, a sad indication that the value work of done by F.C.N. cannot be overestimated.

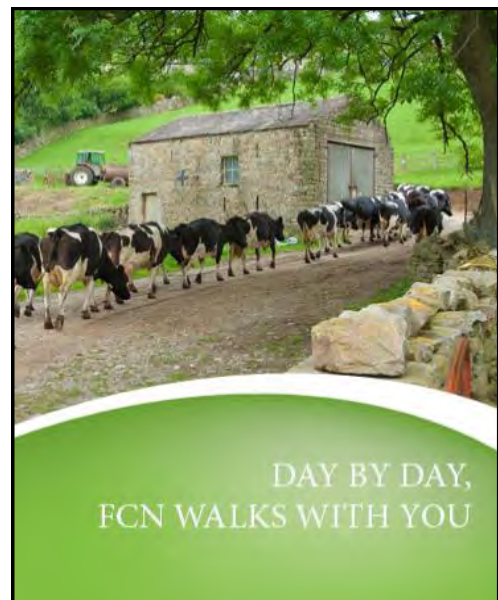
Many people have their health, their families, their future and their very lives intact because of the care, support and friendship they have received through F.C.N. volunteers.

F.C.N. has supported over three thousand people in one year. The number and complexity of problems is growing. None of the money given will go to supporting a business, but for the essential needs of a family only.

F.C.N. provides a confidential, national telephone Helpline which is available from 7.00 a.m. until 11.00 p.m. every day of the year. The Helpline email is: [chris@fcn.org.uk](mailto:chris@fcn.org.uk)



The Helpline staff will put callers in touch with an F.C.N. volunteer.



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## Okehampton U3A University of the Third Age

The August meeting will take place at the Ockment Centre, North Street at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 31st August 2017

There will be a talk entitled

### Hidden Gems of East Anglia by Ian O'Neill

Ian lived in East Anglia for many years and has an extensive knowledge of the architecture and buildings of the area. The talk will cover both private and public buildings and will include information on many properties which are not normally accessible to the general public. His talk will be illustrated with digital slides.

Okehampton U3A welcomes new or prospective members, who will receive a warm welcome. The only requirement is that members are not in full time employment.



## Events at Okehampton Library

### Saturday 15 July – Saturday 9 September - Animal Agents Summer Reading Challenge

A brilliant challenge for children to read six books over the summer holidays - Free activity

### Wednesday 2 August 14:00-16:00

#### Animal Agents - Really Wild Learning

Animal encounter & activity. Suitable for children aged 4+ and their carers

£3 per child – book in advance at Okehampton Library

### Tuesday 8 August 14:00-15:00

#### Code Breakers Calling all undercover agents!

Free - suitable for children aged 7+

### Wednesday 16 August 14:00-15:30

#### For Cats' Eyes Only

Oliver Tooley will be talking about his new book and making secret agent I. D. cards.

Suitable for children aged 6-10. £2 per child – book in advance at Okehampton Library

### Monday 21 August 10:30-11:30

#### Fascinating Fingerprints

Top Secret - for your eyes only.

Free - suitable for children aged 4+

### Tuesday 29 August – Saturday 2 September Dodgy Disguises

Create your own design kit

Suitable for children aged ages 4+. Free - during library opening hours

Children under 8 must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult

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<b>Wednesday</b>		Bow
<b>Thursday</b>	Bow and North Tawton	Bow and North Tawton
<b>Friday</b>	North Tawton	Bow

**Should you become acutely unwell during the day, please telephone the practice for advice. A GP may call you back or offer you an emergency appointment.**

**If you are unable to keep an appointment, please let us know as soon as possible so that someone else can have the appointment, thank you.**

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## News from the Castle

Hi everyone

Work on the final phase of building work is just flying along! Some of the granite is already starting to come down to storage and our first window is due for removal within the next week. Just in case one project wasn't enough, work to reinstate the turbine house back to working order is starting to pick up pace too. The original turbines have been removed for refurbishment before being fitted back in and we are getting ready for the cable route to go in. Please let me know if you would like to get the newsletter about this project.

I'm sure some of you are wondering where the car park machines are which were due to be in place by the end of June. Due to unavoidable delays being experienced by the central delivery and installation teams, our new car parking payment machines have been delayed. The revised installation date we've been assigned is now the 24<sup>th</sup> July, so watch this space.

We have had a really busy month of events and community activities too with an even busier one coming up. Talks, school visits, classroom sessions, theatre and orienteering groups – phew! The event I am most looking forward to is Boxtree productions bringing **'Wind in the Willows'** on Thursday 10th August, 5-8pm. Picnics are available to pre-book from the Castle Drogo café and tickets are available from the Plough box office on 01805 624624. Prices: £13 (£11 Conc, £9 Plough Supporters + families with children under 18 years).

Take care everyone and see you soon.  
Paula  
Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo

**01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.**

## COAST RIDIN' IRELAND



A big thank you to everyone who supported this challenge event in support of the cancer research and relief charity.

Including cheques, cash, Gift Aid and money donated via 'Virgin Money Giving', together we have raised £2,265 and there is still some more coming in.

The actual cycle, around the coast of the island of Ireland, was an unforgettable experience covering 1,502 miles in three weeks.

Details of the journey can be found on the Sampford Courtenay website.

If you meant to give a bit, but never got round to it, do visit the 'Virgin Money Giving' website or just hand the dosh or a cheque made out to 'Force' to me. Every penny will be put to very good use.

*John Palmer*

## News from Sampford Courtenay

Feverish activity in the gardens of Sampford Courtenay, during the previous six months or so when the weather allowed, culminated in a successful Open Gardens day on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, organised jointly by St. Andrew's church and the Village Hall. There were 12 gardens to view, ranging from those with multiple acres to tiny back yards, at a modest cost of £5 per person. The weather on the day was kind and ploughman's lunches and cream teas were available in the Church Rooms.

The following Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, heralded a most enjoyable Grand Dinner and Dance in the Village Hall to celebrate the opening of its new extension. The hall was beautifully decorated and included some splendid flower arrangements created by members of Sampford Courtenay Flower Club. The black tie affair began with a delicious hot meal and a 'three sweet treat', coffee and mints, provided by Oaktree Occasions, after which the hall was cleared for dancing.

St. Andrew's Summer Fete was held in the Church Rooms on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> July, with the usual stalls offering home-made cakes, produce, books, bric-a-brac, tombola, a draw and teas. In excess of £548 was raised for Church funds.

The baptism of 21 month old Archibald Theodore Luscombe, son of Aron and Holly Luscombe of Week Farm, North Tawton, was held in the packed church of St. Andrew's on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> July at 1.00pm.. Godparents were Alex Dennis, Joshua Luscombe, Kelvin Sanders, Elizabeth Sterrett and Claire Stanbury. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev'd Nick Weldon and the organist was Margaret Weeks.

The bellringer's barbeque, scheduled for the night of Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, was cancelled due to inclement weather. It will be re-scheduled.

*Nicky Craig*

### **Sampford Courtenay Grand Summer Ball**

It was a typical English Summer evening - wet and cold, but nothing dampened the spirits of those attending the ball. Everyone was welcomed with a refreshing glass of bubbly and some delicious canapés. The ladies all looked beautiful in their Summer dresses and the men looked handsome in their DJs and suits!

It was then time for everyone to mingle and chat to old and new friends before dinner was announced; and an absolutely delicious dinner this turned out to be! Prepared and served piping hot by a wonderful team, nothing was too much trouble for Oaktree Occasions. The desserts were simply stupendous - a trio, each so tasty that it was hard to choose a favourite.

A toast was drunk to Les Beer and the early Village Hall Committee, who, through their hard work, enabled the hall to be retained for the community's use and enjoyment. After coffee and mints, a space was cleared for the dancing to begin, and I don't think the dance floor was empty from that moment on, as everyone danced to the great sounds of All Bar One.

Such a wonderful evening could not have taken place without a tremendous amount of planning and hard work from the Village Hall Committee who toiled tirelessly away behind the scenes. Special thanks go to the ladies of the Flower club who very generously made and donated the beautiful table decorations, and also to Alistair Stoneman our cheery barman for the evening.

*Deborah Taylor - Morris*



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<b>TEAM RECTOR:</b> Chagford	Rev'd Paul Seaton-Burn (01647 432880)	The Rectory, Chagford, TQ13 8BW
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2nd Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion BCP
3rd Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
4th Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion BCP
5th Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion Common Worship

**SERVICES at St. Peter's Church**  
**North Tawton**

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2nd Sunday	11 a.m.	Informal Communion 6.30 p.m. Evensong (Apr - Oct)
3rd Sunday	11 a.m.	All-age Worship
4th Sunday		Traditional Communion
5th Sunday		Informal Communion

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## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptism

Sunday 18th June                      Darcey Belle RICE (12 months)                      St. Peter's Church  
Sunday 9th July                      Archibald Theodore LUSCOMBE (21 months)                      St. Andrew's Church

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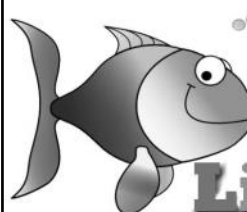
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Sept Rosemary Lowe

### Honeychurch

Aug S. Svedang  
Sept J.Reddaway

### Bondleigh

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Aug 27th / Sept 3rd Trish Peters  
Sept 10th / 17th Barbara Dennis  
(Sept 17th Harvest Festival)  
Sept 24th Pam Evison

### North Tawton

#### Flowers

Aug 6th Lindsay Gibb  
IMO Rev & Mrs Selman  
Aug 13th Lindsay Gibb  
Aug 20th / 27th Monica Simons  
Sept 3rd Wedding Flowers  
Sept 10th / 17th Margaret Arcscott  
Sept 24th Wedding Flowers

#### Brass

Aug Frances Brookes  
Sept Sandra Delve

\*\*\*\*\*

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