

ROUNDABOUT

North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch - and beyond!



Last month we had a Rainbow of hope on our cover for you to colour.

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- a tribute to the men and women of this emergency service who have been so busy
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From The Rectory

Is a tomato a vegetable or a fruit?

Why quizzes? Why has the Zoom-quiz become our new family ritual? And it's a regular ritual too in these strange days of lockdown. We do my son's football team quiz on a Friday evening with all the North Tawton Under 11's and parents joining in. We do a Weldon family quiz at 5 p.m. on a Saturday linking up with Bath, Tamworth, Corsham and London. And we do a Mather family quiz (that's my wife's side) on Sunday afternoons, with two teams in Guildford and one in London. They have become the highlights of the week. None of us are regulars at pub quizzes, but now that we can't go to the pub, why are we doing something we rarely ever do in a pub?

Maybe we have all gone mad. But by all accounts it is not just us that have been infected with Zoom-quiz-itis. I have heard that loads of you are doing them too. (For those that don't know, and I didn't before March 23rd, Zoom is video-conferencing software, which means you can see and talk live to multiple people at once on a computer.) We thought we were quite enterprising linking up online to family across the south of England, but my colleague Revd Rita does a weekly Zoom-quiz with her family in Northamptonshire and in Singapore! Can anyone beat that for distance across the world?

I gather Google has seen a massive upsurge in searches for pub quiz material in recent weeks. Everyone is doing them... families, friends, people that regularly did pub-quizzes before lockdown, and those that tend to avoid them except perhaps at Christmas. There must be something fuelling this new craze for the Zoom-quiz. I think it might be a mixture of the following...

1. We are desperate to connect with each other during this time of forced separation. Whilst some people will happily chat away on the phone for hours, many (especially blokes) often need something to do in order to connect. But...
2. We are all bored and have very little to talk about. We've used FaceTime and Skype to keep in regular "face-to-face" contact with the grandparents for years now. They love to see the children, and the children love to see them. But we quickly realised a week or two into lockdown that when we called we had nothing to talk about, because no one had done anything! "Have you finished painting the downstairs loo?" "Yes." "Have you got enough food in?" "Yes." "What did you make of what Boris said?" Etc. etc.... enough to make you want to paint the hallway too. Actually, I did that in lockdown week 3.
3. Trivia matters in extreme circumstances. I gather the BBC broadcasted regular quizzes in wartime. Often the subject matter was about the latest government guidelines, but people liked them and the subject matter expanded into general knowledge. It seemed quizzes gave the people a

sense of achievement and control in a time of crisis.

Everyone was in it together, so the bombs may be dropping "but at least I know that a zucchini is a courgette". It is for the same reason prisoners have always made up games to help get them through a sentence, and long car journeys get punctuated with useless facts, eye-spy and "When I went on a picnic..."

4. We are all a bit nosy. If this pandemic had happened only ten years ago, the broadband speeds and video-conferencing applications would not have been there to make online quizzes possible. And if someone in my family had suggested we did a quiz by phone on a Saturday evening it wouldn't have lasted past week 1. We love the view Zoom gives us into other people's homes when the video-call flashes up, even people whose homes we know well. We like to see them sitting in that room with those things behind them. For similar reasons, I'm fascinated by the contents of bookshelves, or the pictures on the wall, or funny little trinkets in the background behind the person talking on the TV. And it's so disappointing when it is just a blank wall behind them and you are forced to actually listen to what they are saying.

I think all of the reasons above are associated with a desire for hope and a longing to keep our spirits alive during this period when life feels limited and threatened. These are very human rhythms, and we would do well to recognise them and run with them as long as is necessary. Of course, ultimately, that hope should be fuelled by and founded upon something a little more substantive than "8 out of 10 in the food and drink round". I would say, base it on Christ and a living faith in his mercy and grace. But if nailing the five colours of the Olympic rings helps to get you through another day in these trying times, well, so be it, for now.

The acid test will be if this quiz craze lasts beyond lockdown. Thankfully, we are beginning to see an easing of the government restrictions. If cases of Covid continue to reduce soon we will be able to meet up with some of the people we have been quizzing with. What a joy that will be! So my hunch is that the Weldon family Zoom-quiz will probably fall by the wayside as things go back to "normal". What will certainly not wane though, for me and for many of you, is that passion to stay hopeful and to keep our spirits up when the next difficult period arrives, whatever form it takes. The quiz has really helped over these tough weeks, but there is a far great Helper out there always ready for a call. And, by the way, it's a fruit.

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Editorial for June 2020

We would like to say a big “thank you” to all those who made last month’s “Roundabout” possible: contributors of material for us to publish; our printer who made deliveries to our “drop off” places for the magazines; all those who not only took a copy from there for themselves, but also delivered a copy to a neighbour.

We all look towards a time when we can deliver a copy through your front door again. As the government begins to ease the regulations under which we have lived for the past eight weeks, please understand that those deliveries may not resume for some time afterwards - deliverers may not feel able to operate again immediately. There are understandable fears about the risks of infection among the more elderly of our population quite apart from other underlying health issues.

So, as last month, this edition will be available from one of the three “drop-off” points:

North Tawton:	under cover on the top step of the Town Hall.
Bondleigh:	in the porch of St. James’s Church.
Sampford Courtenay:	in the porch of St. Andrew’s Church (copies also may be delivered by healthy daily walkers).
Honeychurch:	Copies will be brought to Honeychurch from Sampford Courtenay by a walker.

We are grateful for the help of church wardens and others to manage the distribution. With the co-operation of the Sampford Courtenay Village Council, copies were left also in local bus shelters and in a resident’s porch in Sampford Chapple and so were in easier reach of walkers. Thank you to all those who have helped distribute.

If you have a neighbour who cannot leave home, perhaps you will consider collecting a copy for him or her? It would be one kindly way of keeping that neighbour in touch with the local world outside their home at a time when personal visits are discouraged. It can become all too easy for such a neighbour to feel isolated.

Remember, “Roundabout” can be found also on our website:

www.northtawtonroundabout.com

and it can be accessed as well as on links via the websites of the North Tawton Town Council, St. Peter’s Church and the Sampford Courtenay Village Council.

It will be a great help to us if readers feel able to contribute articles for future editions, so please keep them coming as we wait for normal life to return for us all.

Hilary and Richard. contact at:
nt.roundabout@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.

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E mail: nt.roundabout@gmail.com
no later than 13th of the month before publication
is required (and earlier, if possible)

New advertisers are always welcome.
Advertisements can be arranged for shorter periods than
one year or for single editions.

Visit Roundabout on its own website:
www.northtawtonroundabout.com
(There are also links online via the websites of the
North Tawton Town Council and the
Sampford Courtenay Village Council).

A Lament

As I look back long years ago, it makes me smile to think
Corona came in bottles as a favoured fizzy drink.
You'd pour your favourite flavour for a first glass of
delight
And close the levered bottle top to seal more fizz in tight.
At last, the bottle empty and with all the drinking done,
Corona had a last delight, a final bit of fun:
To supplement their pocket money children quickly
learned
To get some pennies back on empty bottles we returned.

Though now corona's back again, too small for us to see,
They say it's big enough to be the death of you and me.
So shall our lives be altered by a microbe which infects?
O perish such a thought which ev'ry Britisher rejects.
O nasty little bug, a-bringing fever and a cough,
Go back to where you came from, or, put briefly, just
bug off.
Bug off from our fresh British air for nowadays all think
We much preferred Corona in a bottle we could drink.

Richard Edwards

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North Tawton Memorial Park – using the park and its facilities

The Park was re-opened for limited use recently. The up to date guidelines issued by the Government this week indicate that the MUGA and the pump track may be used. We are putting up notices to advise about this, and to advise everyone as to the precautions to be followed. The playground equipment must not be used – evidence indicates the virus could live on metal for up to 72 hours, therefore the risk is too great. Here is the latest guidance from the Government:

What can I do that I couldn't do before?

There are a limited number of things you can now do that you could not do before, these include:

- spend time outdoors – for example sitting and enjoying the fresh air, picnicking, or sunbathing.
- meet one other person from a different household outdoors - following social distancing guidelines.
- exercise outdoors as often as you wish - following social distancing guidelines.
- use outdoor sports courts or facilities, such as a tennis or basketball court, or golf course – with members of your household, or one other person while staying two metres apart.

At all times, you must continue to observe social distancing guidelines when you are outside your home, including ensuring you are 2 metres away from anyone outside your household. If you are showing coronavirus symptoms, or if you or any of your household are self-isolating, you should stay at home - this is critical to staying safe and saving lives.

We ask parents to make sure their children use the relevant park facilities according to Government guidelines – this will help to keep our community safe, thank you.

Sheep Worrying

The Council has received reports of problems with dogs worrying sheep in some of the fields around the town. Please, if you are walking your dog on a public footpath through fields it must be kept on a lead if you are in an area where there are sheep. Dogs must also be kept on leads in Letherens Lane, and must be under proper control in all public areas.

Durant Trust – applications for grants are invited

A meeting of the Durant Trust will take place in June, the date will have been publicised by the time the Roundabout is issued – check the board outside our office or our website. Application forms are available online or can be posted to you on request. Please see the Council's website for information and to download a form.

NTTC Meetings – now being done via Zoom

Meetings of the Council and of Council Committees are now taking place via Zoom. Members of the public can log into the meetings – the agendas will have the relevant instructions, or refer to our website for information. You can also contact us by phone or email for advice about logging onto our public meetings.

Coronavirus – are you feeling isolated and need to hear a friendly voice and have a chat?

Our North Tawton Community Support Group has volunteers who are able to ring you on a regular basis and just have an informal and friendly chat, this is something many of us may well be missing at this time. If you want to arrange for someone to ring you, please contact us via phone or email, or via the 'Contact Us' page on our website. Remember, all of our volunteers are people that are known to us (i.e. known to Council members, the Rector, or the Chair of the North Tawton WI), and they have registered with us as our official volunteers.

North Tawton Climate Questionnaire

The Council will shortly be issuing a questionnaire to get the views of our residents on a number of issues relating to climate change. At the time of writing we have not finalised whether this will be a pull-out in a future issue of the Roundabout, or whether it will be a stand-alone document. There will also be an online version. Please look out on our noticeboard, website, and facebook page for more information.

Finally – thank you to all of our residents for helping to keep our community safe, please keep up the good work. I send good wishes to everyone on behalf of all Members of NTTC.

Sarah Say, Clerk to NTTC

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North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

And the antidote to April's calorific cakeathon? A clean tea towel from the airing cupboard. Me – 'Husband – are you busy?' Him – 'Not really' (note the hint of trepidation and fear regarding what might come next) Me – 'Can you nip upstairs and get me a clean tea towel from the airing cupboard?' (note the huge relief from husband that the job isn't as demanding as he feared). Husband then presents clean tea towel to the resident domestic engineer and allows himself a satisfied and slightly smug smile. Me – 'could you do that another 20 times?' Him – 'have we got that many tea towels?' No dear husband, it's a very sneaky way of exercising by making you climb to the top of the Millennium Dome (21 flights of stairs) or would you prefer the view from the Sydney Opera House? (28 flights) or the Forth Rail Bridge? (45 flights). Why don't you slip a set of crampons over your slippers (don't wear out the stair carpet) and pop up Ben Nevis (587 flights) or Mount Kilimanjaro (2578 flights) and when you've finished, I'll put the kettle on for a nice cup of tea and a teeny tiny slice of Topsy Drizzle cake (one is watching what one eats) Thinking about it, you could take a flask of tea with you and have it when you've reached the summit.

I think I'm getting the hang of this 'Zoom' thingy. With a bit of advice and some reassuring words from my 'techy' brother (laptop has just asked me if I meant to type 'tetchy') I was able to join our W.I. Committee meeting and, feeling reasonably confident after that, I popped up as a member of the public at the monthly Town Council Meeting. Couldn't tell you what they talked about. Far too busy looking at everyone's bookshelves/posh mirrors/paintings. I spotted a couple of volumes of the Reader's Digest Complete DIY Manual, some rather lovely curtains and I must remember to ask a certain councillor if that was a set of bongos lurking in the background. Was also fascinated to check out everybody's hair. Rather more hair than when we last met in most cases. The trick is to sit at your computer with the light behind you so that you appear as an alluring silhouette. It worked for me.

Quizzes. Can you ever have too many? Is that a quiz question in itself? Our quiz hungry members have been testing themselves to distraction with everything from typical pub quiz questions to a themed quiz about sweets and chocolates. Now you're talking. Although my favourite has to be the quiz I saw in a daily paper that showed you 20 popular chocolate bars (I've never met an unpopular bar of chocolate) which had been cut in half and you had to guess the brand from the cross section. Who knew that it could be so easy to confuse a Topic with a Snickers? The only way to be sure is to buy one of every chocolate bar on the shelf and do your own research – well, I didn't have anything else to do. Except maybe check out samples of new stair carpet.

Sue Knott

A Classroom Covid-19

A once busy classroom, now falls silent.

Pencils that once wrote great poetry, now lay still.

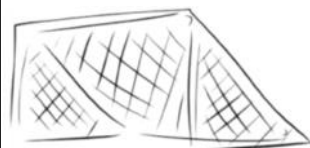
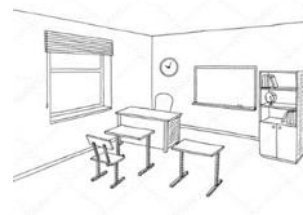
The windows now stare vacantly,

On to the peaceful, florescent grass that once tickled feet.

The dinner hall now quiet, as it has no one to serve food to.

The footballs now hiding away in a cupboard, no longer flying through the sky.

The musical instruments no longer sing songs, that once made them smile.



...but one day

The silent classroom will shout again.

Pencils will tell stories that need to be heard.

The windows will again see the grass play gently with small hands.

The dinner hall will help to feed hungry mouths once again.

The footballs will fly across the sky, scoring many goals.

And the musical instruments will again sing the songs that they hold deep inside.



by Jake M-H (Year 5)



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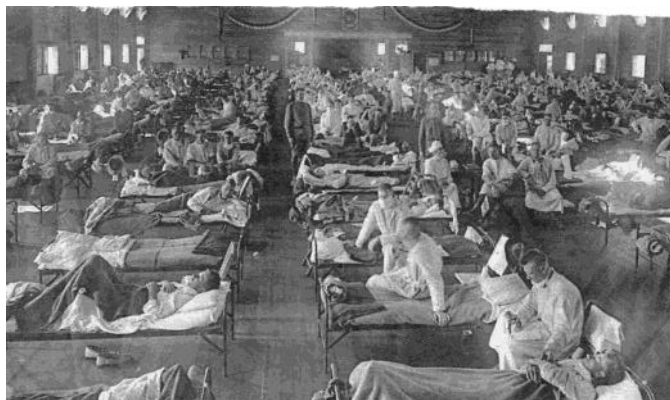


PANDEMICS PAST AND PRESENT

Although regarded by many of us to be a unique phenomenon, the current pandemic fits into a distinct pattern of global disease and plague over the course of history. Plagues were recorded as long ago as the 5th century B.C., and the Black Death of the mid 14th century reduced the world's population by over a quarter (it took another two centuries to recover). Richard Edwards's vivid account in last month's 'Roundabout' of the great sacrifice made by the villagers of Eyam in Derbyshire drew our attention to the suffering experienced during the Great Plague (1665). There have been other viruses and diseases in recent decades. These included the Asian flu pandemic of 1957/8, which also started in China and, like Covid 19, also originated from an avian virus. Over sixty years ago, citizens also bemoaned the initial lack of a vaccine and worried about hospital wards buckling under the anticipated scale of admissions. It too witnessed large loss of life - well over a million deaths across the world, including 14,000 in Great Britain - but was brought under control inside a year, after the discovery of a successful vaccine. We have since endured other, but less lethal, respiratory viruses, including Sars (in 2002) and Mers (2012), as well as outbreaks of swine and bird 'flu, and Ebola in west Africa (2016/7).

Perhaps the greatest medical holocaust in history was the so-called "Spanish 'flu" pandemic of 1918/9. This, like Covid 19, was an airborne virus which spread between individuals (especially those congregated close together in large numbers) via tiny droplets, emitted after coughing or sneezing, and which would have the capacity to ravage humans' respiratory organs. The scale of damage inflicted in a twelve month period was immense. Between 50 and 100 million people lost their lives, with an estimated one third of the world's population being infected (well over 200,000 perished in Great Britain). This fatality count was greater than that suffered during the Great War which had come to a conclusion in November 1918. There were believed to have been three waves of the virus, with the worst occurring during the summer and autumn of 1918, as the war was approaching its end. The causes of the 1918/19 pandemic are still disputed, as Catharine Arnold reminds us in her excellent 2018 book, 'Pandemic 1918'. Theories range from the unlikely - the conspiracy allegations of biological warfare and the effects of mustard gas unleashed by the Germans, to a mutation of animal 'flu linked to rotting corpses on the battlefields of France and Belgium - to more plausible theories, such as the virus being spread by the unprecedented levels of troop movement across the world during a pivotal phase of the conflict. These were not helped by the response of David Lloyd George's wartime administration in 1918 (in contrast with those of Boris Johnson's in 2020). The feeling then was that it would be counter-productive, as far as the all-important national war effort was concerned, to introduce quarantine measures even on the home front, particularly at such a vital stage in the war. This obsession with playing down, or even ignoring, the scale of the pandemic in order to maintain national morale would have serious ramifications both at the battlefield (where it was obviously impractical to practise forms of 'social distancing') and at home. Some of the first reported victims of the virus were at American military camps (the first case was believed to have been an army cook in Texas), and a large number of cases amongst the 'army' of Chinese labourers providing manual labour at the Front. American and British troop ships were also carriers of the disease, and the virus also spread at several patriotic mass meetings in various cities in the States and Britain (not least, at victory parades in November 1918). Strangely enough, the term used for the virus, the "Spanish 'flu", was applied in the case of a neutral country, Spain (although it would later suffer from the virus, the country was not believed to have been its source). The 'Spanish lady' was a caricature of the skull of a grinning woman dancing in a black flamenco dress.

Poor people, often from minority and disadvantaged communities, suffered disproportionately from this virus a century or so ago. One big difference between the Spanish 'flu and Covid 19 was that it was the young and comparatively healthy members of society who were especially prone to the illness (many more American soldiers died from the virus than of war wounds). Like Covid 19, the rich, powerful and famous were not insulated from the evil clutches of the virus. Prime Minister Lloyd George fell seriously ill after attending a war rally in virus hotspot Manchester, and others to fall ill included Mahatma Gandhi, the German Kaiser, the young Walt Disney and film stars such as Groucho Marx and Lillian Gish. Face masks were commonly worn by people on the home front in 1918, and indeed they became the enduring image of the pandemic (in San Francisco a man was shot by police after refusing to wear one). There was also debate at the time over the effectiveness of such masks, and an eerie similarity between 1918 and 2020 in the slowness of the respective diseases to emerge (the period of incubation for the Spanish 'flu lasted for several days before the symptoms of a dry cough and high temperature began to appear). Most parts of Britain suffered from Spanish 'flu, although unlike Covid 19, which has hit London and the South East especially badly, the majority of the early cases of sickness occurred in northern cities like Manchester and Nottingham. In the former city, children were reported to have died sitting at their school desks, and there were numerous cases of people taken ill and gasping for breath, before dying on the streets. Hospitals were unable to cope in many cases, and there were severe levels of staff absence amongst medical professionals and police officers, as newspapers across the world reported several cases of whole families not surviving the 'flu.



A hospital ward during the "Spanish 'flu" pandemic of 1918 -19.

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

The virus even had an impact on the course of the war, with the German general von Ludendorff blaming the virus for his decision to delay the German offensive of mid 1918 (this allowed time for American forces to arrive in France and for the Allies to regroup). The magnitude of the pandemic was stressed by the 'Times' towards the end of 1918. An editorial suggested that 'never since the Black Death has such a plague swept over the world; never perhaps, has a plague been more stoically accepted.'

Although this brief history of the Spanish flu pandemic has identified some significant differences (as well as a number of similarities) between the 1918/19 virus and our own today, there are a number of lessons which we might learn from these events of a century ago.

Those American cities which did maintain stricter quarantine measures had fewer cases of fever fatalities, and suffered less economic damage. Also, suppressing the pandemic was a precondition for a return to economic normality. Whilst the economy was hit in the short-term, those areas with fewer restrictions and a greater number of deaths took longer to recover financially. The lock-downs were less the source of the economic damage, and, rather more, a part of its cure. One might deduce from this 1918/19 pandemic and others, before and since, that it is public acceptance of the safety of their work environment which is more crucial than any government's authorisation for people to return to work in determining such a restart of the national economy. It is hard to make a direct comparison between the post-virus world of 1919 and the likely post-Covid 19 world on account of the former's proximity to an unparalleled international war. However, it's certainly true that the pre-1918 position where the national good took precedence over that of the individual, would soon be replaced by a 'me first' world - soon to be dubbed the 'Roaring Twenties' - which would prove to be a decade of enjoyment, relative self-interest, and even an acceptance of decadence. Whether this will be replicated in the post Covid 19 2020 world is a matter of conjecture. Yet it is hard to dispute that things rarely tend to be the same again in a post-pandemic world.

Alan Parkinson

North Tawton Vegetable Group

A vegetable group has been started for the people of North Tawton and the surrounding area.

The group is being conducted through a group WhatsApp.

Its purposes are to:

- Enable 'members' to swap or give away extra plants or seeds they may have.
- Obtain advice and guidance on issues you may have.
- Give recommendations on planting times and seed quality.

If you would like to be part of this group, please text Rosemary Davies on 07752 865567.

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Ashridge Events

Ashridge Wood Fair - Saturday 27th, June, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Autumn Pop-Up Restaurant - Saturday 5th, September, Tickets Available Soon.

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 28th, November, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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.

A.M.B

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Indelible memory

There are moments in life when you are surprised by something which leaves a strong mark in your memory. I'm not talking about a "seen across a crowded room" moment or about the sort of experience St. Paul had on the road to Damascus. Rather, I'm thinking of a slight incident which causes you great astonishment. I had one in 2006 whilst listening to the one o'clock news on the radio. Tucked away right at the end of the bulletin, as if of little importance but a happy and cheering note on which to close, came the announcement that on that day our nation was free of the debt it owed to the United States of America and Canada for the help we had received from them during the Second World War. On the face of it, this was good news.

Until, that is, I realised that the debt was raised when I was in my cradle and not repaid until I was nearly old enough to be in receipt of a pension. I knew, of course, that my country had relied on aid from across the Atlantic without which it could not have survived. I knew the help of our allies from across the Atlantic included men and resources. I knew about the Marshall plan to aid rebuilding European economies after the war, but the notion that repayment had taken so long had passed me by. I don't pretend to have any skill or knowledge in economics but I have taken an interest in how the country's financial affairs have been managed, especially when, in times of credit restriction, I had difficulty because of them in managing my family finances. Yet somehow there seemed to have been a curious silence over this huge debt to which I presume I and other tax payers must have been contributing, until the chance announcement made almost as an afterthought on the news bulletin in 2006.

I had put this memory by as a happy recollection of my gratitude for help received and satisfaction that it had been repaid, until a former government minister was interviewed on the television last March. He had been a member of the government in 2006 and remembered the debt being finally paid off. But, surprise, surprise, when his interview on television turned to the topic of the coronavirus, he began to discuss the amount of money the government today is throwing at dealing with the crisis. He was in full approval of what the government is doing. But he seemed of the opinion that the damage caused to our economy by the money spent on combating the virus might have a similar effect to the debt incurred during and after the Second World War in that it would affect our economy for as long a time. Given his experience in government, this was a sober conclusion to contemplate. I thought of my son with his two children who are of similar ages today as my sister and I were at the end of the Second World War. Will my grandchildren spend their working lives helping to service a similar debt as their grandparents did? And will there be a similar silence about it for them as there was for their grandfather? I haven't mentioned it to my son yet.

I have decided not to write to my local Member of Parliament about it at present although I believe he has had recent experience working in the Treasury. I guess he has more pressing matters to engage his attention, but if any of you do write and get a reply, I shall be interested to hear his views. Do let me know.

You may have read this far and think this is far too gloomy an outlook I am considering. Perhaps you are right. Yet someone will have to foot the bill for all this extra help being given to our health service, not to mention government support for businesses and their workers, whether employed or self-employed. I have a memory that just after the war debt was paid off, we had a "crisis" with the Banking system and had to pay to save the banks. They are still working. I have a memory that in 2001 the farming community hereabouts was hit with a foot and mouth outbreak and farmers are still farming. I have a memory that when we approached the millennium, economies were going to crash because computers couldn't deal with the date change.

When we have had a "crisis" (I think the Second World War would qualify) we have generally found a way of coping with it. All such moments require us to make changes, often in a hurry as now, but we have a good track record of carrying on.

One of the blessings of what the Prime Minister has described recently as our "liberal democracy" is a free press. I am grateful for it and a keen supporter, but I try always to remember I was taught at school not to believe everything I saw in the papers or heard on television and radio. The journalist has to earn a living like everyone else and the temptation to "spice up" a report in order to get it published must remain a possibility in the mind of the reader.

The increase in social media has, if anything, made things no better. Too many seek to use this new medium to press their own points of view on me, quite apart from the scammers who are out to cheat me. A healthy scepticism is no bad thing. Indeed, it might well be such a scepticism which made some people slow to recognise the early warnings about coronavirus precautions.

So my moments of significant memory, especially of those during a "crisis", tend to make me optimistic about our resilience to cope with the present one. I hope you will feel the same.

Richard Edwards

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News from Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

Full minutes can be viewed on our website www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk where any useful links are live. Plus check out our new [FACEBOOK](#) Page. Like and Share to help us spread S.C.P.C. news.

SEAMOOR LOTTO – Sampford Courtenay Parish Council has registered as one of the charities which will benefit from the new Lotto run by W.D.B.C.. If you have not bought your ticket yet, please sign up at <https://www.seamoorlotto.co.uk/support/sampford-courtenay-parish-council>

1. **A BIG THANK YOU** – to our Incident Management Team and band of Volunteers for their gallant efforts in keeping Sampford Courtenay Parishioners as safe as possible. Regular grocery shopping trips, medicine collections and trips to Bow Garden Centre for Click and Collect has been happening on an at least weekly basis. Thank you.
2. A range of **VIRTUAL get togethers** remains popular – so far there have been Coffee & Chat 3 times a week; Yoga 3 times a week; Ready Steady Cook; Saturday Quiz and Monday Bingo and a **Virtual Pet Show** with over 70 photos of local pets. Big thanks to our judge Bryony Herod Taylor. Please check our Website for more details – you do not have to live in the village to take part. If you are getting bored with these activities give us some suggestions for what you would like us to try next.
3. **Plant Swap** – a stall has been set up in the Square for parishioners to swap excess seedlings or plants. Over £100 in donations has been generated so far to go towards a “Freedom Party” when it is all over.
4. **Website** – our website has a **Coronavirus page** on which up-to-date government and health advice is listed. Please take a look and sign up at the bottom of any page to receive emails containing advice or news of more fun Virtual activities.
5. **SCPC** – held their AGM and May monthly meeting Virtually on May 5th. Full minutes can be found on the Website.
6. **VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY** – was not the 3 day event we had planned, but still, while maintaining safe social distancing, the parish did mark this special occasion. See our Facebook page for lots of photos and videos.
7. **KEEP SAFE, KEEP ALERT** – we hope that we will soon all be able to get together again, but until then please heed all the current advice on our Website Coronavirus page and stay safe.

Please contact SCPC Clerk – Marion Pratt at SCPCclerk@aol.com or on 01837 82285 if you would like to raise any issues.

Even better, come along to a meeting. Next meeting: **VIRTUAL MEETING** 2nd June

SAMPFORD COURTENAY VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY. 8.5.2020

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Corona Poem

What a strange time we find ourselves in, social distancing keeps us apart
But those not there in a physical sense are always there in our heart.
At the time of writing this little ode, lock down is still firmly in place.
We're so lucky to have fields and many pathways to explore where we still have some space.

We are all trying to stay healthy, new activities we are doing
But our national sport has survived, the advanced art of queueing.
Many bikes have seen the light of day, some haven't been out in years
The tyres are pumped, the brakes are oiled, now "how do I work the gears"?

We set ourselves daily, achievable, targets and challenge ourselves with goals
Learn a new language, do some DIY, find a shop that sells toilet rolls.
Contact is easier this day and age, with mobiles, media and zoom,
Talking is fine, but with video chats you still have to tidy your room.

We'll get through this together, come out stronger I'm sure,
Take less for granted and appreciate more.
We've learned the strengths of the country, through all this I guess
Community spirit, and our great NHS.

This virus is real, unlike the 'Millenium Bug'.
But at least in 2000, we could still get a hug.
But when this is over and as people we've grown
Let's suggest, in our town, a great party is thrown?

It's not easy to cope with wants going on, the plans that we made are in tatters
But soon we'll be back with our family and friends, I'm sure you'll agree, that's what matters.
We'll have stories to tell many generations I feel,
So, stay home, stay safe, and come through this ordeal.
Some decisions have been better than others, but we've all shown spirit a-plenty,
Let's hope that it ends as Covid-19, Humans-20!

Nigel Davies

Sampford Courtenay Parish Website:

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

The website is managed by **Julie Carpenter**
who can be contacted on
juliec2911@hotmail.co.uk
or
admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk
or by phone:
07866 605184

SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Unfortunately, because of coronavirus, many previously advertised events have been cancelled or postponed.

The Village Hall Committee wishes everyone good health as we face this difficult time. We look forward to welcoming you to events in the future.

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www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk
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Lockdown Living

As we enter week eight of lockdown living, I feel compelled to write and reflect on this most extraordinary period of our lives. Never could I have imagined that the whole world would be pretty much brought to a stand still by a small virus. All the schools are shut, almost all the shops are closed, aeroplanes are grounded, roads are for essential journeys only, food shopping requires masks, gloves, a one-way system and very careful planning, all sport has been suspended, meetings are all held on Zoom and everyone is being told to "stay at home." Social distancing is the new anthem and clapping at 8 p.m. on a Thursday can bring tears to my eyes!

Perhaps for our family one of the biggest shocks has been all churches being shut and services now only existing online! No weddings, no baptisms, and funerals are for ten people maximum. Nick has worked extremely hard to video a service for every Sunday since late March, but uploading it has proved frustrating at times with helpful phrases like "your connection is unstable" popping up.

It has been a rollercoaster with many ups and several unexpected downs. Home schooling three children in three different year groups has proved both challenging and rewarding. The dining room fluctuates between a classroom and a canteen depending on the time of day. I'm sure they don't normally break for a snack every fifteen minutes! North Tawton School and all the teaching staff have been very supportive but the whole process has required a lot of patience and significant IT skills.

Working as a GP in Okehampton has also required new ways of working. Almost all my appointments are now telephone ones, with some e-consults too. If I do see a patient in surgery then dressing up is required with the now well-known PPE – apron, mask, eye protection and gloves. Discussing sensitive matters with a surgical mask on doesn't feel right, but for now it is the way we have to work. I've done more home visits than usual, often putting on the PPE in the patient's driveway, and it's been hard not being able to spend longer with lonely elderly. We must be so thankful that rates of Covid-19 have been much lower in Devon than many other places. But I'm still perplexed why we have been so slow to test people.

I can also say that this has been a special time too as we have spent more time as the five of us than ever before. We have hardly used the car and we have walked and cycled miles around North Tawton discovering many beautiful places. We have planted lots of seeds and enjoyed long sunny days in the garden. We've baked, read, painted, started family movie night, played hide and seek, and come to love our weekly Zoom family and football club quizzes. We've made rainbows, supported the Foodbank, waved at friends, and learnt again to count our blessings everyday.

Dr. Jane Weldon

The Bondleigh Barn Band - play on!

Gentle folk of the parishes, I harbour no doubt that, whilst you have occasionally partaken of your government sanctioned constitutional exercise, you may well have pondered upon why fate had led you to gaze exactly in the space you found yourself occupying. Was it an intended, seriously planned, destination? Perhaps you were just sort of ambling along until, suddenly, 'et voila' you stop to exclaim 'Oh, I'm here!' or possibly "Where the heck am I?" or even sob "Help mum, I'm lost"... Well, put all those reactions together and you could well be an experienced member of the Bondleigh Barn Band - except you probably don't have an instrument tucked under your arm? If you have, you might need to go and ask someone for help.

In 2013, when the BBB first came into being, we sort of had an unplanned plan, wondered where we were going and now... we aren't too sure where we are except... we have always had great fun with our journey wherever it leads us. From that little barn in Bondleigh, over seven years ago, the BBB is still going strong with a regular membership of 40+ musicians. In fact, over the last 12 months, the band has, with the help of the Tiverton Camcorder Club, made a film of our trials and tribulations under the fearsome baton of Music Director, Richard (the merciless) Edwards. Launch of the film, entitled "Twiddly Bits are Sung Quite Fast" is, indeed, imminent! Although, sigh, we think we might miss out on the Cannes film festival this year... Tragic, I know.

Our fortnightly practice sessions are now held in our fourth home, the Winkleigh Sports Centre. Well, until now that is... As, together with the ladies from the Winkleigh Womens Wrestling circle, - that's the WWW - we've been officially banished until Covid -19 gives up the war and surrenders. It would have been rather nice, and a little more convenient, to have thrown in the towel on 8th May, but the virus is clearly not being very 'British' from a 'play fair' perspective. OK, so we can't currently get together to rehearse. However, technology has been grabbed by its flailing 'bits' to come to our aid. Virtual rehearsals are the vehicle these days so you might be interested in seeing this snippet, as filmed by Geoff Hodgkinson, John's Park Studio. Try this on Google: (it lasts about a minute and a half)

<https://youtu.be/x-duOqamlnQ>

Finally I'd like to thank all of you who have shown us support over the past seven years and look forward to welcoming you on a future occasion when you might, once again, chose to join us for "an evening with the BBB" sing-along concert event type thingy. It's all for fun, frolics and raising a few pennies for local charities.

At some point, of course, I'll need to tell you about Norman, the gnome, and his brush with the bug... Maybe, in next month's edition?.....

Paul Cherrett (Lost of Bondleigh or thereabouts).

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Pillow cases, knitting, buttons and the NHS

The quiz question of the month is what is the connection between pillow cases, knitting, buttons and the Coronavirus? (answer below). Many good citizens of Sampford Courtenay Parish can give you the answer immediately. Why? - because following our urgent request put out through the Parish newsletter they've been busy rustling up from attics and cupboards those pillow cases kept for the time they might come in handy or the rainy day that perhaps hasn't materialised (despite the winter we've just experienced!) but they certainly have come in useful now. The knitters found reserves of wool and buttons (not to mention reserves of resilience to knit fast at short notice) they perhaps thought they'd never had or might ever use. Equipped with these items, resourceful and skilful local folk have made literally hundreds of scrub bags and ear savers (there's another quiz question lurking there too -see photos!) for local Devon NHS staff. How did this come about you might ask? Following the lockdown and the rapid spread of the virus we received, from personal contacts in the NHS, urgent requests for these vital items required for their crucial work in the RD&E maternity unit and the Torbay and South Devon Health Care Team. These additional PPE items have been so welcomed by the teams during visits and after attending their patients and clients (some with the Covid-19 virus) in care homes, the maternity unit and their own homes. The time and goodwill that went into collecting the materials, making the scrub bags and ear pieces which have been distributed to the NHS teams in Devon are clearly very much appreciated:

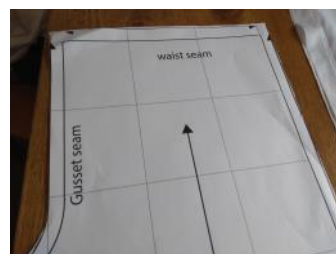


Dear Sampford Courtenay Makers, A little note to say thank-you for the lovely donation of our scrubs bags. We very much appreciate them. In order to adhere to social distancing, we couldn't fit any more of us in the photo. The rest of the team also pass on their thanks! Many thanks for thinking of us, stay safe and well. (Paignton and Brixham Health and Social Care Team) Thank you so much for the amazing donations you have sent to the RD&E Maternity staff. Our NHS lives are now much more tolerable, and safer too. The ear savers are amazing, they have made wearing a mask all day so much more comfortable for us, and therefore, bearable. The fact you have been thinking of us during this difficult time is so heart warming. Your creativity and generosity is very much appreciated. Wishing you all good physical and emotional health during the rest of this Covid storm. Stay safe. (The RD&E Maternity Staff).

(Robin and Jill Bevis)

A group of ladies from North Tawton have been busily sewing during this emergency and have produced over 40 sets of scrubs, mainly from duvet covers and sheets. Colourful sets of scrubs have gone to Bow Surgery, Torbay Hospital, the Devon Partnership Trust and those who requested scrubs through 'The Love of Scrubs' site. Burrige Printers and Becci Arscott provided the pattern and a rainbow message to put in with the scrubs. Julie Moules has also made 230 three layered material face masks which are available from Jen's Café (formerly Kirsty's) in North Tawton and the Burrow in Exborne. They are free but a donation is requested which goes towards 50 face shields that have gone to GP surgeries and Frontline staff. The masks have raised over £150 for the NHS. Marina Cassels has additionally made Hearts for Hope and has sold 200 raising £2000 for the NHS. A big thank you to Marina, Julie, Shima Ferres, Sarah Sinclair and not forgetting Chis Ahern who made the scrubs bags. A further 60 headbands, for staff to attach their face masks to, were made by Celia Boughton, Jo Fear, Alison Rennison and Nicky Bucket from North Tawton W.I. and were gratefully accepted by Okehampton Hospital

Thank you to you all.



Colourful scrubs and face masks



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Update from Okehampton Library

Following the temporary closure of Okehampton Library and all Devon Libraries we would like to take the opportunity to let you know that although our buildings may be closed, the Library Service is very much open. Our library staff are working from home to promote and support our digital library, create new online content and provide the important service of keeping in contact with our library customers.

We are available via email at okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Devon Libraries have also suspended the Devon Mobile Library Service in line with the physical building closures. They have also suspended the Home Library Service in Devon, and are encouraging the volunteers to phone their readers regularly to have a social chat and to check in.

Devon Online Library Services

Renew your library items and review your account via our website www.devonlibraries.org.uk. If you do not have online access you can renew your books by phoning 0345 155 1001. All items are being renewed for three months and overdue charges have been suspended.

Please can we request that library customers hold onto books, CDs and DVDs and return them when we re-open. As mentioned above, there will be no fines and we will keep renewing issues until further notice.

During this time, online reservations will be unavailable. If you have already placed an online reservation, please note this will not be satisfied until 17th June 2020 at the earliest due to the system closure.

eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines you can access for free using your library card. We have plenty on offer, particularly if you are needing to keep busy at this time. www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/ebooks

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- Visit our reference online resources at [Devon Libraries](#).

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Once you have completed the online joining form, you will be given a temporary [UNREG] number which will enable you to access our digital library immediately. As and when our library re-opens we will process all temporary memberships registered during this closure period and we will issue a library card to you.

Online Events - libraries are hosting regular live events every day on social media and online so please join us. There is a wide selection of online events such as Language Cafés, Zoom Daily Chat, Reading Groups, Lego Clubs, Coding Clubs and much more...

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena>

Libraries Unlimited are offering daily Bounce & Rhyme and Storytime session.

Ancestry Library Edition - Access to Ancestry Library Edition has been temporarily extended to Devon Library members at home, courtesy of ProQuest and its partner Ancestry. Home access will be available until the end of April and will be re-evaluated monthly as needed. To access Ancestry, you need to be logged in to the Devon Libraries website with your borrower card number and PIN, you will then be able to see the special 'Ancestry Library Edition' link and start your family history research.

Follow us on Facebook at Okehampton Library where we will be hosting various events, activities and groups. Keep in touch and receive up to date information.

Updates are also being posted on our websites, so please keep checking for the latest news in your area:

<https://www.librariesunlimited.org.uk/news/coronavirus-library-service-update/>

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena>

<https://www.torbaylibraries.org.uk/web/arena/home>

<https://www.librariesunlimited.org.uk/news/>

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can't be done until the Government decides churches may reopen, but, in the hope this may happen during June, here are the rotas:

Sampford Courtenay

June Shirley Reddaway

Honeychurch

June Sue Svedang

Bondleigh

June 7th Trish Peters
June 14th / 21st Margaret Bridgman
June 28th Jacqui Bourne

North Tawton

Flowers

June 7th / 14th Greta Stoneman
June 21st / 28th Enid Westlake

Brass

June Celia Boughton



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NORTH TAWTON FLAT EARTH SOCIETY [yes, we are still around]

It was interesting to read Caroline Stokes's article in last month's "Roundabout" on "The Treacle Mines of England". It reminded me of the above Society's Constitution and its aims, without going through all of them, I draw readers attention to one of its aims, item 11, which states: To help Bondleigh's unemployment problem- by re-opening the Treacle mine, in conjunction with aim number 12 to help Sampford Courtenay's unemployment problem by re-opening the Snuff Quarry!

North Tawton Flat Earth Society was obviously way ahead of its time.

The Bondleigh Treacle mine came to a sad end in the late Autumn of 1860, when four local miners set off to work early one misty morning, unaware of the sad fate ahead of them. Two hours into their shift and the roof of the mine collapsed, leaving the four trapped by a wall of treacle. Realising help was not coming soon, they took drastic action and decided to eat their way out.

Alas, they perished when their meagre amount of bread and butter ran out before getting half way through.

The mine was then closed, but sadly that was not the end of the tale. Upon closing, the pumps in the mine which kept it free of water, were shut down, resulting in the mine flooding. Although the site of the mine was a secret, as Caroline stated in her article, it must have been near the River Taw, as treacle escaped into the river. Eventually, a massive tsunami of treacle was seen heading towards Barnstaple, with boats being stuck in the harbour for days.

The treacle remaining in the mine would not be economically viable to extract at the present time, but who knows if the price of treacle goes through the roof?

Steve Whiteley (on behalf of the Committee, North Tawton Flat Earth Society)

The Bondleigh Treacle Mine Accident of 1911 – An Appeal for Information

Caroline Stokes' very informative article on Treacle Mining in the last issue of *Roundabout* reminded me of a piece of local history I had wanted to explore when I first moved into the area some fifty years ago. Perhaps it may be time to revisit it.

It all began on one of the pleasant evenings I used to spend in the Fountain talking to (or listening to, mostly) a group of the older Fountain regulars reminiscing about the old days. Most of them had been involved in the North Tawton fire brigade in the days when the engine was horse-drawn. (One of the horses, I gathered, had been 'a right b*ggar to catch' when there was a shout.) I was then involved in a research project on mining accidents in the South West, and at the time was working on the records of the Ramsley Mines in South Zeal. On this particular evening I mentioned this in conversation, and one of the old boys said: 'You'd be interested in the Bondleigh Treacle Mine accident, then: 1911 it must've been.' Suddenly, you could have cut the atmosphere with a knife, and the oldest chap there (Don, his name was, if I remember likely – he'd been brigade captain sometime in the 30's) said quite sharply: 'That'll do, Jack. You've said quite enough.' When Jack retorted 'Where's the harm – no-one died, did they?' Joe killed the exchange stone dead with: 'Never mind that – some things are best let be.'

And that was that. Jack died not long after, and though I tried asking around in Bondleigh, I got nowhere. Most people denied all knowledge, one or two of the older ones asked me what business it was of mine. (I was after all new to North Tawton, let alone to Bondleigh – and from Cornwall at that.) Now, fifty years on, anyone with first-hand knowledge of whatever happened is long gone – even the existence of the Mine is thought by some people to be a mischievous Bondleigh joke.

I am still intrigued, though, and now that so much previously elusive information is readily available on line, I feel inclined to have another go – even if there's nothing on Wikipedia. One avenue for exploration will be to identify who would have owned the mineral rights at the time. If, as I think likely, they were held by the Wyndham Estate, it might well be worth a trip to Petworth House (once lockdown is over, of course) to consult the Estate records.

And while my lack of success in 1971 makes it unlikely that there is still a reservoir of local knowledge, if by chance any of the older residents in the area remember their parents or grandparents mentioning an accident in Bondleigh in 1911, I would be very grateful if they could contact me, either direct at martinolsson827@btinternet.com, or via the *Roundabout* editors.

All this may well be a wild goose chase, of course, but should I find any new information I will of course share it with *Roundabout* readers in a future issue.

Martin Olsson

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Bondleigh Bell Ringing - 2012

Money's a strong motivation
Fame is a second 'close call',
But a bell ringing outing? you're seriously doubting
A plan that makes no sense at all!!

Some people are born without talent
Others possess just a jot,
The chances are slim, of finding six in
One village, but that's what you've got!

When the BBQ team took up ringing
Bill Folland plunged into despair
You'd never have thought, the things that he taught
Could evaporate into thin air.

Ringling is more art than science,
More judgment than luck it would seem,
With confident hopes, and four new bell ropes
Bill's thought he could train up a 'team'.

You've witnessed tonight's grand performance
We've 'rung in' this year's BBQ
A racket unrivalled and Bill? Suicidal
But join us You know you want to!!!

Caroline Stokes

The "New Bondleigh Ringers" - 2018

An "ology"? it must be a science
To me it seems more like a skill,
As all of that internet theory
Has not helped me and it never will

Some of us thought we could "wing it",
We'd done this before, years ago,
Can I now hold the rope in my right hand?
Geoff answers (emphatically) no!

Back to the basics to re-cap
But this feels like the wrong way around
And for Bondleigh some consideration,
He's tied up the bells, so no sound!

Each Saturday shows small improvement
And when Geoff says "well done" it feels great,
But it's 10.30 and time for a coffee
And Sonia makes wonderful cake!

We fondly remember Bill's patience,
It must be a bell ringer's trait,
And we no longer trash our own belfry,
Others have received that fate.

The "New Bondleigh Ringers" are launching,
Geoff will un-tie the bells and you will see
We will be ringing rounds later this morning
And when he shouts out "Bells Up" it will be!!

Caroline Stokes

News from Sampford Courtenay

Although events in the parish have been cancelled and most of us have been on 'lockdown', the Parish Council, under the direction of Michele Wilson and Marion Pratt, with regular mail shots by What's Going On editor Julie Carpenter, have made sure that the days have not been slept away. A volunteer list and shopping schedule was produced of people willing and able to collect groceries etc. from the major local stores, and neighbours have helped neighbours whilst sticking to the lockdown 'rules'. The New Inn and The Countryman have offered take-away meals, paid for at the time of booking, Nicky Courage made cream teas every Sunday, Michelle set up a stall in The Square selling plants etc. and the New Inn has organised a painting competition.

Several parishioners downloaded the Zoom App <https://zoom.us/download> and joined in a Virtual Brain Storm and this was extended into some Virtual Activities to stop us all going stir crazy, Zoom In on Mondays and Fridays at 10.30 a.m., plus a Wednesday afternoon slot at 3.30 p.m.. Jeannie continued her successful Yoga session at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ready Steady Cook took place on Fridays at 4 p.m., using set ingredients like Rhubarb, Ginger and a packet of biscuits and tinned tomatoes, and tinned vegetables or pulses. The dishes were cooked when liked and photos were shared. Other virtual activities included a Trivial Zoom Quiz every Saturday at 7 p.m., Virtual Bingo on Mondays at 7 p.m. and a Virtual Pet Show on 2nd May. Jill and Robin Bevis appealed for contributions of pillow slips, tape and sewers to make 40 scrubs laundry bags for the local Devon NHS Foundation Trusts. Clapping has taken place throughout the Parish at 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings as a thank you to the NHS.

Instead of the planned major event scheduled for Saturday 8th March to commemorate VE Day it was none-the-less acknowledged with bunting and flags, the all-clear siren tour of the outlying hamlets and a gathering in The Square at 9 p.m. to hear the Queen's speech and a rendition of Vera Lynn's 'We'll meet again', broadcast from the top of the church tower.

And through all this St. Andrews has remained locked and the bell tower silent, but worship has continued on line with the Revd's Nick Weldon and Rita Bullworthy producing services on You Tube. Holy Week with Compline, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday and since then Be Still and the prayer group, all still very active. A service for VE day involved worship at the war memorials in both North Tawton and Sampford Courtenay with Samuel Weldon reading out the names of the fallen and Emily Weldon dancing beautifully to Vera Lynn's 'We'll meet again.'

Take a look at the village website for more information: sampfordcourtenay.net

Nicky Craig

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(All numbers are 01837 numbers unless otherwise stated)

SERVICES at St. Andrew's Church
Sampford Courtenay

1st Sunday 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
 2nd Sunday 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
 BCP
 3rd Sunday 6.30 p.m. (6.00 p.m. from May
 2020) Evensong
 4th Sunday 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
 BCP
 5th Sunday 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
 Common Worship

SERVICES at St. James' Church
Bondleigh

1st Sunday 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 3rd Sunday 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

SERVICE at St. Mary's Church
Honeychurch

1st Sunday of the month at 3 p.m.
 Evensong and Holy Communion

Lakeway United Church
 North Tawton
Methodist / United Reformed

Circuit Minister Rev'd. Liz Singleton (52302)
 (Mob. 07450 676936)
 Elder & Secretary Mrs. Rose Dadds (82130)
 Asst. Secretary Mrs. Jean Boardman (82159)

Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
 (no 11 a.m. service on the third Sunday
 T.A.P. at 4 p.m.)

SERVICES at St. Peter's Church
North Tawton

1st Sunday 11 a.m. Morning Worship
 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

Provision for children at all 11 a.m. services
 Sunday Club 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays

QUAKERS
 Ockment Centre,
 North Street, Okehampton
 EX20 1AR
 Sundays at 10.30 a.m.
All visitors welcome

ORTHODOX CHURCH
Devon Parish of Holy Prophet Elias
 For details of services contact
 Celia or Martin Olsson (82796)

North Street Chapel

Contacts: Mr. C. Milton 01837 82708 Mr. R. Sampson 07835 033062

	11 p.m.	6.30 p.m.
1 st Sunday	Special service	Bible Study
2 nd Sunday	Prayer & Communion	Tea & Talk
3 rd Sunday	Ministry	No service unless advertised otherwise
4 th Sunday	Prayer & Communion	DVD
5 th Sunday	Prayer & Communion	No service unless advertised otherwise

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral

Thursday 26th March
Monday 4th May

Irene Joan DYER (88)
Thomas Leonard (Len) KEDDIE (96)

Exeter Crematorium
Exeter Crematorium



Bondleigh Rainfall

April Rainfall

The dry weather continued throughout the month making it one of the sunniest April's on record. Total rainfall was 22.9mm. Most of this fell in the last four days of the month.

Danny Semorad

Devon Sensory Outreach Service NORTH TAWTON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Free, confidential and impartial service for people with hearing and or/visual impairment provided by the Sensory Team, Devon County Council.

Available on the third Thursday of each month in North Tawton Youth and Community Centre, Barton Street.

10.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

For further information contact: Care Direct 0345 155 1007 or 07966 596881

The food bank remains open at present and is vital for some. Please continue to remember those who need help via the Food Bank box in St. Peter's Church outer porch. It is accessible there during the day.

Thank you.

NORTH TAWTON TOWN HALL

Bookings: Annette 01837 880054

Secretary: Lin 01837 880031



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On page 11, one of our talented Year 5 pupils captures the thoughts and experiences felt by many in these strange times. The whole school community has been brought together to face the unknown. People are seeking reassurance and guidance from one another and are adapting to the changes remarkably well. I am sure you have many acts of kindness portrayed in the media, and our school is no exception. We have received an overwhelming amount of support for the teachers and staff. The preparation and conversion to home learning took only days once we were notified of the school closures. We have been providing online teaching and a daily structure to offer the children some kind of 'normal' routine. The emphasis has been on well-being and we have had strong support mechanisms in place for those who feeling extremely vulnerable as a result of lockdown.

We are all looking forward to a return to normal times, where laughter will be heard and the normal hustle and bustle of school life will return. I look forward to meeting my staff and having face to face conversations again!

Miss Chauhan, Head of School

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As well as the poem on page 11 we were delighted that Sophie wrote about her feelings as a 7 year old in the present lockdown. It was doubly pleasing that she typed out her contribution herself.

Well done, Sophie!

(Editors)

Hello and today I am going to tell you some good and bad things about home schooling.

First of all lets talk about the good things

- You get to eat lots
- You get to drink lots of coffee
- You get to watch lots of TV
- You get to ride on your bikes more
- You get to eat pasta nearly everyday
- You get to do less work
- You get movie nights
- You get to watch lots of films
- You get to stay up later

Now lets talk about bad things

- You don't see your friends
- You don't see your family
- You struggle with work
- You can't go to fun places
- You can't go to school unless your mum and dad are key workers
- You have to keep on entertaining yourself
- I feel very sad, I want things to go back to normal
- You don't want to get used to this
- You don't know when this will end

Thanks for reading by Sophie Poole



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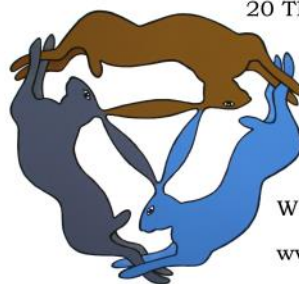
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