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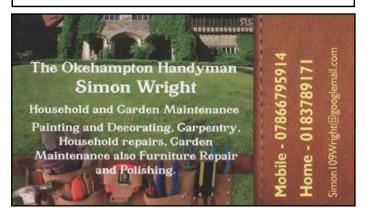
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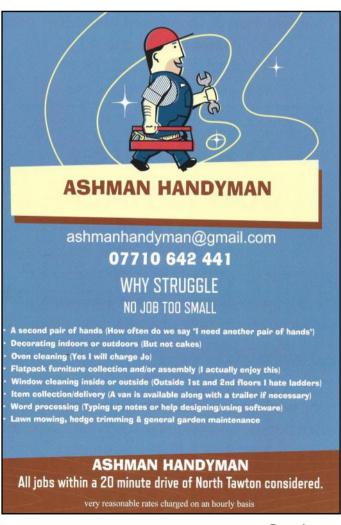
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From The Rectory

Moving On

We had just watched a brilliant stage performance (pre COVID 19) of 'We will Rock you' with our family in London. We were heading for the exit, along with the rest of the audience, when I realized I had left a much loved scarf on the seat I had occupied. I was now separated from retrieving it by the crowd all moving forward and being told to 'move on' by the theatre staff. It was too late to go against the flow...

I am reminded of this experience as – very cautiously – it begins to look as if we may gradually be emerging from the long journey that has been the COVID lockdown. There is a temptation to mentally 'rush for the exit'; to put, without any thought, the last few months finally and completely behind us.

Haste can be a dangerous thing. During this period of confinement or lockdown, from necessity, we all did some things briefly or badly. Some of them may have been trivial: a temporary fix of the doorbell which fell off or the light in the loo which wasn't working. Some things, however, may have been serious and must not be overlooked. So, there may be flowers to put on the grave of someone whose funeral you could not attend. There may be a grieving friend you need to sit with and comfort. However relieved we may be for ending confinement and being able to 'move on', we all need to remember that for some people the loss and pain they felt may make 'moving on' difficult.

It is a common characteristic of human beings that under difficult circumstances we make promises, whether to ourselves, to others or to God. In the days of confinement, many people might have reviewed their life and made a promise to do something 'when this is all over'. Unfortunately, an equally common human characteristic is that, when the restriction is removed, such promises get forgotten. So as we prepare to leave lockdown, we need to remember any promises we made and consider them carefully. Were they serious and sensible? If so, why not keep them? And if they were promises made before God, then it's a *very* good reason to keep them.

Yes, it's been a bad few months, but for many people there were plus points. Bonds of fellowship grew up with neighbours, digital skills were gained, books were read and parents had time to talk to children and spend more time together as a family. And, of course, if you have reached this far, it looks as though you have survived! You may even have had a deeper sense of God's presence or learnt more about him, dug deeper into the Bible or tuned in to a recorded or

video service for the first time. Why not take some moments to look back and give God thanks for the blessings you have received?

In fact the Bible makes a great deal of looking back in acknowledgement. In the Old Testament there are many encouragements to God's people to remember that they were delivered from being enslaved in Egypt. For example, Deuteronomy 6:12 says, 'Be careful not to forget the LORD, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt'. The rituals of Passover (Exodus 12:14) in the Old Testament was a yearly reminder of that great deliverance. In the New Testament, the Lord's Supper or communion (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24–26) is a reminder of the still greater deliverance achieved by Jesus on the cross. Such reminders are not simply meant to provoke nostalgia; they are to encourage us that, precisely because God has been faithful to his people in the past, they can trust him for the future.

One of the extraordinary things about lockdown was how, without warning, we all found ourselves in this strange situation. But I think all those who managed to stay close to God through this time learnt something, whether about themselves, their family or God himself. In this enforced separation from friends and colleagues, many people found a time to spend with God that they hadn't had before. That has been apparent from the number of 'hits' our on-line services have attracted and from the grateful comments we have received — many of whom are not usual church members. Perhaps, too, new values and new priorities were acquired. In the inevitable busyness of the post-COVID world let's not forget what we learnt in our enforced isolation.

It's tempting to move on. Yet in moving forward into the future, it's a wise policy to keep an eye on the past. God's people are always tempted to be spiritually absent-minded. Yet as the wise saying goes, those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it. In the book of Judges we read a record of how God's people slid into disastrous idolatry and find a stark comment from the writer: 'They forgot the Lord their God, who had rescued them from all their enemies surrounding them' (Judges 8:34).

Amid those urgent calls to 'Move on!' let's not be too hasty. Let's pause for a moment before we join the crowd pushing for the exit. And by the way... I did manage to retrieve my scarf after being allowed back when the crowd had dispersed!

Revd Rita Bullworthy

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Editorial for July 2020

Last month we thanked all those who made the recent distributions of "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 has begun to ease further the regulations under which we have lived for the past twelve 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.

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

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).

Churches now open again

I am please to report that all four parish churches are now open again during the day. Please do drop in for private prayer whenever you wish, but please use the hand sanitizer provided and observe distancing measures if others are in the building at the same time.

At the time of writing, there is still no official confirmation from the Government as to when Sunday services, weddings and funerals can happen again in church, but we are hoping to be able to restart these in early July with the necessary safety measures in place.

Revd Nick Weldon

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NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Tel: 01837 880121

Environmental Questionnaire.

Residents are invited to complete a questionnaire on local environmental issues. Copies of the form are available from the Town Hall steps or it can be completed on-line from the Council Website. Findings from the questionnaire will be analysed in late July / August and will assist in prioritising the Councils remit on Climate Change, Ecology (including tree planting) and how we best deal with weed control. The Council intended to consult residents on number of issues this year, but with the Covid 19 emergency, the provision of a questionnaire is currently the best way to ascertain a picture of residents views and priorities.

Local Authorities - Who Does What?

There are three levels or "tiers" of local authority. Each tier of local government has been granted "powers" to perform a variety services to local communities. A key aspect in identifying which Council does what is often determined by the economies of scale needed to be able to deliver each service.

i) North Tawton Town Council works at the "Parish" level and is therefore the closest to our community. The Council is administered by 12 elected members who act in a voluntary capacity, "donating" their time and talents to the parish. The decisions they make are recorded in Minutes displayed on the Notice Board in The Square and on the Council website (see below) where lots more information can be found. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Council meetings and currently these are held "virtually" on Zoom – the access code is included on the Agenda which is also display on the notice board and website at least four working days prior to the meeting.

In addition to full Council meetings, we have Finance, Estates and Planning Committees who meet regularly as well as a number of Working Groups whose membership include local residents. These include a Traffic and Parking Group (whose remit includes making local recommendations through the Council to County Highways see below) and the North Tawton Nature Group. The Council also employs a Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk, who are currently contracted to work 24 hours per week and attend evening meetings. The "powers" granted to the Town Council include provision of parks and open spaces, car parks, litter bins, bus shelters and public toilets. The Council also manages the Cemetery and are also consulted on local planning decisions by the Borough Council.

- **ii) West Devon Borough Council** is responsible for Planning, Environmental Health, Housing, Waste Collection and Re-cycling and the collection of Community and Business Charges.
- iii) Devon County Council has powers to administer highways and pavements (their website includes facilities to report blocked gulleys, potholes and faulty street lights all matters for which they have responsibility) social services, schools and education.

Dog Fouling

Once again, the Council is receiving a significant volume of complaints about dog fouling, particularly in North Street and Butts Way. Dog owners are reminded that the Borough Council Warden visits the town on a regular basis and has the powers to impose an "on-the-spot" fines of £80. Refusal to pay the fine can then lead to a fine of £1,000 by the local magistrates court. Local shops carry stocks of "poop scoopers" and disposable bags to remove faeces which are an eyesore and health hazard. These bags can then be placed in the many dog waste and litter bins around the town. Residents are encouraged to report sightings of dog fouling to the Locality Manager at West Devon Borough Council.

Public Toilet

At the time of writing, the Council plans to re-open the public toilet in Market Street from 22nd June following completion of a professional risk assessment. New notices identify additional hygiene guidelines for users. Please note that the Council office remains closed to the public for the time being. Please contact us by telephone or e-mail (see above).

Telephone System

The Council apologizes to callers who did not receive a response to their enquiries in early June as the installation of a new telephone system at the office caused difficulties which are now resolved.

Sarah Say, Clerk to North Tawton Town Council Stephen Webb, Assistant Clerk to North Tawton Town Council

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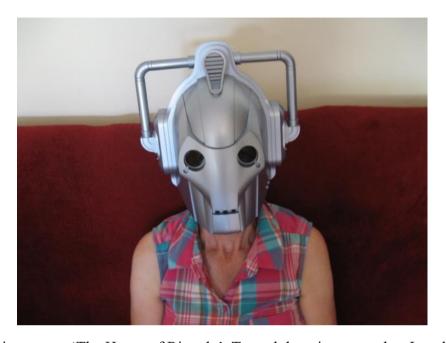
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North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

I've had a haircut.



Booked an appointment at 'The House of Ricardo'. Turned the mirror round so I couldn't see what was happening. Didn't bother to ask me if I was going anywhere nice for a holiday. No decent magazines to read – just Classic Tractor or Farmer's Weekly. Wasn't even offered a cup of tea. Dreadful service. Had to hoover the floor myself. Won't be going there again. On the other hand – needs must, and he was very cheap.

Did you want to know if there's any W.I. news? Short answer – not a lot. Still trying to keep everyone involved and entertained with quizzes and Newsletters. There is, however, one event left in the empty diary. In honour of Devon Federation's 100th birthday, every member will [hopefully] be sitting down to mark the occasion with a nice slice of something and a cup of tea on 14th June. Here's to the next 100 years.

And if you're wondering – it was a Christmas present from my techy [not tetchy] brother. He also grew up with a strange addiction to Dr Who and is one of the very few who completely understands my weird desire to be a Cyberman. It has a Cyberman voice function button that trots out classic Cyberman phrases. I absolutely love it. It also comes in handy when you've had a home styled short back and sides.

Sue Knott [aka CyberSue]

Found by the late Jean Shields, this "random extract" from "The Exeter Flying Post" of 1863 appeared in "Roundabout" in March 1992:

30.9.1863 Opening of Middle Class School at North Tawton on Friday last. Built by the Earl of Portsmouth to supply the sons of farmers, traders and the middle class generally with a sound and useful education. The Earl gave £300 plus the site in Essington. A further £700 was raised by subscription and more expenditure will be required to provide further accommodation for boarders. The schoolroom is 50 ft. by 20 ft. and will hold 150 to 200 scholars. Mr. Marsh (for nearly 9 years the headmaster of Hurstbourne Priors School in Hants) is to be headmaster. The architect and builder is Mr. S. Hooper of Hatherleigh. A large company dined at the school on Friday. Glee singers were engaged for the occasion and in the afternoon two or three hundred children were treated to a substantial tea in the market. A soiree in the evening was attended by the elite of the town, and dancing was kept up with great spirit until a late hour. (see also page 34)





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Welcome back – well, at least partially!

Coming out of lockdown has been a gradual and challenging process for North Tawton Community Primary School. We were delighted to open the doors once again for a limited number of pupils from Reception, Year One and Year Six. They joined those who have been attending the Critical Workers Club since the beginning of the Coronavirus emergency.

The pupils from these designated year groups have returned to find a very different school in many respects. The school has undergone an immense transformation, principally to ensure that our children and staff are able to operate within safe parameters. We have worked very hard to follow the Government guidance and the strict health and safety requirements. There was much preparation needed to ensure that the social distancing and procedures were in place prior to opening. We also made sure that parents and carers were informed at every stage. We have gradually welcomed the children back, bubble by bubble, using a carefully designed system. So far, it seems that our planning has paid off. It has been such a joy to finally hear the comforting chatter and laughter return to what has been a very silent and lonely place for many months. Our amazing teachers continue to cater for all pupils. Online teaching is available for all pupils still at home, and even for some of those at school who are segregated due to social distancing. The wonders of technology have enabled us to keep communication open, with a constant stream of messages, guidance and feedback to all who engage. The response has been overwhelming and thousands of messages have been sent back and forth. Parents and children alike are staying in touch as we all deal with the very difficult and different situation in which we find ourselves. Our community has been tested and challenged during the last months. I am extremely proud of the way in which we have come together to support each other and find new ways of teaching and learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing understanding, cooperation, resilience and support.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Miss Chauhan, Head of School

In 1995, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two, there must have been renewed interest in the North Tawton's War Memorial. "Roundabout" carried an account of how the memorial came into being after the First World War under the heading:

WITHIN LIVING MEMORY

THE PARK AND WAR MEMORIAL

At this time of the 50th anniversary of VE Day, it would seem appropriate to talk about the War Memorial Park and indeed the actual War memorial which was originally sited at the top end of the park.

In 1918, Frank Henson Hebbings, a vet who had connections with the town but was then resident in Nottingham, died. In his Will he left to the town a field he owned between High Street and Barton Street, a sum of £300 to build a memorial and lay out the park, and a further sum of £200 to be invested to pay for the upkeep of the same. The park was to be called the Frank Henson Gibbings memorial park and was set up by the Trustess of the Will and the Parish Council acting co-jointly. A letter was sent to the Parish detailing the terms and conditions of the will, whereupon the Council accepted the bequest with gratitude.

At this time, there was a row of cottages in Barton Street and another where the High Street entrance now is. A cottage in High Street was purchased by the Council and another in Barton Street, belonging to a Councillor, Mr. Letheren, was purchased for £100 so as to provide entrances to the Park.

(continued on page 17)

ROUNDABOUT 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.





READING GROUP

MEETS last Tuesday MONTHLY 7.30 p.m.
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Church Flowers & Brass

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

Sampford Courtenay

July Avril Flanagan

Honeychurch

July Vera Collins

Bondleigh

July 5th Jacqui Bourne
July 12th /19th Bridget Hicks
July 26th Carole Rhodes

North Tawton

Flowers

July 5th / 12th Annette Ponsford July 19th / 26th Anita Lamey

Brass

July Mary Fry

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Our usual fund raising evening in North Tawton
will not take place this autumn as we cannot
predict how the Government regulations
for social distancing will look in October.
Anyone who would like to make a donation
to this worthy cause
can do so, by contacting
Rosemary and Nigel Davies on

01837 82138

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. We look forward to hearing from you!



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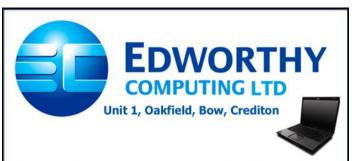
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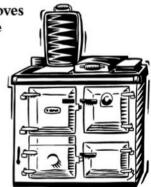
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Page 16

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At a moment when the Council is seeking opinion from residents (see page 9) here are some of the interests being recorded from 25 years ago, a time residents were asked for their thoughts on the Town's regeneration

The meeting on 25th April 1995 was an update on several topics (slowly) developing. Of particular interest was the detailed information on the recent parking survey undertaken by North Tawton & District Business Action Group. Facts and figures were available from Jim Tarvit, Group Secretary, or Paul Baker. The Panel will take a stand at the Midsummer Madness and hope to launch the Town Appraisal results at that time.

Since our last meeting those expressing interest in Conservation/Recycling or Renewable Energy Production have formed a group and looked at appropriate sites. This is a new and enthusiastic group which augers well for the Town and should form an important element of our Panel. Any other people interested in this field should contact Paul Baker or come along to the next advertised meeting.

Here is some information gleaned from the responses to the question on Town Enhancement. All four suggestions: extra streetlights, can recycling, more litter bins and dog bins, were very popular. Most strongly supported was installation of a can-recycling bank (less than 1% votes against), and secondly, an increase in litter bins (about 90% in favour and 2% against). Dog bins had about 82% in favour and 7% against. There was a much greater division of opinion about streetlights: 64% in favour and 17% against. There was also criticism of the new streetlights.

There was a lot of criticism, expectedly, about litter and general untidiness in the Town, and equally about dog mess and irresponsible dog owners. The largest number of positive suggestions involved brightening up the whole town and The Square in particular, with street trees, hanging baskets, flower beds, seating, flower troughs etc. Over 30 people made suggestions of this kind.

(continued from page13)

It would appear that, in addition to the money left by Mr Gibbings, a public collection toward the Parish Memorial was made. Collectors were named as: Mrs May and Mrs Tucker (rural areas), Messrs Way, Sampson, Martin, Knapton and Baker (the town). There were two committees: The Memorial Park Planning Committee and The Barton Street Improvement Committee.

In 1919 the War Memorial Committee members were Messrs Hoyle, Sampson, Way, J H Gibbings, Martin, Knapman and Baker, whilst the members of the Improvement Committee were Messrs Hoyle and Davidson (factory), Messrs Way, Knapton, Letheren and Tucker plus two representatives from Okehampton Rural District Council. Messrs G Joslin and G Ware were asked to assist in planting and laying out.

Mr. Samuel Sampson (father of Herbert who lived in Court Green Cottages) designed the memorial. Mr. Herbert Sampson remembered that his father made a scale model to present to the Council for their approval. Tenders were sought and the work was executed by W. Osborne & Son, Monumental Masons of South Zeal. Mr. W. O. Priest's estimate was accepted for erecting the memorial and for providing and lettering four red granite panels. The costs were:

Memorial of Dartmoor Granite £130 Four panels of red Scotch Granite £37 For providing names and lettering 3d per letter

Mr. Osborne later asked for an extra £30 to account for rising wages etc.

The work in Barton Street was done by Mr. Lewis Shobrook of Okehampton. His estimate was:

To demolish the old cottages and at the same time sort and retain suitable stones and bricks for the boundary wall, Build the boundary walls and piers and point the same: £64.

(Our thanks to Jackie Tye for typing up these extracts from the "Roundabout" archive)

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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

Notes for July Roundabout

- 1) AGAR & Internal Audit of SCPC Accounts has been completed. The public have until 24th July to ask to view paper copies of the accounts, but all relevant documents can be viewed on the Parish Council tab of the Website under Transparency and Other documents.
- 2) Noise Nuisance in the Parish SCPC received a report from parishioners of excessive noise from a group of scramble bikes that had caused a great deal of distress and discomfort. The matter was investigated by Cllr Colin Coleman and reported to WDBC who acted promptly to prevent a recurrence. We would like to stress that SCPC do take any kind of nuisance that occurs throughout the parish very seriously, and as well as contacting us, we recommend that parishioners keep records of times and dates, locations, what is seem or heard, so that SCPC can support them in reporting to the necessary official department.

 https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/3578/Making-a-Noise-Nuisance-Complaint
 - SCPC also hopes that the majority of complaints can be resolved amicably without redress to formal action but realise that in some instances this is the only solution.
- 3) Environmental & Sustainable Living Group has been set up by Cllr Joy Tucker, a Virtual meeting was held on 16th June. But there is still time to volunteer by contacting the Clerk or Cllr Joy Tucker
- **4) Himalayan Balsam Clearance Party** Cllr Bob Tucker organised a party of volunteers to try and clear the Himalayan Balsam from the River Banks from the New Inn towards Honeychurch (all keeping a safe social distance)
- 5) Plant Swap a stall has been set up in the Square for parishioners to swap excess seedlings or plants. Over £230 in donations has been generated so far to go towards a "Freedom Party" when it is all over
- 6) 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.
- or news of more fun Virtual activities.

 SCPC held their 2nd June meeting virtually on Zoom with 6 parishioners also joining in. Using Zoom does enable "remote" parishioners to attend the Parish Council meeting from the comfort of their homes. Full minutes can be found on the Website.
- 8) 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 <u>SCPCClerk@aol.com</u> or on 01837 82285 if you would like to raise any issues. Even better, come along to a meeting. Next meetings VIRTUAL MEETING 7th July

A call to help Sampford Courtenay live sustainably

The first task of the group will be to agree on a snappier title than the 'Sampford Courtenay Environmental and Sustainable Living Group'! The aim of the group is to formulate a plan of realistically practical steps that we can take in our community to live as 'lightly' in our surroundings as possible - whether that involves a community garden designed with wildlife in mind, sensitive streetlighting to avoid effects on insect life, light pollution etc. or recycling/reuse initiatives ... or any other priorities that you might have. None of us need to be experts - we just hope to do what we can. If our plans go well, perhaps we could tackle the greater global climate issues next year!

In the meantime, please contact Joy Tucker at bobandjoytucker@gmail.com or on 07749522996 to find out more. It is hoped that we will be able to organise a Zoom meeting for all those interested and, in due course, invite speakers who have knowledge and experience of similar local initiatives to join us on Zoom to help us get going. I look forward to hearing from you.

Joy Tucker



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The Virus

Corona is so very small You cannot make him out at all, But many sanguine people hope To see him through a microscope. His jointed tongue that lies beneath A hundred curious rows of teeth; His seven tufted tails with lots Of lovely pink and purple spots, On each of which a pattern stands, Composed of forty separate bands; His evebrows of a tender green; All these have never yet been seen – But Scientists, who ought to know, Assure us that they must be so - - - -Oh! let us never, never doubt What nobody is sure about!

With apologies to Hilaire Belloc for small changes in his poem written many years ago and entitled "The Microbe", Rod Levick suggests it may have a current relevance.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

This small space remained blank when "Roundabout" was ready to go to press. Could you have helped to fill it (or a larger space)? If so, the editors would be glad to hear from you by 13th July in time for our August edition.

Could you help us by sending articles, poems or details of your interests to share with others through these pages?

We would like to hear from you!

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

The Hedgehog

The hedgehog is a sorry sight Curled up in road at dead of night So, turning 'round I drive with care To find - yes, he's still lying there

Furtively, I give a poke
I try to pick him up No joke!
With tender hands, I let him fall
He just curls up in tighter ball

A car pulls up, "got trouble luv?"
"Yes, can you lend a pair of gloves?"
Out leaps my knight and says, with sigh
"We cannot leave him here to die"

Next we find a couple sticks
Play hedgehog hockey for a bit
We knock him in a ditch, but then
He crawls into the road again

I shed my coat, we make a sling And gently flick poor hedge pig in Through a gate, into a wood My deed tonight was truly good

A car pulls up, the lights go dim You saw the woods, my coat and him! You rush for proof of what we say But - that ****** hedgehog's run away!!

Caroline Stokes

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.

Please visit the parish website <u>www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk</u> for the latest information.

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Treacle Wells

Further to Caroline's article on Treacle mines:

We have seen the Treacle Well at Binsey in Oxford.

Dating back to the 12th century, the parish church of Saint Margaret is famed for the holy well that sits outside its west end. Known as St. Margaret's Well, it was dedicated to Saint Frideswide, the patron saint of Oxford. According to legend, during the 7th century, Prince Algar of Mercia was going to force her into marriage. To escape this fate, Frideswide fled to Binsey. While out searching for his bride to be, Algar was blinded by a lightning bolt. Frideswide prayed to God and it brought forth a spring, whose waters had healing powers and cured his blindness. Apparently, the mediaeval sense of the word 'treacle' means 'healing unguent'.

The well is the inspiration behind chapter 7 of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. At the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, the Dormouse tells a story of three sisters who live at the bottom of a well. This confuses Alice, who interrupts to ask what they are for sustenance. The Dormouse again took a minute or two to think about it, and then said,

Chris and Sheila Shaw

In the Beginning

North Tawton Flat Earth Society.

'It was a treacle-well '

Many moons ago one dark and autumnal evening in 1979 when we were partners at the White Hart Inn Fore Street, the foundation of the society was formed.

Was there life beyond North Tawton and yes the Earth was flat?

So it was decided we must go and find the edge as no one seem to know of its whereabouts. With regular outings over the coming winter months a party set off in the pub mini bus in search (pub crawl) and those at base began the great knit in (imaginary) to make a net to put around the edge once it had been found. Many debates were held over a drink or two.

The pub always had an annual coach outing to Paignton, with a stop in Haldon Forest, to Minehead and even a week in Lloret de Mar.

As years passed, still no luck, but other branches of the society sprang up through our children at Southampton and Cheltenham and Gloucester universities.

Prompted by the revival of Nanny Knights Revels and the Bondleigh treacle mines, it has sparked memories of those times.

Many thanks to all who have kept the society going. You know who you are. Perhaps when times permit, it will be time to go on another search. There are many tales to be told. It has become within our families a saying: when asked where we are going or what we are doing the answer is always of course - going looking for the edge.

We still have in our possession an original 1979 Flat Earth Society badge

Celia Boughton and Joanna Fear.

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Two Mines?

Some readers will no doubt have been confused by an apparent contradiction in last month's Roundabout. Steve Whiteley's vivid account of the fatal accident at the treacle mine in Bondleigh stated quite rightly that the mine closed down as a consequence in 1860. Why then was I digging around for information about a rumoured accident there in 1911, over 50 years later? I would like to suggest two possible explanations.

The first possibility is that the mine did in fact reopen at some later date. Periodic opening and closing of mines was very common in the later 19th century, usually in response to fluctuations in market prices of the various commodities. Okehampton Consols lead mine closed in 1854 only to reopen in 1867, for instance, and Bridestowe's Wheal Fanny (lead and copper) was closed from 1836 to 1851. Since the 1860 accident in Bondleigh was the direct result of unsafe mining practice (see note 1), it is likely that any subsequent reopening of the site would have been unregistered, which could account for the difficulty I have encountered in getting any information about it.

However, the lading records of the Yeo and Taw River Canal Company* show that shipments of raw treacle from Bondleigh Wharf to Lapford Station Refining Tanks, while falling by some 50% after 1860, nonetheless continued at that reduced level until April 1911. If the mine was closed for a period, where was the steady supply of treacle coming from?

I believe I may have found the answer in the limited information I have so far been able to glean online from the Wyndham Estate archives at Petworth House. The archives have no record of Estate involvement in mining activity in Bondleigh Parish, but the fact that the Estate sold the mineral rights in 1854 to the Macfie Sugar Refining Company suggests that somebody thought it was a least worth prospecting there. More significantly, a map of the Bondleigh holdings of the Estate in 1903 clearly marks a feature called North Seep. (Seep or Seeping is the name given locally to an area where raw sugar finds its way to the surface in sufficient quantities to make it worth exploring for a workable crack in the underlying rock (see note 2)). There being a North Seep strongly suggests that somewhere not far away there should be a South Seep. In this case, it is not far southwards – i.e. up-river - that we come to the parish boundary and the limit of the Wyndham Estate map, so any South Seep would not feature on it. My conclusion from all this is that there were in fact two working treacle mines, probably part of the same geological feature but in different parishes. If so, there is every reason to believe that a supposed 'South Seep' was the scene of the 1860 accident and subsequent closure, while the known North Seep continued in production until 1911. I therefore feel it will be worthwhile for me to continue my researches.

Notes

- (1) Compared to other types of mining in Britain, treacle mining in central Devon was always regarded as relatively safe. The mines were mostly at or just below the surface, no explosives were needed, gas pockets were virtually unheard of, and flooding occurred only when nearby rivers broke their banks: this was predictable and mining was suspended when there was any danger. The workings being dug into subsoil rather than rock, the occurrence of subsidence, while it could seriously hamper production, was slow enough not to be any threat to life or limb. The fact that the four unfortunate victims of the 1860 accident were caught under a collapse suggests to me that they had been using the dangerous and by 1860 illegal 'tank method' of collection**. Waiting for the raw treacle to rise through the enlarged cracks (see Note 2) was a slow business which required constant monitoring. Some of the more reckless teams constructed makeshift tanks over the cracks, allowing them, particularly during busy periods on the surrounding farms, to make better use of their time elsewhere while the tank slowly filled. The bigger the tank, the less often you had to draw off the accumulated treacle. At the same time, the bigger the tank, the greater the danger that in attempting to access the treacle, the whole structure could collapse on top of you. This seems to have been what happened in the 1860 tragedy.
- (2) As outlined in Caroline Stokes' informative piece in April's "Roundabout", unrefined treacle tends to rise to the surface, where it becomes contaminated by soil and vegetable detritus and is consequently valueless. The only useable deposits are those which collect under a layer of impervious rock, and these can be accessed in areas such as the Sticklepath Fault where cracks in that layer which allow seepage to the surface can be enlarged to release the treacle at a controllable rate hence the name Seep or Seeping for such places. (Apart from the deeper viscous concentrations in the Devon consols mines, treacle mining in Devon was found only along the northern line of the Sticklepath Fault and its associated lateral thrusts. Those interested in the geological uniqueness of the area can find more information in 'Treacle Mineralisation associated with line of the Sticklepath Fault through the late Carboniferous Holsworthy Group Stratification': British Geological Survey Report SB/75/10.)

*See Report of the History Section of the Devonshire Association: 'Devon Canals in the Age of Rail' Supplement to the Transactions of the Devonshire Association LXVI (1932)

**The tank method was one of several treacle mining procedures outlawed in Lord Shaftesbury's Mining Safety [Comestible Minerals] Order of 1850 – a Supplementary Codicil to the Mining Safety Act of 1849.

Martin Olsson



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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.

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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 Cafes, 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

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The following article was originally published in "Roundabout" in 1995 in five separate editions:

INTERESTING BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN (North Tawton)

I thought it might be of interest to write about some of the buildings in the town, many of which have historic links and tell us much about life as it was in former years. We start with the northern end of the town.

As we pass the Ring of Bells (nowadays a private dwelling) and proceed down North Street, or Lakeway as it was originally called, we come to the Old Police Station, which was built in the 1860s as a (then) new Police Station including cells.

The houses immediately below are considered to be some of the oldest in the town, dating from the early 1700s. Before the fire of 1891 they were thatched and had closed porches on wooden pillars standing out somewhat in the street. These cottages were originally known as Durent's Tenements, and the name of John Loveday Durent appears on the wall of No 7.

Just across the road from Durent's Tenements is a building with very ornate Victorian chimneys. This was the old Rectory, built in 1823 and enlarged in 1850, which had extensive grounds and also, we believe from a World War I letter sent to the late Walter Martin when he was in the forces, that there was a farm as well. Later it was used by North Devon Water Board and it is now private residences.

At the top of Boucher's Hill we find Burton Hall. This building is constructed of fire-proofed timber. It was built in sections in Norway. Each section was meticulously numbered (Roman numerals are still visible on the wood in the attics). It was shipped to Exmouth in 1870 and then via the Exeter Canal and then railway to North Tawton Station and finally hauled up the hill by horse and wagon. It was erected on its present site by Norwegian workmen for Mr. Fulford Vicary, the then owner of the woollen mill, who had purchased 35 acres of land to the east of Boucher's Hill to make an estate for himself.

The walled garden, stables and coach house of Burton Hall were presumably erected soon afterwards and the outside of the garden wall enclosed exactly one acre, on which now stands three houses. Against the north wall of the garden was a 60 ft long greenhouse which, amongst other plants, housed the vines. Outside the south wall was a 90 ft long (about18 metres) glass house known as the Peach House. We are told that gardeners working there in the 1950s found the remains of cattle bones near these hot houses and it is conjectured that animals which had died on the estate had been deliberately buried in this area to feed the vines etc. (Compare our modern blood and bone fertiliser.) There were three doorways into the garden, one of which still exists in the south wall – this went directly into the Peach House. The other two doorways were blocked up when the site was developed.

Some 1000 trees were planted on the Burton Hall estate. Mr. Paderewski planted a red camellia in the north-west corner of the garden when visiting North Tawton. It flourished and in 1969 it was reported to be 15 ft high. It died sometime in the 1970s when it was moved to another site. The gardeners of the 1950s recall that there was a white camellia in the Rectory gardens and when the flowers were out there would be an exchange of blooms between the two houses – "Some of your white ones for a few of our red ones".

During the Second World War, some American soldiers were billeted at the house and later Winston Churchill's bodyguard, Edward Murray, lived there and ran the house as a hotel. He was the proud possessor of some of Churchill's paintings.

I am indebted to Mr John Hoggins who, with the help of people who worked at Burton Hall, provided the facts concerning the walled garden etc.

Dorothy M Stoneman

(and we are indebted to Jackie Tye for typing these up from the "Roundabout" archive. Editors)





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The end is nigh

This month, as "Roundabout" goes to press, we learn that the sorrow over Covid19 deaths has affected the family and friends of over forty thousand people in our country. Those sadnesses are not yet at an end, but the experts are beginning to feel that the rate of infection is coming under control. Downing Street briefings have begun to show a faint, though unusual, air of optimism and much media space is speculating on how lockdown can be eased. There is understandable frustration at being confined by regulations for so long; many are worried about their businesses and livelihoods being "frozen" or lost and there are concerns about how absence from school is affecting our young people. Many experts from all parts of our society are urging their different cases for the government to pay attention to the effects lockdown has had on them and asking for action to ease the restrictions. The government has a difficult tight-rope to walk, juggling between the health of the nation and the desirability of opening up the country's economy. Experts are having a field day offering their advice.

On the day our previous edition of "Roundabout" was published, reports appeared in the national press about a briefing given in central London by a professor of evidence based medicine at the University of Oxford. Professor Heneghan was quoted at length:

"I think you can already see that regions are reporting 48 hours without deaths; trusts are starting to do that. I think by the end of June we'll be looking at data and finding it difficult to find people with this illness in the deaths if the current trends continue. But we will have ups and downs for about four to six weeks. People shouldn't panic if we have no deaths for a couple of days and then we have eight or 10, because you will see that as we go down to lower numbers we will have a bit more variation in the data".

This is very good news. We are all looking to the time when there are no deaths from the coronavirus to be reported each day. By the professor's account, if you read this article on the day this "Roundabout" is published, that moment will be only ten days away. Let us all hope the professor's forecast proves his expertise. Since the outbreak of our current crisis I have kept an account of the figures published by the government for the numbers of people infected by Covid 19 and the number of deaths which have resulted. This is a foolish, inexpert attempt to try and reckon up for myself when the outbreak might show signs of ending. On 17th March, I recorded 1950 infections and 71 deaths. From then I recorded new figures at the end of each week:

Date	New infections	New deaths	Date	New infections	New deaths
March 24th	6127	351	May 5 th	35880	3979
March 31 st	21397	1930	May 12 th	28604	3110
April 7 th	31259	4745	May 19 th	18588	2518
April 14 th	37743	5771	May 26 th	18947	1756
April 21st	35019	5232	June 2nd	12616	2268
April 28th	31726	7997	June 9 th	10287	1400

Over the whole period this gives a total of 290143 infections and 41128 deaths. These figures show, sadly, that despite the heroic and self-sacrificing efforts of our National Health Service workers, for every seven people infected, one was lost.

I am as anxious as the next grandparent to meet and hug my children and grandchildren, but before I shall feel able to do that, I shall want to see a fall both in the daily numbers being recorded as infected and in the numbers losing their lives. In point of fact, I want to see both reach zero and stay there. We are told that the highest rate of fatality has been among the elderly of the population. I am of that age-group. I suspect that there may be many of similar age (and especially those with underlying health conditions) who will not only want to see a time when there are no figures to record, but also a period after that before they feel comfortable with easing towards the normal lifestyles we enjoyed before the pandemic. This has been a new virus for which we have no vaccine yet and for which there is no guarantee that those who have been infected once will not become infected a second time. While it is understandable that there is increasing pressure from those who continue to feel economic, educational and social concerns about lockdown, those urging us to head back towards pre-pandemic life styles would be well advised to proceed slowly and understand why the older sections of our population will need longer to come out into the patterns of full social mixing we have always enjoyed.

I don't wish to cross swords with Professor Henegan. His expertise and the statistical forecasting aids at his disposal must both be formidable. We are dealing with a previously unknown virus with unmapped behaviour patterns. I doubt the Professor would have known on 20th May what easing of pandemic regulations the government might make over the next days and weeks (indeed, one might ask if the government itself knew). I was surprised then to read his prediction as reported above. Readers of "Roundabout" will be able to tell within days of reading this article if the figures at the end of June match the Professor's prediction. I hope they do and I shall be delighted if he is correct.

Richard Edwards

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral

Thursday 11th June Mary WEBBER (90)

North Tawton Cemetery



Bondleigh Rainfall

Believe it or not I have managed to squeeze some moisture out of my rain gauge during May. However it has only amounted to 5.3mm compared to 51.3mm last year.

Many of you will be thinking 'that must be the driest month ever', but no, June 2018 had only 4.8mm.

Danny Semorad

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Like wheat that springeth green.

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Public Health England's Active at Home advice

Since the lockdown began many people are finding they have become far less active, which can have a negative effect on both your physical health and mental wellbeing.

It's particularly concerning for older people, who lose muscle condition and mobility rapidly, and often find it harder to be active when they can't do their normal daily activities.

There's lots of excellent digital resources available to support people to stay active and healthy at home, but many elderly people don't use the internet.

Public Health England has developed a booklet to support older people and those who are shielded to be active and healthy at home by helping them find ways to build activity into their day.

It's part of the Sport England Join the Movement campaign designed to provide inspiration and trusted information to the public about how to get active in and around the home during the pandemic.

If you know someone who would benefit from reading this booklet, you could download it and print them a copy then pop it in the post or if they use the internet just send them a link.

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From "Roundabout" in March 1992 - more "random extracts" Jean Shields found in "The Exeter Flying Post":

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8th August 1844: Whereas Thomas Borne, son of Christopher Borne of Beer Farm, North Tawton, has been missing from his home since Wednesday morning 31st ult., should any person be able to afford information to his disconsolate parents, it will be most gratefully acknowledged, and any attendant expences readily discharged. He is 24 years of age, 5' 8" high, round shouldered, thin, pale and rather dejected features and stoops a little on walking. Wore away fustian jacket, dark stripe waistcoat and nailed shoes. (Jean could find no outcome from this sad appeal).

5th June 1845: A meeting has been held by the inhabitants of North Tawton for consultation regarding the late incendiary fires which have occurred near and on the premises of the Rev. Mr. Palmer, at which Rev. George Hole, rector, presided. It was unanimously agreed that no personal feelings of dissatisfaction or dislike existed among the parishioners towards the Rev. Septimus Palmer. It was resolved that an application be made to the Secretary of State for Government assistance and investigation. A subscription was entered into and a reward offered to discover and bring to justice the offenders. Upwards of £120 was then subscribed and Mr. Chapple requested to act as treasurer.



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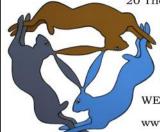
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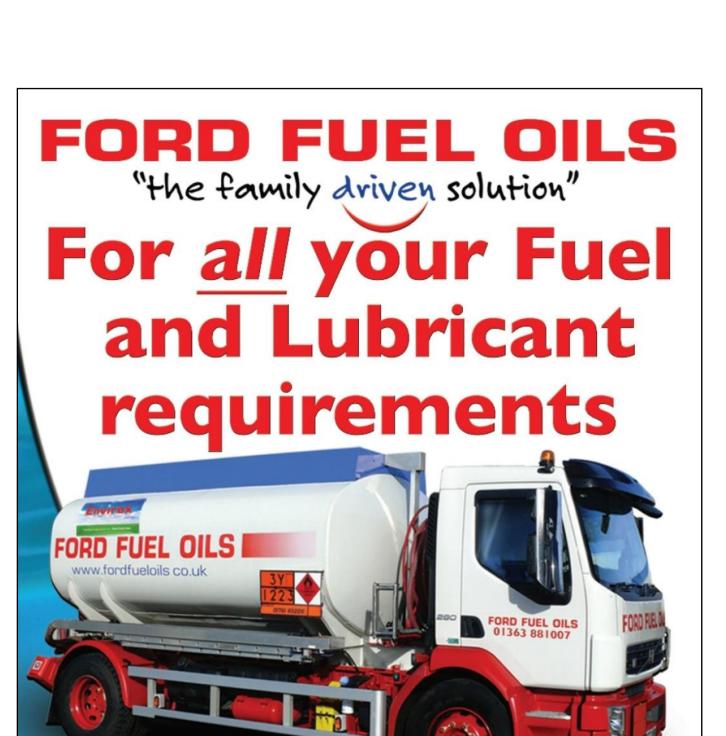
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