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From The Rectory

Hindsight, foresight and faith-sight

Hindsight is a wonderful thing but foresight is better, so said William Blake. Just think how different things could have been were we able to wind back the clock and change a few key decisions.

Hindsight suggests an earlier lockdown would have helped, and then some big events with crowds in early March would not have happened. Offices and public transport could have emptied earlier limiting the spread. Care homes could have been better protected from the start, and numbers of single items bought at the supermarket should have been limited immediately. Hindsight is a wonderful thing.

Hindsight also suggests that some measures the nation has undertaken since March were misdirected. The track and trace app piloted on the Isle of Wight was a waste of time and resources. The Nightingale Hospitals may prove useful yet, but back in April, even at the height of the virus, they were not needed. I'll venture a more risky suggestion as I look back with my hindsight specs on... I think Year 6 SATS, GCSE and A Level exams, and degree finals should all have happened. Maybe later in the term, with distancing and bubbles, a way should have been found for these vital educational milestones to be done properly. I think hindsight suggests that it would have been worth the risk for the sake of grades that can be trusted, hard work properly rewarded, and futures secured.

Of course, using hindsight in this manner can be unhelpful and even unkind towards those in authority who had to make impossible decisions with limited facts. But difficult decisions come with authority, and if Covid and its effects are going to rumble on into 2021, as looks likely, then maybe a little painful hindsighting of previous decisions is necessary so that we respond better in the future, personally and nationally. For example, surely anyone who panic-bought anything back in March should listen better to their conscience next time. For what it's worth, I think the Church of England should do a little hindsighting too. Many clergy, congregation members, and ordinary members of the public felt very aggrieved that churches were forced to lock their doors in March for the first time in British history. Yes – many churches responded well by going online for worship and on-street to help those in need. However, with parish churches locked, it felt as though the church had turned its back on the nation in its hour of need. As much as I can speak on behalf of the institution, I apologize for that. We need to do better next time.

For this article, I asked a few people in our community to do little hindsighting, and let me know what message they would send themselves in January 2020 were they able to. I got some interesting replies. They were a mixture of the practical, the amusing, the emotional, the moral and the theological. I limited them to one-sentence messages only.

In the practical/amusing group I received lots of orders for supplies for tasks that would suddenly find the time but not

the resources... "order fertilizer, compost, seed potatoes and vegetable seed." "Order paint." The paint one was mine, because throughout April and May the hall, landing, stairs, cloakroom and two bedrooms each got a facelift, but the variety of colours was a bit limited. I've decided polished pebble is the shade of 2020. "Stock up on toilet rolls" was another response. I won't tell you who sent in that one, but if they are reading, see above. "Stock up on hand sanitiser" was a common response. "Eat McDonalds everyday before it closes" was another. When the BBC did a similar exercise recently, the best ones were "teach my mother how to use Zoom," "get my roots done thoroughly," "enroll on a sourdough baking course," "don't do dry January," and "buy an ice cream van, get a liquor licence and stockpile a garage full of hair clippers."

The emotional... "Hug my loved ones as much as I can." "Appreciate the value of a hug." "Give friends and family a big hug." "Hug mum." Need I say more?

The emotional+... "Persuade your children and grandchildren to come and stay with us in Devon for 12 months. We can set them up with accommodation, offices, a school room, playing fields, fresh eggs and honey and a small market garden." From the BBC research... "Find a partner quick."

The emotional/moral... "Do not take anything for granted, it could all be gone in a flash - everyday, everything and everyone is precious but nothing on this earth lasts forever." "Really appreciate what you have in every way." "Be aware, be alert, be prepared." "Never put off for tomorrow what you can do today."

The moral/theological... "Whatever happens in life, keep praying and love one another, keep faith, things work out." "Remember Romans 8:28."

That last one is a good place to rest. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him," that Bible reference reads. It's not that God promises life will be easy for Christians; far from it. Indeed, He says the opposite will often be true. It's not that God doesn't work for the good of those that don't love him. There is common grace available for all in Creation. But the believer in Christ can rest assured that, whatever life throws at them, there is goodness to receive when we cling close to God in faith through thick and thin. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. Learning from the past is essential for life in the future. Foresight is better, but foresight mixed with faith-sight is best. And so as we press on into the autumn of this most trying of years, I hope we will embrace the foresight of faith as much as we pine for the embrace of loved ones.

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September 17th

BOW Village Hall
14:45 to 15:15

BELSTONE CORNER The Beeches
15:30 to 15:50

FRIDAY *monthly*

September 4th

NORTH TAWTON The Square
09:45 to 11:15

BONDLEIGH Old School
13:55 to 14:15

SATURDAY *monthly*

September 19th

NORTH TAWTON The Square
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Celia Cooper and Maggie Paddon would like to thank all who helped and contributed to their table top sale and to advise that including donations the fantastic sum of £149.35 was raised. We are grateful to all concerned who helped with the raising of this fantastic sum.

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, by members of the four churches, or by the Editors.

Contributions should be sent to
Hilary and Richard Edwards,
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*A short informal monthly service of themed
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Fourth Thursdays at 10 a.m.**

The next one will be on:
Thursday 27th August 2020



Help wanted please !

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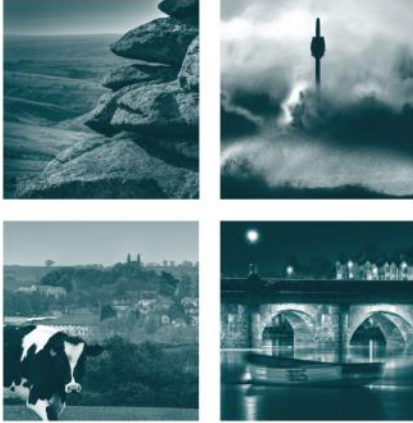
Sunday 20th September
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Sunday 27th September 9.30am



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Various Works being undertaken around the Town

Over the next couple of months there are a variety of works being undertaken on behalf of the Council:

Churchyard – the Council's Tree Surgeon will be pruning the avenue of lime trees from the Lych Gate to the Church, once we get confirmation of approval from West Devon Borough Council. This is necessary as the trees are in a conservation area. Our contractor responsible for general maintenance in the churchyard will be tackling the moss along this path and on the area of cobbles outside the church door.

Cemetery – there are a number of graves where the mounds were not flattened when headstones were erected, our contractor will undertake this work later in the year, making it easier to keep the grass cut. There will also be a general programme of tidying up. It may be necessary to remove decorative items which have been left on graves – again this is to make it easier for grass cutting and to conform with the cemetery regulations. Items removed will be stored safely in the Chapel of Rest and can be reclaimed by contacting the Town Clerk. The Chapel of Rest needs external redecoration, this will be done next Spring. There may also be works to the area of land which will form an extension to the cemetery in due course.

Memorial Park – all play equipment and installations in the park are inspected annually by RoSPA. There were several recommendations for improvement, including to the gates to the toddler play area. These gates have been removed temporarily as a precaution, and will be reinstated with appropriate safety closing mechanisms in the near future. A number of minor repairs will also be undertaken by the Council's contractors, to comply with the recommendations of the RoSPA report.

Trees for which the Council is responsible – in addition to the lime trees already mentioned, there are a number of other works, to trees at various locations, identified in the most recent tree survey report and these works will be undertaken during the Autumn if possible.

Wildflower Planting – Whilst the ongoing Climate Questionnaires are yet to be analysed, we are aware that many responses identify wildflower planting as something that residents wish to see more of. There are a number of grass areas either owned by the Council or for which we are responsible, and some of these will be seeded and/or planted with wildflowers during the Autumn – so we can all look forward to seeing the results next Spring and Summer.

Green Homes Grant Scheme

Last month we published information about this scheme, and more details have now been released by the Government. Eligible homeowners can get vouchers to help pay for environmentally friendly improvements, although as expected, it's more complex than it originally appeared. To qualify for financial support, you'll need to be installing at least one of the following "primary" improvements:

Insulation, including solid wall, cavity wall, underfloor, loft or roof insulation.

Low carbon heating, such as air-source or ground-source heat pumps, or solar thermal systems, which provide renewable ways of heating your home.

Then if, and only if, you're installing at least one of the improvements above, you'll also be able to use the vouchers to install the following "secondary" measures:

Draught-proofing

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Energy efficient doors, where you're replacing doors installed before 2002.

Heating controls and insulation, including appliance thermostats, hot water tank thermostats, hot water tank insulation, smart heating controls, zone controls, delayed-start thermostats and thermostatic radiator valves.

Please go to our website where we have linked to a more comprehensive explanation on the Money Saving Expert website. There is likely to be much more publicity about this scheme over the coming weeks – we will try and keep you informed, we want residents who might be eligible to benefit as much as possible.

(continued on Page 11)

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North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

There is only so much ratatouille a girl can eat. You can include a husband in that too. I've never been a strong believer in fairies but I think I've got proof of a courgette fairy living at the bottom of our garden. There they are (the courgettes that is) looking quite small and innocent. You say to yourself 'I'll give them another 24 hours'. You climb the timber hill, snore your way (not me – husband) into the following day, skip down your garden path with your pocket knife at the ready and there they are. Looking back at you with a very self-satisfied and smug look on their faces. Courgettes that have been touched by the wand of the courgette fairy during the night and have morphed into adolescent marrows. Husband is a creature of habit and has been happy to eat the same meal for four or five days in a row. A few years ago he got a casserole going in our slow cooker – he cooked it for almost eight hours. On the 'High' setting. Result? A greeny coloured, baby food textured thick soup. I managed to eat one fork full. He very proudly, (more likely stubbornly) ate it four days in a row and on the fifth begged for something different for his tea. I think he might be feeling the same way about ratatouille.

I'm going to have to be creative and invent some W.I. news. Give me a minute – no, nothing's happening. The heat has sapped what little creativity there ever was. Quizzes are still flying through the ether; a monthly Newsletter is keeping our members in touch with W.I. stuff and the July Scone Bomb was a huge success with five ladies having to pose for a photograph clutching their winnings as if their life depended on it. I think the most unusual photo featured dear Pauline on her ride-on mower simultaneously balancing scones, jam and cream. What a trooper. Now it's time for 'An Arrangement for August' – every Friday a lucky lady will be on the receiving end of a bouquet of flowers. With the penalty of having to pose for a photo. Ooohhh – I've just had a creative moment. Maybe the lucky winners could pose 'Calendar Girl' style with their bouquets. I'd better put it to the Committee.

It's still 'Scorchio' outside. Husband is slumped in a deckchair. Dreaming of ratatouille. The worst thing about all this heat? I don't want to eat chocolate. Even chocolate that's been in the fridge. And another thing. We have a glut of greengages. And a glut of greengages means jam. Which involves a big jam pan boiling away furiously on the hob. With me hovering over it waiting to do the 'wrinkle' test - (I'm not going to explain what that is 'cos I'm hot and bothered and grumpy so you'll have to look it up). But I have a plan. This W.I. member won't let a trifling problem such as tropical heat stand in the way of preserve production. Oh no. I'm going to set the alarm and make greengage jam at 2 o'clock in the morning. Sorted.

Sue Knott

(continued from Page 9)

North Tawton Council News

Bonfires - Please could we ask residents to give thought as to when they light bonfires - we have had some complaints about bonfires lit during these very hot days, which results in people having to close their windows and doors when they are trying to get some fresh air.

Shrubs overhanging pavements - If your garden shrubs and plants are severely overhanging pavements, please could you try to cut them back - in some areas of the town pedestrians, including parents with pushchairs etc, are having to walk in the road. Thank you for your cooperation.

Finally, as always during these difficult times, please keep safe and help to keep others safe. Continue to be a Good Neighbour, and remember our volunteer scheme is still running if you need help with shopping, collecting medication, or just want someone to chat to now and then – contact the Town Clerk to access help. Although our office is closed, the phone is diverted to the Clerk and emails are checked every day.



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Sampford Courtenay Village Hall Committee
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August 2020

Dear members of the local community

Our Village Hall was a school until the early 1950s. When the school closed, the building was purchased for the residents of Sampford Courtenay by a group of local people. The Village Hall Committee, as trustees, ensures that the hall continues to act as a community centre in the spirit in which it was established all those years ago.

The new Village Hall kitchen, meeting room extension and foyer, offering disabled access and amenities, have been a great success. This means that the hall has been able to offer enhanced facilities to existing events and hirers, as well as attracting more activities. These include yoga, dance classes, table tennis, quizzes, musical events, as well as wedding parties and children's parties, to name a few.

The committee now faces the significant challenge of replacing the roof and the large window adjacent to the new entrance, both of which are in very poor condition. The slates will need to be removed from the roof; the best of them will be reused. There is currently no insulation in the main roof; this will be brought into line with modern standards. The chimney stack needs attention to make it weather-proof. The large window will need to be custom built. There is a lot of work involved with these repairs and quotes have been sought. Based on these quotes, the cost of undertaking the work will be in the region of £150,000. Patch repairs have been undertaken to try to keep the building watertight but we are now at a point where urgent action is needed.

We are writing to parishioners for help. The Village Hall Committee is investigating what grants and other funding may be available, but it is clear that a great deal of additional fundraising will need to take place. We would like to ask you for your views and ideas on how we can achieve this target and save our valuable parish resource. There are many ways that you can help. For example, it could be fundraising ideas, offers to organise activities or events, knowledge of other individuals or organisations that could help or making a donation yourselves.

The Village Hall is an important resource for everyone in Sampford Courtenay. We need your help to keep it open and in a condition to ensure its ongoing use. If you would like to help please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Joy Tucker
(Chair)

PS Please see <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/> for further details and how to donate using Gift Aid.

Would you like to advertise for a one-off cost of £5?

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall is compiling a poster displaying boxed adverts offering details of local businesses, which will be displayed at the hall. It will also produce a list featuring similar details to issue to hirers of the hall

Proceeds will go towards the Village Hall Roof Fund

Please contact Joy Tucker on 07749 522996
or at bobandjoytucker@gmail.com for more detail

Facebook help

If you use Facebook and could help Sampford Courtenay Village Hall, the committee would love to hear from you

The Village Hall would like to become more active on Facebook so that upcoming events and other information can be shared

Please contact Joy Tucker on 07749 522996 or at bobandjoytucker@gmail.com if you are interested

[Thank you](#)

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

Adam Mark Butler
Property maintenance service

North Tawton
07534537226
adambutler919@gmail.com

READING GROUP

Normally meets 4th Tuesday MONTHLY
7.30 p.m. AT THE NEW INN
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for further information or to join
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82824**

We have been made aware of cold-calling, potentially uninsured contractors claiming to be tree surgeons operating in the districts, targeting vulnerable (particularly elderly) residents and claiming to be fully qualified, fully insured tree surgeons, offering to do tree and garden works for cash. They are stating they can carry out works to protected trees legally and provide residents with a certificate to submit to us to avoid prosecution. **No such certificate exists and this is not the case.** An application to SHDC/WDBC in some form is required prior to carrying out works to any trees subject to a TPO or in a Conservation Area.

If you hear of any residents being approached by such contractors, please encourage them to take as many contact details for the contractors as possible along with vehicle registration numbers and descriptions of the individuals (if safe to do so) and report them to the police on 101 or via their website at <https://www.police.uk/101/>.

Please also observe the following important points:

- Prior to agreeing to any tree works, residents should check the contractor's insurance certificate and qualifications – anyone who has gone through the training and paid the necessary insurance premiums will be proud to share the information with prospective clients. A checklist for choosing a tree surgeon is available [here](#)
- If the trees are protected by a TPO or in a Conservation Area, residents will need to be in receipt of written consent from the SHDC or WDBC Tree Officer in a decision notice or occasionally email prior to carrying out works to such trees to avoid potential investigation which may lead to prosecution. Resident's responsibilities in relation to 'Protected Trees' are outlined via the following links:
 - o South Hams: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3490/Protected-Trees>
 - o West Devon: <https://westdevon.gov.uk/article/3490/Protected-Trees>
- Guidance on how to find a suitably qualified, fully insured tree surgeon is available from the Arboricultural Association via www.trees.org.uk (specifically <https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Public/Choose-your-Tree-Surgeon>).

The main message of this email is about checking for insurance and qualifications and the need for planning permission where work on trees is proposed. We are circulating warnings via social media. As it is probable the target market of these contractors is a group less likely to use social media, it will be a help if everyone can be made aware of the problems which can arise.

If you have any queries, please email trees@swdevon.gov.uk.

Tracy Webb Case Manager (Trees)

Tel: 01803 861470

trees@swdevon.gov.uk



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

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



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NEW Choose and Collect service from Torrington Mobile Library



Devon Mobile Libraries will be back on the road bringing books to you from July 13th 2020. To make sure that customers and staff are safe, we will only be offering a new type of contactless service for the time being. It's called **Choose & Collect**.

What is Choose and Collect?

- a free delivery of up to 5 books or audiobooks per person
- selected by staff based on your reading preferences
- you collect from your usual mobile library stop
- selections available for adults and children.

How do I make sure I get a Choose and Collect delivery

- Even if we rang you to offer you your first delivery, we regret we can't do this every month. You must contact us to order again.
- Order at least 1 week before the mobile library visits your village or stop.
- You can check Torrington Mobile Library timetable on our website: www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries
- Order a delivery by emailing torrington.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk or calling **01805 622107** during normal opening hours: Tue 10-6, Thu 10-5, Fri 10-1, Sat 10-1
- Remember to tell staff you are a mobile library customer.
- New customers are welcome, just mention you wish to join the mobile library.

What else do I need to know?

- If you are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms please don't come to the library.
- We will bag up your books ready for collection, they will have already been issued to your library card to reduce contact.
- Please use our hand sanitiser station and follow social distancing rules when you collect and return items. All returned items will be quarantined for 72 hours.
- We can only deliver pre-ordered selections for now, and regret that staff can't check the shelves for items while you wait during this phase of reopening.
- Items will be collected and returned at the entrance of the mobile library. You won't be able to enter the vehicle to browse or choose for yourself.
- We look forward to seeing you again, please be patient while we get used to this new way of working.

Devon Libraries is part of



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stuartmoffat2@hotmail.com

4, Park Houses, North Tawton

EX20 2DX



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>

Environmental & Sustainable Living Group – has been set up by Cllr. Joy Tucker - check out our Website and Facebook page to find out how you can get involved.

Plant Swap – as well as the Plant Stall we have been also holding weekly **Bake stalls** at various locations around the parish. Each week two of the produce classes from the usual Flower & Produce Show have been chosen for parishioners to make and donate. They have then been judged by a guest judge each week and certificates presented. **Just for a bit of fun** whilst raising additional funds for the parish.

VJ DAY BAKE STALL – on 15th August was judged by local parishioner C. Sgt Gareth Evans and all profits from the stall were donated to his Commando Spirit Military Charity where he and 3three-friends are going to row across the Atlantic.

SCPC – held their 4th Aug meeting virtually on Zoom with four 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.

BROADBAND – SCPC will be sending out a consultation paper to residents to report back on their broadband/mobile phone experience and satisfaction to send to relevant councillors and ministers to try and ensure some action is taken on the lack of efficient broadband connectivity in the Sampford Courtenay area.

WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY – If there are any users of our Website with specific accessibility needs, we would be pleased to hear from you so that we can try and make it more accessible for you. Please check out the Parish Council Tab on our Website for details of “Plug ins” that could help you access any website more easily.

NEW GENERAL WASTE AND DOG BIN – has been sited next to the Public Toilets and has received tremendous positive support. Please make sure this support turns into positive use for all litter and dog waste. Thank you.

BT PHONEBOX – a big **Thank you to Dave McClement** – who has refurbished and repainted the kiosk in the square complete with a golden crown on the top.

DEFIBRILLATOR - Consultation on adoption of the Phone box - SCPC will be consulting with residents regarding adopting the phone box in the Square to house the new defibrillator.

PUBLIC TOILETS & PLAY AREA HAVE BEEN RE-OPENED – users are asked to please note the safety notices and guidance. PLEASE NOTE ALSO THAT THE VILLAGE GREEN IS A NO DOG AREA.

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 meetings MEETING 1st September

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News from Sampford Courtenay

St. Andrew's church continues to remain open but face masks must now be worn during services. Please note that Evensong is now starting at 6pm and not 6.30pm. The village paid its respects to John Horn by lining the street from the New Inn to The Square on the occasion of his funeral on 30th June. Condolences go to Vera and Rose and their families on the death of their mother, Valerie Hawking of Honeychurch, on August 7th.

VJ Day will have been celebrated in The Square on Saturday 15th August, with a minutes silence at 11 a.m. followed by tea and cake.

Sadly there will be no Harvest Supper this year because of COVID-19 but Harvest will be celebrated at St. Andrew's over two services - Harvest Evensong on Sunday September 20th at 6 p.m. and Harvest Parish Communion on Sunday September 27th at 9.30 a.m..

Shoebbox Appeal 2020

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest Children's project, run by the Christian relief and development organisation Samaritan's Child, responding to the COVID-19 contingency.

This is your opportunity to make a special connection with a child overseas by giving a shoebox gift from your hands into theirs. So wrap a **medium** sized shoebox and fill it with great little gifts. It is then sent overseas and distributed to children based on need, regardless of their background or religious belief. It is an unconditional gift, asking for nothing in return. Both Nick Weldon and Nicky Craig have some flat pack shoeboxes, so just ask if you want one.

Boxes need to be filled and left at St. Andrew's Church for the **9.30 a.m. Service on 1st November** or at St. Peter's, North Tawton before 16th November.

Leaflets giving details of what can and what cannot be put into the boxes will be in all four churches in the Benefice at the beginning of September. It is vital that you follow the instructions on the leaflet to avoid an otherwise great deal of time by volunteers sorting them out! As last year certain things cannot be sent because of import and export regulations, most particularly **no toothpaste or sweets**, however, this year hand-made toys can now be included as long as the filling is proper craft filling and not old clothes or dried beans etc. For lots of ideas see the website samaritanspurse.org.uk

A few Do's and Don'ts :

Do's

- Secure the box with 2 elastic bands - not ribbon or string
- Remove the price tags
- Make sure all gifts are brand new
- Include a major toy
- Indicate the age and gender of the child
- Read the instructions
- Fill the box.

Don'ts

- Cover the boxes right over after filling
- Wrap contents individually
- No scissors, toothpaste, sweets, liquids, toy guns etc
- No clothes except hats, gloves, scarves
- Only half fill the box

Samaritan's Purse **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** **Shoebbox Appeal**

Blessing the boxes will take place at
St. Andrew's Church, Sampford Courtenay
on **Sunday, 1st November**
at the 9.30 a.m. Service

For more information contact Nicky Craig 01837 880118

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

The Village Hall Committee hopes that everyone is well and coping with the ongoing situation, albeit as restrictions are eased.

We are monitoring the latest guidance and advice regarding how and when village halls can re-open their doors. We look forward to welcoming you again as soon as we can.

Please visit the parish website
www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk for the latest information.

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Recreating The Past for Channel 4's New Offices

Andrew Sinclair MRSS SWAc has recently completed a sculpture commission of two nine-foot female figures to adorn the façade of the Majestic building in Leeds city centre. As a nod to the building's past, and also to its future as the home of Channel 4's offices, the two figures of 'Music & Poetry' each represent the creative arts of music and literature.

Andrew was approached to help with the restoration of the Majestic, one of the city's most iconic and historic buildings. The Majestic has overlooked Leeds' City Square for nearly a hundred years. Now, as part of its redevelopment into 66,000 square foot of future-focused, office accommodation across seven floors, the architects were conscious their design decisions should be sympathetic to the building's past. This included the commissioning of the new statues to adorn its façade.

As one of the world's leading realist figurative sculptors, Andrew Sinclair MRSS SWAc was the obvious choice to deliver sculptures faithful to the building's heritage and its original styling. The Majestic was opened in 1922 as a 2,400-seat cinema and the two new figures, plus four individual urns, follow the design influences of the original figurative sculptures of the day created by Burmantofts-based Leeds Fireclay Company.

Speaking on behalf of the commissioning firm, Rushbond, Real Estate Manager Mark Finch stated, *"Since commencing works, we have been determined to deliver a sympathetic, comprehensive restoration programme which respects and pays homage to the Majestic's rich history. Andrew has done an amazing job, displaying true craftsmanship and bringing an exciting set of additions to the building."*

Created in Andrew's workshop in the heart of Devon, the figures eventually made the 300-mile journey to their new home laid on the back of a flat-bed lorry, before being winched into place via crane. The whole project from concept to delivery to installation was seamless. Andrew commented, *"This was an interesting and significant brief for us, and we're delighted with the result. The Majestic is one of the most exciting projects happening in Leeds at the minute, so it was a real privilege to be involved."*

As part of this landmark building, Music & Poetry will stand as a symbol of Leeds' passionate support of culture and the arts, overlooking City Square for many years to come, and stitching together the city's past and future.



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Report on SCEnSus meeting, 11 August 2020

The third meeting of SCEnSus, Sampford Courtenay's environmental and sustainable living group, was most productive in terms of moving forward the various initiatives and areas of focus identified by group members, in consultation with others.

Reflecting on statistics available from WDBC, concern was raised regarding the fact that currently 28 per cent of the contents of black sacks is food waste. As food waste can be composted, it seems such a shame that so much is being disposed of as general waste, which is sent for incineration. Trials are being undertaken locally whereby general waste collections are reduced from once a fortnight to once every three weeks in the hope that people will be encouraged to recycle more. For more information on what to do with food waste (if you don't compost it at home), visit <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/3476/Weekly-food-waste-collections>.

SCEnSus hopes to consult with the local community regarding its various priorities: a community garden; a peat-free initiative; a community hub; car-sharing/electric charging point for vehicles/bikes; and litter. Members of the group are preparing short written pieces for the September meeting with a view to producing some sort of 'leaflet' for circulation with SCPC chair's autumn parish letter. It is hoped that the group will receive feedback from parishioners regarding its aims.

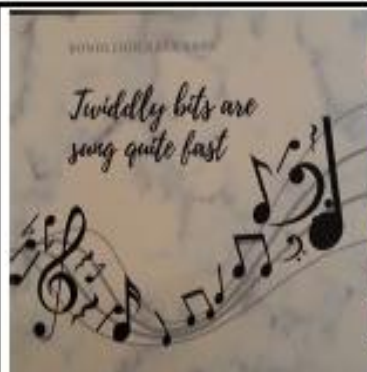
The next SCEnSus meeting will be on Tuesday, 8 September at 7.30pm, via Zoom. Please do join us if you can.

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86578146516?pwd=WXhHcWR1bWp5QmV1bXBEEWJCYzh3dz09>

Meeting ID: 865 7814 6516

Password: 860948



Twiddly Bits for Charity

Last year, film maker Geoff Hodgkinson from Exbourne and his colleagues from the Tiverton Camcorder Club were commissioned by the Bondleigh Barn Band to capture the story of how the band has grown over the previous seven years from 6 players to over 50. During 2019, the film makers worked in rehearsals and at evenings when the band played in public to produce a polished, technically sophisticated result just as the nation was plunged into lockdown!

The band had hoped to present a series of evenings to invite locals to see the film and, as had been its custom over the years, to devote any proceeds to charity. As filming was done at Belstone (at the Fair in July), Sampford Courtenay Church (for the Bellringers in

September), Fairplace Church in Okehampton for the Mary Budding Trust in November) and Bondleigh Church (Carol Service in December) it was hoped there would be interest, not least from those who attended and ran the risk of appearing in the film.

As it seems unlikely that public gatherings can go ahead safely for some time, the band has decided to make available DVD copies of this documentary film, called "Twiddly bits are sung quite fast" at a cost of £5 each, £2.50p of which will be given to our local North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (Over and Above) in recognition of the work it has done to keep us safe during the pandemic. If you would like a copy, please send a cheque (payable to the Bondleigh Barn Band) with your postal address and, while stocks last, we will arrange for delivery of a copy to you. You can see a trailer from the film @

<https://youtu.be/lcV2XyEC724>

Edwina Hill, Andrew's Corner, Belstone, Okehampton EX20 1RD (tel. 01837 840332)

Richard Edwards, Shellsley, Exeter Street, North Tawton, EX20 2BZ. (tel. 01837 82376)

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Okehampton Library is now open with amended opening hours!

Wednesday & Saturday 10:00-12:00

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10:00-12:00 & 14:00-16:00

What to expect at Okehampton Library:

Customer Numbers

There will be a limit on the number of customers at any one time and therefore safe queuing will be in place to enter the library.

Face coverings

Customers must wear face coverings unless a customer is exempt, this is to ensure that we keep each other safe.

Hand sanitiser and cleaning

A hand sanitiser station is in position to enable customers to sanitise when entering the library. Cleaning will be in place for services such as the public computers and self-service kiosks and regular cleaning of other areas is in place.

Test & Trace

Customers can voluntarily provide us with their name and telephone number to support NHS Test and Trace.

Social distancing

We have changed the layout to ensure adequate space for customers to move around in safety in a one way system and the floor space has been marked up to support social distancing and it is requested that 2m social distancing is observed by all staff and customers.

Quarantining returned books

All books and items returned to the library will undergo 72 hours quarantine before they are removed from customer accounts. Customers will be asked to place returned items into a box near the library entrance to keep them separate for quarantining. The maximum number of book loans has been increased to 24, this is a temporary measure and it will be reviewed in December 2020.

Browsing books – quarantining

We recognise that our customers enjoy browsing and that glancing through a book before is often an integral part of the experience. In the event a customer changes their mind, a 'browsing box' has been put in place, where customers can safely leave a book or item they have handled and no longer wish to borrow.

Booking computers

Computer access sessions are limited to 1 hour and are bookable by phone, email or in person. Computers are situated to allow for 2 metres social distancing and are cleaned between every use. The number of computers available has been reduced because of this safety measure.

Computer support

New links are available on the public computer desktops for help with computers and IT queries. Staff will not be able to give assistance with the computers at this time.

Children's libraries

We invite families to use the library, a range of children's fiction stock is available in the main library. Staff will be able to bring you any other items that you require from the children's library, including picture books and we do have a range of picture book bags available with activity sheets. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult in the library.

Staff would encourage parents and carers to speak with their children before they visit the library, about social distancing and also to let them know that whilst the library experience will feel different their library still loves them and wants them to enjoy reading and learning!

Choose & Collect

There will also be a Choose and Collect service for those that do not wish to browse or are unable to enter the library. To book a space call or email in advance to book this contactless service.

Events

We very much look forward to the day when we can restart our events and activities. Please visit Okehampton Library social media and website for details of the amazing online programme that is available over the next few months.

In the meantime, do join the Summer Reading Challenge which is available online <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> or contact us if you are unable to access the online offer.

We look forward to seeing all our customers again and do continue to access our online services and digital resources. These now include free digital access to thousands of newspapers everyday via RbDigital, stream now from the RB Digital platform or app <http://devon.rbdigitalglobal.com/>. Free access to Ancestry.com has also been extended until the end of September for Devon Library members at home.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

From the week beginning Monday 7th September 2020
We will be extending our hours to:



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- Wednesday's 8.30 am -- 1.00pm
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- Saturday's 8.30am -- 12.30pm
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Children's Hospice South West has had to adapt many of its fundraising events due to Covid and we hope that this event will give people the chance to come together virtually to remember a loved one, while supporting the work that we do with more than 500 local families and children across the South West.

Remember loved ones by moonlight and support Children's Hospice South West

Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) is inviting people to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one and raise vital funds for the charity.

A Memories by Moonlight ceremony will be broadcast live on Facebook from the Little Harbour children's hospice in St Austell at 9pm on Saturday, September 26, giving people the opportunity to light a candle and come together virtually for a special evening of reflection.

The poignant and uplifting ceremony will feature readings from all three of the charity's children's hospices – Little Harbour, Little Bridge House near Barnstaple and Charlton Farm near Bristol. It will also include music, poems and a two-minute applause to celebrate the lives of those no longer with us. The names of loved ones will also appear along the bottom of the screen.

Kiley Pearce, Events Fundraiser for CHSW said: "Due to the pandemic, the charity has had to adapt many things over the last few months – the care and support we offer to children as well as the fundraising events that help to fund that vital support for more than 500 local families.

"We hope our new Memories by Moonlight event will give people a lovely way to support the work we do while remembering the special people in their lives."

Everyone who registers to take part in the event, which is being sponsored by National Friendly, will get the chance to join the virtual memory ceremony. People can then choose to simply donate in memory of their loved one, or complete a walk or activity at a time and location that suits them and ask friends and family to make a donation towards this.

Participants will receive a beautiful memory pack in the post, which will include a candle bag to decorate, along with a tea light to light on the evening and a booklet to accompany the memory ceremony.

Kiley added: "We are delighted to be bringing Memories by Moonlight to people across the South West and beyond. We look forward to connecting with everyone at the memory ceremony on the evening of September 26th, which we are sure will be a very special night."

To sign up to Memories by Moonlight simply visit www.chsw.org.uk/moonlight. Registration is just £10 and a memory pack, along with details of how to access the Memory Ceremony, will be sent in the post. For more information about the event, you can also call the CHSW Fundraising Team on 01726 871800.



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ACE Archaeology Club

Well, we did have to cancel our 'dig' for this year, and we aren't really sure even about next year. However, we have time to think about it all and see how we can do a smaller dig perhaps with fewer people, somehow being more targeted, thinking about exactly what more we want to find out about our site at Moistown, near Winkleigh.

In the meantime, the interim report for 2019 is done and on our website. Our director, Janet, has been catching up with all sorts of desk based, or, more accurately, computer based, work around contexts and sections and doing all the things that she normally has little time to do. She and I have been trying to have weekly finds cataloguing sessions on my veranda, weather permitting, which it generally has.



We have over 3000 finds to get through from 2013 to 2019. So far, we have managed to do two years' worth so a way to go yet. We are hoping the weather holds because I don't know what we will do when it starts to get cold and wet. Going back to working on our own will be a shame as sharing this has been a good experience, especially at a time when we are so limited in who we can spend time with and how we can do that. We are all having to think of new ways of doing things and so perhaps some creativity will be a positive thing to have come out of this very strange time we are living through. Take care and best wishes from ACE.

Erica Williamson

<https://acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com>

From 1869 onwards, until the arrival of North Sea Gas, anyone entering the town from the bottom end could not have missed the familiar gasometer, which rose and fell according to the amount of gas which was being stored. The late Walter Mortimer tells us that the gasworks were erected in 1869 at a cost of £750 and was run by a private company. We know that Mrs. Merchant's father, Mr. Densham, was the manager during World War I. In his memoirs, the late Walter Martin states, "I used to look in at the local gasworks, just opposite the Woollen Factory, and watch old Bob Skinner replenish the gas retorts with coal from which the gas was extracted. The town was lit by gas at that time besides being used for domestic purposes and interior light." Mrs. Merchant remembers that when there was a coal shortage, her father had to make gas by combining sawdust with some sort of tarry substance.

Dorothy M. Stoneman

(First published in Roundabout in March 1995 under the title GAS, ELECTRICITY AND WATER)

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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
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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)
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5 th Sunday	Prayer & Communion	No service unless advertised otherwise

FROM THE REGISTERS

Weddings

Saturday 25th July Dewi MORRIS and Emma GOODMAN

St. Peter's Church

Saturday 8th August Simon QUICK and Rowan HODGSON

St. Peter's Church

Funeral

Friday 7th August Joanna CHESNEY (48)

Exeter Crematorium



Bondleigh Rainfall

After the extremes of the last few months July was a fairly average summer month. Total rainfall was 49.0mm, which was made up of small amounts spread throughout the month. The only exception being the 25th when heavy thundery showers amounted to 13.9mm. What will the shortening days of August have in store for us?

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 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

Pause for thought

Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seeds to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying his sheaves with him.

(Psalm 126)

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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.

Sue Knott & Carol Hughes

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September
October

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Sarah Hanks

Honeychurch

September
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Karen Squire
Marilyn Weeks

Bondleigh

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September 20th / 27th
October 4th / 11th
October 18th / 25th

Caroline Stokes
Jane Semorad
Barbara Dennis
Jill Wilson

North Tawton

Flowers

September 6th / 13th
September 20th / 27th

Margaret Arcott
Celia Boughton &
Jo Fear

October 4th / 11th / 18th
October 25th

Harvest Flowers
Grace Hayman

Brass

September
October

Sandra Delve
Joan Nicholls

We are always in need of more people to help with the brass cleaning and the flowers at St Peters.

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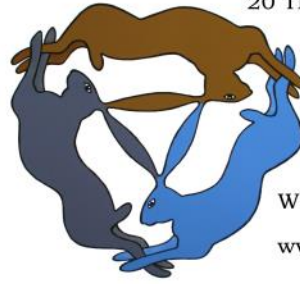
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