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## From The Rectory

### Good news! Great joy!

This Christmas will be strange, but it needn't be without hope. "Do not fear. I bring good news of great joy for all people," said the Angel to the shepherds outside Bethlehem on that wonderful night (Luke 2:10). After a year of bad news, little joy and much fear, we are all begging for the light of hope this Christmas. Christmas will be different this year. I'm not quite sure how yet, writing this in mid November, mid 2nd lockdown. I guess big family gatherings will probably not happen, not in person anyway. Getting a booking for Christmas dinner at a pub could be tricky. The annual rituals of Christmas markets, pantos, school nativity plays, and carol services will not be the same one way or another. On line, on hold, or on mute will be the order of the day, sadly. (I say sadly, but I suspect there might actually be a touch of gladness in the sadness for some...a quiet Christmas for once, just like the quiet Spring of 2020 that many secretly enjoyed.)

Undoubtedly, regardless of how things turn out this festive season, things will seem a bit darker than previous years. My prayer then, is that the light of hope will shine all the brighter. In a year when it feels like so much has changed, the good news of great joy at the heart of Christmas has not. Much as I enjoyed this text doing the rounds in my family this year... *No Nativity this year. The Wise Men face a travel ban. The shepherds have been furloughed. The Inn Keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations. Herod doesn't do Zoom, and the Angels can't fly after sanitising their wings with hand gel. Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen. As for Rudolf with that red nose, he's isolating and waiting for a test....* it's not true! Still this year, there is good news of great joy for all people. Christ has been born, "born to you" as the Angel announced, the greatest of Christmas presents.

At our churches we have been thinking, praying and discussing at length about how we might do Christmas this year. Although I was tempted for a brief moment to scale everything back and settle for a quiet one this year, that would not be right. Everyone is in need of a boost, and the good news of great joy cannot be restricted. So we hope to run as full a programme as possible throughout December, but how things will turn out, we don't know. It depends what the unlocking in December will look like.

We have decided to plan in the usual services and events in the hope that most things will happen in some form or other. As you can see on page XX, there will be two Christingle services, followed by carol services in all four churches, and further services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I am fairly confident we will be open for services again in December, but I cannot guarantee it at the

moment. If congregations can come back, social distancing will have to be maintained between households, so this will reduce the capacity in church for some services.

Fortunately, most of our buildings are big, and so even a socially distanced congregation is still a reasonable size. The churches will be cleaned regularly and the air will be circulated (they are always draughty anyway!). I'm sure face-coverings will either be mandatory or highly recommended, hand sanitizer will be available, and track and trace will be operating.

So the message is, please come and celebrate Christmas with us, but please be prepared for it to be a bit different. It may be that the choir and musicians are the only ones allowed to sing. It may be that we have to limit numbers inside. Rest assured, we will do all we can to make it as safe as possible for as many as possible. We have decided a couple of things already. Services will be shorter to limit the time indoors, and we are going to film the main carol services, making them available online. So whether there are congregations present or not, there will be local carol services for you to enjoy this Christmas.

The service that is proving the hardest to plan is the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Nativity Service in North Tawton. This service has grown hugely in recent years to be a treasured part of Christmas for dozens of families. We love it, and so does the Fountain (!) for afterwards there is always "no room in the inn." But for obvious reasons, 250 people crammed in church with little angels and shepherds flying around would not be possible or wise regardless of the kind of unlocking we get in December. But we will do something at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We may take the whole service outside this year into the churchyard. And I can conceive that we may be forced to do the same for other services too where possible. So, as well as "come", the message is also "keep checking for updates." Check the website below, check social media, check notice boards, and check emails if you are on the village email lists in Sampford Courtenay and Bondleigh.

However Christmas shapes up this year, the heart of it is unchanged since that holy night in Bethlehem. Light still shines into the darkness, and hope still rises in our hearts, for God has come as man. Christ has been born to us, and a fearful world has its Saviour. Whatever the circumstances this year, this is still good news of great joy for all. Let's not let Covid crash Christmas.

**Rev'd Nick Weldon (Vicar)**  
**[www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk](http://www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk)**



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#### December 12th / January 9th

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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.

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

## Be Still

*A short informal monthly service of themed prayers, reflections & readings and creating space to dwell in the presence of God*

**St. Andrew's Church, Sampford Courtenay**  
**Fourth Thursdays at 10 a.m.**

There will be no service in December  
The next one will be on:  
Thursday 28th January 2021

**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](mailto:juliec2911@hotmail.co.uk)  
or  
[admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
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5th Dec.

The Guides are hoping to have a  
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## Vacancy on the Council

The first step in filling a councillor vacancy is to advertise the opportunity for electors to request an election. West Devon Borough Council did not receive any requests within the specified deadline, therefore NTTC can bring the 'Co-Option' process into being. We'll advertise on our noticeboard and website in the New Year. Full information will be available for residents at that time.

## Criminal Damage in the Memorial Park

Many of you will be aware of the criminal damage caused to the trampoline in the park. Despite the Council reacting swiftly to put up safety fencing, just a couple of days later the fencing was moved and yet more mindless damage caused. If anyone had tried to use the trampoline there was a very serious risk of harm if they fell onto the metal surround where safety pads had been prised up. We had to spend a much bigger sum of money on a large metal plate to cover the whole of the trampoline, to make it inaccessible. The end costs of dealing with this damage will now be in the region of one thousand pounds.

**One thousand pounds of the hard earned money of North Tawton residents** – there is no 'magic money tree', the Council's budget comes directly from residents as an extra to their Council Tax; not from the Government – from you.

**One thousand pounds** that could have provided replacement of some of the wooden play equipment, or many other projects to benefit our residents.

We are all aware of the publicity around families in hardship – how many children's meals could be paid for with **one thousand pounds**?

If you have information as to those responsible, please contact the Town Clerk.

## Watercourses – Riparian Duties

If you 'own' a watercourse – which can be anything from a river to a ditch – you have certain duties to keep it free-flowing. This is very important, as blockages can cause flooding. You may own a watercourse if you have one on the boundary of your property – your deeds should tell you. For more information, try googling 'gov.uk owning a watercourse'.

## Safety of pedestrians on dark evenings

I've had a couple of comments about people out walking after dark, wearing dark clothing, and therefore being very difficult to see. You may not be aware of how invisible you are to motorists – please try wearing light coloured clothing, carry a torch, or best of all wear a hi-vis belt or cross-body strap. Available for under £5 from Amazon for example, these could save you from an accident.

## Cyclists

Again, I have had some complaints about cyclists travelling extremely fast and causing a potential hazard to pedestrians – please take care, and if possible have a warning bell that you can ring.

## Car parking on the hatched entrance way to the Memorial Park car park

Once again please could I ask residents not to park on this area – it causes problems for our contractors trying to access the park with machinery, and makes manoeuvring in and out of the car park difficult.

## Covid 19

I remind residents that our community help group is still in existence. We have volunteers who can help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, maybe you just need a someone for a friendly chat – have a look at your new emergency leaflet for contact details, or contact the Town Clerk. We may be able to point you in the direction of other sources of assistance, so again please contact us. Please keep safe.

***Members of North Tawton Town Council would like to wish all residents and visitors a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.***



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### **Sampford Courtenay – Past, Present and Future – *An Idea***

I've had this churning in my mind for some time – the idea to get a group of like-minded people together to focus on where we live, who lived here before us (in our houses and Parish) and what their lives were like – it's all about that sense of '**place and belonging**' which is vital to feeling good about things and so important at times like this.

Sampford Courtenay and Honeychurch (*abbreviated to SC from now on*) are both rich in history and we are fortunate to have 'The Orange Book' (Sampford Courtenay and Honeychurch, 2003 Stephanie Pouya) as a reference source of high quality.... but how many of us can say that we've read it and know much of the detail?

All of us in the Parish know something about what has happened here in the past including, of course, the Prayer Book Rebellion. What, though, do we know about the wells, the crosses, the schools, the halls, the Church, the Chapel, the roads, the railway and station, local industry etc? Where were the Church bells cast – probably in a sand pit in the Village, but where? Where was the stone quarried for the buildings? What did it feel like to live in our Parish at particular times in the past? What are the times in history which felt most like those we are experiencing now with this Covid-19 pandemic? How will future generations look back on what is happening now? We are all contributing to the future history of our Parish. I thought that it would be interesting to tap into the knowledge of people who live here - and others - and to link this to what we want for the future of our Parish (the place and our community) and to the wider issues of climate change and the responsibility that we all have to look after the best of what we've got for future generations and for our little part of the world generally. So ... **Sampford Courtenay – Past, Present and Future.**

We have the immediate challenges of coping with the virus as well as raising the funding for the Village Hall roof and window which is an incredibly valuable resource for our community and a legacy for future Parishioners. I am a mere parishioner, not a Parish Councillor or someone on the Village Hall Committee (and all credit to those folks for doing what they do), just someone looking to give everyone a means of pulling the threads together. The SCPC Parish Priorities include a lot of what is here; The Village Hall Committee has a clear focus to preserve the building and to ensure that it is a thriving centre of our Parish Community. I see this as a very special way - and time - for us all to come together for the greater good. There are a couple of things people might want to do during this time when social activities and travel are limited and which could be interesting for us all in the future. These are my initial thoughts, but feel free to come up with your own:

#### **The Past** of Sampford Courtenay and Honeychurch Parishes – 'Making the history 'real'

Research your own home and its history and produce a '**timeline**' for your house - Summarise the exciting bits.

When was it built? Who lived there and when? What did they do for a living? Any significant changes since it was built and why? Any funny events or happenings? Try to include 2 or 3 photos or illustrations. We don't need an essay, anything from a paragraph or list of bullet points and no more than 2 pages. Once we've got several of these, we will display them, possibly even put them together in a second 'Orange book'; We might get our tech-savvy folks to interview some of the characters about their homes and their memories and experiences in the Parish.

We will feature (with permission, of course) some of these on the Village website and who knows where else?

Some people who've already heard a bit about this are keen to form a SC **History group**. One of their activities could be to do a timeline for the Parish and, again, tell the story in a way that brings our past alive. If you have a favourite time in SC's history or a key date that you'd like to research and present (again, possibly on two sides of A4 maximum) then please let us know by emailing [SCPCclerk@aol.com](mailto:SCPCclerk@aol.com).

The Prayer Book Rebellion in 1549 is probably SC's main claim to fame even if it was about people falling out.

They had strong beliefs and stuck up for what they thought was right but how much more was there to it? We could hold a '**Re-enactment**' event and tell the story so that more of us can understand what it was all about.

#### **The Present** is about continuing to look after each other and the Community generally at the moment.

We need to select the best of what has been happening and make sure that it continues. I am sure we all appreciate the efforts of those who have made things happen locally. Thank you!

What do you or a group you belong to feel we need and how can you contribute to making sure that as many of us as possible are, even if not happy, then at least 'in touch' with each other and that we are healthy? I'd like to challenge each person and group (however formal or informal - Grumpies, the WI, Book Clubs, Flower Society etc.) within the Parish to ask themselves what they can do now to help others and what they want going forward. **What can your group do to contribute to SC: Past, Present and Future?**

#### **The Future** section of my thinking is still largely about 'Community'

The **Village Hall** roof etc. – We need to raise £150,000 to preserve the legacy for future generations.

The SC Environment and Sustainability (**SCEnSus**) group's **monthly challenges**, recently published for November, December and January, to ensure that we are looking after the environment and climate – locally and globally.

Again, all individuals and groups to **think about what we want for the Parish and Villages going forward**. Are there other groups which would be popular – possibilities suggested include: Photography; Art & Craft; Film Club; Ready, Steady, Cook type events; Dancing (remember those pre-Covid sessions?); a regular Walking group; reinstating the Village's annual outing? What else would you like to see and what can you do to help get things started?

Thank you for reading this far. This is an exciting time for us within the Parish even though the virus and the dark days of autumn going into winter might have left us feeling a bit jaded. Now is the time to get going with some of the suggestions here and to look forward to brighter times – Who knows to what it might lead for all of us?

If you have any comments or suggestions on what is here, please email [SCPCclerk@aol.com](mailto:SCPCclerk@aol.com)

(See photos on page11)



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## North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

### Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

I'm thinking that maybe it's time to draw a line under the 'Turnipgate' scandal. But before I do I need to say thank you. A very big thank you. And this goes to the reader (you know who you are) who so very kindly photocopied not one, not two, but SEVEN turnip recipes from a war time cookery book and then sent her husband out, in wind and rain, to deliver them to our door. I am beyond grateful. I am also reassured. Reassured to know that there is at least one person out there who reads my drivel. Thank you again. Husband has been on the receiving end of quite a bit of attention recently. Well, if you will hurl yourself off a ladder and collapse a lung then I guess you will. But it's always lovely to know that there are people out there who have been thinking about him during his recovery. So here comes another thank you. And this one goes to the acquaintance who stopped me in Spar and thought it would be a fun idea to think of song titles that mention 'breathing'. So the list has started. Haven't got very far. 'The Air That I Breathe' – The Hollies, 'Every Breath You Take' – The Police. And that's it. There must be more – over to you. And another thing. Day Time Telly. During husband's recovery period we have been exposed to rather a lot of Day Time Telly. There is only one thing I can say. Just how many episodes of Midsomer Murders did they make??!

Normally, at this time of year, I would be practising my 'how many mince pies can I eat before anyone notices' technique in readiness for our W.I. Christmas party. Sadly – no Christmas party this year. Gladly – no need to fine tune my covert eating position in the privacy of our kitchen and no one to tap me on the shoulder and whisper 'that's your 8<sup>th</sup> mince pie'. Husband wouldn't dare. No – he's far too busy practising removing the lid cleanly from a mince pie, inserting as much clotted cream as possible and replacing the lid without pushing any cream out. It's all in the name of science apparently. Can't argue with that.

Talking about mince pies. I've set myself a challenge. I am the owner of countless baking books so, for the purpose of research, I 've looked up every conceivable variety of mince pie and I aim to bake, and eat them all. I've already started. Basic mince pies with pastry lid. Mince pies topped with meringue. How about mince pies made with puff pastry? Or topped with crumble mix. Or made with buttery shortbread mixture. I'm in mince pie heaven. So is husband.

Meanwhile, our members are still hoping that 'It Might Be Me' every Friday throughout November and December. The 'November Nosegay' draw prize consists of a beautifully scented room diffuser. Husband has just looked up and muttered 'do you mean air freshener?' I've tried so hard to introduce him to some of the finer things in life but I've really struggled with room diffusers. December will be Decadent. At least it will be for North Tawton W.I. ladies. A weekly draw prize of something deliciously decadent will be delivered to their door. Alas, not by Santa himself. Having said that - there is the faintest chance I could persuade a certain person to don the appropriate attire and deliver decadence to the lucky winners. No sleigh though. Will a Massey Ferguson 290 do instead? At least it's red.

So, this is my last paragraph for 2020. What a year. I distinctly remember gazing into husbands' eyes on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 and saying 'I like the sound and look of 2020 – it's nice and symmetrical so that's got to be a good omen'. I should have stuck with my usual way of welcoming in the new year. 'Let's have a nice cup of tea, see the new year in at 10 p.m. and get a good night's sleep'. I know what you're thinking. Our life is beyond exciting. Happy Christmas to you and yours.

*Sue Knott*



Early photos of Sampford Courtenay ( see article on page 9



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### ROUNABOUT DEADLINE:

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

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## Climate Change Challenges for everybody (and every household) in the Sampford Courtney Parish

It is vital that we all understand the impact we are having on the environment and the effects of climate change and to change the way we do things to make a real difference at local and global levels. If you didn't see it, try to watch David Attenborough's Extinction programme – BBC1 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The Sampford Courtenay Environment and Sustainability (SCEnSus) group have identified a set of **monthly challenges** to create a community response which will have a much greater impact on the environment and climate than anything we can do individually. The idea is that each challenge will build on the one that's gone before so that the changes become a way of life, not just something you focus on for a month and then forget about!

The challenge for January is in the form of a **New Year's Resolution checklist** which will help everyone in your household identify the areas that are your particular priorities. The other months have topics that we all need to work on to reduce our carbon footprint. The aim is to make us think about the issues and how we can make that much-needed difference!

The Government is bringing in legislation to stimulate change. Did you know that from February 2021 you won't be allowed by law to buy 'wet' wood (more than 20% moisture) or bagged household coal? Wood for domestic burning either has to be dry and seasoned or bought wet and stored on your property until it is dry and seasoned – up to 2 years! Other legislation is already in place for diesel and petrol cars, carbon offsetting requirements and, from 2021 until 2024, the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) will come into effect for Farmers. Also, that from March 2022 you won't be able to buy or use Metaldehyde slug pellets (the blue ones!). These changes will each affect the majority of us in the Parish in some way or another. A useful self assessment activity to gauge your carbon footprint can be found at:

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/questionnaire>

### December Challenge - Recycle and Re-use

Use your existing Christmas decorations. Make new ones using what you've already got. The challenge is not to buy any new ones this year! Did you know that tinsel can't be recycled so it's better to use it time and time again rather than throw it away and send it to landfill? Is it really better to have a real tree ... or an artificial tree that you use year after year?

**Woodburner or open fire** - If you have one of these, make sure you have adequate supplies of dry, seasoned wood to burn from February onwards when the new legislation comes into effect and, even better, start before then. Also reduce your use of firelighters to light fires and sweep chimneys regularly to reduce chemicals and particles in the atmosphere.

	<b>January 2021 SCEnSus New Year's Resolution Checklist</b> What are the things that you and your family can do during the year? Put this checklist up in the house where you can <u>all</u> see it ... and use it to keep track of your progress. <i>Mark each action Red if you haven't started it ... or haven't even thought about it yet!</i> <i>Mark it Amber if you've started work on this but there's still some way to go</i> <i>Mark it Green if you've completed this/ been doing it for some time. If so, Well done!</i>	Red/ Amber/ Green?
1	Do you need better loft insulation or double glazing? <i>There might be grants available to you</i>	
2	Are all the light bulbs in your house low energy?	
3	Can you turn down your heating, even by 2 degrees C ... and wear those jumpers that you've got lurking in your wardrobe instead? Can you do your washing at 30C rather than 40C?	
4	Can you share your car travel with someone else and reduce the number of car journeys that you make to work or to the shops? Can you 'save' at least one journey each week? Think twice before doing short 'single occupancy' car trips as these are the least fuel-efficient journeys. <i>Vehicle transport makes up 25% of UK carbon emissions</i>	
5	Can you cycle, walk or catch a bus rather than drive a car sometimes – and more than you would usually do?	
6	How much food do you throw away in your house? If you're tempted by 'Buy one, get one free' offers - do you always use it all? Does <u>all</u> your food waste <u>always</u> go in the compost, not in black bags and end up in landfill and producing lethal methane gas?	
7	Can you buy more organic food to promote soil health – foods grown without use of fertilisers and cultivation methods that break down soil structure and other chemicals (particularly pesticides) which harm wildlife?	
8	Can you stop or reduce the use of chemicals such as bleach, cleaning products and sprays? Do you use microfibre cloths and water to avoid using chemicals and having those hard to recycle containers that they come in?	
9	How can you get everyone in your house to be more 'environmentally aware'? Identify some climate house rules such as closing doors to keep heat in, turning down thermostats in rooms not used very often, not running taps any longer than is necessary, looking at ways to re-use, recycle and re-purpose (particularly if this means not buying something new). Is there someone in your house (preferably the youngest person in the house) who could be the 'climate lookout' .... or 'chief nagger' when other people forget or get it wrong!	
10	How much of what your family throws away goes to landfill? How many black bags each week? How can you reduce the number of bags that go in the bin lorry?	
11	If you eat out and 'on the go', are the food and drink containers used single use and, if so, are they recyclable?	
12	New Year sales – as tempting as they are, buy only what you need!	





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- Sun 13 December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 6.30pm
- \* Christmas Eve Nativity Service 4pm
- \* Christmas Day Family Service with Communion 11am

## St Andrew's Sampford Courtenay

- \* Sun 6 December Christingle Service 9.30am
- Sun 20 December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 6.30pm
- Christmas Eve Midnight Communion 11.30pm
- Christmas Day Holy Communion 9.30am

## St James' Bondleigh

- Sun 20 December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 4.30pm
- Christmas Eve Late Night Communion 10pm

## St Mary's Honeychurch

- Sun 20 December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 3pm

\* all age service

Do not fear.  
I bring...  
GOOD NEWS  
of GREAT JOY  
for all people.  
*Luke 2:10*

All services subject to COVID restrictions. Main carol services will be filmed  
Check for regular updates and uploads at [www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk](http://www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk)



The Guides will be running their Christmas Post delivery service again this year with deliveries to North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay and Bondleigh only.

The post box will be in the chemist from 1st December.

The delivery boundaries are Sampford Chappel cross, Sampford station, De Bathe moor, Lower Nicholls Nymet, Cadditon Cross, council houses in Bondleigh, and Ashridge .

The postage will be 25p per card. Please can you address the envelope clearly.

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## Den Brook Community Fund

Over the last twelve months, Committee members of the Den Brook Community Fund voted to award grants totalling almost £23,700 to various organisations spread across all five eligible parishes to support them in realising exciting project proposals. In every case, it was recognised that the project would help the organisation to achieve the next stage in the development of their core activities.

This was the Committee's sixth "round" of grant allocations and over the past three years, the fund has been able to allocate funds totalling over **£141,000** to 20 different organisations, providing support towards a wide variety of projects. The projects have all, in one way or another, contributed to the seven community benefit objectives the Committee originally identified, which are-

Improve local physical health and mental well-being.

Promote the care and support of disadvantaged or vulnerable people.

Encourage and support voluntary activity, community spirit and participation through social, sporting and cultural activities.

Improve local employment opportunities.

Produce deliverable benefits to local communities which provide a sustainable legacy over an extended period of time.

Provision of environmental benefits which contribute to energy efficiency initiatives.

Promote equality of opportunity through delivery of neutral, secular, and a-political outcomes.

**Grant applications for new projects, which can help make a contribution to some of the objectives above, are invited from voluntary organisations, clubs and societies (based in the five parishes of Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton and Zeal Monachorum) for the next "round" of grant awards. The closing date for this round is 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021.**

An application pack containing our new Guidance Sheet (which explains our Cost/Benefit scoring system), the terms and conditions and the application form, is available from Den Brook Community Fund, c/o North Tawton Town Council Offices, 14a The Square, North Tawton, Devon EX20 2EP or by e-mail at [denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com)

---

*The Den Brook Community Fund is administered by representatives of Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton, & Zeal Monachorum Town and Parish Councils.*

## Avian influenza (bird flu)

### Poultry and other captive birds

An [Avian Influenza Prevention Zone](#) (PDF, 39.1KB, 6 pages) (AIPZ) has been declared across the whole of England effective from 5 p.m. on 11th November 2020.

All poultry keepers in England (whether they have commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions.

If you keep poultry (including gamebirds or pet birds) or other captive birds, you must act now to reduce the risk of disease in your flock by following the relevant biosecurity measures required within the AIPZ. Your stock needs to be fed and watered under cover to prevent contamination from wild birds.

Good biosecurity improves the overall health and productivity of your flock by helping keep out poultry diseases such as avian influenza and limiting the spread of disease in an outbreak.

All bird gatherings within the AIPZ are prohibited therefore the general licence that had permitted bird gatherings has been revoked.

For more guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77)

Public Health England advises that the risk to the public's health is very low. Food Standards Agency (FSA) has said that on the basis of the current scientific evidence, avian influenza pose a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Avian influenza is unconnected with coronavirus (COVID-19).

Voluntary registration

You can choose to register fewer than 50 birds, or birds you keep as pets. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) encourages you to register even if you do not have to by law.

By registering,

- APHA will be able to contact you if there's a disease outbreak (such as bird flu) in your area.
- you'll help prevent the spread of disease and protect the national poultry flock.

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### News from Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

Full minutes can be viewed on our website [www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk) where any useful links are live.

Plus check out our new [FACEBOOK](#) Page. Like and Share to help us spread S.C.P.C. news.

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

1. **SCPC** – held their 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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.
2. **NOVEMBER LOCKDOWN** – the Incident Management Team was reinstated at the November meeting with twenty-one volunteers offering to shop, and fetch medication for any vulnerable parishioners.
3. **FOOTPATHS** – funding from DCC P3 funds have been received and work should soon take place on the footpath that runs behind the Village Hall down to Weirford Lane, and also the top of Clifton Lane.
4. **COVID FUND RAISING** – it was agreed at the Open Meeting and subsequent Parish Council Meeting that the funds would be shared between the Village Hall Roof Fund and St. Andrew’s Church, both these Village Groups have missed out on their normal fund raising activities this year, and much of the produce and cakes that were donated for the sales were by supporters of these two groups.
5. **BUDGET 2021/22** – will be presented at the Zoom meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December.
6. **SKATE RAMP** – a request had been made by a young parishioner for provision of a Skate Ramp on the Village Green. Your thoughts on this would be appreciated.
7. **KEEP SAFE, KEEP ALERT** - the best way to keep up to date is to sign up for emails via Julie and the Website. Alternatively please contact the Clerk (details below) to either receive regular Covid Newsletters by email or printed copies. If your circumstances change and you wish to submit a Request for Assistance form – just contact Marion as per below.

Please contact SCPC Clerk – Marion Pratt at [SCPCClerk@aol.com](mailto:SCPCClerk@aol.com) or on 01837 82285 if you would like to raise any issues. Even better, come along to a meeting.

Next meetings: 1st December and 5th January

*Sampford Courtenay Parish Council would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and hope that we can all meet up in person in early 2021.*

### **SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**WILL BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ON WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER AT 7.30PM ON ZOOM.**

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HALL ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US ON ZOOM.

(JOINING DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE WEBSITE).

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## Santas go freestyle for Children's Hospice South West!

Children's Hospice South West's (CHSW) annual Santas on the Run event is back but not as you know it! Taking place over the weekend of the 11-13 December, supporters will be able to choose their own distance, route and festive fancy dress.

The festive fundraiser usually takes place at Great Torrington's RHS Garden Rosemoor each year but the local children's charity has taken the decision to hold it virtually this Christmas due to the pandemic. It's free to register and anyone who manages to raise more than £15 will receive a special Santas on the Run medal.

Kiley Pearce, CHSW Events Fundraiser, said: "This year, Santas on the Run is going freestyle! Although we can't all come together at Rosemoor, we can still spread some joy and laughter and we'd encourage everyone to go crackers with their festive fundraising! Whether you twinkle in tinsel or rock it like Rudolph, you can get creative with your costume and complete a distance of your choice, your way."

CHSW's Santas on the Run has taken place at Rosemoor since 2018 and before that was held in Bideford town centre. Over the years it's seen thousands of people join together raising vital funds for CHSW and its Little Bridge House children's hospice in Fremington.

Together with community partner Whirlwind Sports, CHSW is asking this year's participants to raise sponsorship or make a donation to enable the charity to continue to providing vital care for children and families when they need it most, whether that be in the hospice or at home.

Kiley continued: "Over the weekend of 11-13 December we will have a warm-up for people to join online each day, as well as lots of prizes including for the best-dressed family, child and dog! Individuals who raise £15 or more will also receive a medal. It's undoubtedly been a challenging year and we would encourage people to get involved however they like this Christmas but most importantly, have fun and help us raise money to continue supporting local children living with life-limiting conditions and their families."

Registration is free! Simply register your interest at [www.chsw.org.uk/santas](http://www.chsw.org.uk/santas) and join the charity's event on Facebook by searching 'Santas on the Run – goes freestyle' [www.facebook.com/events/649916122169450](https://www.facebook.com/events/649916122169450)



### Design a litter poster

Could you design an eye-catching poster asking people not to drop litter? SCEnSus group hopes to produce a selection of posters to display on parish noticeboards, litter 'blackspots' and local fast food outlets asking people to take their litter home rather than dropping it.  
Open to all ages - young and less young!

Please send your poster to

Joy Tucker at [bobandjoytucker@gmail.com](mailto:bobandjoytucker@gmail.com) or

Bridgelea, Wellsprings Lane,  
Sampford Courtenay EX20 2TD.

Closing date 31st January 2021. Thank you.

### St. Andrew's Church Sampford Courtenay

*You and your families are  
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## Christingle Service

**Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December  
at 9.30 a.m.**

*In aid of The Children's Society*

### READING GROUP

Normally meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday MONTHLY  
7.30 p.m. AT THE NEW INN  
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## News from Sampford Courtenay

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.... the collection and processing of shoeboxes nationally across England has been pushed back until December so this gave us the opportunity to do more boxes. At the time of writing there are 51 filled shoeboxes in St. Peter's church and it is hoped we get it to 70 by the end of the month. Just ask if you need a flat-pack empty box.

Although the church remains open for private prayer, no services are to be held during this second lockdown. Remembrance Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, was observed with the Rev'd.s Weldon, Bullworthy and Courtie producing a short ceremony, shown on YouTube from St. Andrew's church. This included reading the Names of those who died in both the first and second world wars, and a one minute silence. Armistice Day, on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, was commemorated in The Square by the Rev'd. Rita Bullworthy and distributed by Zoom. At the war memorial Jim Brereton laid a wreath on behalf of St. Andrew's and John Friend laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. Andy Wilson read the names of the fallen and Jim Brereton read the Kohima Epitaph and the Ode to the Fallen. Two minutes silence was observed and the Revd. John Courtie played the Last Post.

The sale of poppies, crocheted by Shirley McClement, raised £96 for the Royal British Legion.

The Village Hall and St. Andrew's have joined together for a visit to Santa's Grotto in the hall, as well as the Christmas Bazaar at St. Andrew's church. Note the new venue, selling traditional items such as cakes and Christmas crafts as well as the grand raffle and a different style of Tombola. To keep within permitted Coronavirus boundaries, the wooden tombola will be replaced with a basket out of which the promoter will select the required number of tickets at £1 each. The odds will be the same, so every ticket will be a WINNER. This could be very exciting! So donations are needed please. We welcome any new items, no matter how large or small, for inclusion, to be given to me or Malcolm or left in the church **before the day**. e.g.: toys, wine, spirits, other bottles, tins or packets of food, sweets, toiletries, books, plants, unwanted gifts of any sort – absolutely anything. All we ask is that items are new and unused and within their sell by date. Donations of cakes etc. will also be very welcome.

What happens at Christmas and into the New Year is dependent on any new restrictions – there is more information in this magazine. Hopefully it will be possible to observe Plough Sunday on 10<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30 a.m..

Wishing you all a peaceful, healthy and loving Christmas.

*Nicky Craig*

### **Christmas Quiz sheet**

The Guiders have put together a Christmas quiz sheet @£1 for you all to have a go at during the next few weeks.

Closing dates for entries 12th December, cash prize.

If you would like a quiz sheet then please contact Jane on 89160.

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## **National Lockdown – Devon Libraries open for Choose & Collect across Devon & Torbay**

From 5<sup>th</sup> November, Libraries Unlimited confirms that libraries in Devon and Torbay, including Okehampton Library, will be open for the free Choose & Collect service.

Government legislation states that libraries can continue to provide essential services during the November lockdown.

### **Library Services:**

#### **Choose & Collect**

To use the free Choose & Collect service telephone or email your local library, library staff will select your books, audiobooks or DVDs and you can collect them from the library entrance at a pre-arranged time. This service is also available for returning items.

#### **Mobile Libraries**

To use the mobile library Choose & Collect service telephone or email the base library used by your mobile library. If you need to confirm the base library please check [devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries](http://devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries).

#### **Home Library Service**

The Home Library Service has resumed deliveries from most libraries. Please contact your local library or email [home.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:home.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) for further details.

You can review loans online and renew your books via [devonlibraries.org.uk](http://devonlibraries.org.uk). If you do not have online access you can renew your books by phoning your local library. Contact Okehampton Library by email [okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) or phone 01837 52805

To assist library customers, Libraries Unlimited has put the following temporary arrangements in place:

- Existing loans due back between 5<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December have been extended to week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- Extended book loans to 10 weeks on any books borrowed from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November

- You can borrow up to 24 books

- Extended loans on DVD/CDs/audiobooks to 10 weeks on items borrowed from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November (10 weeks for the price of one!)

- Free reservations through to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, items may take longer than usual to become available.

The digital library remains open, you can continue to view and explore our catalogues and resources online. We have eBooks, eaudiobooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers that you can access for free using your library card. Not currently a library member? You can join the library for free at [devonlibraries.org.uk](http://devonlibraries.org.uk)

Events in libraries remain suspended for now but you can still enjoy the activities and events that libraries are streaming and sharing online. Find Okehampton Library on social media ([Facebook.com/OkehamptonLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/OkehamptonLibrary), [@OkehamptonLib](https://www.instagram.com/OkehamptonLib)) to enjoy these events.

Your local library is managed by Libraries Unlimited, the charity responsible for running Devon and Torbay Libraries. For regular updates visit [librariesunlimited.org.uk](http://librariesunlimited.org.uk).

Contact Okehampton Library by email [okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) or phone 01837 52805

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## Three Hares Update



As we work our way through another lockdown, our Three Hares primary schools continue in the 'new normal' we are all growing accustomed to. Life in school looks a little different now that children work and play within segregated 'bubbles' and they sit at tables, facing the front. However, we are delighted with the progress that children are making now they are back in school, as we fill any gaps that may have appeared during the summer. Lockdown gave us the opportunity to take a fresh look at our curriculum, meaning that in September we were able to launch our Three Hares Curriculum across the three schools. Our new curriculum is being tailored to match the needs of each school community with outdoor learning, visits and visitors to ensure teaching and learning is vibrant and enriched.

With a new curriculum, we are ambitious to provide exciting new resources and develop the school environment, so we will shortly be launching a fundraising strategy which will enable parents, members of the community and businesses to support us in this venture.

We are also taking a fresh look at our over-arching vision for our Three Hares primaries and hope to share this with our communities for your thoughts in due course. Keep an eye on our new school websites which are being updated to reflect the developments within our schools.

Our Three Hares Primary Schools: Chagford CE Primary, North Tawton and South Tawton Primary Schools are wonderful schools, all sitting at the heart of their own special local communities. It is our aim to keep developing the links that bring our schools together as 'The Three Hares' whilst strengthening those that link us to our immediate communities. In this way, the children of the Three Hares will enjoy the most memorable experiences during their learning journey which inspire them to really *love learning*.

Elizabeth Underwood

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear All

The time is rushing by and we are busy working hard as normal, despite the pandemic. The children are settled and are glad to be working again in their respective discreet bubbles.

### Remembrance Service

This is the time of year when we remember those who lost their lives in conflict. Such a poignant reminder, in the current situation, of just how lucky we are!

The children took part in a virtual Remembrance Service which was broadcast live from the vicarage with real bird song in the background! Reverend Weldon led a beautiful service and many of our children marked the day by wearing a different uniform to school. In normal times, each year on Remembrance Sunday, the children proudly parade in their Guides, Beavers, Scouts, Cubs and Rainbows uniforms. This year they wore their uniforms to school all day.

The current situation has forced us to teach in a very different style. We miss the group discussions and the good-natured debates, and we miss the dynamics as the year groups mingle and make new friends. The older children are missing their usual extra responsibilities around the school. We have become accustomed to virtual assemblies and are proving that we are resilient when faced with failing technology!

These stressful and challenging times have brought our community together. We are enormously grateful to all our families who continue to support us in so many ways.

Wishing you and your families well

Miss Chauhan



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[What's on in Sampford Courtenay!](#)

**Virtual Activities for November Lockdown & December** – (All joining details on Website)

**Monday Coffee and Chat – 10.30 am every week**

**Monday Bingo – 7pm – 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Nov & 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**Friday Quiz – 7pm – 20<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup> Nov & 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**December SCEnSus Challenge - Recycle and Re-use**

Use your existing Christmas decorations. Make new ones using what you've already got. The challenge is not to buy any new ones this year! Did you know that tinsel can't be recycled so it's better to use it time and time again rather than throw it away and send it to landfill? Is it really better to have a real tree ... or an artificial tree that you use year after year?

**Woodburner or open fire** - If you have one of these, make sure you have adequate supplies of dry, seasoned wood to burn from February onwards when the new legislation comes into effect and, even better, start before then. Also reduce your use of firelighters to light fires and sweep chimneys regularly to reduce chemicals and particles in the atmosphere.

**History Group** – What do you know about the history of your home? Can you use this month's lockdown to find out.

**Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Dec – Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Advent Window Trail through the Parish** – if you would like to include your window display/outside your house display please contact Marion 82285.

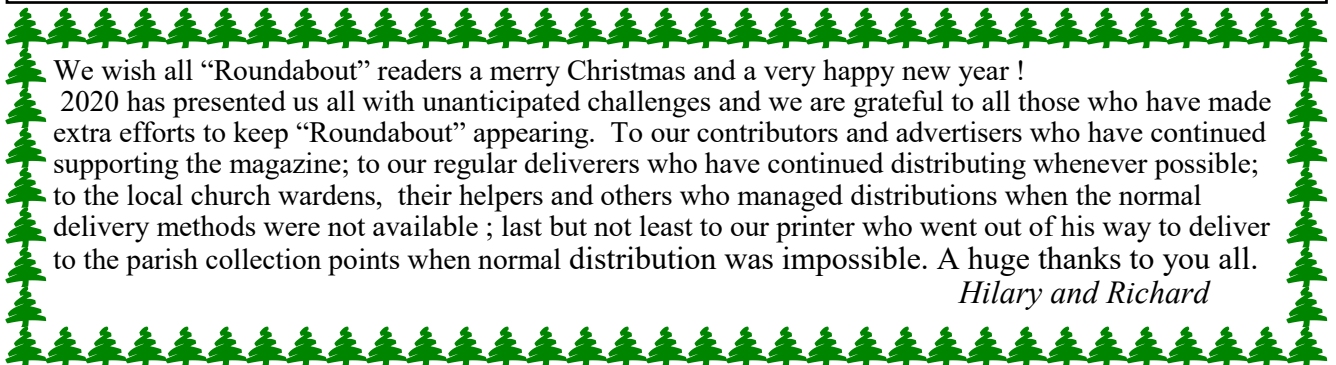
**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec – St Andrew's Christmas Bazaar & Village Hall Santa's Winter Wonderland 2pm – 4pm** – combined community Christmas Fund Raising and a chance to meet Santa. Book your slot 82285.

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec -Carol Singing via Zoom – 7pm** - possibly your only chance to sing your seasonal favourites this year. Joining details will be on the Website.

**Christmas Wish/Gratitude Tree** – add your message to a bauble and place on tree in the Square.

**Merry Christmas One and All** – gather in the Square to collect your baubles from the tree, and share some socially distanced Christmas cheer.

If anyone is organising any other events and would like them added to next **What's On Poster** please let Marion know [SCPCCLerk@Aol.com](mailto:SCPCCLerk@Aol.com)



We wish all "Roundabout" readers a merry Christmas and a very happy new year !

2020 has presented us all with unanticipated challenges and we are grateful to all those who have made extra efforts to keep "Roundabout" appearing. To our contributors and advertisers who have continued supporting the magazine; to our regular deliverers who have continued distributing whenever possible; to the local church wardens, their helpers and others who managed distributions when the normal delivery methods were not available ; last but not least to our printer who went out of his way to deliver to the parish collection points when normal distribution was impossible. A huge thanks to you all.

*Hilary and Richard*



**The Whiddon Mission Community**  
**North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch**  
**Chagford, Gidleigh, Throwleigh, Drewsteignton, South Tawton, Spreyton and Hittisleigh,**

**TEAM VICAR:** North Tawton

**Rev'd Nick Weldon** (880183) [npweldon@gmail.com](mailto:npweldon@gmail.com)

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**TEAM RECTOR:** Chagford

**Rev'd Paul Seaton-Burn** (01647 432880)

The Rectory, Chagford, TQ13 8BW

**ASSISTANT MINISTER:** North Tawton

**Rev'd Rita Bullworthy** (89168) [ritabullworthy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ritabullworthy@yahoo.co.uk)

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 Common Worship

**SERVICES at St. James' Church**  
**Bondleigh**

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

**SERVICE at St. Mary's Church**  
**Honeychurch**

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

**Lakeway United Church**  
 North Tawton  
*Methodist / United Reformed*

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

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

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

1st Sunday 11 a.m. Morning Worship  
 2nd Sunday 11 a.m. Informal Communion  
 6.30 p.m. Evensong (Apr - Oct)  
 3rd Sunday 11 a.m. All-age Worship  
 4th Sunday Traditional Communion  
 5th Sunday Informal Communion

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

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

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

**North Street Chapel**

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

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

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funeral

Thursday 19th November

Martin EYKE (92)

St. James' Church Bondleigh



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

I know that my Redeemer lives  
And that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

Job 19 verse 25

### Bondleigh Rainfall

After a relatively dry September, October started wet with over 70mm. in the first week. We were lucky to have some dryer days during the middle of the month. However by the end of the month the total was 147.2mm, slightly higher than last year at 132.6mm.

*Danny Semorad*

### Devon Sensory Outreach Service **NORTH TAWTON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

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

**10.30 a.m. and 12 noon.**

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



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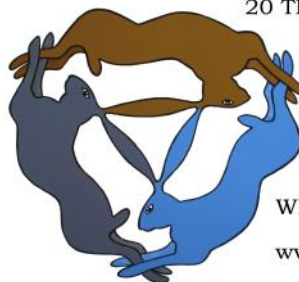
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