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From The Rectory

Service and Dynamism



Credit; Press Association

Service and dynamism... those were two of the many words used to describe H.R.H. The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh on the announcement of his death on 9th April. What an amazing life.

In the days since his death we have heard a lot about him... his birth in Corfu into the Greek Royal Family, his troubled childhood, his schooling in Scotland, his naval career and wartime exploits, his marriage to the then Princess Elizabeth, her accession to the throne, and his role as her consort through 73 years of marriage and 69 years of her reign. We have heard about his unique temperament, his dedication to duty, his relationship with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and we have heard about his most treasured achievement - the founding of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Even the staunchest anti-monarchist cannot fail to be impressed by the man's service and dynamism over his 99 years.

Here in Devon we can lay claim to a couple of unique perspectives on the Duke. Famously it was in this county that a young Prince Philip, as an 18 year old cadet at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, first met an even younger Princess Elizabeth. He was placed in charge of the two young princesses who came to the college for an official visit in July 1939. Elizabeth was just 13, and although they had both been present at a few official occasions before, it was on the tennis court at Dartmouth where the future Queen fell in love with the budding officer, showing off as he jumped over the net.

But Prince Philip was to come even closer to us here in our parishes; Eggesford to be precise, in 1956. The Duke and the Queen visited Barnstaple, but on the same visit they also stopped off at Eggesford Forest to unveil a plaque commemorating the millionth acre of trees planted by the Forestry Commission. The British Pathe footage is viewable online and you can even see them each plant an oak tree either side of the plaque. The two trees are still growing strong today. We found them on a recent family walk. If there is anyone reading this who witnessed this event first hand, I'd love to hear from you. I'm sure someone from our parishes ventured over the hills to see them. Maybe we could publish your memories of the day in a later edition.

Like many, I confess that my view of Prince Philip is somewhat coloured now by his portrayal in the Netflix drama *The Crown*. How accurate a portrayal it is or not I really don't know, but even the briefest bit of research would suggest the series did at least attempt to capture the essence of the man. I don't recall the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme featuring much in the series. It is probably not sensational enough, which is a shame, because it is reputed to be his proudest achievement. He longed to put back within young people a sense of adventure and service in a world where most grow up in cities, often starved of inspiration, encouragement and experiences. Despite all the technological advances of his 99 years, that seems to be a greater problem than ever before, which the pandemic has sadly further exacerbated. He was also passionate about conservation and he possessed a robust and enquiring Christian faith. He relished conversation and unflinching debate, founding St. George's House Windsor for exactly that purpose. He was not a morning person and he walked quickly.

By his own admission Philip had his failings, but his is an extraordinary story of dedication to his wife the Queen and the country that he made his home. And even when he didn't want to (which he made patently clear at times!) he served the nation and his family with unique character and dynamism through many periods of joy and trial. Sir, rest in peace.

Rev Nick Weldon
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His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

It was with great sadness that North Tawton Town Council heard of the death of The Duke of Edinburgh. On behalf of the residents of North Tawton we send our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and to members of the Royal Family. We hold them in our thoughts and prayers at this very sad time.

Her Majesty has suffered a great personal loss and we hope that the sympathy of the nation will be of help and support to her at this time. His Royal Highness will be remembered for many achievements, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which has benefited young people of North Tawton as well as those across the whole country.

Please refer to the Council's website, front page, for information about charitable donations instead of flowers, and the online Book of Condolence. If you do not have internet access, messages of condolence can be written on paper no larger than A5 and posted through the council letterbox. We will then paste these into a hard copy book of condolence which will be retained in the Council's archives in accordance with usual practice, and Buckingham Palace will be informed of this.

Further vacancy on NTTC

Mrs. R. Davies has resigned from the Council. We would like to thank Mrs. Davies for her contribution to the work of the Council, particularly as Chair of our Finance Committee. This vacancy is currently being advertised in accordance with regulations, with an opportunity for residents to call for an election. Please see our noticeboard and website for information. If no-one requests an election, then we will once again go through the process of advertising the vacancy for co-option to the Council – again this will be advertised outside the Council office and on our website.

Re-opening of the 'High Street'

The Council welcomes back all businesses which have had to remain closed during the most recent lockdown and which can now re-open either fully, or in the case of pubs and cafes, for outside eating and drinking. Please support our local shops, pubs, cafes and other businesses if you can, and remember to maintain appropriate covid-related precautions so that we all keep safe. West Devon Borough Council has provided, free of charge, signage to remind us all of how to keep safe whilst we are out and about in the 'High Street'.

Stolen signs

The last safety signs put up by the Council were stolen just as we were about to take them down. We hope they will not be needed again, but this is not certain, so if anyone knows anything about the whereabouts of these signs please contact the Town Clerk.

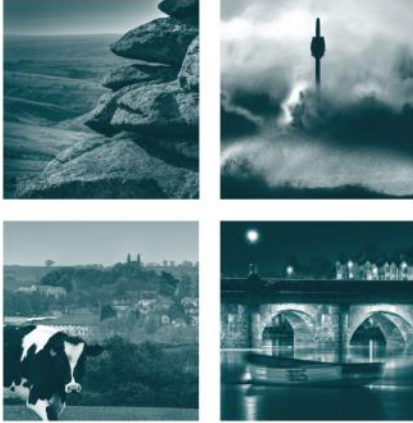
North Tawton online and hard copy Business Directory

Our previous Business Directory required payment for entries. Thanks to a grant from West Devon Borough Council, in turn from the Government's support for re-opening of the 'High Street', we've set up an online business directory which will be accessible from our website shortly. Businesses will complete a form with details to go in the directory, and once checked, these details will go live on the directory page. After a period of time, entries will also be published in a hard copy directory to be combined with Emergency Plan information and distributed to all households in the parish. Best of all, this will be completely free of charge to all businesses, sports and social clubs, and other organisations within the boundary of the parish of North Tawton. Look out for information on our noticeboard as to when you can start submitting entries. *A small number of payments were made some time ago for inclusion in the future hard copy edition of the directory; these will be refunded in due course.*

Sarah Say

Town Clerk

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North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

One very happy husband. And the reason why he's blissfully happy? If only it had something to do with me but alas no. The spuds are in. He's ploughed, crumbled, rotavated – and with the help of two very able assistants who were happy to sit astride his home-made potato planter (involving two old Astra car seats and various other 'that'll come in handy' bits of metal that eventually did come in handy) and drop a seed spud down a tube into the hallowed ground at the precise moment/spacing required – the job was done. Now our attention is fixed firmly on weather forecasts. If only David Braine knew. It wasn't really his fault. We should have paid more attention. Cast your mind back to May 2020 – we're all having to adjust to this pandemic thingy and the skies are blue, the air seems clearer and the Knott household is retiring for the night. Should have listened to David. Should have thought about those precious spud leaves poking through and exposing themselves to a late frost whilst we slumbered. Never mind. Apart from random bits of metal and car seats, we now have assorted flannelette sheets and old duvets. A shed full of them. Just in case.

Not sure if flannelette sheets ever featured in the career of our recent guest speaker – (can't imagine that flannelette sheets would tie together that easily to facilitate an escape from prison, husband says they're a bit too thick). Chris Duffin kicked off her prison officer basic training at Styal's Women's Prison which had prison wings named after certain prison reformers such as Fry House, Howard House andHooker House. Chris was assigned to this wing and every morning she stood beneath the sign 'Hooker' hanging over the wing entrance waiting to greet the 20 inmates that would troop through. The crime that these particular ladies had committed? Prostitution. Each morning she would be asked 'Getting much business Miss?' to which she would cleverly reply 'No. Too many amateurs in here giving it away. We've got to organise and set our prices right ladies'. And it was that clever, confident and respectful attitude that marked Chris out for Governor training. So, after 15 months on 'the landings' she headed off to Stoke Heath Borstal which housed young offenders. From there it was on to HMP Strangeways working alongside Norman 'Scarface' Brown who, in Chris's words, was a rather unconventional Governor. There were 1,800 male prisoners, hundreds of male staff and an awful lot of rude comments and doubts concerning her abilities but Chris got stuck in and over time she won the respect of both prisoners and her male colleagues.

As a Governor, Chris also did time at Dartmoor Prison and Cookham Wood where she frequently encountered Myra Hindley who was an orderly there and, as part of her 'job', would make the tea. Chris described Myra as being pleasant and polite, getting on well with the staff. One of Chris's philosophies was 'when you are in prison or work in a prison you have to deal with the person rather than the crime'. A remarkable speaker with a hugely interesting story to tell.

Can you make a rabbit out of a flannel? I was peering in to my W.I. Easter goody bag and there it was. Peering back at me. Two eyes and a little pink cutey nose. Now that's clever. What else have I got? Some divine chocolates, a rabbit shaped Easter biscuit, a lucky four leaved clover key ring, (all home-made of course) a posh teabag and some sunflower seeds. How about that? Bet you wish you were in the W.I.. Oh – what's this? A request for this year's subscription? Worth **every** penny.

Sue Knott

Would you like to join our WI for our zoom speakers?

Our meetings on Zoom are open to anyone who would like to join us. Our speakers for the next few months until our face to face meetings recommence (hopefully in August) are:

Marilyn Bishop on Dartmoor's Myths and Legends (May 5th)

Laura Cowie on Cyber Crime (June 2nd)

The Shakespearean actor, Peter Harding and his wife Liz Crowther (Daughter of Lesley Crowther) talking on their lives in the theatre and on tv. (July 7th)

For a visitors fee of £2 you would be very welcome to join us.

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Sampford Courtenay Community Calendar 2021

All Events subject to current Covid Guidelines at time of Event.

 <i>May</i>	 <i>June</i>	 <i>July</i>	 <i>August</i>
1 st – VIRTUAL PET SHOW 22 ND – BEE & BUG Hunt 22 nd – Re-Loved Sale with Plant Stall and Coffee Morning.	13 th - Himalayan Balsam Stream Clean 26 TH – Come by and chat.	3 rd – Bellringers Outing 10 th – St Andrew’s Summer Fete	1 st - Scarecrow Trail starts 21 st - Flower and Veg Show
 <i>September</i>	 <i>October</i>	 <i>November</i>	 <i>December</i>
11 th – Music Event 11 th – Coffee Morning – Devon Historic Churches Day 24 th – Harvest Festival & Supper	30 th - Pumpkin Trail	11 th – Armistice Day Service 13 th - Countryfile Children in Need Footpath Ramble 14 th – Remembrance Service	6/11 th - Christmas Cheer & Santa’s Grotto

News from Sampford Courtenay

Mothers Sunday was celebrated at St. Andrew’s on 14th March, with posies of spring flowers being presented to the congregation.

A zoom Singalong, with an Irish theme, was held on 18th April.

St. Andrew’s was beautifully decorated for Easter Sunday and thanks to Margie and Anthony Jervois for providing and laying the Easter egg trail round the churchyard. In the afternoon the village hall committee laid an Easter egg trail round the village. Thanks to Nicky Courage and her team for cooking the Big Breakfast and for the take-away curry, both in aid of a new roof for the Village hall.

The bellringers tolled the bell 99 times on Saturday 10th April in memory of Prince Philip and a half muffled peel was rung for the 9.30am service on Sunday 11th April. Prayers of sympathy for the Queen and the Royal Family were said.

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The service will run from Bow through North Tawton , Sampford Courteney, down to the station and then directly to Okehampton.

This service will run Monday to Friday (and Saturday at different times) and will leave from Strawberry Fields @07.17hrs , The Square @ 07.18hrs and Taw bridge @07.19hrs.

The aim of this new service is to provide a direct link to Okehampton without the need to travel via Hatherleigh for workers needing to be in Okehampton before 0800hrs. Also this Service may benefit College students attending the Breakfast club at Okehampton. This bus will then return along the same route leaving from West street in Okehampton at 16.15hrs.

Bow – Halwill Junction Via North Tawton, Sampford Courteney. Okehampton

B1

B2

B1 – Monday – Friday (Except Public Holidays)

B2 – Saturday only (Except Public Holidays)

	B1	B2		B1	B2
	M-F	S		M-F	S
Bow Square	07:10hrs	08:55hrs	Halwill Junction, Station Field	15:56hrs	-
North Tawton Square	07:18hrs	09:05hrs	Castle Cross	16:03hrs	-
Sampford Courtenay, New Inn	07:24hrs	09:10hrs	Thorndon Cross	16:08hrs	-
Sampford Courtenay Station	07:28hrs	09:13hrs	Northlew Square	-	13:40hrs
Okehampton College	07:38hrs	-	Okehampton , West Street - Stop B	16:15hrs	14:05hrs
Okehampton , West Street - Stop A	07:40hrs	09:21hrs	Okehampton College	16:17hrs	-
Northlew Square	-	09:40hrs	Sampford Courtenay Station	16:25hrs	14:13hrs
Thorndon Cross	07:45hrs	-	Sampford Courtenay, New Inn	16:28hrs	14:16hrs
Castle Cross	07:50hrs	-	North Tawton Square	16:33hrs	14:21hrs
Halwill Junction, Station Field	08:00hrs	-	Bow Square	16:41hrs	14:31hrs

Are we nearly there?

(“The biggest crisis this country has faced since the Second World War”)

Is this the beginning of the end — or the end of the beginning?

And what have we learned from the past year?

1. Appreciation for the tremendous efforts by workers in the NHS to care for us.
2. The first rule of managing a national emergency is to over-stock with supplies of toilet tissue.
3. Acceptance by the vast majority of people act upon advice from the government and its health advisers (not all people – we have learned the difference between being offered vaccination and accepting it).
4. The frustrations of missed contact with family and friends during enforced isolation has emphasised and extended mental stress for many who will need help to recover in future.
5. To wash hands more often, to be masked in public (previously only allowed for burglars) and how far a 2 metre distance is.
6. Neighbourly kindnesses have become even more highly valued than before.
7. Working from home may have changed working patterns for many in future.
8. Reduced travel improves air quality (and so benefits the environment).
9. Home schooling creates its own pressures (especially if combined with working from home).
10. Children will need help to recover lost educational ground.
11. Older students have not had the “full university” experience for which they had hoped (and paid).
12. Not to sing.
13. Social media has been a boon; the benefits of “Zooming” have been embraced even by those who were afraid of it.
14. Unanticipated effort has gone into clearing the attic, redecorating the home and tidying the garden (for those lucky enough to have one).
15. Pet dogs are desirable companions. Also, there is life in the old dog yet. The elderly can take comfort from the example of one near-centenarian with a zimmer frame and undiminished determination.
16. Online church services have attracted greater numbers than would normally attend church in person.
17. Most areas of Devon (and most people living there) have escaped the worst effects of the pandemic.

ROUNABOUT DEADLINE:

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

A.M.B

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Referendum to be held in North Tawton

Everyone in North Tawton who is on the electoral register can vote on the town's Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 6th May. The Plan, which has developed over a number of years, began with a questionnaire to all households and has evolved through a series of consultation events. It sets out policies for development of the town until 2035.

The final stage for every Neighbourhood Plan is to put it to a public vote. The Plan cannot be adopted until that has happened. Voters can vote "yes" or "no" to the question on the ballot paper:

"Do you want West Devon Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for North Tawton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area."

If more people vote "yes" than "no", WDBC will use North Tawton's Neighbourhood Plan to help decide planning applications. If more people vote "no" than "yes", WDBC can consider planning applications without reference to the Plan.

See www.northtawtonneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

BONDLEIGH

Grand Plant Sale

Saturday, 15th May 2021 at 10 a.m.

The Barton, Bondleigh

We are fairly sure that we will be able to hold this in the farm yard at The Barton (kind permission of Danny & Jane), which will mean that we can also serve coffee & cake!!

Should the guidance change, we will return to the "Garden Gate" plan and there will be a stall at The Barton with instructions regarding other "Garden Gates".

Nothing in the garden lasts for ever
Most plants will catch the frost or die of drought
Or be devoured by slugs and caterpillars
Come along, re-stock with new and plant them out!

If you've been watching all the gardening entertainment
You will know the theory well and what to do
We've all the usual veggie plants on offer
And flowering ones in every colour too!!

Caroline Stokes
on behalf of
St. James' PCC

Thursday 6th May

Referendum

Your opportunity to vote on
North Tawton's

Neighbourhood Plan

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To view the Neighbourhood Plan, visit
www.northtawtonneighbourhoodplan.co.uk



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North Tawton's Spring Market



Saturday 1st May

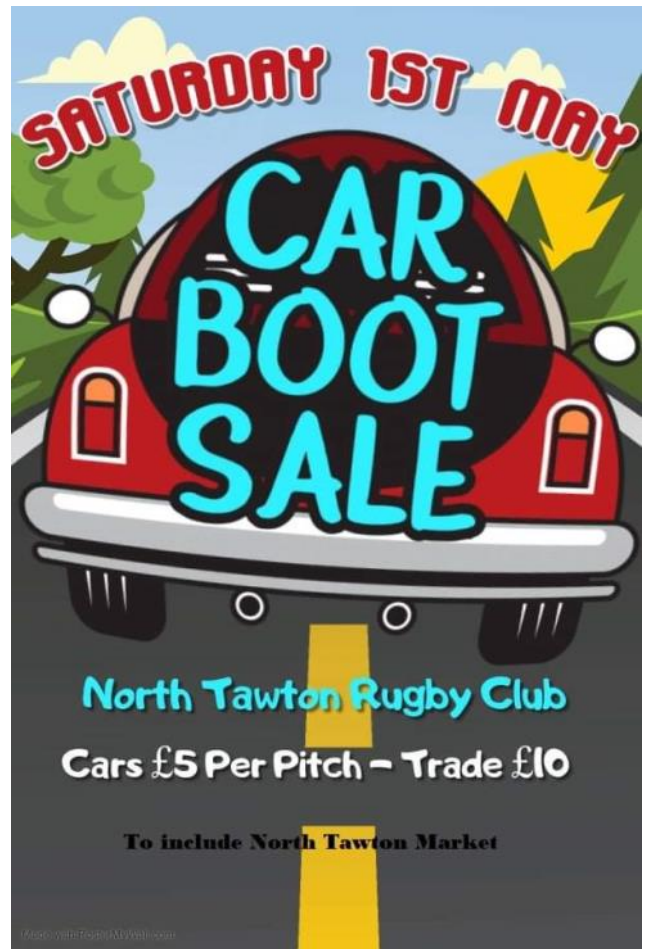
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News from the Castle

Hi everyone

I don't know about you, but it feels like nature is giving us a glimpse of new beginnings. The garden is full of daffodils and catkins and buds are starting to burst into life on the trees and plants.

The good news is that it is looking positive that we can start re-opening our places. As you know, the countryside sites have remained open throughout this lockdown for local people to take their daily exercise. From the end of this month, we are also re-opening the garden at Castle Drogo and the waterwall walk at Lydford Gorge, again with the steer for people to stay local. Entry is via a pre-booked ticket so just head to the website to get booked on. There is a takeaway offer available from the cafes at both sites too.

We have to wait a little bit longer to open the indoor places. We hope that the government guidance will enable us to open the Castle mid-May and the delightful Finch Foundry will hopefully be open from the beginning of June, again with pre-booked tickets. As you all know, this is all depending on how the release from lockdown goes, so please keep washing those hands, wearing those masks and keeping the 2 metre distance. The website is always the best place to look for the latest information.

In the meantime, keep enjoying your local walks and the joy that spring brings. I will keep everything crossed that we will see you very soon. Stay safe all!

Paula

Community Involvement Manager, Castle Drogo and Dartmoor

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Bondleigh Rainfall

Well! so much for my old saying about March coming in like a lamb and out like a lion.

March ended as it came in with beautiful sunny weather. A short wet spell in mid month accounted for most of the rainfall. Total rainfall was 50.6mm compared to 89.2 mm last year.

April has started cold. The flowering of the blackthorn always reminds us that winter is not over yet. Are we in for another dry Spring like last year?

Danny Semorad



The **Sampford Courtenay Environment and Sustainability (SCEnSus) Group** is keen to hear how you're getting on with our monthly challenges. If you can share your thoughts about January's New Year Challenges (and how your household is getting on with them!) or any of our other monthly challenges, we'd like to hear from you. Why not join us for one of our Zoom meetings to find out more? Details are on the SC Website or by email if you've signed up.

Sampford Courtenay SCEnSus May's Monthly Challenge - Wildlife: Bees, bugs and plants

The challenge this month is to do more than you would usually do to help insects, particularly bees, and wildlife. Remember that insects are useful and they pollinate plants to produce flowers and fruits. We need them – and they need us to look after them!

Could you make a **bug hotel**? There are lots of instructions for different styles available on the internet. Can you put a log pile in your garden or yard for bugs to hide and nest in?

Do you have **plants that attract and provide food for bees, butterflies and other insects**?

Look out for plant swap plants that they particularly like. *Remember that bees like single flowers more than double – they can easily reach the central part of the flower where the nectar and pollen is stored. If you've got a crowded bunch of leafy bluebell plants then split them now after flowering and whilst you still know where they are to get even more flowers next Spring – if you forget you can still do this in the Autumn, if you remember where they are. Check, though, that they are the native English bluebells, not the invasive Spanish ones which will hybridise (cross pollinate with) the English ones!*

Take photos of bugs, bees and butterflies on flowers and plants ready to enter into the Parish competition later in the year, either at the Produce Show or wherever we hold as an alternative event.

Could you **take cuttings** of plants that they like (e.g. buddleia, sedum) and, when rooted, give them to other people in the Parish to attract even more bugs to Sampford Courtenay? We will try to organise a Parish 'bee and bug count' for children (and adults) sometime after lockdown ends.

Do you **need to mow all of your grass regularly** or could you leave some of it to grow? Can you let any wild flowers go to seed before you cut it? This would save fuel/ power as well as being good for bugs and wildlife, particularly if it is next to hedges and links to anything that your neighbours can leave uncut as well.

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News from Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

Full minutes can be viewed on our website www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk where any useful links are live.

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

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

SCPC – held their 6th April meeting virtually on Zoom with 5 parishioners also joining in. Using Zoom does enable “remote” parishioners to attend the Parish Council meeting from the comfort of their homes.

MAY 6TH ELECTION – Together with the Elections for DCC Councillors and Police & Crime Commissioner, there will also be an election to fill the 2 Casual Vacancies on the Parish Council. There are 4 Nominations – Phillip Collins; James McIlwraith; Matthew McIlwraith and Martin Morrissey.

RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE COUNCIL MEETINGS – all councils have to return to Face-to-Face meetings from May 7th. SCPC agreed to hold Hybrid meetings whereby parishioners could still join the meetings via Zoom while councillors attend in person. The first Face-to-Face meeting for SCPC will be held on June 1st. A chance to meet your newly elected SCPC Councillors.

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE Q & A Session on 18th May – do you know the history of your property in Sampford Courtenay? Would you like to take part in a Guided History Walk around the parish? More details on our Website.

BETTER INTERNET CONNECTION – Openreach have been “mapping” areas of the village for “Fibre to House” connection, hopefully by this summer. If you have a download speed of less than 10mbs please register at [Universal Service Obligation](#) site.

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 shown below.

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

Next meeting: June 1st

Roofus’ Re-loved Sale

Have you been sorting out those no longer used items to take to Charity shops when they open?
Any new or hardly worn clothes or accessories that you shouldn’t have bought that someone else might like?
Any quality Household (or Garage, Garden etc.) items lurking in a corner under-used and taking up space?

Roofus is going to hold a sale of quality goods in aid of the Sampford Courtenay Village Hall Roof Fund on Saturday 22nd May and he’s asking you to remember him when lockdown eases and you can eventually get rid of those black bags and boxes of items that you’ve already decided to part with.

If you’ve got something that someone else might want and that they’ll re-love (even if you don’t!) then please help him by dropping it off at the Village Hall when he sends out the details shortly.

Put the date in your diary – Saturday 22nd May, 10 a.m. – 12 noon, at the Village Hall – come and help Roofus by buying and re-loving someone else’s quality items. See you there!

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Sampford Courtenay: Past, Present and Future



You might remember a few months ago reading about a possible initiative along these lines - thinking about what has happened in our houses and homes as well as across the Parish over the past, where we are now and what we want for the future.

Some folks have already written something about who has lived in their houses before and how the buildings have changed over the years - Thank you to those people and to the others who have said that they want to get involved. Well, now's your chance!

On Tuesday 18th May at 7 p.m. there will be a Zoom Open meeting to talk about what we want to do with this project and the sort of activities we'd like to get involved in once we are able to meet up. So, a local History group? Guided tours of parts of the Parish and Village which are of historical interest? Talks from people with a specialist interest who know what they're talking about?

Keep an eye open for the invitation to join the Zoom discussion - and come with some ideas of what you want to do. See you there!

Don't miss

Sampford Courtenay Takeaway Chilli Night

Friday, 30 April, 6 - 7.30 p.m.
At the Village Hall

Choose from
Chilli con carne (beef, gf)
Three bean chilli (suitable for vegan, gf or anyone else who fancies a change!)
with rice, tortilla chips and homemade salsa

All for £10 per person
Side dishes and sweet treats available
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Please book by
email nickyvhmc@gmail.com or phone
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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

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Reprinted from Roundabout in May 1995:

Following a previous article, P.C. Dave Killick made enquiries and Headquarters at Middlemoor confirmed that the North Street Police Station was built circa 1859 and its successor was officially opened on 15th April 1966. (*in Barton Street, near the present fire-station.—editor 2021*)

The opening of the newest Police Station was not before time. The old building in North Street could not be said to have headed the list of priorities in the matter of services. A piped water supply was not connected until 1930 and electricity was not installed until 1946. Before this, gas was the only means of lighting.

The site for the old building was bought for £50 and the newer station was put up by a local builder (Mr Hooper), using stone from Cocktree Quarry (now disused), on the edge of Dartmoor.

At this stage of its history, North Tawton was an important centre. It had a large tan-yard, a woollen factory, three annual fairs in April, October and December, and was governed by a Portreeve.

During the building of the railway 100 years ago there were frequently skirmishes with drunken imported navvies, and it is recorded that on one occasion when one was lodged in the cells for being drunk and disorderly, his friends entered the town in a mob and demanded his release. They met their match, however, in the local Magistrate and Rector, Rev'd. Robert Hale, who read the Riot Act from the police station and got them to disperse.

Police Constable Dave Killick

READING GROUP

Normally meets 4th Tuesday MONTHLY
7.30 p.m. AT THE NEW INN
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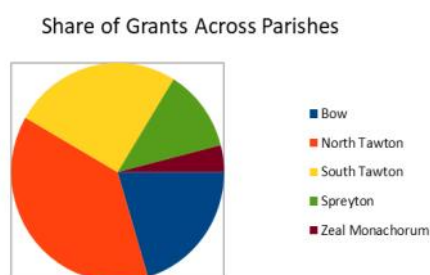
£165,000 in Den Brook Grants

The Den Brook Community Fund Committee met “virtually” in February to approve four more Community Grants which brought the total grants allocated so far to over £165,000.

Over the last four years, the five parishes adjacent to the Den Brook Wind farm invested funds in their local communities through membership of the Den Brook Community Fund.

Background.

In 2015, the five parish councils of Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton and Zeal Monachorum signed a Service Level Agreement with RES who manage the Den Brook Wind Farm. The agreement enables the Fund Committee to distribute grant payments over the life of the wind farm. Over four years the Committee received £210,373.90 in grant monies to invest in capital project proposals submitted by local voluntary not-for-profit organisations and social clubs who are based within the parish boundaries. The overall fund is apportioned to a pre-agreed formula based partly on parish populations and the pie chart below identifies the proportion of grant allocations by parish.



Community Investment.

Meeting twice yearly, the Committee use Cost Benefit analysis, various accountancy ratios and a set of seven pre-defined benefits to assess project proposals. This approach enables disparate project proposals to be assessed in a consistent way enabling it to measure investments made by the Committee across their local communities.

Based on the number of benefits validated on each grant application and divided by the amount of each grant, the amalgamated amounts of the investment are -

Provision of a sustainable legacy -	£30,555.12
Energy saving proposals	£15,469.95
Promotion of Equal Opportunities	£22,094.72
Promotion of Health & Well-Being	£32,084.14
Provision of services to vulnerable and disabled people	£24,480.18
Encouragement of voluntary and social activities	£32,671.38
Improve local employment opportunities	£ 8,059.01

Continued on Page 27

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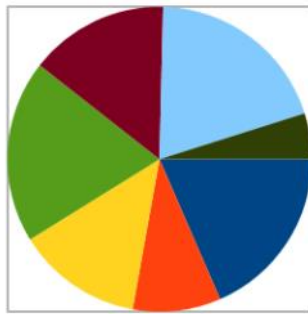
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- Disadvantaged
- Voluntary & Community
- Local Employment



What does this mean in practice?

The fund has contributed to all kinds of projects. Large building renovations (usually funded in stages) include improvements to village halls and youth clubs. Medium sized grants have helped sporting clubs to establish or renovate playing fields and provide machinery to maintain them, as well as the provision of sporting equipment and secure storage facilities. Other grants include provision of stage lighting and sound systems, whilst smaller projects have provided scout groups with tents and camping equipment. and new toys for nursery groups.

Overall, the committee has provided financial assistance to 35 projects and the average cost to the fund to achieve each benefit has been £946.16, with the lowest at £155 and highest at £3,333.

Next Steps

As we slowly emerge from the Covid 19 lock-down, people will be more energised than before as they realise how much they have missed or rely upon social and community support for their health and well-being. When we are able to meet up again, the five communities can begin to build back their voluntary organisations and clubs, or maybe start up a new venture (the Committee accepts costed business plans!).

The next deadline for receipt of project proposals is 31st July 2021

The application form and guidance are available from -

The Den Brook Community Fund,
14a The Square

North Tawton, EX20 2LE

or by email from denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com



Pictures -

1st Bow Scouts- Camping Equipment

North Tawton Scouts Boat Shed

North Tawton Youth Club

The Chairman of the fund committee is Councillor Christopher Nicks - Bow Parish Council.

Stephen Webb is the Responsible Finance Officer for the Den Brook Community Fund





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Leadership Transformation

It is with some sadness that I write my last article for the Roundabout as the Head of School at North Tawton. After Easter the new principal, Miss Tara Penny, will be welcomed officially to take up her new post. She has visited the school and met with the children and the staff. She is excited and keen to continue the hard work and to ensure that the school remains at the heart of the community that surrounds it. Miss Penny will continue with the monthly article updating you with all the progress and news. I am sure that once the restrictions are fully lifted, normal school events will resume and you can once again meet her in person and get involved with the normal school events.

The Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (DMAT) led by the new CEO, Dan Morrow, swiftly implemented many changes in the leadership structure across the Trust to strengthen and utilise the skills of each member of the team. I will be starting my new role as the principal of Black Torrington and Bradford Primary Schools. This is an exciting adventure for me and it will test my abilities further when trying to juggle two schools! I am very much looking forward to working in small village schools again although my first position in Devon was at Witheridge C of E School with 68 pupils some 22 years ago!

After more than 16 years of service at North Tawton my last day was certainly a very emotional one as you can imagine! I started working at the school as a teaching Deputy Head in 2004 seeing many, many children through their primary years. I have spent the last two years as Head of School. The time has passed quickly but as in life not everything was smooth and easy. The very many happy times were blighted by some terribly sad times which presented additional challenges for us all. More recently, leading a school through the Covid -19 pandemic was certainly a very interesting and testing period, which I hope will soon end.

As I have said in many of my previous articles, the staff team at North Tawton is simply incredible. Each and every adult plays a vital role in the smooth running of any establishment but without reservation the friends I leave behind have formed such a good strong bond giving every child the opportunity and the platform that they deserve. My ability to lead has been made easier by their ability to trust. Their full compliance, support and dedication made the job rewarding and a pleasure. I will miss them all dearly.

Wishing you and your families all the very best.
Keep safe and healthy and come and visit me at my other schools!

Best wishes
Sunita Chauhan



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Take on an Incredible Hike for Children's Hospice South West

Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) is asking people to take on an Incredible Hike and raise some vital pounds for the charity this May.

To celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2021, the charity has lined up 30 inspiring walking routes across Devon, Cornwall and Somerset for people to choose from – or they can simply pick one of their own.

CHSW area fundraiser Jayne Jarret said: “We want people to hike as they like and raise a bit of money to ensure local children and families continue to receive the vital hospice care they need.

“May is National Walking Month and whether it's a scenic stroll or an epic hike, getting outside for some fresh air is more important for our mental wellbeing than ever.

“It's free to register to take part in The Incredible Hike and if you can raise more than £30 in sponsorship we'll send you a very special commemorative CHSW 30th anniversary medal.

“Just visit the CHSW website to register, pick your route and start your Incredible Hike adventure. You'll find lots of easy fundraising ideas and tips on there too, as well as downloadable sponsor forms and links to set up your own Just Giving page in a couple of easy clicks.”

CHSW was founded in 1991 and during the last 30 years, its hospices have provided a safe haven of care, support and friendship for thousands of children with life-limiting conditions and their families. The charity's first hospice, Little Bridge House, opened its doors in Fremington, North Devon in 1995. Charlton Farm, near Bristol, opened in 2007 and Little Harbour, in St. Austell, Cornwall opened in 2011, meaning that no matter where families live in the South West, children's hospice care is available within an hour-and-a-half drive.

Today, CHSW supports more than 500 families across the South West, providing respite, emergency, end-of-life and bereavement care and support for the whole family. It has adapted its care during the pandemic to ensure Covid-safe support wherever and whenever families need it, including for the first time ever, in families' own homes.

The charity needs around £11m a year to run its three children's hospices, and around 85 per cent is raised through voluntary donations. “Every penny you're able to raise with your Incredible Hike will make a difference and our fundraising team will be able to support you every step of the way,” added Jayne.

The Incredible Hike is kindly sponsored by Thomas Westcott chartered accountants. Participants are asked to ensure they stay safe by following Government guidelines and announcements from Public Health England.

For more information or to register, visit www.chsw.org.uk/hike



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BCP

3rd Sunday 6.00 p.m. Evensong

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Common Worship

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SERVICES at St. Peter's Church
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FROM THE REGISTERS

There were no entries in the registers last month.



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Ye Pause for thoughte

Graunte we beseche thee, almightie god, that like as we doe beleue thy onely-begotten sonne our lorde to haue ascended into the heauens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascende, and with him continually dwell.

The Collect (special prayer for the day) for Ascension Day as printed in the 1549 “Booke of the Common Prayer”

Pause for thought

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to reioice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with the, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Collect for Pentecost (Whit Sunday) from “Common Worship” published in 2000



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Honeychurch

May
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Marilyn Weeks
Mary Pyle

Bondleigh

May 2nd Carol Jones
May 9th / 16th
May 23rd / 30th
June 6th / 13th
June 20th / 27th

Helen Ruby
Cath Pettifer
Trish Peters
Margaret Bridgman

North Tawton

Flowers

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May 9th / 16th Frances Brookes
May 23rd / 30th Hilary Edwards
June 6th / 13th Greta Stoneman
June 20th / 27th Enid Westlake & Nicola Bateman

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June Celia Boughton

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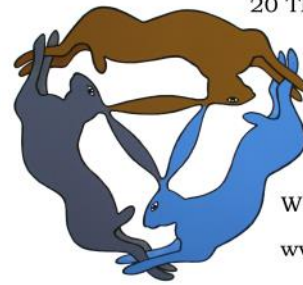
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