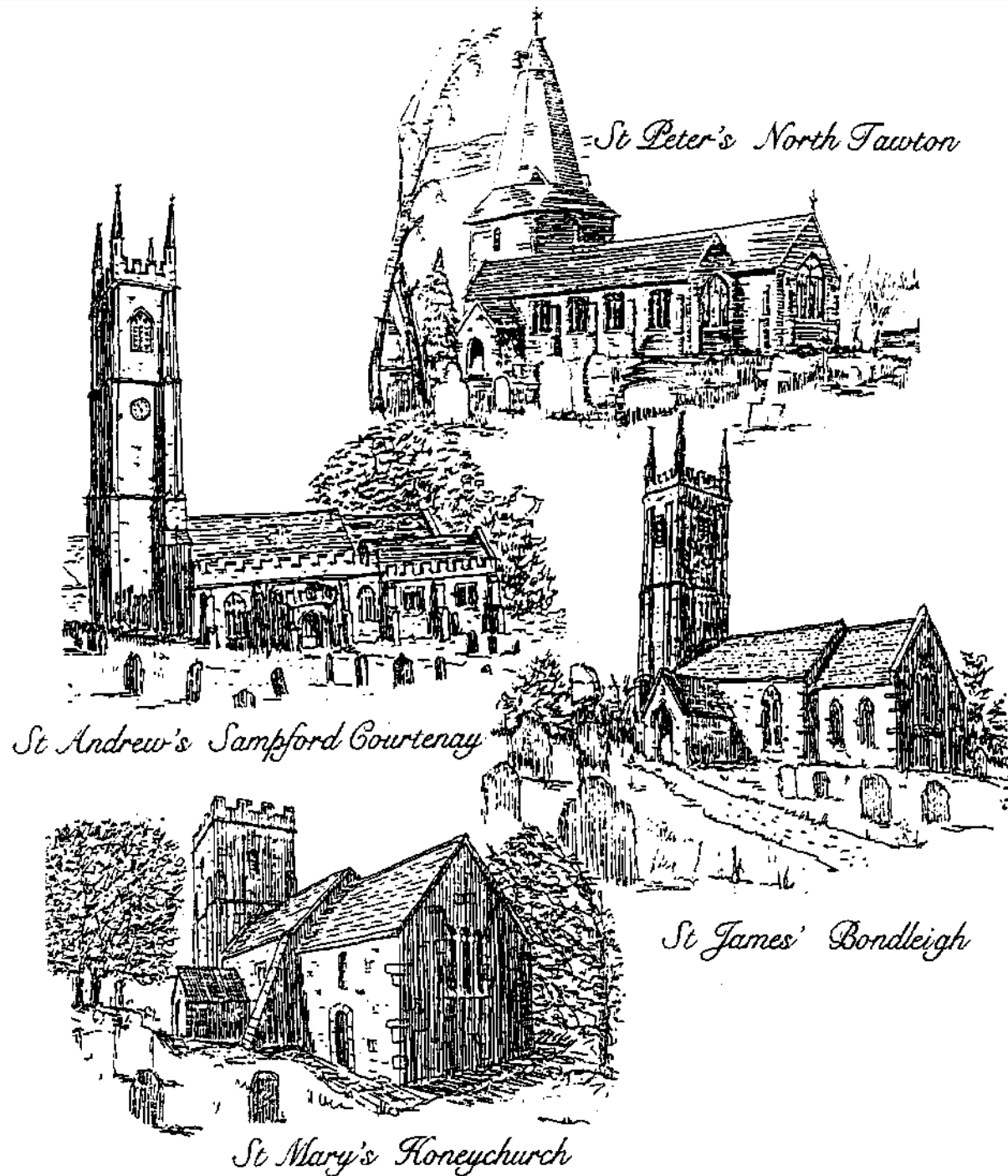


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From The Rectory

You win some, you lose some

I write 24 hours after that penalty shoot-out. Let's just say, I'm feeling a little glum today. England lost again. We did do so well, even better than in the 2018 World Cup, getting further in a major tournament than we have done since... you know when. But that's now 55 years of hurt. Ouch!

Having briefly discussed this article with a parishioner today, she thought that I should also refer to the exploits of the England Women's Team at this point, in the interests of balance. She led me to believe that my feelings of woe might be alleviated if I were to include their record here at major championships. I was pleased to be instructed in such a way (thank you Amanda), but having raced home to include this final edit before publishing, I am disappointed to discover that the Lionesses have not progressed any further than the Lions. They came third in the 2015 Women's World Cup, and have played in two European finals (1984 and 2009), but alas no silverware. So I'm still grumpy. Will football ever come home?!

On the plus side, though, I feel I have scored one major victory today. After biblical rain in North Tawton this afternoon, I managed to successfully defend my property against a flood. Soaked to the skin, with water up to my knees, I managed to deflect most of the Essington deluge around the side of my house and garage. Suddenly, three poorly taken penalties didn't seem to matter so much. I felt like Noah... except without the animals... or an Ark, although a few hastily grabbed pieces of wood did help in my frantic garage defence. Sadly, I know some residents in the town fared less well in the flash flooding. I do know what it is like to have floodwater in your house. We were properly flooded in our former home in 2007. You have my deepest sympathies. It's horrible seeing your possessions floating.

So "what lessons are there from the last 24 hours Nick?" I ask myself and record for you. Apart from learning to appreciate women's sport a little more, I think the lesson is accepting again that there are times in life when we have the joy of winning, and there are times when we have to walk back to the half way line having hit the post. That's life. We all need to be good losers and good winners at times.

"Football is the most important of the less important things" said Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti. Football may not be even that important to you, but losses on the sports field or in some other arena can serve as good preparation for life's really important things. Learning to come second is a very valuable lesson. There will always be opportunities that slip through our fingers and go to the other guy. Equally, when we do find ourselves on the winner's podium with an award around our neck, there is a way to wear it, and a manner with which to conduct ourselves.

Many people put these kind of contrasting experiences down to luck, fate, or form. I don't believe in fate, and the other two may have a bearing to a greater or lesser extent. But as a Christian, I believe more firmly in God's providence, especially in the things that really matter like relationships, jobs and opportunities. We come to God in prayer about them, trusting that he will give us wisdom, and then having considered all the options, it's decision time. Sometimes the decision turns out to be the wrong one. Perhaps that is part of the process of trusting in God's providence. We have to be prepared for the fact that he may have chosen hardship as a means to make us grow.

I'm reminded of the story of the Prodigal Son. It is actually a story of two sons. Both, at different points in the parable, have terrible relationships with their father. The younger one arrogantly asks for his inheritance early as though his father were dead. He runs away squandering it in wild living. But coming to his senses and returning home penniless, his loving father welcomes him back with open arms. Meanwhile, the older brother stays at home obediently, but on hearing the homecoming party for his brother, he bitterly questions his father's love and refuses to come inside. Both start as winners. They have a loving home and stable futures. The younger turns into a loser by turning his back on his family, before becoming a winner again on account of his forgiving father. The older brother ends the story sulking and resentful, and we never learn if he ever got over his grump. One of the many points of the parable is that God uses our circumstances to teach us and draw us closer to him. In the end, of the two, it is the prodigal brother in the story who ends up learning something.

So you win some, you lose some. It's how we respond to our wins and our losses that is the making of us.

Rev'd Nick Weldon (Vicar)

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Platinum Jubilee events

The Town Council invites residents and Community groups of all ages, to be involved in marking this historic occasion. We welcome your suggestions on how the Town can celebrate H.M. Jubilee in June 2022. If you would like to be involved, or have suggestions/recommendations please contact the Clerks.

St. Peter's Churchyard

NTTC has responsibility for the maintenance of St. Peter's Churchyard. As part of it's commitment to tackling the climate emergency, the council has initiated a programme of planting flowers, bulbs and shrubs in areas of the town, including the churchyard, that will attract bees and butterflies, as well as looking colourful and attractive.

The Council Estates Committee's Nature Group have produced a plan with suggestions of areas for planting and appropriate flowers and shrubs that will attract wildlife.

It has been agreed with the Rev Nick Weldon, PCC and parishioners that we will 'rewild' parts of the area with wildflower seeds and spring bulbs, in accordance with this plan, ensuring that this is properly managed and maintained. If anybody would like to donate or sponsor the planting of bulbs, plants or shrubs in the churchyard please contact the Clerk.

New rail and bus services – will you use them?

The 'Dartmoor Line' rail service between Okehampton and Exeter will start later this year. The actual date will be announced by Great Western Trains, hopefully soon.

The new train service is currently planned to run non-stop from Okehampton to Crediton. This will be fine for Okehampton residents and for anyone willing to drive, or catch a bus, to Okehampton station, but will be of less interest to the residents of towns and parishes to the East of Okehampton such as Sampford Courtenay, North Tawton, Bondleigh etc.

There is a plan to build a new 'Okehampton Parkway' station on the Exeter Road Industrial Estate, but this is likely to be 2 – 3 years away.

There is an existing station platform at Sampford Courtenay (Belstone Corner) but Network Rail do not have any plans to re-open this station, which would be much more convenient for residents on the East side of Okehampton.

Sampford Courtenay Parish Council and North Tawton Town Council have joined forces to try and persuade Network Rail to re-open Sampford Courtenay. If we are to succeed, Network Rail and GW Trains will need to be convinced there is a demand for the new rail service to include a stop at Sampford Courtenay. We would also have to lobby for a new local bus service, probably linking North Tawton – Sampford Courtenay Village – Sampford Courtenay Station – Okehampton Town.

To find out if local residents are interested in using a new bus and train service, the Councils will shortly be sending a survey out to all local residents, as well as posting it on the Council websites, Community Hub and so on.

Please help us by completing the survey when it arrives. If we are to get a local bus and rail service, we will need to show there is a demand for it.

North Tawton Public Meeting

It is still intended to call an informal Town Meeting in early Autumn, at which time it is hoped that this can be held in the Town Hall – residents will receive plenty of notification in due course.

Durant Trust

A meeting of the Durant Trust will be held by the end of July, a date will be set shortly. Please look out on our noticeboard and website for notification of this meeting. The Durant Trust can make grants to organisations for the benefit of residents of North Tawton. Organisations interested in applying are advised that new application forms will be issued, so do not apply using the old forms – again, notification of the new forms will be on our website and noticeboard in due course.

Sarah Say

Town Clerk

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North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

What a moment. What a totally blissful, delicious and slightly smug moment. You want to know more, don't you? So, they were lovingly removed from their earthy bed, they were carefully washed and placed ever so gently in the steamer basket – and when they were steamed to perfection they were ever so gently lifted from their basket, tenderly laid on a plate, given a light coating of golden butter anddemolished in a rather ravenous fashion. And husband sat there with a smile that would have stretched from Broadwoodkelly to Sampford Courtenay. Yes – the first new potatoes have met with approval. You had to be there to really appreciate the moment. And I was. He never looks at me like that.

With our W.I. mugs (containing a jolly good brew) at the ready, we were delighted to welcome our July speaker – Alison Gardiner – to our final Zoom meeting. Alison was chosen as the mug designer/illustrator to celebrate the W.I.'s centenary, so it was only right and proper that we should sip from them during her talk. I'm sure she didn't mind.

Alison's main inspiration came from her father who was very artistic. In fact, he was invited to work on an exhibition stand for the 1951 Festival of Britain. She recalled their family home as quite contemporary with 'Lucienne Day' designed curtains at the windows. Alison's artistic journey started at art college where she studied sculpture, printmaking, painting and printed textiles and it was the latter that interested her most; hence she chose to specialise in this. She was soon 'spotted' by the greetings card firm 'Second Nature' and juggled her college studies alongside designing cards. Her next job involved producing illustrations for Family Circle and BBC Good Food magazines but as technology evolved, she found that magazines were using photographs rather than illustrations and it was time for her to move on. Alison's designs were now used in children's books, on stationery for the RSPCA and even incorporated into tapestry kits – this led to exhibitions of her work, which in turn led to work with the National Trust where she found herself producing a range of items for them – what would happen next?

2007 – and a call came from the Royal Household's Royal Collection! What an honour! By now Alison had started selling her own items on the 'High Street' and demands for her designs were coming from a multitude of places. 2011 – a mug to celebrate William and Kate's wedding, 2012 – she designed china to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 2017 – approached by Highgrove to design an advent calendar, then in 2018 she had the call to produce a 3D version of the Highgrove advent calendar – (this one was a bit trickier). Then came the call from the W.I. – could you design a mug for our centenary? Not knowing much about the W.I. Alison's initial sketches showed 'Calendar Girl' ladies baring their all behind cake stands piled high with Belgian buns (get the picture?) and the W.I.'s reaction? They were horrified! (There's a lot more to the W.I. than Belgian buns you know) Her second attempt depicted W.I. Campaigns which got the thumbs up and since then her business has gone from strength to strength – what a talented lady.

You know that W.I. life is returning to 'normal' when you hear that we're having another lock-in at John Lewis. A chance to buy more towels. Yippee. (those John Lewis towels I bought in October 2019's lock-in were life changing you know). Surely I can spend some of husband's hard-earned cash on something a little more exciting. I do need a new washing-up bowl. And he always needs socks. As you can see, my shopping list is pretty inspirational. Might as well nip to Mole Avon. Free parking. And an opportunity to look at the wood/bird seed/wellies. John Lewis v Mole Avon. How can they even be in the same sentence?

Sue Knott

Do you like the sound of what we do?

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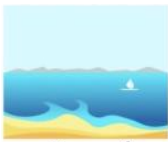




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1 st - Scarecrow Trail starts 7 th - Seed Bomb Workshop 21 st - Flower and Veg Show 29 th - Harvest Tea in the Cornfield 3 - 5pm	11 th - Roof-Aid Fun Day with Music 4-10pm 11 th - Coffee Morning - Devon Historic Churches Day 18 th - Bug Hotel Workshop 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
If any other groups in Sampford Courtenay have things organised that they would like added to the Calendar, please get details to SCPCClerk@aol by the 10 th of the month. Thank you.				

Devon Open Studios

North Tawton, Bondleigh and Bow Art Trail

11th – 26th September 2021

There are several local artists participating in Devon Open Studios this year, and they have clubbed together to create an art trail for the people of North Tawton, Bondleigh and Bow.

The trail includes the studios of Janet Jarvis, Art Scribe, and Ruth Helen Smith in North Tawton, Celia Olsson in Bondleigh, and Rosie Brewer in Bow. A map will be emerging soon at ruthsmithgallery.co.uk so keep your eyes out!

Meet the artists:

Janet makes paintings of Devon's amazing farm animals, wildlife and pets. Come and see her exquisite selection of paintings, prints and cards. (Open 10-5, Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun). janetjarvis.com

Art Scribe are Reg and Emma who make artist quality watercolour paints. Come and watch them demonstrate the traditional process of hand mulling pigments and give them a try! There'll also be some sweet deals on their paints which can't be missed. (Open 10-5, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon. Demonstrations 2-4 Sat & Sun). artscribe.uk

Ruth has been making oil paintings which celebrate local produce and how it can enrich community. Come and see her work in the gallery she has recently opened in The Square. (Open 10-5, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat, and 1-5 Sun). ruthhelensmith.co.uk

Celia makes loose, colourful watercolour and mixed media paintings, many inspired by local views seen during lockdown and by memories of her travels. (Open 11-6, Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri, Sat). celiaolssonartist.co.uk

Rosie works in both wood and ceramics, creating a beautiful range of kitchenware as well as one-off artworks. Drop in for pinch-pot making sessions, and have your creation fired and glazed for just £5! (Open 10-5, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 24th, 25th, 26th). rosiebrewer.com

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COVID-SCHEDULE

Saturday 21st August 2021

In the SQUARE/VILLAGE GREEN

CHECK OUT THE SCARECROWS AND FLORAL DISPLAYS AROUND THE PARISH – more details on the Website and Facebook page.

Plus – come and support the last of our Bake Sales – be there by 11am as the produce goes FAST!

Bake Sales – Plant & Produce stalls: 11 – 11.30 a.m. at various locations throughout the parish.

Any contributions or entries for the classes listed welcome, which will be sold on the stall with all
TAKINGS GOING TO THE ROOF-US FUND.

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT		
				Craft Class
Sat July 31st	Sampford Chapple	Sponge	Chutneys/Pickles	Something made using handprints
Sat 7 th Aug	The Square	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Pasties	Small bug hotel or bird feeder
Sat 14 th Aug	The Beeches	Fairy Cakes	Quiches/Meat Pies	Homemade Game

**Sat 21st August 2 p.m. – in The Square
and Village Green**

50p Entry fee for each item entered in following classes.

1. Longest Carrot
2. Longest Runner Bean
3. Heaviest Marrow/Squash
4. Heaviest Potato
Heaviest Crop from one Seed Potato
(Bucket Challenge) including the
Peat-free Bucket Challenge
(50p Entry fee already paid with your
£1 for bucket and seed potato)
6. Longest Dock leaf
7. Photo – Bugs, Bees or Butterflies – pollinators
at work in your garden.
8. Scarecrow Trail
9. Door Step planted Floral Container
10. Limerick – “Working from Home” or “Home
Schooling” theme
11. Tallest Sunflower
12. Children’s Photo – Going or Growing Wild
13. Children’s Painted Pebble/Stone creation
14. Children’s Recycled item for the Garden –
Planter; Bird Feeder, sculpture.

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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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Please come along and have a browse.



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The Tuck Inn from the Common Players

A musical, theatrical festival of live performance, fun and feasting

7 p.m.

Monday 9th August 2021

North Tawton Rugby Club, EX20 2ED

This summer we will come together after many months of being apart, to eat, drink, be merry and enjoy live performance in the comfort and beauty of your local outdoors.

‘The Tuck Inn’ is an open air event of live music, food making and sharing, and workshops, with a professional theatre production that reimagines *Robin Hood* at its heart.

You’ll be welcomed into the greenwood by the jolly, irrepressible Friar Tuck, and introduced to a band of merry men and women for an evening of music and storytelling. Along the way we’ll meet a Viking warrior-ess, an Alchemist, a Sheriff with a dastardly plan to overcome, and our band of outlaws as they search for a new Robin Hood and hero for the future.

This is an interactive, light-hearted theatrical feast for the whole family.

A practical performance skills workshop in the afternoon is also available to book, for ages 14 and upwards – with the opportunity to appear in the evening’s performance!

Tickets:

£10/£6 on door, £8/£5 in advance, Family ticket for family of four £24.00 (**tickets bought online subject to a small booking fee**)

Workshop places are £5 each, and include entry into the evening’s festivities.

Tickets will be on sale from the end of June via www.common-players.org.uk

Affordable, freshly cooked food will be provided by food charity Catch 77 including a delicious pulled pork Outlaw Casserole, vegetarian Mighty Oak Hotpot, together with crusty bread and butter (as much as you can eat), and for the children, Little John’s favourite Hot Dogs.

This production is made possible through funding from the Arts Council England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund via the ‘Routes for Roots’ project from East Devon, the Self Heal Association, a LiveWest Community grant, the work of Catch 77, and through the collaboration between Common Players and our volunteer promoters, being ANTS for this performance.





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News from Sampford Courtenay

The marriage of Sam Price and Clare Morris took place at St Andrew's church, Sampford Courtenay on Saturday, 26th June with the Revd John Courtie officiating, assisted by the Revd Rita Bullworthy. The organist, Roger Cleverdon, played Pachelbel's Canon in D at the entrance of the bride and the choir sang Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring during the signing of the register. The reading from 1 Corinthians was by Josh Price and a poem, "I will be here", was read by Josh Bedford.

St Andrew's very successful Summer Fete was held in the Church Rooms and The Square on Saturday 10th July and in excess of £600 was raised for Church Funds, a much needed boost following the lockdown.

Nicky Craig

Sunday, 29 August, 3–5 p.m.

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall and field adjacent

Come and enjoy afternoon tea or a
cream tea in the field
(weather permitting!)
seating on bales after the harvest

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Afternoon tea £10; cream tea £5

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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 July meeting back in the Village Hall with 7 Councillors attending and 1 member of the public and on Zoom with 4 parishioners also joining in.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – items brought to the Clerk's attention for this meeting.

Replacement Flower Tubs for the square – SCPC will look into the cost of replacement.

NALC Ruling regarding SCPC's "unlawful" payment to St. Andrew's Church is still awaiting a response from the Monitoring Officer.

HGV Traffic along the Brightley to Okehampton road is causing concern to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. The Chair is awaiting a response from the haulage company concerned.

SCEnSus – Terms of Reference for this Sub-Committee was agreed and can be found on the website; as well as details of the Monthly Climate Challenges and forthcoming events. Thank you to all those who took part in this year's Himalayan Balsam clearance.

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – several amendments were agreed and the new documents can be found on the website.

Grants and Donations Policy – was also agreed. Anyone wishing to apply to SCPC for a grant or donation is asked to read this policy which is also posted on the website.

SCPC Dartmoor Line Working Party – held a very constructive meeting and are currently putting together a questionnaire for all local parishes to establish relevant data to take to the Railway companies with regard Sampford Courtenay and other local stations, time-tabling, and better local bus services.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH TRAINING – have currently recorded 159 vehicles exceeding the speed limit. They are currently working with the police to identify different areas within the parish to also conduct their surveys.

Village Hall – the new windows have been fitted and look fantastic – but Roof – Us still needs to raise funds for the new roof.

Broadband/Mobile Coverage Survey –

- REMINDER – of Road Closure from New Inn to Weirford Lane – 2nd – 6th August for Fibre to House work. Parishioners are reminded that they may have to make other parking and access arrangements to their property.
- This Fibre to House will not cover the whole parish, SCPC are arranging another meeting with Broadband providers to discuss wider connectivity for the parish.

GET SCPC & PARISH NEWS DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX - the best way to keep up to date is to sign up for emails via Julie and the Website

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

Next meetings Aug 3rd SCEnSus 6.30 p.m.; SCPC 7.30 p.m.

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Bondleigh Rainfall

June has been a normal month with none of the extremes that we have seen recently. Total rainfall was 50.6 mm, most of it falling in the second half of the month. This compares to 150.3mm in June 2020.

July has started wet, but with the forecasters promising a 'heatwave' soon. We shall see!

Danny Semorad

Sampford Courtenay Parish Website:

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

The website is managed by **Julie Carpenter** who can be contacted on juliec2911@hotmail.co.uk

or

admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk or by phone:

07866 605184

READING GROUP

Normally meets on the last Tuesday of the MONTHLY

7.30 p.m. AT THE NEW INN
for further information or to join
CONTACT ISHBEL ASKEW

0183782280

ishgordon@live.co.uk

ANNE GIBBONS

The family of the late Anne Gibbons would like to thank the residents of North Tawton who gave any help and support in any way to her during her latter years. When at times she may have struggled with her walk to and from the Town; to those who gave her lifts; to the venues of the Thursday lunch club who always looked after her so well ; and her friends at Lakeway Church for all their care. Thank you also to all her neighbours at Moor View, and the Carers from Orchard View for their kindness in her final months in her own home. Thank you to all who attended her funeral and those who donated in her memory - gifts to be shared between Alzheimers Research UK and The British Heart Foundation have realised over £1,200 - Thank you one and all.



A new Chairperson for ANTS - is it you?!

Following our latest Zoom Committee meeting, to discuss ANTS returning to perform for you all, it became apparent that we need a new Chairperson.

Our present Chair, Jenny Williamson, is sadly leaving North Tawton and so we need someone to steer the ship back onto the stage.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Nigel Davies on Telephone - 01837 82138 or email - njdavies03.nd@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you. And ANTS can't wait to be back entertaining you all.

Den Brook Community Fund

As reported in the May issue of Roundabout, the deadline for receipt of applications for the current "round" of funding toward capital projects is 31st July 2021.

An application pack (for not-for-profit, voluntary organisations and social clubs and societies based within the five parishes listed below) contains our new Guidance Sheet (which explains our Cost/Benefit scoring system), the terms and conditions and the application form, and 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

Please note that our Covid-19 Revenue Compensation scheme has now closed.

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

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Sampford Courtenay SCEnSus August Monthly Challenge

Planning ahead

This is the last of our monthly challenges in this format before we change to 'Seasonal suggestions' instead.

August is a great month to start thinking and planning ahead on all sorts of fronts.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Can you **collect seeds** from garden plants to use yourself and to share with others? Sweet peas, lupins, delphinium, garden peas, beans etc. It's also a good month to save any wild flower seeds that you have – Yellow Rattle, Cornflower, Poppy etc.. Remember that plants will ripen and drop their seeds when they're ready so don't harvest too early and be careful where you take seed from – preferably only on your own property or with a landowner's permission. There is a lot of information about seed harvesting and storing on the internet. SCEnSus might hold a 'Seed swap' in the Autumn or Spring – or you can do your own with friends. *Come along to the Wildflower Seed Bomb Workshop on the Village Green – Saturday 7th August 11.30 a.m..*
2. **Recycle and re-use clothing.** Anything that you and your family members don't (or can't!) wear any more can be sorted and recycled for others to use to reduce the amount of brand new clothing that we buy which adds to our carbon footprint. Whenever possible buy pre-owned clothing rather than new - it can be a great way of getting a quality item for a lower price. Better quality clothes (new or re-loved) will need replacing less frequently, anyway. You can even limit the number of new clothes you buy each year. All of this applies to school uniform as well so August is the ideal time to get sorting!
3. **Wood for burning** – remember that it is now illegal to buy and use unseasoned wood. Do you have a store or a planned supply of dry, seasoned wood to see you through the Winter? Burning damp and unseasoned wood releases more chemicals and particles into the atmosphere. Maybe even sit in the August sun and make 'paper twists' to use for lighting fires to avoid having to use firelighters this year. *(My Autospell keeps correcting Firelighters to Firefighters – very funny!)*

SAMPFORD COURTENAY ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY GROUP



SEED BOMB WORKSHOP – Sat 7th Aug – 11.30 a.m. Village Green. Come and make some wildflower seed bombs for the Village Green or to try in your own garden.

BUG HOTEL WORKSHOP – Sat 18th Sept – 2.30 p.m. Village Green – Come and help make a bug hotel for the Village Green or a little one for your own garden; plus Games on the Green, Story Telling & Teas.



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North Devon UNESCO Biosphere launches Nature Recovery Declaration and Plan

The Biosphere has launched an ambitious new Nature Recovery Plan as our contribution to tackling the ecological emergency here in northern Devon, aligning with the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the Prime Minister's pledge for 30% of the UK land to be protected by 2030. Join individuals, organisations, councils and businesses across the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere in signing our Nature Recovery Declaration and commit to tackling the ecological emergency through your local actions. Find out more and sign the Declaration here:

<https://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/nature-recovery-plan.html>

To promote the launch, we expect to welcome a special visitor to the area. Sacha Dench, Ambassador for the UN's Convention on Migratory Species, is flying a 3000+ mile circumnavigation of the UK in a wind and green electricity powered paramotor. On her journey, she is stopping in northern Devon to launch officially the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve's Nature Recovery Declaration and Plan. We are expecting her to pass through the area later this month, when she will sign the Declaration herself and speak to the Biosphere team about the importance of nature's recovery.

Why do we need to act? Despite great efforts from many organisations, land managers and individuals across northern Devon since the whole area achieved UNESCO status more than 20 years ago, with a few encouraging exceptions nature continues to decline – a trend that began centuries ago but has accelerated since the 1960s. Today our wildlife is a shadow of its former glory and our natural systems are ceasing to function. Iconic species like salmon, breeding lapwings, skylarks, cuckoos, house martins, many insects and wildflower species are in perilous decline – and our rivers are failing national standards. An ambitious approach to focus everyone's actions on to agreed priorities is needed - and that is what this plan aims to achieve. The vision is that by 2030, nature will be recovering across northern Devon; that there will be more wildlife-rich habitat for us all to enjoy - covering 30% of the land area – in our fields and woods, on the coast, along our rivers and on the moors so that wildlife will have the space it needs to flourish. Thriving farming and forestry are helping nature to recover right across the landscape.

Communities, councils and businesses are putting nature back into our towns and villages. Ambitious projects have helped bring back beaver, pine marten, chough, white-tailed eagle and osprey. Our quality of life, the economy and our response to climate change are stronger for it. More is required, but we are proud to be playing our part in tackling the global ecological emergency.

Why should I sign the Declaration?

"If we are to turn the tide for nature's recovery, everyone in northern Devon needs to engage through their choices and **actions** - all of us as consumers - and by helping nature to recover where we live and work, and especially farmers and land managers who can do most to help nature recover across the landscape. We can all make a difference. It's time for urgent and transformative local action." Mike Moser, Chair of the Biosphere Nature Improvement Group.

We hope that many individuals, organisations and businesses across the Biosphere will sign this Declaration committing to helping nature's recovery and adding to the growing support for tackling the ecological emergency. To sign the Declaration and read the draft Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan please head to the North Devon Biosphere website. We welcome your feedback on the plan (by 15 August 2021) which can be sent to

biosphere-mailbox@devon.gov.uk.

Finally, please help us to spread the word and encourage people to sign up to the Declaration!

[@northdevonbiosphere](https://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk).

Emily Willoughby

**Please stand up for
nature in northern Devon**

And help tackle the ecological emergency

**Partners of North Devon's UNESCO Biosphere
have launched an ambitious Nature Recovery
plan for northern Devon**

We need urgent local action to help nature to recover. This is your opportunity to participate! To sign the Declaration and read the Nature Recovery Plan please head to the Biosphere website: www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/nature-recovery-plan

Please spread the word and encourage others to sign the Declaration!

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As I write this, we are fast approaching the end of the school term, and what a term it has been! The staff have worked really hard to prepare children for their next classes, while making sure learning is fun and morale is high. Do look at the class blogs on our school website to see what the children are learning each week.

Hats off to Mr. Foreman and our sports coach Mr. Stronge for organising our Sports Day, an event which was fun, competitive and safely maintained our bubbles. I was really impressed with the sporting behaviour of all of our children, cheering on their team mates, praising winners and accepting losses gracefully; not a tantrum in sight! In the final week of term we will have a Graduation Ball for our Year Six class. We are expecting them to dress to impress and have a fabulous time singing, dancing and celebrating their time at North Tawton.

We are planning to say special farewells to our much loved music teacher Carol Matthews and our fabulous nursery practitioner Shelley King. Both remain part of our school community so we will still see them, and who knows what the future may bring...

The government has plans to lift restrictions for the last week of term, however we have made a decision not to make any changes until September. With just four days of school to go, it seems foolhardy to make any drastic changes. Over the summer, I shall be seeking advice and working with my colleagues to assess the risks to relaxing our systems, at least allowing children from different bubbles to play together will be a huge improvement to our school community spirit.

We have essential building work being carried out over the summer break to improve our facilities, and over the Autumn term we will have our newly designed Nursery and Reception Early Years Foundation Unit plans come to fruition. I will share photos once the work is completed.

I wish all of staff a well-deserved break and our families precious time over the summer with their children making memories.

I look forward to the new school year, after a bit of a rest!

Tara Penny



Tara Penny
Principal
North Tawton Primary and Nursery School





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Monday, September 13th 2021, 7.15pm., Fairplace United Church, Okehampton
[Pandemic regulations permitting]

Celebrate the new freedom to sing with us at Okehampton Choral Society. We will do some popular pieces and extracts from Handel's 'Messiah'. Open to all, whether or not you are a member of the Choral Society, no charge. If possible please bring a copy of 'Messiah' with you. Just come and make some music with us – it's been a long year!

On the 20th September normal practice sessions will resume so if you enjoy a good sing, like having fun and making music with friendly enthusiastic people, give us a try. We sing and rehearse on Monday evenings at Fairplace Church Okehampton from 7:15 to 9 p.m..

We perform a wide variety of choral works in our local community and would welcome any voice, young or old. There are no auditions so why not come along and decide if you would like to join us.

For more information please contact Jenny on 01837 840282 or enquiries@okechoralsociety.org.uk

North Tawton Nature and Sustainability Meeting

—
17th August, 7.30 p.m. at the Community Centre

Are you interested in nature and the climate emergency and what you could do in North Tawton? Then come along to the first meeting of **North Tawton Nature and Sustainability**.

North Tawton Nature started as a working group of North Tawton Town Council (NTTC). It was set up with a mix of Councillors, representatives of North Tawton Environmental Trust (NTET) and residents, who are all interested in Nature and sustainability in our town. So far, we have worked with the council to change the management of three areas under council control by sowing wildflower seeds and helping create wildlife-friendly areas. We also gave away 1000 packets of wildflower seeds earlier this year so that lots of mini meadows could be created across the town. Last summer, the group worked with the NTTC and the North Tawton Climate group, consulting with residents on their views on climate related issues and there are lots of ideas from this we would like to explore.

The Group and the Council felt that we had done as much as we could as part of NTTC and that the time had come to be a stand-alone initiative.

North Tawton Nature and Sustainability (our new name) will be holding an open meeting on **Tuesday 17th August at 7.30 p.m.** in the Community Centre on Barton Street (providing COVID restrictions allow). Our aim is to bring together representatives of existing groups alongside residents of North Tawton to allow us to work collectively on a variety of projects and ideas to increase wildlife in our town and make us more sustainable and resilient to climate change. Look out for posters around town, and on the North Tawton Nature facebook group for details of the meeting.

Ruth Testa

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(All numbers are 01837 numbers unless otherwise stated)

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FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDDING

Saturday 26th June

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St. Andrew's Church

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Thursday 17th June

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	M-F	S		M-F	S
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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
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Carole Rhodes
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Lindsay Gibb
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