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From The Rectory

In the last few weeks, we have had some trees pruned in the Rectory garden. It is amazing to see the tree surgeons at work shaping and pruning the trees – leaving a wonderfully neat hedge behind where before there was what looked like a small forest. What would be impossible for me to do in a lifetime, is achieved in a matter of hours by people with the skills and the right tools.

Tree surgery is maybe one of the most extreme forms of 'pruning'. Maybe near the other end is the pruning of a vine. Not only does a vine need a full prune in the winter, it also needs gentle daily pruning during the growing season. Nipping here and there to make sure that no extra branches, grapes and leaves are grown, but all the energy goes into growing the right number of big juicy grapes. I am no gardener but in the past when we lived in a house with a vine in the garden we used to get 40kg of grapes from one well-tended vine. The work is very much worthwhile because vines are full of life, vigour and growth and can be extremely fruitful. Jesus uses this picture of a vine being pruned as a picture of the Christian life:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener... every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ... I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
(John 15:1, 5)

Jesus is like a vine, full of life and vigour – life that is constantly being shared with the branches, his followers, in great abundance. Sustenance which causes us as the branches to grow and bear much good fruit. Fruit of loving actions, fruit of a transformed character, fruit of faith in God. Jesus claims that true life and fruitfulness is found when we remain connected into him.

Jesus hints at several ways we remain connected into him – through reading the Bible, through prayer, through loving one another, through obeying his teaching. And these are all ways in which we grow a

personal relationship with him, putting our trust in him. Jesus is the vine, and his followers are the branches, but there is another person in this picture – the gardener, the Father, God. He is the one who prunes those who remain in Jesus, the vine. Pruning a vine looks from first glance not great for the vine – it is losing branches, leaves and grapes which it has put effort into producing. But the reality is that it is the loving and caring thing to do. If you don't prune a vine it tends to shoot off everywhere in all directions and produce tiny little grapes. Pruning allows the vine to reach its full potential.

And so that in the end Jesus' followers are more fruitful and more loving people, Jesus tells us God is at work to help prune away the bits of our lives that stop us being fruitful – bad habits, selfishness, wrongdoing. Jesus here promises for those who remain in him – who invest in getting to know him – God himself will be at work day-by-day to help them grow into the person he created them to be.

Jesus sums up that picture of what we can become in the Gardener God's hands in one word – love. Not just any love but he says:

Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:12-13)

Love means many things to many people, but to Jesus it means love that gives everything. Love that is happy even to lay down its life for others. That is a powerful love that when really lived out can change lives and communities. But it is not an easy thing – far from it. That's why Jesus starts with the picture of the vine – the place to find the love to love others in this extraordinary way is in him. Jesus who did indeed, out of love, lay down his life for his friends as we will celebrate in a few weeks at Easter.

David Spence

LITTLE FISHES

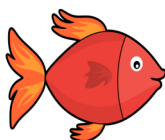


Every Thursday (inc. school holidays)

9am-11am @ St Peter's Church

Little Fishes is our weekly toddler group for parents and children aged 0-4 and is held in St Peter's Church, North Tawton.

We are a growing group from in and around the town and aim to provide a FREE space which is fun and safe for children and supportive for parents.



For more info, please contact Wez Cutler on: 07540127827 or wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk



**Drop in anytime between 10.30 a.m. –12 noon
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25th April**

**For more information contact
Carol Flowers
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THURSDAY *monthly*

SPREYTON Village Shop
March 16th 14:00 to 14:30

FRIDAY *monthly*

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March 3rd & 31st 09:45 to 10.45

BONDLEIGH Old School
March 3rd & 31st 13:30 to 14:15

SATURDAY *monthly*

NORTH TAWTON The Square
March 18th 10:00 to 12:00

Please check on info@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Roundabout

is published for the community on behalf of the four parish churches of North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay, Bوندleigh and Honeychurch.

Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by the Church, by the PCC, by members of the four churches, or by the Editors.

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 (tel. 01837 82376)

E mail: nt.roundabout@gmail.com
 no later than 13th of the month before publication is required (and earlier, if possible)

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

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Town Clerk: Melanie Bickell

14A The Square
North Tawton
EX20 2EP

Tel: 01837 880121

e-mail: townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Clock Tower Roof

The Council has considered quotes to rebuild the collapsed roof which were in the region of £17,000. The council awaits the results of a full building survey and a look at funding options. We have also requested DCC to investigate the possibility of subsidence as the Clock is on the highway. If you have any strong views on whether the canopy should be rebuilt, please come to the Annual Town Meeting or write to one of our Councillors or the Town Clerk.

Annual Town Meeting – Thursday 16th March 7 p.m., Town Hall

The annual town meeting is an opportunity for local electors to speak with the Town Councillors. Please come along and let Councillors know your opinion on matters affecting the Town. Proposed agenda items (subject to change) are - Clock Tower canopy rebuild and associated costs, Electric Vehicle Charging, WDBC changes to planning application requirements, North Tawton Cemetery Extension, future of town centre public toilets, redesigning the traffic flow of The Square. The agenda will be published 14 days prior to the meeting. For more information, please contact the Town Clerk.

2023/24 Budget and precept

The Council has set its budget as £174,277. This is a decrease of £44,638 on 2022/23. We have requested a precept demand of £144,971. The band D parish rate will be £203.24, which is a 5.9% increase on 2022/23 amounting to an increase of £11.32 per year, (94p per month/22p per week on a band D property). Full details can be obtained from the Town Clerk or on the Council website under Agendas 2023 – Full Council agenda documents – RFO budget report.

Electric Vehicle charging

The council has agreed to ask DCC for permission to approach a private company to install an on-street EV charging point outside the Barbers in the Square. The Council is also obtaining feasibility studies to redesign the Town Car park to accommodate 2 EV charge points without loss of current parking availability. The Council is only seeking quotes from companies which will cover all installation and maintenance costs for an EV charge point and therefore at no cost to the taxpayers.

Do you run an electric vehicle (EV) and charge it at home? If so, would you be willing to share your charge point with visitors to the Town and members of our community who don't have access to off-road parking to be able to charge an EV at home? There are around 200 households in North Tawton which would not be able to charge an EV at their home. The Town Council is encouraging local businesses to host a public EV charge point. Schemes match 'hosts' with EV drivers, usually through a mobile phone app.. Both parties agree a date, time and the price the driver will pay you. This is typically £2 - £3 per hour with a minimum charge of £5, encouraging EV use and assuring visitors that they would be able to charge their EV in North Tawton. If you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk

Pedestrianised bridge over the river Taw

The invaluable work undertaken by Mrs. Knott & Mrs. Hughes to investigate and pursue the possibility of constructing a pedestrian bridge over the river Taw can no longer be accomplished at the preferred location due to the additional works to North Tawton's flood defences at the bottom of Fore Street recently completed by the Environment Agency. The discovery of existing pipework in this area, plus the newly built 'header wall' unfortunately negate the possibility of progressing the proposed footbridge alongside the existing bridge over the river Taw. The Council will continue to pursue other options.

Community Land Trust (CLT) Public Meeting Thursday 23rd March, 7pm Town Hall

MiddleMarch (support for community led housing) will be providing a presentation and Q&A to discuss the benefits of forming a community land trust for North Tawton to provide affordable housing and/or other community assets. This is not a Town Council initiative and will require volunteers from the Parish to form a steering group and meet with MiddleMarch following the public meeting.

Council Elections 4th May

Elections will take place to elect 12 North Tawton Town Councillors. The election process commences on 23rd March and the closing date for nominations is 4th April. The Town Council is non-political, but candidates can stand on behalf of a registered political party providing they meet the requirements to do so. The Town clerk will be hosting an information evening followed by a question and answers session for any interested candidates 6.00 to 6.45 p.m. on Thursday 16th March in the Town Council office. If you require an information pack, please email townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Melanie Bickell, Town Clerk

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North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

“ Well who is going to step into Sue’s shoes?” was the question at the last committee meeting following the news that our “Roundabout” reporter was out of action for a while. The silence said it all. “ If nobody fancies doing it, then I guess I can do something” came a voice in the room. Only minutes later did I realise the voice was mine!

Regular readers of our W.I. page will know that the life of a member of North Tawton W.I. is never dull and pretty much every month there is something happening other than the meetings themselves. The W.I. was set up initially to inform and educate (a bit like the BBC) and as such provide opportunities for women of the time they otherwise wouldn’t have had. In 1915, few women worked outside the home and didn’t have the vote and the W.I. was seen as being ground-breaking and innovative in promoting women’s issues. Our W.I. still tries to keep the original aims alive but if I am being honest, it’s mostly about meeting friends, making new friends, eating and drinking and having fun. Mind you, after most meetings I come home having learned something and last month’s meeting was no exception.

In February we discussed and voted for a resolution that the W.I. will adopt nationally and campaign for in the coming years. There were four topics discussed ranging from tackling online gambling to campaigning for better working conditions for women tea workers across the globe. In the end our W.I. voted by a small majority for the campaign entitled “ save our water – every drop matters”. All serious stuff you might think but when you have a mouth full of cake and a cup of tea to slurp before seeing if you have won the raffle, nothing feels too onerous. What’s more, I learned that the average household uses over 100 litres of water a day meaning if I was to swap my afternoon tea for a gin and tonic, I could have fun and save water at the same time!

On the last Saturday in January, our quiz team was being put through its paces in the first round of the W.I. county quiz. At the halfway point we were lagging but fuelled by tea and cake we romped home to win by a very slim margin. Clearly, the input of a fairy cake can do wonders for the brain and explains why so many women in the W.I. are so talented and clever- it’s cake power! The county final is in March and so the quiz team has been put on a strict training regime of Fondant Fancies and Chocolate Muffins in preparation.

February is North Tawton W.I.’s 94th birthday. Founded in 1929, this was the same year the government raised the legal age for marriage to 16 and the first Tesco was opened in Edgware . Did you know that 1929 was the start of the Great Depression but also the year that Tintin first appeared in a comic book and that Mickey Mouse was seen wearing gloves for the first time ?

To celebrate our birthday but also another excuse to get together, our group met for a birthday lunch at the Waie Inn where a good time was enjoyed by all. Being 94 doesn’t seem to have dampened our ability to enjoy ourselves and I can report that your regular Roundabout reporter is making good progress in the hope that normal service can be resumed next month.

Speaking of which, we have De Bora coming from Exeter to talk to us about something that is close to most women’s hearts. For those of you in the know what I am talking about is brassieres!

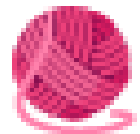
We heard that she will be looking for volunteers to model her bras. So far no one has stepped forward and this time I am keeping my mouth tightly closed.

Jan Gray



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A reminder that
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Soloists: John Colpoys Wood (tenor)
Jason Bomford (bass)
Roger Cleverdon (organ)
Richard Edwards (conductor)

Admission free – with retiring collection.
Anyone who would be interested in joining
the choral society for this performance will
be most welcome – all voices will be
happily accommodated. If you feel you
would like to brush up your understanding
of this work, please feel free to join us at
any of our rehearsals which take place on
Mondays at 7:15 p.m. at Fairplace Church.

For further details please contact
Jenny Gibbons on 01837 840282

The start of 2023 saw the launch of a new Open Mic
Night at The Copper Key Inn, North Tawton. The first
two events attracted musicians and spoken word artists
from across town and the wider region.

Audiences have enjoyed a variety of solo acts, duos,
and small groups who performed a mix of covers,
original music, and poetry.

The Open Mic has been set up by North Tawton
residents Wez Cutler and Cathy Page, who came t
ogether with a shared vision of seeing a regular event in
the town.

Cathy explains “Whether acts are established or just
starting out, performing a well-worn set, or trying out
new material – all are welcome. We want Open Mic to
be an inclusive place where artists enjoy performing
and feel encouraged, inspired, and appreciated”.

The organisers are keen to spread the word and have set
up a Facebook Group to keep people informed - search
Open Mic @ The Copper Key Inn.

The next event will take place on Wednesday
8th March, 7:30 -10:30 p.m., with performer sign-ups
from 7 p.m.. Thereafter the Open Mic will take
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For further information please contact the event organ-
isers:

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Behold, we know not anything;
I can but trust that good shall fall
At last—far off—at last to all,
And every winter change to spring.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809 - 92)



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**MONDAY 8TH MAY
2023
SAMPFORD COURTENAY**

**We would like to know how you would like to
“HELP OUT” for the King’s Coronation?**

There are various ways you can “VOLUNTEER” your time and talents in Sampford Courtenay

Taxi driver, gardening, cooking, phone-a-friend, shopping, litter-picking, help with an event, it could be regular or just a one-off....

Would you choose to have a day of rolling your sleeves up and doing some volunteering on Monday May 8th and/or **Choose** to put your name and contact details, along with your particular skill/talent, on a register that could be shared with SCPC, Village Hall Trustees and St Andrew’s Church, or one of your neighbours to call upon you during the year when they need help?

Sampford Courtenay Council needs your feedback please!

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BOW & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday 27 March 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start.

Talk

Grave Robbing & Body Snatching in Devon
by Dr. Peter Selley.
Bow Village Hall

visitor £4.00,
free to members of Bow & District Historical
Society.

More info: 01363 82468, 01363 82606

PRAYER BOOK REBELLION

In 1999 the Community in and around Sampford Courtenay performed a traditional Mummers Play and held a Tudor Fete in the village on the 450th Anniversary of the Prayer Book Rebellion.

I am undertaking some research and would like to ask if 'Roundabout' readers or local groups have any photographs or memories of the event, which also included the opening of the Prayer Book Rebellion Display located in St. Andrew's Church.

Next Year will be the 475th Anniversary

We are looking at the possibility of holding a Community Event and plan to invite interested groups and individuals to an open meeting in the next few weeks.

If any readers or local groups have photographs or memories or feel they would like to receive further information or contribute to the meeting please contact me.

Thank you

David

01837 851725

davidbottingpage@hotmail.com



A space to meet people, have a coffee (or tea!) and get broken things mended

North Tawton Repair Café would like to thank everyone who comes along to our events – it makes us all happy when we can fix something which would otherwise be thrown away. Did you know that you don't have to have anything to fix in order to come along? We will be open on the dates below, and always have hot drinks available, so please just pop along for a cuppa and a chat – we love meeting new people!

We are also now able to offer repairs to computers and to bikes. Bikes must be booked in – please drop us a message on Facebook, or call Ruth 01837 82207.

11th March – 10 a.m. to 12.30 (with free hot soup from 11.30)
1st April – 10 a.m. to 12.30

At the Community Centre,
Barton Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HN.

For more information go to <https://fb.me/NTRepairCafe>

We would also love to have new repairers join us, particularly those who can help with fixing electrical items – vacuums, radios etc.. Get in touch if you would like to share your skills.



SAMPFORD COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

King Charles III Coronation Mugs

Children of Sampf Courtenay Parish, who will be Under 16 on May 6th 2023, can receive a mug free of charge, please register their names with the Clerk at ClerkSCPC@gmail.com or 0183782285

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1ST
MARCH 2023.

If anyone else would like to order a mug at £8.20 per mug – again, please let the Clerk know how many you would like to order.



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Sarah's Yoga

**New Yoga class coming to
Sampford Courtenay Village Hall
Tuesday evenings 6 - 7.30 p.m.**

**North Tawton Bowls Club
Tuesday mornings 10.30 p.m. - 12 noon
£10 per session**

Have you tried yoga before and thought oh that's not for me?

Or, I'm not bendy enough? Or I'm too old...**stop right there.....**

You can start yoga at any age, any ability. I didn't start until I was 39 and have been teaching for nearly 20 years. There will always be some postures that I cannot do, we are all unique, but for me, that's not the true aim of yoga. We are living in a busy world again, so by having some space and time just for you, we can remember how to work with the breath to regain some strength and increase our flexibility and have some time to rest and relax, you are looking after yourself, which is so very important for our physical and mental health.

My style of teaching has been described as varied (no two classes are the same), adaptable (suits everyone, lots of variations depending on abilities) and most of all fun (takes more muscles to smile than frown).

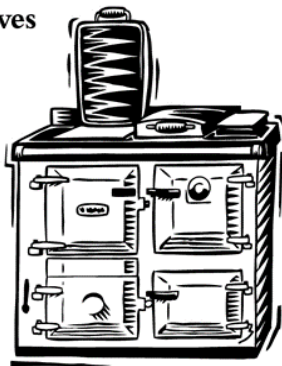
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**If not, you need to let Bill and
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**Just let us know how many potatoes
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compost)**

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marion174@btinternet.com**



**SAMPFORD COURTENAY AND HONEY-
CHURCH FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW
2023.**

Will be on Sat 12th August 2 p.m. at Village Hall.

**Potato Bucket Weigh in will be at 1 p.m. at the
Village Hall.**

**Schedules will be available soon on the Website,
Printed copies can be requested from Marion.**

**Scarecrows – on Coronation Theme to be on
display by 1st May please. (These will not be part
of the show this year)**

**No entry fee – No prize money – to encourage more
entries and exhibitors there will be no charge this
year. Prize cards as usual, and points totalled to
award the Traditional Trophies.**

**Donations of raffle prizes and refreshments, and
volunteers to help would be greatly appreciated.**

**Photograph theme – this year is Wild flowers in
Sampford Courtenay – so start snapping now!**

**MAKE A
CHANGE
BECOME A
COUNCILLOR**

The next round of local elections is coming up. SAMPFORD COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL and the @NationalAssociationofLocalCouncils are calling on people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election. If you have innovative ideas for the council or have a specific issue in mind, becoming a local councillor will empower you to #MakeAChange.

<https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/your-council>

SPRING CONCERT AND SUPPER

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PLUS A CORONATION THEME

Saturday April 1st 2023 at 7pm

Daniel Greenway (Organ)

Daniel Greenway 21, is currently Senior Organ Scholar at Keble College, Oxford University. From Liverpool, he was a chorister and later Organ Scholar at Liverpool Cathedral, where he played the largest organ in the U.K.

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SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

BIG BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 4th MARCH 2023

served from 8.30am to 10.00am

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FILM NIGHT

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2023

DOORS OPEN 7PM FILM STARTS 7.30PM

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registered charity number 283279

THE ART BOX – March 2023

In association with Ruth Smith Gallery and Red Mud Arts. If you would like to contribute, contact Ruth on 07810590954 or at ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk

This month's Art Box is written by North Tawton artist, Gemma Quickenden

In my early 30's I put myself through a traditional art training in Italy. The first two years are about training the eye to see and the hand to comply. It's methodical, the same as how a musician develops their ear and fingers or a cook develops their taste. This is very different to UK art universities where I believe you are taught to capture ideas, feelings and be impulsive. There is definitely place for both schools of thought in this world. I believe that really looking, over time, enables us to question and understand. It's very easy to 'see' a bird - our brain classifies it as bird and forgets - yet Darwin changed our theory of evolution by looking. Maybe this is more important today as phones provide click bait, pop songs are designed to have us hooked in the first 10 seconds and attention spans are shortening. Portrait painting from life takes a great amount of time from the sitter. The painter will however notice changes throughout the sitting, the way the light hits, if they are tired, happy, you can see the colour fill or drain out the skin, the posture change and you get to know the character. Oil paint allows you to paint multiple translucent versions of your sitter's personality to create depth. Rembrandt was the master of this. Sargent wanted his paintings to look fresh, but still spent the same duration painting, then each day scraped off the paint until he captured the sum of all of those sittings. Humanity is timeless. For the viewer, artwork hung on the wall changes, we notice new subtleties, it talks to us over time as we age and have different experiences under our belt.

Gemma Quickenden, 2023.

See Gemma's work at www.gemmaquickenden.com



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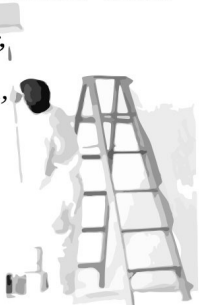
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SEAMOOR LOTTO – Sampford Courtenay Parish Council has registered as one of the charities which will benefit from the new Lotto run by W.D.B.C.. If you have not bought your ticket yet, please sign up at <https://www.seamoorlotto.co.uk/support/sampford-courtenay-parish-council>

SCPC –on Wednesday 1st Feb held their normal monthly meetings.(7 councillors & 3 members of the public)

475th Anniversary of Prayer Book Rebellion – June 2024

David Botting (see page 15) explained that he has recently obtained a programme, cast list and some photos of the 450th Prayer Book Rebellion Celebration which took place in the village in 1999. As next year (May 2024) will be the 475th Anniversary he asked for the support of SCPC for a public meeting to look into viability of a “Tudor Fete” or other events to celebrate this historic occasion. **If you would like to be involved, or if you have photos etc. of the 1999 event, please contact the Clerk or David.**

Request to list Church Rooms as a Community Asset.

Following the deferment of this Item from the January SCPC meeting, Cllr. Wilson has met with Rev. D. Spence and also contacted WDBC. Having discussed the parishioner’s request for the Parish Council to register the property, the PCC position is that whilst there are no plans to change the current arrangements for use and maintenance of the building, should any future decision be made to realise the capital of this asset, registration could offer the community reassurance that at least there would be an opportunity for action to take place to maintain and preserve the social, cultural and historic value of the property for the benefit of the community.

At the PCC meeting held on 11th January Rev Spence raised the registration of the rooms and this was discussed. There are likely to be further discussions regarding potential uses for the Rooms once a full survey has taken place. It was agreed with Rev. Spence that a successful registration of the asset, could have potential benefits when applying for any grants in the future as it shows community interest and engagement.

It was proposed that the application be prepared and submitted.

Proposal - Cllr. Wilson Seconded Cllr Carpenter

Votes in favour – Cllr. Wilson, Cllr. Carpenter, Cllr. Morrissey, Cllr. Tucker, Cllr. Collins

Object – Cllr. Coleman Abstain – Cllr. Friend.

Dartmoor Line – Sampford Courtenay Station

Cllr. Wilson reported that the fantastic news regarding the successful Levelling Up application came after the last OkeRail meeting. However, the OkeRail Forum were positive in giving support to use their influence and experience to maintain a co-ordinated effort on developing other lines in the area eg Bude, Bideford – Barnstaple; Plymouth – Bere Alston and Plymouth to Tavistock. Cllr. Morrissey asked if Cllr. Wilson could suggest at the next OkeRail meeting that Sampford Courtenay Station be considered as a contingency/stand by station for Okehampton Station.

Community Speed Watch - Emily would like to step down as co-ordinator for Sampford Courtenay Speed Watch group – if you would like to consider taking up this position please contact the Clerk.

SCENSUS - Parish Spring Clean and Village Green working party to be arranged in the later this month. Please look out for details of how you can help.

Request from PCC for a contribution towards £1100 cost of making safe the Lime Tree in the Church yard. Cllr. Wilson proposed a contribution of £250 be made towards this expenditure, which was supported unanimously.

How do you want to celebrate the Coronation weekend? SCPC is organising Commemorative Mugs and will be asking for your suggestions for how to mark the “**BIG HELP OUT**” on the Monday; Village Hall Trustees will be discussing their plans for this weekend at the next meeting. **IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON HOW YOU WOULD LIKE THIS HISTORIC MOMENT MARKED IN SAMPFORD COURTENAY PLEASE CONTACT SCPC CLERK OR VILLAGE HALL SECRETARY.**

King Charles III Coronation Mugs – SCPC agreed to order a supply of Coronation Mugs. These will be available Free of Charge to parishioners under 16 who register with the Clerk, and available to purchase for £8.20 each to anyone else. **PLEASE LET THE CLERK KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ORDER ANY, DEADLINE 1ST MARCH** Thank you.

Emergency Numbers & Contact Details – are now available in a handy Parish Directory which can be downloaded from the Website <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/information-leaflets-links>

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 Wed 1st March & 22nd March 2023 7.30 p.m..



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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
or by phone:

READING GROUP

Normally meets on the last Tuesday
of the MONTH
7.30 p.m.

for further information or to join
contact Ann Palmer
phone 01837851659
on annpalmer@lineone.net

Bondleigh Rainfall

January was another month of two halves. December's rain continued into January with rain on every day until the 15th. This amounted to 129.9mm..

The remainder of the month was mainly dry with only 12.1mm.. This gave us a total of 142.0mm. and compares with only 59.2mm last year.

The dry weather has continued into February with only small amounts of drizzle so far.

Danny Semorad

NORTH STREET CHAPEL SEWING CLUB

(also knitting, crochet, cross stitch etc.)

For further information contact
Charlotte Sampson 07706 942901 or
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March 6th and 20th

April 3rd and 17th

Commencing at 18.30 hours.

SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:-

PILATES	Monday 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.
YOGA CLASSES	Tuesday 6 to 7.30 p.m.
TAP DANCING	Thursday 11 a.m. to 12 noon
TABLE TENNIS	Weekly - ring 01837 851659 for details
FLOWER CLUB	2 nd Monday of every month 2.30 p.m.
CRAFT & CHAT	2 nd & 4 th Thursday of every month 3.15 to 4.45 p.m.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:-

BIG BREAKFAST	Saturday 4th March 8.30 -10.00 a.m.
FILM NIGHTS	Friday 24th March - The Duke Friday 21st April - TBC 7 for 7.30p.m. start
QUIZ & PUDDINGS	Friday 28th April 7 for a 7.30p.m. start

Please see separate adverts or visit the parish website/
facebook for more details on all of these events
www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk



Little Seedlings Playgroup

North Tawton Primary
School Hall
Every Tuesday during
term-time
9 - 11 a.m.

For babies & toddlers 0 - 4 yrs
Admission £2 per family
payable at the door



Sampford Courtenay Flower Club

13th March 2023

Jane Haas - Demonstration

Green, I see Green Again

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall
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Nancy Passmore on 01837 54849

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News From North Tawton Community Primary School



Industrial Action

As you may well be aware, members of the National Education Union (NEU) voted to take industrial action, and as the ballot surpassed the benchmarks required, the union called for members to take strike action. The first of those days was Wednesday 1st February. North Tawton Primary school found itself in the position of having to close to pupils.

The parents and families have been overwhelmingly supportive, however many had questions so I thought I would take this opportunity to explain to the whole community why the action was taken, and what is likely to happen next.

Why was North Tawton closed while other schools were either open, or partially open?

The reason for this is that education staff across the country belong to one of several unions, or none at all. While all unions have been asking for fairer funding, only one union voted for industrial action, the National Education Union (NEU). All of our teaching staff, including myself, are in the NEU and chose to strike, therefore there would not have been any teachers or safeguarding leads on site which of course would not be viable.

So why are teachers on strike?

As we are all acutely aware, the cost of inflation is ever rising, however pay for staff who work in education has not risen to match this. Where pay rises have been given, they have been allocated from school's individual existing budgets therefore money has been taken from pots intended for other areas of school expenditure, such as trips, events and resources in order to make financial cuts.

While we have retained staff at North Tawton, the reality is that high numbers of teachers, and teaching assistants are leaving the profession across the UK. Staff can earn far more, work less hours and have less accountability in many other industries. This also impacts on recruitment.

Why such short notice?

Union members do not have to give any notice of their intentions to strike. As ours did, I was able to let parents know in advance, for which I am grateful.

What did you do on your day off?

Some staff, including myself, went to the rally in Exeter and met up with staff and parents from other Trust schools. Some had a day of doing life admin. as we have much less time for this in a week than we would wish, and some had children to look after as the school was shut.

Do you feel guilty?

I sincerely regret the inconvenience to parents and carers and are very mindful of the disruption to routine and to children's education. However, like my colleagues, I feel that issues in the state education system impacting on pay are also impacting, perhaps with greater effect, on the education and wellbeing of the pupils we care for. Services to support our most vulnerable students have been cut, and I have been shocked to see how less well funded schools in rural areas like Devon are than schools I have worked in previously in London.

I want you to know that this strike action is taken reluctantly but with clear intent. I hope that this action will bring the attention of the government and of the public to bear on the issues of funding in general which are making it more difficult for teachers to teach and children to learn. Teachers do not get paid if on strike. Taking a pay cut to protest for a pay rise is an expensive gamble.

What next?

Friends of North Tawton School (FONTS) have always raised money to subsidise visitors and trips, events and resources to enhance learning. We are now relying on fundraising and applying for grants more than ever before. The Y6 trip to France is fully funded as a group of Trust staff applied for a grant through the Turing Scheme. We are looking at more ways to create income and reduce costs.

I would love to employ more staff to work with our pupils but we are not in a position to do this at present. Therefore, we are relying on volunteers to support essential activities such as reading to an adult regularly.

It looks like further strikes in March will be going ahead, so school will again be closed.


I hope you all know that our staff care deeply for the education of our pupils, and this really is a last resort. I hope the government and unions will come to a sensible decision which will enable us all to get back to teaching our pupils which we are all passionate about.

All views my own

Tara Penny
Principal



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Mr. Graham Stokes (82240)

St. Andrew's Sampford Courtenay

Mr. Malcolm Craig (880118)

Mrs. Sarah Hanks (851287)

St. Mary's Honeychurch

Mr. Ray Squire (851627)

Mr. Richard Weeks (851269)

(All numbers are 01837 numbers unless otherwise stated)

Church web page address: <http://www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpetersnorthtawton/>

**MARCH SERVICES at St. Andrew's
Church
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5th March 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
8th March 12.00 Lent Lunch (Communion)
12th March 9.30 a.m. Communion
19th March 9.30 a.m. Mothering Sunday/
Morning Worship
22nd March 6.00 p.m. Sung Evensong
12.00 Lent Lunch (Communion)
26th March 9.30 a.m. Communion

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

5th March 11 a.m. Morning Worship
12th March 11 a.m. Informal Communion
19th March 11 a.m. Family Service
Mothering Sunday
26th March 11 a.m. Traditional Communion

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

5th March 9.30 a.m. Communion Service
19th March 9.30 a.m. Communion Service

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Sundays at 10.30
a.m.

**MARCH SERVICES at St. Mary's Church
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5th March 3 p.m. Evensong / Communion

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Contact: Mr. R. Sampson 07835 033062

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5 th Sunday	Prayer & Communion	No service unless advertised otherwise

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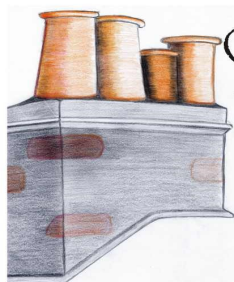
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Hi everyone

Personally, I love this time of year. After the wet, wild and windy (and sometimes freezing) winter, there are signs of life popping up everywhere. The bulbs are peeping out of the soil, some daffodils are super keen and getting ready to flower and it won't be long until there will be lambs in the fields and chicks hatching.

As we reach 1st March, it is the time of year when we reach lambing season, ground nesting bird season and our local deer population will be giving birth. Butterflies have also laid their eggs close to the ground and some bird species such as wren will nest in long grass. Spring is a wonderful time to explore nature with your dog but with new life appearing all around, it's important to take care and try not to disturb the natural world. Keeping your dog on a short lead through signposted areas will help give young birds, animals and plants the start they need. It will also enable other visitors who may not be as comfortable with dogs to enjoy their walk too. Please look out for local signs or posters, and put your dog on a short lead when asked to.

It isn't long now until all of the National Trust places on Dartmoor go back to full opening. Castle Drogo opens on Friday 3rd March; Lydford Gorge on Friday 10th March; Finch Foundry on Wednesday 22nd March. The teams are working hard to get everything freshened up, prepared and ready to welcome people again.

Thank you to those who came along to the volunteering open day at Drogo in 30th January. It was lovely to welcome new people to the team. The next open day is on **Saturday 11th March**. If you would like to have an informal chat with some of our current volunteers and find out a bit more about the various volunteer roles across Dartmoor, please pop in for a cuppa any time from 11 a.m..

Best wishes all,

Paula

Volunteering & Community Manager,
Dartmoor
01647 434130,
paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Church Flowers & Brass

Sampford Courtenay

March	Lent, No Flowers
April	Shirley Reddaway

Honeychurch

March	Vera Collins
April	Marilyn Weeks

Bondleigh

	No flowers. Brass only
March 5th	Nicola Raffan
March 12th / 19th	Barbara Dennis
(Mar 19th Mothering Sunday altar flowers)	
March 26th / April 2nd	Pam Evison
April 9th Easter Sunday / April 16th	Jacqui Bourne (+ Window Flowers)
April 23rd / 30th	Helen Ruby

North Tawton

Flowers

Feb 26th - April 2nd	Lent No Flowers
April 9th / 16th / 23rd	Easter Flowers
April 30th	Frances Brookes

Brass

March	Monica Simons
April	Jane & Monica Simons

North Tawton Residents.

Would anyone be interested in joining the rota to do church flowers?

We are always interested in having new arrangers and you do not need to have experience in flower arranging.

If you would like to go on the rota please phone

Sue Gray	01837 82464
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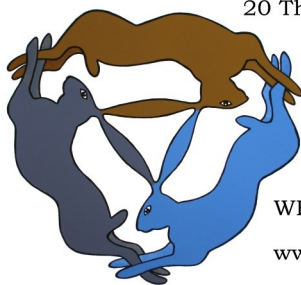
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No rest is to be found
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O let my wish be crowned,
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John Byrom (1692—1763)

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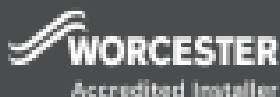
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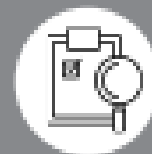
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