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December 2023 / January 2024



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From The Rectory

Yet again the winter and the festive season is upon us! Where did the year go? As a family, we are looking forward to our second Christmas in Devon. Last year everything was new and fresh, this year it is beginning to feel like tradition! We are already looking forward to the Santa's grotto in Sampford Courtenay village hall, the Christmas Eve nativity where everyone joins in outside St. Peter's church and the day when we have three carol services one after the other including the unique experiences of the Bondleigh Barn Band playing at Bondleigh church and Carols by candlelight in Honeychurch.

I wonder what traditions you associate with Christmas and what makes it special for you? It might not be Santa's grotto, carol singing or nativities. It might be special times and meals with family. The present giving on Christmas morning, or whenever you give gifts. It might be the Christmas party at work or kicking back on Boxing Day with nothing on the agenda.

When we think of the story of the first Christmas we often think of the crazy, unexpected and unique things which happened. Angels and angelic choirs, dreams from God, a manger as a cot, visits from Shepherds and strangers from a far off land and the virgin birth. But part of the power of the Christmas story is actually the ordinariness of it all. There are two accounts of Jesus' birth in the Bible and they contain all sorts of ordinary details. We read about an old couple struggling with childlessness. We read about a young couple looking forward to their wedding day. We read about family visits to relations. We read

about registering for taxes. We read about the traditions of Jesus' people – circumcision, naming and purification offerings.

Part of the point of the Christmas story is the ordinariness. The baby Jesus was born into an ordinary community, an ordinary family, to people just like us. Jesus was God come to live with us – 'Emmanuel' as he is announced to Joseph his adopted father. But he was not born in a palace or to a priest, but into the ordinary life of his people – Joseph was a carpenter and likely Jesus joined in with the family business. God came to be with us, to experience life with us so he know what our lives are like. He even knows the toughest bits too – Jesus himself was a refugee far from home, hunted by a despotic king set on killing him. God knows the pains of being human.

There's a verse later in the Bible which says:

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, ... so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

God's own Son came to earth that first Christmas as the baby Jesus to be one of us so that in the end God could invite us to become his children too. God still holds out that invitation to join his family today. All we need to do is say yes to God.

Happy Christmas!

David Spence



**Drop in anytime between 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon
in the Mortimer Room
St. Peter's Church
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month**

December 12th / January 9th / 23rd

**For more information contact
Jo Fear 01837 82553**

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

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THURSDAY *monthly*

SPREYTON Village Shop
January 4th 2024 14:00 to 14:30

FRIDAY *monthly*

NORTH TAWTON The Square
December 8th
January 20th 2024 09:45 to 10.45

BONDLEIGH Old School
December 8th
January 19th 2024 13:30 to 14:15

SATURDAY *monthly*

NORTH TAWTON The Square
January 6th 2024 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, Boddleigh 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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 EX20 2BZ
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E mail: nt.roundabout@gmail.com
 no later than noon on the 13th of the month
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 North Tawton Town Council and the
 Sampford Courtenay Village Council).

Christmas Services 2023

St Peter's North Tawton

Sunday 10th December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 6:30pm

*17th December Christingle Service 11am

*Christmas Eve Nativity Service 4pm

*Christmas Day Family Service with Communion 11am

St Andrew's Sampford Courtenay

*3rd December Christingle Service 9:30am

17th December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Late Night Communion 11:30pm

Christmas Day Communion 9:30am

St James' Boddleigh

17th December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Late Night Communion 10pm

St Mary's Honeychurch

17th December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 3:00pm

*all age service

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Luke 2:10



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NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Melanie Bickell

14A The Square
North Tawton
EX20 2EP

Tel: 01837 880121

e-mail: townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Vehicle Speed Activation Sign

The Town Council approved the funding for a vehicle speed activation sign in the proximity of De Batheway Estate, to be budgeted for and installed 2024. The Transport Committee has been asked to consider an additional sign in Fore Street.

Christmas display competition

The Town Council is holding a competition with 3 categories.

Best Home window display, Best Business window display, Best Outdoor display.

To meet H&S and insurance requirements, only displays within the 30 m.p.h. limit of the Town will be considered.

Judging will take place week commencing 18th December. Please register your entry at the Merry Go Round shop or directly to the Town Clerk/Council office by 10th December. All areas will be visited by the judges.

Winners will be announced at Carols in the Square, Christmas Morning.

Clock Tower rebuild.

The Town Council has applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness for additional maintenance to the masonry, which is now holding up completion of the canopy rebuild. This is on the instruction of Listed Building Control of WDBC and is out of the hands of the Town Council.

Electric Vehicle Charge Points

The Council is obtaining quotes to install EV charge points in the Town Centre carpark and is working with the Rugby Club and Hembury Homes to provide additional charge points around the Town for public use. A fully funded option is no longer available, and the costs may have to be partially met by the taxpayers of the Parish alongside any available grant funding.

Cemetery Extension Planning Permission

The planning permission for the cemetery extension has been refused due to lack of information. Our planning consultant intends to resubmit the application with the requested information.

Warm Space and Community Fridge/Larder/Freezer

Thanks to grant funding from WDBC, the Town Council is able to continue to fund the warm space initiatives and Jens Café and Merry Go Round. The Community fridge has been expanded to include a freezer and food items donated by local residents are now available from the community fridge. This initiative is to help residents who are struggling to keep warm and need a warm space and a cuppa, get a cheap hot meal, or help themselves to food items that have been donated.

Notice of vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr. Bath, there is one vacancy on North Tawton Town Council.

A by-election to fill the vacancies will be held if within 14 days of the date of this Notice [10th November 2023] (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Bank Holidays) ten electors from the Town give notice in writing to the Returning Officer requiring that such an election be held.

The address of the Returning Officer is West Devon Borough Council, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0BZ. A request for an election can also be scanned and emailed to elections@westdevon.gov.uk, but the document must contain "wet ink" signatures.

If no such notice is given, the Town Council will fill the vacancies through co-option.

For further information please contact the Clerk to the Town Council.

Council Meeting.

Our next council meeting will be full council on Tuesday 5th December when Andy Cattermole, Allison Homes developer Batheway Phase II, will be speaking at the open forum. Our regular meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month, and the open forum is between 7.15 and 7.30, if you wish to make a presentation to the council and residents. To book this slot, please contact the Clerk at least 8 days before the meeting.

Alternatively, we have 2 periods during the meeting when the public can attend and raise matters for the Council to consider, however, unless the matter is already on the agenda, the Council will not be able to offer an immediate response but would carry the item to the next agenda for a formal reply if this is required.

Melanie Bickell, Town Clerk

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North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

Made your Christmas cake yet? Is it worth making one when there's only me and 'im? Is that a very 'non W.I.' thing to say? Shall I buy a small one, get rid of the wrapping and tell husband that I made it? Is there such a thing as a 'Christmas Cake Cooking in the Oven' scented spray? Have I just found a gap in the market? And whilst I'm rambling on about Christmas foods – why do I suddenly have the urge to buy marzipan stuffed dates and crystallized orange and lemon slices?

Anyway – want to hear about all the exciting things we've been up to this month? I'll assume you've said yes. Better start with our November speaker. Lin Treadgold was born in Saltburn-by-the-Sea and had a variety of different jobs, including a long spell as a driving instructor, before turning to her real passion – writing novels. She had always enjoyed writing short stories and poetry but had never had the time to embrace novel writing until she took early retirement. Her first novel 'Goodbye Henrietta Street' was published in 2013, with another in 2018 and she is in the midst of writing her third. Following her move to Devon, Lin has become a mentor for those wanting to write and she is part of the Sampford Courtenay Novel Writers group – they meet monthly and help new writers to 'get started'.

Let's talk bells. Our St. Peter's team of bellringers does a magnificent job. And to our astonishment they were willing to let 10 of us take over the tower and attempt to produce a beautiful sound. Graham, Chris and Ewan were happy to show us the ropes (no apologies for that dreadful pun) and guide us through what they make look really easy! My upper arms and shoulders are still aching. My ribs are still aching from laughing so much. You'll have to check with North Tawton residents regarding us producing a beautiful sound. Think I know what they might say. We sounded like a warning that Vikings had just arrived down at Taw bridge.

Had our Away at the Waie day this month. Two words. Knickerbocker Glory. And another two. Banana Split. Don't find those two lovely concoctions on many menus these days. Fabulous. We'd obviously worked up an appetite in order to consume these low fat/sugar free puds by swimming/skittling/chatting and we managed to squeeze in an hour of line dancing too. Which was like the cherry on the top. Of a knickerbocker glory.

And finally. An addiction to rice pudding isn't required to have a tour of the Ambrosia factory in Lifford – but it might help. Kicked off with lunch at Strawberry Fields Farm Shop and then off to Premier Foods. A very warm welcome was followed by a detailed talk about the history behind the label – and then we got dressed up. White coats, foot gear, head gear and – to top it off – ear defenders with microphones and 2-way communication systems. We looked hilarious. And there is a lot of photographic evidence out there to support that statement. Did I mention the free samples? Driving home was like having two kids in the car as they rummaged through the huge goody bags ooohing and aaahhhhing over the contents.

Husband has just gone to collect my Christmas present. I think I know what it is. A power harrow. It's 2.3 metres long. He'll never have enough wrapping paper.

Sue Knott

The Sampford Courtenay Novel Writers

Invite you to join us every **first Tuesday of the month**
at The New Inn, Sampford Courtenay, at 11 a.m..
(no meetings in January and August)

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North Street Chapel

Coffee and Chat

2nd Wednesday monthly

**Next meetings December 13th & January 10th
10-11.30 a.m.**



If you would like to talk to one of the team,
please contact:

North Tawton

Rhona & Ken Bragg 01837 82343

Jackie Tye 01837 880479

Sampford Courtenay/Honeychurch

Rory Robinson 07811 324154

Lynn Robinson 07966477465

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NAPIT APPROVED



North Tawton CLT (Cooking Lasagne Tonight)

Didn't expect to find me on this page, did you? Have I got your attention? Are you expecting more rambling/random nonsense about our beloved W.I. intermixed with amusing anecdotes about husband? If so, you're about to be bitterly disappointed. Cos I've moved on. Well – I've 'embraced' something else. (that's got husband's attention). North Tawton CLT. Nothing to do with cooking a lasagne. In the real world it stands for Community Land Trust. And North Tawton is in the throes of putting one together. This means that a group of quite nice/likeminded people are keen to see if they can do some fundraising, buy a 'bit o' land' and build a few **properly affordable** houses. For local people. In perpetuity. That means forever, husband. And it doesn't have to stop there. Some CLT groups have protected their community shops, pubs and public toilets – others have developed renewable energy schemes and created allotments. But not all at the same time. Cos that would be silly.

So – at the risk of repeating myself. Have I got your attention? Do you think you might just be a tiny bit interested in what this group of quite nice people are up to? (this is the bit when you say 'yes') and if you are interested, look out for handouts/meetings (I promise there will be **nice** biscuits) and lots more information to follow. That's it – you can go and put the kettle on now.

Sue

Brass in the Square
Christmas Morning
10 a.m.

Carols, treats,
prize draw.
All proceeds to
Devon Air Ambulance.



SAMPFORD COURTENAY CAROL SINGING AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

6.30 pm SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

In the Square

And afterwards Christmas Refreshments in the Church Rooms

(Christmas Advent Windows – this year we would like you to send us your photos of any windows or Christmas Displays in the parish, that will then be published on our Facebook page to create our Advent Calendar)

Send to marion174@btinternet.com

Carols at the Inn



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6.30 pm

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Hi everyone

I hope that you are all keeping well, dodging the wind and rain when it comes and enjoying the rare sunny days.

Before we know it, Christmas will be here (it's already arrived in most shops near me!). The team at Parke will be hosting a local Christmas tree grower at weekends from the end of November who will be selling lovely local Christmas trees. It's a perfect excuse to take a stroll by the river and warm up in Home Farm café.

Castle Drogo will be decorated in a traditional style ready for Christmas. We are fortunate to have lots of photos, letters and diaries which tell us how the Drewe family decorated the castle and we try to match their style as much as possible. We will also be welcoming local choirs, musicians and singers who will perform for us. With the backdrop of the gorgeous architecture, it makes for a little piece of magic. The castle is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the run up to Christmas in December but please check the website for full opening times. There are rumours that a jolly chap in a red coat with a big beard will be visiting us too!

At Castle Drogo, we have a full close down from 8th January when all the behind the scenes work takes place with floors polished, deep cleans and maintenance completed. This includes the visitor centre, toilets, garden, café and shop. The estate remains open at all times, but you won't be able to get a cuppa afterwards so make sure you bring a flask. We then re-open in full from 5th February. This includes the castle which is open earlier in 2024. A perfect opportunity to have an explore before we get to the Easter holidays.

Finally, a huge thank you goes out to everyone for their support this past year. All of our visitors are great of course, but we especially like to welcome our neighbours who pop in regularly and chat with the teams. I would like to say a special thank you to our incredible volunteer team who share their love and knowledge of these places every day. We really could not do it without them and it has been wonderful to welcome new people to the team this year.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and new year. Best wishes all,

Paula

Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor
07826 945107, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk



SAMPFORD COURTENAY CHURCH BAZAAR AND SANTA'S FANTASTICAL MAZE

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023

2.00 – 4.30 p.m.

- ❖ Come and meet the donkeys
- ❖ Take a Christmas Pony Sleigh Ride
- ❖ Christmas Family Photo Booth
- ❖ Marvel at the Magical Fairy Tale Tableaux
- ❖ Chance to win Gingerbread House & a Cuddly Reindeer.
- ❖ Write your letter to Santa and tell him what you would like him to bring when you meet him at the end of the maze.
- ❖ **PLUS** St Andrew's Church Bazaar for Cakes, Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola etc

BOOK YOUR SANTA SLOT ASAP

£5 per child

**Ring Marion on 01837 82285 or email
marion174@btinternet.com**



**BONDLEIGH BARN
BAND**

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

40+ MUSICIANS!

**WHERE? – Winkleigh Village Hall, Castle Street,
Winkleigh**

WHEN? – Saturday 9th December 12 midday

FREE ENTRY

FREE HOT FOOD PROVIDED BY WINKLEIGH WARM SPACE

PAY BAR AVAILABLE

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www.browningsupholstery.co.uk



South West Lindy Hoppers

Jane and Derek of South West Lindy Hoppers had pleasure in handing over a cheque for £270 to North Tawton branch of the Royal British Legion Chairman Monica Simons which was raised when holding their annual Charity Tea Dance on the 1st October 2023 in the Town Hall with local Vintage harmony group The Hummingbirds. We would also like to thank the Legions members for their help in serving tea, coffee and cakes on the afternoon.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated prizes for the event. Plans are in place for another dance next year on the 6th October.

Watch this space.....



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News From North Tawton Community Primary School

I am sure you are aware from local and national news that working in schools at the moment is tough. Curriculum requirements have risen, and we have less funding and resources to meet the content and depth the timetable demands. National funding has decreased for all children, and it is harder than it was previously to meet the requirements to obtain additional funding for children with additional needs. Post covid we have seen a rise in children and families with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) which is impacting on the focus of our work in schools. Teaching assistants are taking on increasingly more responsibility in the classroom and more than ever, we are relying on volunteers to support our day-to-day school activities. School staff really do not work 9 – 4 and switch off for the evenings and weekends as is still sometimes thought and posted on social media.

Why do we do it?

Because we love our job and our school community!

Working with children is hugely rewarding. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be part of their learning and development.

We get so much joy from being instigator and witness to our children growing in independence and maturity. We celebrate their successes and are there to guide and encourage when they find things challenging. Seeing them learn a new skill, master a tricky problem, develop empathy and compassion is a daily joy for all who work in our school. We are also privileged to work with a great team of colleagues in such a vibrant and supportive community.

This time of year is particularly busy but also hugely rewarding as we learn about and celebrate Christmas. Year 6 will be leading our Christingle service, our younger children will be performing the Nativity, and we will all be making decorations and singing Christmas carols. Our wonderful chefs will be making us a Christmas dinner and our staff will be planning Christmas themed activities for their classes. Our Friends of North Tawton School group (FONTS) are busy organising our Christmas Fair for Friday 24th November, we invite you all to come along and support our school. Please do see our school website to follow our blogs where you will see our news and photos of our learning and celebrations.

On behalf of the staff and children at our school, I wish everyone in our community, and friends and families near and far, a very merry Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year.

*Tara Penny,
Principal*

Our Festival of Hope collaborative art entry 'Window' has returned from the touring gallery and is on display back at school. It is an inspired piece made with recycled materials, including wool from local sheep.



Nature Journalling

Record your impressions and memories of the wonderful nature in this area in your own personal nature journal.

for artists and non-artists - starting early next year.

Learn how to prepare and/or make your journal and then create pages of photos/sketches and notes based on places, found objects, colours.



If you are interested, please contact

Celia Olsson
celia.olsson.art@gmail.com
01837 82 796



Christmas in Bondleigh

Christmas Coffee Morning at St James' Church - Saturday 16th December at 10.30am

Enter the Christmas spirit and come along to our beautifully decorated Church to catch up with friends and neighbours whilst enjoying a coffee and mince pie or cake.

Hazel and Sonia will be selling a variety of Christmas floral decorations for your table etc. There will also be a cake stall and the Church Wardens' bric-a-brac stall offering a variety of goodies to tempt you. Lin will be running her Christmas draw with lots of delightful prizes to be won.

Christmas Carol Service at St James' Church - Sunday 17th December at 4.30pm

With Christmas just over a week away, Sampford Courtenay Choir and members of the Bondleigh Barn Band will be joining us to "set the scene" for the festive season. Tea and mince pies will be served following the service.

Christmas Eve Service at St James' Church - 10.00pm

Led by Rev'd D Spence, we welcome you to join our late night service, if you feel that midnight is a little late for you.



CHRISTMAS SPARKLE!

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

Sunday 17th December at 3pm

Join the Village Hall Trustees for free...

Mulled wine, mulled apple juice, Tea/ coffee, mince pies and community Christmas singing (led by members of Exbourne choir)

Wear your Christmas sparkles!
Come along to wish your friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas.

Everyone welcome!



Sampford Courtenay Village Hall presents...

DIVING FOR PEARLS

with their January blues busting evening of rock, blues and funk. It promises to be a great night out!



Saturday 20th January 2024
doors open at 7.30pm
music from 8pm

Bar and refreshments available

Tickets £10.00

available from Nicky 01837 880300
nickyvhmc@gmail.com

Registered Charity Number 283279

Football Club Quiz

will take place on
Saturday 25th November in the Town Hall
Doors open at 7 p.m..
Quiz will start at 7.30 p.m.
Teams of 6 maximum cost £3 per person.
Bar available, bring your own snacks.
Raffle.
Proceeds for football club funds.

DRAWN BY NATURE POP UP EXHIBITION

A rather wet and blustery few days did not deter visitors to our 'pop up' exhibition over the weekend of 10th-12th November. We welcomed nearly 160 visitors to admire, discuss and even purchase our work. We were thrilled by the numbers attending and by the enthusiasm with which our art was viewed with lots of lovely comments.

The Bowls club provided a fantastic space for our event and we are so grateful to the Club for this and for the support and encouragement by Club members to make this happen. We also managed to raise over £100 for Devon Air Ambulance from the donations made including those from teas, coffee and cake.

So, thank you North Tawton (and beyond, from as far away as Torquay) for coming to see us and for your support - watch this space, we may do it again!

Celia Olsson, Emmeline Webb, Janet Jarvis
and Jo Purdue

Honeychurch Fundraising Quiz
At
Sampford Courtenay Village Hall
On
Friday January 19th at 7.30 p.m.

Teams of up to 6 people
£6 per person
To include cheese and biscuits

Drinks will be available.
(Please bring cash)

To book your table please contact
01837 851269 or
rmweeks007@gmail.com
All funds raised will go towards
St Mary's Church, Honeychurch
Window repair.

Saturday 2nd December
the Guides holds its
Christmas Coffee Morning
in the Town Hall
from 10 a.m.

Various stalls including homemade cakes,
draw,
hamper, tombola, £1, 50p and cash draw.
Proceeds for Guide funds.

Saturday 16th December
the Football Club has its
Christmas Coffee Morning
in the Town Hall
from 10 a.m. with a visit from Father Christmas
at 10.30 a.m.
Various stalls, games and draws.
Limited table tops are available at £5
please call 89160 to book.

BBKA Okehampton Branch Basic Beekeeping Course, eight Sessions, starts January 17 2024.

Okehampton Beekeepers are running a Beekeeping Training Course of 8 evening sessions. These will be held fortnightly, at Whiddon Down Village Hall, from 7 pm to 9 pm on alternate Wednesday evenings from January 17th through to April 24th next year (2024).

The course, including Registered Membership of Devon Beekeepers, costs £92. Payment should be made on-line, to DBKA Okehampton Branch, Sort Code 53-50-28 A/C No 09202242. When making an on-line payment be sure to put your name as reference and e-mail confirmation to the Branch Treasurer, Pip Wilkins pip.wilkins@icloud.com.

Payment in full will automatically include:

- FREE - The excellent BBKA Guide to Beekeeping book (normally costs £18.99)
- Full registered membership of Devon Beekeepers (DBKA), worth £31
- Bee Disease Insurance for up to 3 colonies
- Monthly on-line copies of the Devon Beekeepers magazine

Monthly delivery of the British Beekeepers' magazine, BBKA News

Please note; Course applicants who have already paid their membership, only need to pay a fee of £61.

The course will follow the syllabus required for the BBKA Basic Assessment. Course students are encouraged to take the Basic Assessment once they have completed the course and have kept bees for their first year (but this is of course optional). Membership of Okehampton Beekeepers entitles course students to reimbursement of the Basic Assessment Exam fee (currently £25) on successfully passing the exam.

Course session dates are fortnightly, on alternate Wednesdays, as follows: January 17, January 31, February 14, February 28, March 13, March 27, April 10 and April 24. A number of informal follow-up practical sessions in May and June will give the opportunity to handle and inspect colonies of bees, putting into practice knowledge learnt during the course. To book a place on the course or for further information please contact our Education Officer, Ruth Stainer-Smith by phone on 07789 238053 or by E-mail at shackletonhouse@gmail.com.



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Sarah's Yoga

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

Tuesday evenings 6 - 7.30 p.m.

and

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).

For more information or to book a place, please contact me
onsarah@sarahsyoga.co.uk

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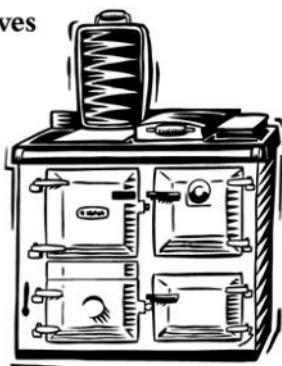
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THE ART BOX – December 2023

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



As we enter the season of woolly jumpers and wet windy welly walks, here's a few Autumn events and updates at Red Mud Arts.

We haven't got another Gathering planned this side of Christmas BUT we DO have a **Spoken Word, Poetry and Storytelling Evening Sunday 19th November** at The Copper Key. We'll be gathering for drinks and chat beforehand as a warm up of something we'll be starting **from the New Year, the last Sunday of every month, 4-6pm at The Copper Key, North Tawton**. An informal relaxed space to gather regularly and share how it's all been going. Sometimes working as an artist can be isolating and often it's a job with no colleagues, so this is a chance to meet up with people in the same boat, to share the highs and lows and reflect on how the month has gone. It would be amazing to see you there!

Open Mics continue every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7.30 at The Copper Key. It was pretty special to have guest poet, S'Phongo all the way from Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone at a recent Open Mic Night, as part of a tour of the UK with his poetry. If you missed it, head over to the Facebook page where you can find a short video.

Artist Crit Group continues every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7-9 p.m.. Email ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com if you'd like to join!

Life drawing on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 7-9 p.m. at the Community Centre has taken a short pause, but please get in touch if you'd be interested in joining as we'll be starting it up again soon. Email ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com.

We'd like to extend a massive thank you to Durant Trust for approving our recent application for funding. We can't wait to share more about this and get to work in putting it to great effect in inspiring and encouraging creativity in North Tawton!

Till then,

Red Mud Arts team



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 that 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, and often soup, 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.

2nd December 2023 – 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
and

10th February 2024 – 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m..

There will be no repair café in January.

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

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

North Tawton Library of Things!

Join for £5 a year and borrow any of the items we have in the library for free.

Open 5.30-6.30 p.m. every Thursday, in the Chapel of Rest.

You can join online or with a paper form (available in the Post Office).

Our library includes household tools, gardening equipment, beer and wine glasses, hoover and carpet cleaners, prams, travel cots, pet carriers, food dehydrator, dehumidifier and craft equipment!

Why not pop along and have a look?

<https://northtawtonlibraryofthings.myturn.com/library/>



The editors would like to wish all our readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

STAFF REQUIRED

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NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY, FULL TRAINING WILL BE
GIVEN. MAINLY WEEK-END WORK, FRIDAY &
SATURDAY BUT ADDITIONAL HOURS ARE AVAILABLE**

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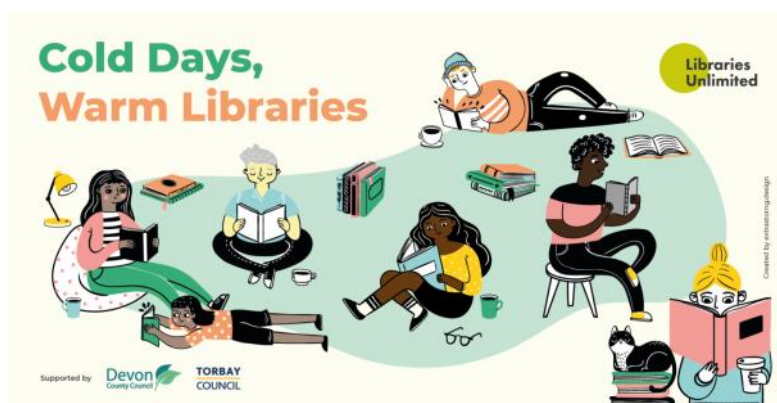
-Look out for any additional opening hours

barzotelligelato.co.uk

or

<https://www.facebook.com/lucyfaybarzotelli>

Free refreshments are available as part of our 'Libraries for Life' winter campaign.



Keep an eye out for more events and activities at Okehampton Library.
Visit our Website: www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/okehamptonlibrary
Follow us on Facebook.

Adults Christmas Card Craft Workshop – Friday 1st December 10:00-12:00

Make a Wool Wrapped Christmas Tree
Friday 8th Dec. 15:30-16:30 and Saturday 9th Dec. 10:30-11:15
Get creative, only £1 per child.

Find all the snowflakes hidden around the library to receive a chocolate treat.
Free event.

The Friends of Okehampton Library have created a fabulous hamper. Purchase a draw ticket for £1, this will support your local library and give you the chance to win the contents of the hamper. Draw to take place noon Saturday 16th December.

The Friends of Okehampton Library quiz is just £1 per sheet, available from Okehampton Library. Completed quiz sheets need to be returned by Friday 5th January 2024. The first correct entry drawn will receive a £20 voucher kindly donated by Graylings Fish and Chips.

Are you interested in becoming a friend of your library? Come along to our meeting to find out how to get involved and support the library, organising or helping with events, encouraging use of the library, and supporting fundraising activities. Everyone welcome.

Join us and the Friends of Okehampton Library for a festive coffee morning with mince pies kindly donated by Ellis Bakery. Free event, but donations welcome.

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NTRFC 2023/2024 FIXTURES COUNTIES 2 TRIBUTE DEVON

SEPTEMBER

2ND WITHYCOMBE (H)
9TH DEVONPORT SERVICES (A)
16TH EXMOUTH II (H)
23RD TORQUAY ATHLETIC (A)
30TH EXETER SARACENS (H)

OCTOBER

14TH HONITON (A)
21ST IVYBRIDGE II (H)

NOVEMBER

4TH OLD PLYMOUTHIAN +
MANNAMEDIAN (H)
11TH PLYMOUTH ARGAUM (A)
18TH BARNSTAPLE II (H)

DECEMBER

2ND SOUTH MOLTON (A)
9TH DEVONPORT SERVICES (H)
16TH EXMOUTH II (A)

JANUARY

6TH TORQUAY ATHLETIC (H)
13TH EXETER SARACENS (A)
27TH HONITON (H)

FEBRUARY

3RD IVYBRIDGE II (A)
17TH OLD PLYMOUTHIAN +
MANNAMEDIAN (A)

MARCH

2ND PLYMOUTH ARGAUM (H)
16TH BARNSTAPLE II (A)
23RD SOUTH MOLTON (H)

APRIL

6TH WITHYCOMBE (A)

KEY DATES

27TH OCTOBER - FIREWORKS
NIGHT
FURTHER CUP FIXTURES AND
DATES FOR A CHARITY
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READING GROUP

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

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:

The Guide Christmas Post

will be running again this year
from

1st - 23rd December.

The Post box will be in the
chemist in North Tawton. The
cost will be the same as last year
25p per card.

Please name and address the cards clearly.

We deliver to North Tawton, Sampford
Courtenay and Bondleigh only.

The delivery boundaries are Stone Cross,
Staddon House, Fernhill, Sampford
Chapple crossroads, Sampford Station,
Bondleigh boundaries - Council houses,
Mill Farm, unable to do Copse Hill Lane .
We are unable to deliver outside these
areas.



NORTH STREET CHAPEL SEWING CLUB

6.30 p.m.

(also knitting, crochet, cross stitch etc.)

For further information contact
Charlotte Sampson 07706 942901 or
charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com

December 11th, January 15th and January 29th

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

CHEERFUL CHATTER GROUP last Thursday of
every month 2 – 3 p.m.
Tea/coffee, cake and an hour of friendly chatter

TABLE TENNIS Weekly—for details
ring 01837 851659

FLOWER CLUB 2nd Monday of every
month 2.30 p.m.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:-

Tuesday 28th November 12 noon Community lunch

Thursday 30th November 2-3 p.m. Cheerful Chatter
Group

Sunday 17th December 3 p.m. Christmas Sparkle

Saturday 20th January 7.30pm Diving for Pearls

Tuesday 23rd January 12 noon Community lunch

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

11th December

Jane Haas - Christmas Workshop
with "hammeli Straws"

8th January 2024

Club Lunch at The Tom Cobley, Spreyton

For more information contact the Chairman,
Nancy Passmore on 01837 54849



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Ladies who lunch



**Meet at the New Inn
Sampford Courtenay**
at 12.30 p.m. on the
fourth Wednesday of the month
(unless otherwise advised)

Pre-booking is essential - please ring:

Jackie Mardon

01837 748116

Debbie Manton, the New Inn

01837 82247

Sloes

Sour as sin
thorn-wreathed, barely fleshed stones -
if you were starving I suppose you might eat them
but precious little you'd get
by way of nutrition.

So what genius was it who had the idea
of pickling them in gin? Let's drink
their health come Christmas -
and in the dark days beyond -

for bringing us this glow
of fireside comfort
this softly smouldering ruby
this heartwarmer

this small perfection.

Martin Olsson
from A String of Bondleigh Beads

News from Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

SCPC is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Parish Clerk, Malcolm Harris. He brings with him skills and experience, as a previous Parish Clerk in Torridge.

Meetings for the Council have now been changed to occur bi-monthly and our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th December 2023, at 19:30 in Sampford Courtenay Village Hall.

If you wish to contact the Council to raise any issues for the next meeting please use our Clerks email ClerkSCPC@gmail.com and even better, please come along to a meeting and take part and have your say.

The minutes of all meetings can be viewed on our website www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk where any useful links are live. We will republish details of the future meetings with our next minutes.

Message from the Chair -



In this last Roundabout of this year, I would like to wish all our Parishioners glad tidings for the festive period. As we head towards the end of 2023 and look back on the work and activities that have taken place throughout the year, I am pleased we have been able to continue to provide the best services we possibly can for our community. Whether it is through the organised events which bring a sense of support and community spirit or through the improvements to your community assets such as the toilets and village green, my thanks go to the councillors past and present for their efforts as volunteers, but most of all, my gratitude goes to those who show support and appreciation for what the Parish Council strives to achieve.

Reflecting on the comments I see and hear from those both near and far who follow the activities undertaken by all the local groups, businesses and community as a whole, I feel very proud to be a part of the parish.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy new year.

Michele Wilson




Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe WI

The latest meeting was held on Tuesday November 14th, when the president welcomed everyone and Jerusalem was sung. The speaker was Phillip Davies, a retired vet, who gave a very interesting and fascinating talk on his life, with photographs, showing details of operations and ailments of various animals. There were also photos of his personal life. He had brought skulls of some animals including the skull of a rhino. He was thanked by Karen Hunter.

The business part of the meeting followed after tea. The Soup and Puds had been a success, raising almost £300. Arrangements were made for the Christmas meeting on December 12th. The trip to the Pantomime at Plymouth on 10th January is organised, with a coach leaving Exbourne Cross at 12.00 noon. The next ladies walking group will be around Fatherford, leaving Simmons Park, Okehampton on Friday November 24th. The winner of the competition and Flower of the Month was Ethel Nancekivell.

Margaret Weeks

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Rev'd. Rita Bullworthy (89168) ritabullworthy@yahoo.co.uk
Rev'd. Dr. Harriet Every (01647 432402)
Mr. Wesley Cutler (07540 127827) wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Peter's North Tawton	Mr. Paul Andrews (82648)	Mrs. Rhona Bragg (82343)
St. James' Bondleigh	Mr. Danny Semorad (82319)	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/>

DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICES at St. Peter's Church

North Tawton

3rd December	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
10th December	6.30 p.m.	Carol Service
17th December	11 a.m.	Christingle Family Service
24th December	11 a.m.	Traditional Communion
	4 p.m.	Christmas Eve Nativity
25th December	11 a.m.	Christmas Family Service
31st December	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
7th January	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
14th January	11 a.m.	Informal Communion
21st January	11 a.m.	Family Service
28th January	11 a.m.	Traditional Communion

DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICES at St. Andrew's Church Sampford Courtenay

3rd December	9.30 a.m.	Christingle Service
10th December	9.30 a.m.	Communion
17th December	6.30 p.m.	Carol Service
24th December	11.30 p.m.	Late Communion
25th December	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Communion
31st December	9.30 a.m.	Common Worship
7th January	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
14th January	9.30 a.m.	Plough Sunday Communion
21st January	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
28th January	9.30 a.m.	Communion

DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICES at St. James's Church Bondleigh

3rd December	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service
17th December	4.30 p.m.	Carol Service
24th December	10.00 p.m.	Late Communion
7th January	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service
21st January	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service

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DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICES at St. Mary's Church Honeychurch

3rd December	3 p.m.	Evensong / Communion
17th December	3 p.m.	Carol Service
No service in January		

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

North Street Chapel

Contact: Mr. R. Sampson 07835 033062

	11 a.m.	Evening
1 st Sunday	Special service	No Service unless advertised otherwise
2 nd Sunday	Prayer & Communion	No Service unless advertised otherwise
3 rd Sunday	No service	3 p.m. Tea and Praise
4 th Sunday	11 a.m. Morning Service	No service
5 th Sunday	Prayer & Communion	No service unless advertised otherwise

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral

7th November

Jim BRERETON (85 years)

North Tawton (Exeter Crematorium)

BONDLEIGH RAINFALL

After a generally dry first half of October the second half of the month made up for it. This brought the total up to 106.6 mm., which was just a little more than last year at 95.8 mm. November has started wet with over 70 mm. in the first week. November is usually one of our wettest months so it has made a good start.

Danny Semorad

NORTH STREET CHAPEL

TEA AND PRAISE at 3 p.m.

December 17th

Carol Service

January 21st

Brian Warren

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Be Still

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

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

There will be no Be Still in December. The next date is:
Thursday January 25th 2024



Please continue to remember those who need help via the Food Bank box in St. Peter's Church outer porch. It is accessible there during the day and contents are regularly moved to the community kitchen in Merry-Go-Round Thank you.



Community lunch

Tuesday 23rd January
12 o'clock
Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

Join us for :



Lasagne and salad leaves
Pudding
Tea/coffee and mints
Best of all meet friends and chat

Tickets £6 - limited places so book early to avoid disappointment.

To book contact :
secretaryvhsc@gmail.com
Or phone Rory on 07811324154

The Den Brook Community Fund invites local Charities, Community Groups and Not-for-Profit organisations based within the five parishes below to apply for grants to assist with funding for Capital Projects.

Den Brook Community Fund

The deadline for receipt of applications for this "round" of funding is **31st January 2023** and as a guide, it is envisaged around £35,500 will be available for allocation by the late winter period and the amounts available to each parish are likely to be –

Bow - £7,000
North Tawton - £19,000
South Tawton - £2,400
Spreyton £2,600
Zeal Monachorum - £4,800.00

An "Easy Guide", Full Terms and Conditions and the Application Form are available by e-mail from denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com or from North Tawton Town Council Office, 14a The Square North Tawton EX20 2EP

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

Church Flowers & Brass

Sampford Courtenay

December	Christmas Flowers
January	(All arrangers)
	Shirley Reddaway

Honeychurch

December	Sue Svedang
January	No Service

Bondleigh

Dec 3rd/ 10th	Jane Semorad
	(Brass only)
Dec 17th / 24th	Christmas Tree/altar
	and windows
Dec 31st / Jan 7th	Helen Ruby
Jan 14th / 21st	Julie Wilson
Jan 28th	Caroline Stokes

North Tawton

Flowers

Dec 3rd	Lorna Dawe
Dec 10th	Carol Service
Dec 17th/24th/31st	Christmas Flowers
Jan 7th / 14th	Sandra Delve
Jan 21st / 28th	Sue Knott and
	Ro Davies

Brass

December	Amanda Salter
January	Sandra Delve

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

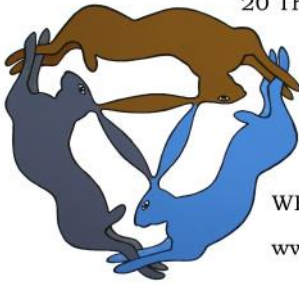
Pause for thought

Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is "God with us"

St. Matthew's Gospel, referring to Isaiah Chapter 7, verse 14.

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