

Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

Letter to Parishioners

Looking back ..

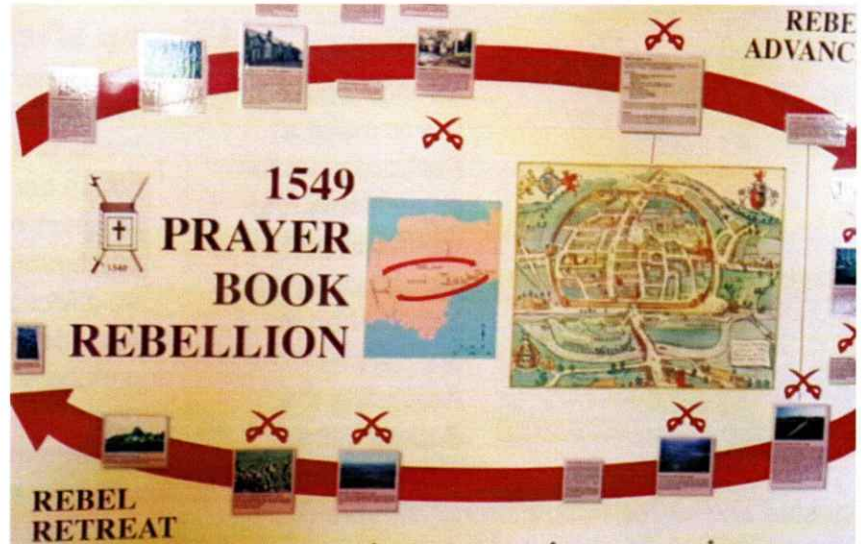
In 2023 we had elections for the Parish Council and welcomed 4 new Councillors. We supported the refurbishment of the Village Hall Toilets and completed redecoration of the Public Toilets whilst continuing to consider Phase two to make them fully accessible. We have also renewed the Licence for the Community Partnership of Sampford Courtenay Station.

What's happening now?

Throughout the year a Steering group formed from community groups across the Parish have been creating the plan for this years 475th Commemoration of the Prayerbook Rebellion. This has been in tandem with a joint research project from Plymouth University - to update information booklets/leaflets regarding the history behind the Event as well as the Church Rooms themselves. The hard work of collecting Apples by Parishioners for the Apple Day is being brought to fruition by Cllr McIlwraith and his family at the Cider Vat with a bespoke Local Devon Cider produced especially for the event.

What of the future?

On the 1st May 2024 after the AGM for the Council the OPEN PARISH MEETING is being held at the Village Hall. At the meeting you can hear about the local activities and proposals presented by Parish Groups for consideration by the public. If you have an idea, a project or want to propose a priority for groups to consider in the coming year then let the Parish Clerk know clerkscpc@gmail.com



Full details of the events Itinerary are on the Parish Website but here is a run down of what you can join in with -

April 14th - Tour of the battle sites

May 18th - Devon Family History Event

May 21st - Quiz at the New Inn

May 22nd and 23rd - Learning History at Exbourne & North Tawton Primary Schools

June 5th & 6th Medieval Craft afternoons at the schools

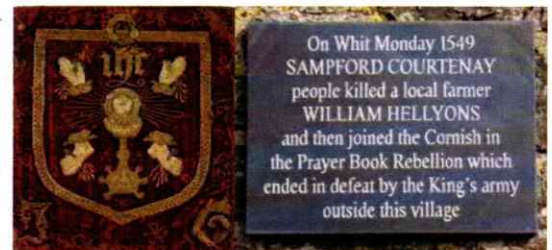
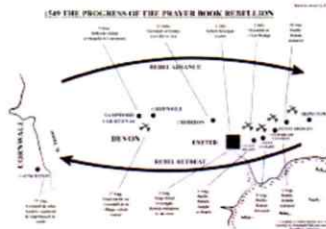
June 7th - Evening with Mark Stoye and Sue Andrew

Historical overview of events based on his excellent book "A murderous midsummer" and talk on medieval bosses in the Church with a BBQ & Bar in the Square

June 8th - Tudor Fete Day - with stalls Tudor Games, a Mummers Play dancing, refreshments a bar and food

For more details on anything planned please ring or

Email Marion on 0183782285 marion174@btinternet



Thanks to all those who are supporting and planning to make this happen. The aim of the events are to make them as accessible to all, something for everyone to have family fun and immerse in the history of our Parish.

Issues concerning Parishioners

Parking linked to Road Safety and access for emergency responders

CHECK WHERE YOU PARK

COULD A FIRE ENGINE GET BY?



The Parish Council would like to make a Polite request for all residents and visitors to park considerately and safely when in the Parish.

Area's like the Square can at times be very

congested and cause frustration not to mention danger to others - Please consider whether your parked vehicle may prevent emergency services from attending their call. Every second counts in the case of a fire or heart attack - please park responsibly. To cause an obstruction can bring enforcement action by Police and Civil Parking wardens but enforcement will not save a life so prevention is far better. A concern raised in area's around the Parish is parking on pavements and in lay-bys where it causes reduced visibility at Junctions and hazards to other road users. One area that is already within the Parish Road Safety Plan is Sampford Chapple due to the non compliance with the speed restriction and the extremely dangerous cross roads. You may not be aware that driving on (including onto) a pavement is illegal and you can be fined up to £1,000 and when parking near a junction the rule is to park at least 10m or more from a junction to allow for site lines and support safety of both pedestrians and other road users. The rules are less clear for parking in lay-bys with no restrictions if the car is legal and roadworthy from parking on any highway or pull in even if it restricts the road width. However in the best interests of everyone, parking in any location should be done in a safe and considerate manner. The Council are grateful to the Community Speed Watch volunteers that continue to help reduce the risks and I am sure that we can work with DCC Neighbourhood Highway Officer we can continue to consider other Road safety measures as part of next years plan.

Offensive and irresponsible behaviour of those refusing to pick up after their dogs 🤢 😡

This is a real problem in the local area. It causes a health risk, it is offensive to all users of the highways and byways but is in fact an offence which carries a fine. But as with the parking, enforcement doesn't prevent the unpleasant nature of the offence. Having liaised with our Localities Officer all walkers are reminded of the rules as can be seen on the signs that have been placed in the main



areas of the village including the two bins that are provided to dispose of the waste. The Council recognises that as with any offensive behaviour it is the minority. But my particular pet hates are (*quote*) "its outside the 30 mph limit" SO WHAT! it is still offensive and irresponsible so please pick it up and dispose of or take it home which brings me on to the second pet hate - displaying your filled poo bag by hanging it in a tree! I have tried to reflect on the mindset of anyone who does this but cannot fathom it. Please if you have the decency to pick up your poo then dispose of it responsibly in the bins positioned at the Public Toilets and the bus shelter opposite the New Inn, better still take it home and dispose of it safely. Anyone evidencing an offence can report the incident to West Devon Borough Council via the 'Report It' page on the website. The Localities officers is conducting surveillance to catch offenders but intelligence on times, descriptions of offenders and their dogs will help to target their efforts. Parishioners can help with ways to persuade dog owners to pick up dog poop whether incentives or public shaming what idea's can you come up with? Come to the Open meeting and let us know.

My thanks to Parishioners for your support and raising these issues to our attention. Whilst meetings have changed and now take place bi-monthly my thanks to our Councillors for their continued efforts for the Parish

Michele Wilson (Chair of Sampford Courtenay Parish Council)