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## From The Rectory

As I write this, we are currently emptying and packing up St Peter's church for the coming building works. And what an experience it is to go through everything in the church, right to the back of every cupboard and room. Just like when we sort through an attic or garage in our homes, there have been some surprises. We've found some really beautiful and useful things which had been stored away and forgotten. And we've also found a whole host of bits and pieces which probably should have gone in the bin, rather than in storage, like long forgotten unfinished craft projects from decades ago!

It reminded me of a story from the Bible. It was about 622 BC and King Josiah of Judah was having some work done on the Temple in Jerusalem and as part of this the High Priest, Hilkiah, discovered the long forgotten book of the Law of God. Well, when King Josiah heard the book read to him, he tore his robes and wept as a sign of his sorrow and repentance that for so long his people had acted against God's ways because they had ignored, lost and then forgotten this law-book God had given to them to guide them.

King Josiah had discovered a lost treasure of old, special because it was a gift from God to guide his people and help them to live a good life before him. He was in distress because he knew his people had ignored this good gift. But God then spoke to Josiah to say that he had seen his tears and heard his repentance – and God showed mercy to him and promised him a peaceful life (see 2 Kings 22).

God is always willing in his love to forgive us and to replace our sorrows, guilt and sadness with his peace – all we need to do is follow in Josiah's footsteps of heartfelt repentance and calling out in trust to God.

St Peter's Church is closed (for a time!)

By the time you read this the work in St Peter's to reorder the church will have begun. The church building is now closed, and we hope to reopen the church in Summer 2026. In the meantime, all our regular activities will continue in different venues. Our main services will take place in North Tawton primary school. Details of the locations of our other groups will be posted in the Roundabout and on the church notice boards.

- David Spence



While St Peter's Church is closed due to our building project, here are the different venues for our regular gatherings

### Primary School

11am Sunday Services  
Toast Church (4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) 9:30-10am

### The Rectory

Prayer Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays) 7:30-8:30pm  
Wednesday Morning Prayer 9-9:20am

### Community Centre

Tuesday Chat (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays) 10:30am-12noon  
The Reef After-school Club (Tuesdays) 3:30-5pm  
Men's Breakfast (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays) 9-11am  
Midweek Communion (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays) 12-12:30pm

### Town Hall

Little Fishes (Thursdays) 9-11am

### Contact

**Revd David Spence (Vicar)**  
david@stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk

**Wez Cutler (Parish Worker)**  
wez@stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk

**Amy (SWYM Trainee)**  
amy@stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk





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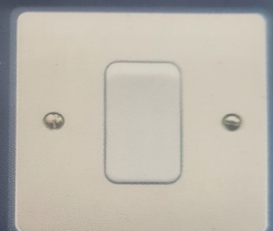


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# Midweek Communion

## North Tawton Community Centre

12pm — 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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Pastoral care was at the heart of Jesus' ministry—  
we are called to continue that ministry

### Pastoral Care Team

God's Love in Action

If you would like to speak to one of our team please contact:

#### North Tawton

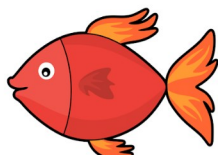
Ken Bragg 01363 530673  
Jackie Tye 01837 880479

#### Sampford Courtenay/Honeychurch

Rory Robinson 07811 324154  
Lynn Robinson 07966 477465

#### Bondleigh

Danny Semorad 07814 877151  
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## LITTLE FISHES

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Thursday Mornings (Inc. school holidays)

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## Tuesday Chat

Drop in anytime between  
10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

Now at North Tawton Community Centre

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month:

For more information contact

Jo Fear 01837 82553

# Roundabout

is published for the community on behalf of the four parish churches of North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay, Bondleigh 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 Editor.

Contributions should be sent by email to Ruth Smith at [nt.roundabout@gmail.com](mailto:nt.roundabout@gmail.com) or at The Pottery, 5 The Square, North Tawton, EX20 2ER no later than noon on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication is required

New advertisers are always welcome. Advertisements can be arranged for shorter periods than one year or for single editions. For advertising enquiries contact Simon Williams at [adverts@northtawtonroundabout.com](mailto:adverts@northtawtonroundabout.com)

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## NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Caroline Ellis  
14A The Square, North Tawton, EX20 2EP  
01837 880121

[townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

The office is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10.30 a.m.- 2.30 p.m.

“What exactly is the Town Council...?”

Here in the Town Council Office we’ve been thinking of our different roles and titles, and how these are understood by our local community in North Tawton.

The title “Clerk” developed from the Latin clericus. During the Middle Ages, when scholarship and writing were limited to the clergy, “clerk” came to mean a scholar, and in 1439, Symkyn Birches was awarded the office of “Toun Clerk” of Coventry and the position became commonplace throughout England and Wales. In the present day the Town Clerk has the role of being responsible for actioning the decisions made by the Council, offers Legal advice to the Council, from which its decisions are based. The Town Clerk can also act as the Responsible Finance Officer, looking after the finances, although in some Councils this is a separate role.

Your Councillors are people elected or co-opted onto a council, with the main role being represent the community, and as such, act as advocates for local issues, and ensure that the needs of the local community are met. To achieve this, The Council make decisions, through the process of voting, and the outcome of which ensures the local community

functions and runs smoothly. The legal term for the outcome of a vote taken by the Council is known as a Resolution. This is a decision lawfully made by the majority of those present. In recent meetings Councillors have voted on issues such as both grant and planning applications, various Council policies, the ground maintenance contract, and the proposed budget for the next accounting year has been discussed.

If you are interested in serving the community on this way, we currently have vacancies for Councillors, should anyone wish to apply, and serve the local community by becoming part of the Town Council team. The relevant forms can be collected from the Town Council Office, or can be found on our website and emailed or posted to the Town Clerk. You can watch our meetings on Facebook, via the Livestream, as they take place on the first Tuesday of every month here at the Town Council Office.

The Office is open to the public Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10.30-1.30. We are also contactable via email at: [townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk) and [deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk) and by telephone On: 01837 880121

### **Devon County Council (DCC) have launched a formal consultation on the future of the library service in Devon.**

This is a crucially important time for local libraries across Devon. DCC commission us to run 50 public libraries in their area (the 4 we run on behalf of Torbay Council are not affected by this consultation) and we want as many people as possible to have their say and help shape how services are delivered in future.

You can access the consultation document online and complete the survey by visiting <https://devon.cc/your-libraries>. And if you don’t have your own device to do this, public PCs in libraries can be used to complete the survey which closes on the 22nd February 2026.

- Carole







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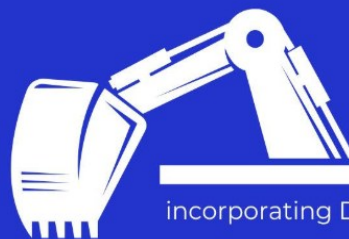
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## **Ramblings of a North Tawton**

### **W.I. Member**

It was like sitting next to a five year old. The squealing, the pointing, the laughing. But this five year old just happened to be my seventy three year old husband. And that's exactly what you want when you go to watch a pantomime – to be transported back over the years and be allowed to release your inner child. Shane Ritchie was mainly responsible for all the squealing, pointing and laughing. From the moment he appeared on stage as Dick Whittington, right through to the shout out he gave to North Tawton W.I. he was funny, cheeky, quick witted and just a bit naughty. Well – sometimes more than just a bit naughty, but who cared? It was hugely entertaining. Oh yes it was.

And so to another busy, exciting and challenging year ahead if you are a member of the best W.I. in Devon. [Oh yes we are] Talking of challenges. Back in November, on the [up until then] coldest night of 2025, eight of us challenged ourselves to do a sleepover in St Peters church. I think it's fair to say there was a mixture of trepidation and excitement in the [cold] air as we snuggled down in our sleeping bags, on our airbeds, yoga mats and fishing beds. It was an interesting night. One of us was definitely well prepared with ear plugs, an eye mask and possibly the best air bed we'd ever seen [no wonder she declared she'd had the best night's sleep in ages] Another insisted that she was going to wear her nightdress and beautiful bed jacket regardless of the temperature – while the rest of us wore so many layers it made visiting 'the facilities' a long and laborious process. And one of us developed a slow puncture/airbed malfunction during the small hours. I kid you not. Can you guess who that was?? A huge thank you to David and Paul for supporting our adventure.

We've got another challenge lined up in May. And it involves getting up literally before we've gone to bed, in order to be at Belstone ready to hear the dawn chorus. What with this particular challenge and the church sleepover you'd be forgiven for thinking we quite enjoy the feeling of sleep deprivation. Must try and come up with an idea for a challenge that involves getting at least eight hours sleep.

We love a good party. And our Christmas party was a good 'un. Especially the 'getting to know people' bingo game that Jan organised. We each had a bingo card – a grid with various skills, hobbies and un-

sual personal traits – the idea being to interrogate everyone in the room and be the first to get a complete line followed by a full house. Brilliant. So now we know who's got a twin, who is fluent at speaking a foreign language, and who has the

..... ah, just remembered we all had to sign a non-disclosure agreement. Just as it was about to get really interesting.

One thing I can disclose. Who holds the World Record for the number of shopping bags in the luggage hold of a coach after a trip to Clarks Village? Need more time to think? I'm going to have to hurry you. Could it be North Tawton W.I. plus assorted members of our lovely community? Oh yes it is! I wonder if the various shops and outlets at Clarks Village have a post Christmas meeting to discuss sales figures etc and they have decided not to bother opening again until the next time we descend on them. Even husband contributed to their profit levels. In one particular shop.

The Lindt Chocolate Shop. To be precise – he was let loose at the Pick and Mix Station where you can 'create your own custom chocolate selection'. And it was like watching a five year old – squealing, pointing and laughing. There he was – clutching a cellophane bag and excitedly wandering around the Pick and Mix counter whilst I loitered in the doorway pretending I had no idea who he was and watching other bemused shoppers watching him and smiling to themselves. I know what they were thinking. Does he have any idea – when he goes to the till – how much the very nice Lindt Lady is going to extract from his debit card? And judging by his surprised, if not startled expression, it was clear that he had no idea whatsoever. I think I actually saw his hand shaking as he removed the debit card from the safety of his wallet. As he staggered towards me I think I heard him mutter 'won't get caught like that again'.

And finally. For some strange reason I found myself listening to Radio Devon yesterday afternoon and the FA Cup commentary for Exeter City v Man City. The score at full time was 10-1. [Man City won if you weren't sure] An Exeter City supporter friend of ours went to the Etihad to watch the match. I messaged him at full time and said 'at least they got one goal'. His reply?

'I think we had them worried'

- Sue Knott

## **BONDLEIGH RAINFALL**

November and December rainfall amounts have been fairly normal for the early winter period. The total for November was 128.8mm compared to 123.9mm last year and for December it was 126.1mm compared to 77.7mm in 2024. On December 22nd there was a noticeable change from the wet mild weather being experienced since mid October to much drier colder weather

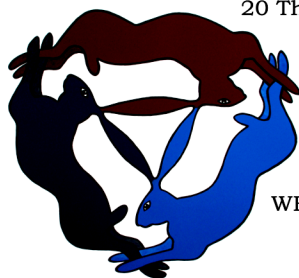
which has lasted up to the second week of the new year. Will this continue further into the year?

The total rainfall for 2025 was 991.2mm. This was drier than average but not nearly as dry as other parts of the country. The 10 year average for Bondleigh is 1047.74mm. The one exceptional total for this year was the very dry March. At only 4.5mm it was not only the driest March but the driest month that I have recorded.

- Danny Semorad

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## Okehampton and District Local History Society Talks:

No meetings for January and February

### BOW & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Tony Gale**  
"The Prayer book rebellion"

**7.15 for 7.30pm Monday 23 Feb 2026**

Tony will reflect on the rebellion of 16th August 1549 when the royalist army stayed overnight in Crediton. They were pursuing the remnants of the rebel army crushed in a battle near Exeter. Thousands of defeated combatants had fled west as the royalists were hunting them down.

**Bow Village Hall, EX17 6HU**  
**Everyone welcome: Visitors £5**  
**Annual Membership £15.**  
**Enquiries 01363 82468**

Okehampton

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Established in November 2001

**Our February speaker is Robert Hesketh**

**Tuesday 17 February**  
**2.30pm at Fairplace Church**

**"Devon Place Names"**



"Every Devon place name has a story to tell, usually a very old story going back well over a thousand years to the Saxon settlement or older still. They reflect successive layers of conquest and settlement, revealing a great deal about our ancestors, the languages they spoke, their names and the lives they led".

Robert Hesketh is a freelance writer and photographer with a strong interest in local history. His illustrated talk will focus on the key aspects of place names in Devon outlining the origin and evolution of Devon place names and give an explanation of common place name elements such as ton, ford and leah.

Admission - £1.00 to help towards the cost of the speaker, hiring the venue and refreshments.  
For further information please contact Dee McVey 01837 658590

## Café in the Square: North Tawton's Welcoming New Lunch Spot

One of the highlights of my children's visits to Grandma in North Tawton is sharing a cake at the local café. Long-time fans of Jen's café we were excited to try out the new Café in the Square. It did not disappoint – my nine year old was heard exclaiming "I wish we could live here".

Opened in August 2025 by Rachel Cooper, Café in the Square can be found at Broad Hall, 9 The Square, North Tawton, and is open Tuesday to Friday 9 to 4 and Saturday 9 to 1. Rachel, a keen cook, was encouraged by friends and family to open her own café, a place where she could share her talents with others. She offers a warm welcome, cosy atmosphere, and homemade food of high quality at affordable prices.

The sunny Tuesday that we chose for our visit showed off the space with light pouring in through the windows highlighting the tastefully decorated and comfortable interior. With seating options ranging from a sofa, tables, and a high bar, everyone can find a place, including your pet dogs. We settled on a lunch of pasties with salad, a bacon sandwich, cups of tea, and let's not forget the strawberry ice cream milkshake! Visitors can also enjoy quiche, soup, cakes and other simple yet beautifully prepared options. The menu changes between winter and summer, with something for everyone.

Café in the Square is a real local place. We are sadly not locals, despite my 9-year old's wish, but felt very much at home and will certainly be visiting again.

*- Briony Jones*

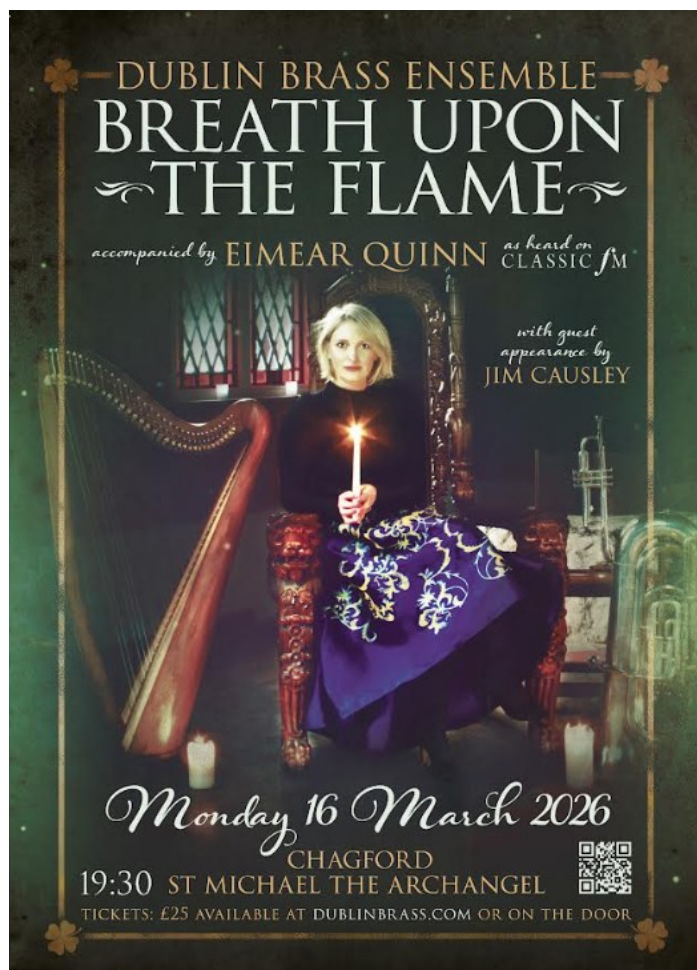
## NORTH TAWTON- 'PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE'

A community history of our town with pictures and including the words of several local residents and schoolchildren has just been published.

Copies of the book – an ideal stocking-filler – can be purchased (£7) from local sales outlets or directly from the author, Alan Parkinson, on 01837

880497 or email:

[alanfrancisparkinson@gmail.com](mailto:alanfrancisparkinson@gmail.com)



## Breath Upon The Flame

A very special candlelit concert in  
The Saint Michael the Archangel Church  
Chagford  
at 7.30 pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Sit back, relax and enjoy a candlelit evening of traditional Irish music specially reimagined for voice and brass featuring the internationally renowned brass quintet, **Dublin Brass** performing alongside, Ireland's own singer and composer **Eimear Quinn**

Also featuring folk singer **Jim Causley**, award winning songwriter, musician, and all-round entertainer.

Tickets available from **DUBLINBRASS.COM**, on the door or use the QR code.



**Roger Cleverdon and Richard Edwards** are preparing another Concert at St. Andrew's Church, Sampford Courtenay, on Saturday 18th April. As with previous concerts the programme will be widely varied and feature an augmented church Choir and the Two Rivers Orchestra. The proceeds, as before, will be given to a local charity. More details will follow next month. Please keep the date free in your diaries!

### Theatre at North Tawton Community Centre

In early December 2025 we had a fantastic first performance of **the end is the beginning** – extracts from 16 of Beckett's works. It was a fantastic night out with such high-quality performances we burst into applause mid-way through.

Others said:

"To witness such a high-quality piece of theatre in a small community centre is an extraordinary pleasure and privilege. It was both entertaining and inspirational throughout. I was, as the saying goes, "blown away".

"How amazing to have this opportunity right on our doorstep! Not only did most of us meet new local people, this shared immersive experience of Beckett's brilliant creativity has generated discussion and connection wherever we happen to meet."

"It was a privilege to be so close to such talent and I defy anyone to find a more exciting, provoking and moving piece of theatre anywhere. Long may events like this live!"

**Living Room will be back in North Tawton in May or June 2026 with:**

## The Uncertainty Principle

**A comedy for curious people, exploring connection and chaos theory through truths, dares and plenty of lies...**

Philip Robinson has teamed up with Rosie Reynolds, who has worked with the RSC, and has been seen on BBC, Channel 4 and played Alice in Wonderland/ Tilly in ABC's Once Upon a Time for Netflix and Disney. The play is by Simon Stephens, who is most famous for writing the play of Mark Haddon's book *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. Of *The Uncertainty Principle* he says: "I wanted to write characters who had the capacity to take themselves and each other by surprise. I wrote them often not knowing what they were going to say next".

I think it's safe to say we can expect another entertaining evening and more high-quality performances, which I'm told will be suitable for 15+ years. Watch this space and see [www.weavetheground.co.uk](http://www.weavetheground.co.uk) for confirmation of the date and information about tickets.

In order for us to keep bringing events like these to North Tawton we need the local venues in good shape and for that they need funding. Please help out the Community Centre by giving feedback about these and any other events you've seen and would like to see. They are gathering information to help apply for funds to make improvements. If you haven't done so already, please complete their survey - see their article/ facebook.

Amanda Barlow ~ [www.weavetheground.co.uk](http://www.weavetheground.co.uk)



## THE ART BOX – February 2026

With Ruth Smith Gallery and Red Mud Arts. If you would like to contribute a review or reflection, please send to Ruth at [ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk](mailto:ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk)



Over the course of the past week, New York artist Annie Coggan smocked 112 feet of hessian in North Tawton Community Centre and on Saturday we installed it on the front of the gallery in the Square.

It's an artwork largely about smocking, it's interesting history and potential for contemporary uses. Smocking was incorporated in old forms of work wear because of it being really durable, warm and padded. Then it got used more in fancy dresses because of connotations to the 'rural idyl'. Annie is interested in our relationship to space through materials, and works with interiors and architecture, so she's done this big inside/outside upholstery to push a traditional building material and sewing technique to an extreme and to play with ideas of decoration and functionality.

As well as busily smocking away, Annie ran two workshops with Berlin/Exeter artist Sam Godfrey, who came on the Ruth Smith Gallery Art Residency last year. The first of the workshops was on the honeycomb technique used on the front of the gallery, and the second was on bird beak stitching. They were well attended and full of really interesting conversations. People went home enthused with having learnt a new skill and with ideas and plans of how to incorporate it into their own current creative projects.

Inside the gallery there are further examples of different smocking stitches and a couple of silkscreen prints by Annie in collaboration with Russell Janis. It's well worth swinging by the gallery to see the giant smocking! It'll all be up until mid-February.

- Ruth Smith



### Red Mud Arts dates for your diary:

Artists' Critique Group: Second Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm at Ruth Smith Gallery, North Tawton. Email [ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com](mailto:ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com).

Open Mic Night: Second Wednesday of the month, music from 7.30. Copper Key. Find out more on the Facebook group.

Life Drawing: Last Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm at the Community Centre, North Tawton. Email [ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com](mailto:ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com).

Portrait Sessions: Third Saturday of the month, starting 10am-1pm 17th January at the Community Centre, email [shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk](mailto:shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk).

Smocked Building Project: Art Installation, façade of Ruth Smith Gallery, 16th January - 15th February 2026

Join our mailing list to hear about upcoming gatherings, talks and workshops at [redmudarts@gmail.com](mailto:redmudarts@gmail.com)

# LIFE DRAWING

LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
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EMAIL: [ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com](mailto:ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com)  
Let us know if you'd like to come!

# PORTRAIT SESSIONS

THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
10AM - 1PM

North Tawton Community Centre, Barton St, EX20 2HN  
Coming soon! - More details to follow  
Email: Shelley - [shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk](mailto:shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk)  
Let us know if you'd like to come!

# SMOCKED BUILDING PROJECT

WITH ARTIST ANNIE COGGAN

ART INSTALLATION  
FAÇADE OF RUTH SMITH GALLERY  
16TH JAN-15TH FEB

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12 December

23 January

20 February.

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4 December

15 January

12 February

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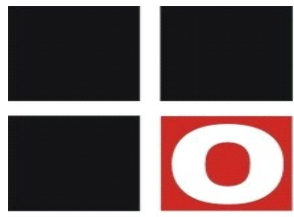
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Chinese New Year is 17th February and this year will be the Year of the Horse!



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20TH SIDMOUTH II (A)

### OCTOBER

4TH TIVERTON II (A)  
11TH CULLOMPTON II (H)  
(VP LUNCH)  
25TH OKEHAMPTON II (A)

### NOVEMBER

8TH EXETER ATHLETIC (H)  
(PAST PLAYERS LUNCH)  
22ND EXMOUTH II (A)  
28TH EXETER ENGINEERS (H)

### DECEMBER

6TH NEWTON ABBOT II (A)  
13TH NEW CROSS (H)

### JANUARY

10TH CULLOMPTON II (A)  
16TH OKEHAMPTON II (H)  
24TH EXETER ATHLETIC (A)

### FEBRUARY

14TH EXMOUTH II (H)  
28TH EXETER ENGINEERS (A)

### MARCH

7TH NEWTON ABBOT II (H)  
21ST NEW CROSS (A)

### APRIL

11TH SIDMOUTH II (H)  
(SPONSORS LUNCH)  
18TH TIVERTON II (H)

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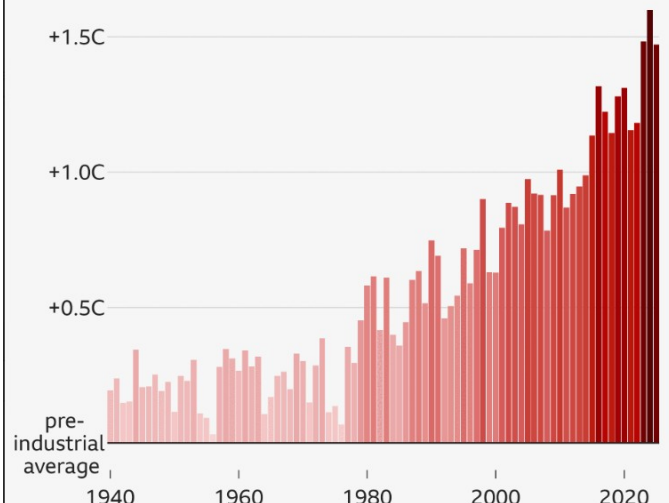
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## Last three years were hottest on record

Global average temperature by year, compared with the pre-industrial average (1850-1900)



Source: ERA5, C3S/ECMWF

BBC

Graph sourced by Noah Smith

# Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

## Happy New Year

A meeting of the Full Parish Council took place on Wednesday 21st January 2026 and full details of the minutes can be found on the Parish Website.

Applications have been received for the current vacancy of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and the recruitment process is continuing.

Our thanks to the kind sponsors of our Christmas Tree Lighting event and to our wonderful Carol singers who joined us in St Andrews Church Rooms for refreshments.

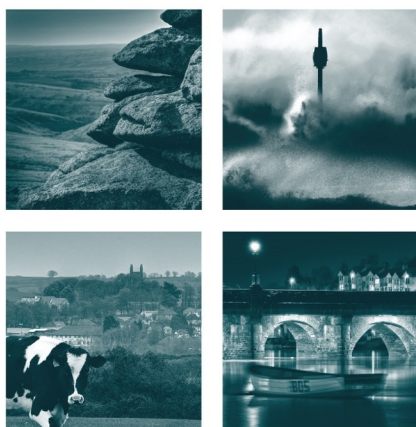
The Council are pleased that the upgrades to the Waterpath are almost completed and thank our contractor Mark Hedges for his support and hard work. Application is being made for further funding to upgrade the benches on the Village Green. In 2026 a Project will be initiated to support decisions on the current play equipment and what further enhancements could be made to upgrade the facilities on the Village Green.

With the recent storms and inclement weather we would direct you to the advice we have within our emergency Planning policy on the Sampford Courtenay website. If you would like more information and tips on what to do if you are impacted by a storm or how you can make yourself more resilient and able to cope then take a look at the advice document '30 ways in 30 days' at <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/scpc-resilience-plan> or contact [cllr.wilson.scpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.wilson.scpc@gmail.com)

A quick reminder too that with the winter weather we are seeing a fast deterioration in the state of our roads. We are lucky to have a great Neighbourhood Highways Team that are responsive but they have to know about the issues. Please if you have concerns about a pothole, damaged signs or other driving hazard report it dont think someone else will have made the report. The report process is very easy and can be accessed through the Devon County Council website at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

Our next meeting will be at Sampford Courtenay Village Hall 19:30 on Wednesday 25th March 2026 members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any items for the agenda please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerkscpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkscpc@gmail.com)

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## SAMPFORD COURTENAY VIL- LAGE HALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES:-

TABLE TENNIS Weekly, ring 01837 851659 for details FLOWER CLUB 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month 2.30pm SKITTLES 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month 7pm

### OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:-

70's NIGHT! Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 7-10.30pm  
SKITTLES Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 7-9.30pm  
COMMUNITY LUNCH Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 12.30pm FILM NIGHT –  
THE BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 7pm for 7.30pm start COMMUNITY BIG BRUNCH Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am-midday SKITTLES Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7-9.30pm

*Please see separate adverts in Roundabout or visit our new Village Hall website [sampfordscourtenayvillagehall.co.uk](http://sampfordscourtenayvillagehall.co.uk) and Facebook for more details of all events.*

## Exbourne Village Hall

Our next event is a Quiz Night on Friday 20th February, 7 for 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 4 people. The cost is £8 per person to include a Burger in a Bun and one raffle entry. Please book in advance by contacting Sue Rose on 01837 851232 or [ser@care4free.net](mailto:ser@care4free.net). To help with catering please indicate any dietary requirements (vegetarian/gluten-free) when booking. BYOB.

The Village Hall is available for hire by groups or individuals. The cost for one-off hire is £25 per session (morning/afternoon/evening) for Exbourne residents and £35

per session for non-residents. Reduced rates apply for regular users. To make a booking please email [exbournevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:exbournevillagehall@gmail.com).

## Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay, and Jacobstowe WI

Since our last report the WI has raised money for the Force charity, by holding a Bingo evening, hosted a fun Christmas party, which included a sing along to the Singalele Band, and the arrival of Father Christmas.

As we are in the Devon WI skittles competition, we have practiced our skills by joining in with the Sampford Courtenay Village Hall skittle evenings.

Our monthly January meeting welcomed four potential new members and our speaker Clive Bowers who gave his talk on the "Roots of wellbeing: How real food supports our bodies, communities, and future. This was a fascinating talk, with a lot of serious humour, explaining our need to want to consume carbohydrates and increase the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes. We looked at various food packets, looking at the sugar content.

On serving the tea everyone resisted the biscuits!

The meeting for February will take the form of a floral demonstration titled "Love is in the Air" by Tracy Johnson.

If you are interested in joining us, come along as a guest to Exbourne Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month, meet our lovely ladies and see what the WI has to offer.

## North Tawton Bowling Club

The green will be opened for the Summer season on Saturday 11 th April 2026 at 2.00 pm.

If you would like to come along and see what bowling involves you

would be most welcomed. All you need are flat shoes, couldn't be

easier! During the summer we have informal sessions where we

practice or roll up on Monday evenings from 6.00 pm and again you are

most welcomed to turn up on these evenings. If you decide you want to get more involved, some taster sessions and tuition can be arranged.

For any further information please visit our website

[www.northtawtonbc.co.uk](http://www.northtawtonbc.co.uk) or call John Kinsey on 07707 20807136

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For bookings please call 07701260091

Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm & Sat: 10am - 1pm

## Call Mark: 01837 82608

Secretary: Lin 01837 880031



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



[www.northtawtonlibraryofthings.myturn.com/library/](http://www.northtawtonlibraryofthings.myturn.com/library/)

**For more information please contact:**  
**Joy Tucker 07749 522996**

## theBurrow

COMMUNITY SHOP & CAFE

### Upcoming Events

**Knit & Natter Thurs 12 Feb**  
1.30 - 3.30  
Bring Pattern & Wool Swaps

**Pancake Day Tues 17 Feb**  
Let us know what fillings you would like.  
What type of Pancakes do you fancy ?

**Six Nations on the big Screen**  
First game Thursday 5th Feb 8pm  
Book your place

**Craftafternoons** - will be held every second Thursday of Month 1.30 - 3.30

What other crafts or events would you like to see in 2026?

Let us know ... call or email below or text/sms 07936 321081

Coffee & Cake always available any afternoon with Burrow  
Homemade Cakes till 3.30pm (free wifi & warm space)

The Burrow High St Exbourne EX20 3RY  
01837 851928 shop@theunderaroundshop.co.uk



**Quiz & Cheese Evening**  
**Lapford Village Hall**  
**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> February, 7pm**



**£5 per person – Teams of up to 6 persons**

**BAR AVAILABLE**  
**PLUS, RAFFLE FOR A**  
**“BUCKET OF BOOZE”**



**All profits to**  
**“Friends of Grainville Langannerie”**

**To book your place contact**  
**Marion174@btinternet.com or 07484794290**

## The Royal British Legion

The North Tawton Royal British Legion branch has been finding it difficult to keep things going lately. Especially after losing some of our older, experienced, committee members.

Could you help support us and keep our branch going?

If you think you can please contact:  
Monica Simons, Jill Whiteley or Brian Weeks  
01837 880233, Jill

A BIG thank you to everyone who came to our Charity Tea Dance at the Town Hall on Sunday 12th October in aid of North Tawton British Legion. Also a BIG thank you to those who donated prizes a list is attached. Special thanks to North Tawton Post Office for selling the tickets.

We raised £314 for this worthy cause. Keeping the memory alive of those World War Veterans who have passed on like my father Alfred Bolt and for all the surviving and currently serving Armed Forces who need help.

We presented the cheque to Monica Symons the British Legion Chairperson on Remembrance Sunday.

We will be doing it all again in October 2026. I will share the actual date soon. Please come along and support your local Royal British Legion.

Jane & Derek  
South West Lindy Hoppers  
[www.swlindyhoppers.org.uk](http://www.swlindyhoppers.org.uk)

**SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL**  
**FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2026**  
**DOORS OPEN 7.00 PM STARTS 7.30 PM**



Registered charity number 283279

**TICKETS £6.00**

Book via email: [secretaryvhsc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryvhsc@gmail.com)  
Or call Rory on 07811324154

## 70's Night

**Saturday 14th February**  
**Sampford Courtenay Village Hall**  
**7pm till 10.30pm**



**£20 or £15 if in 70's clothes**

**70's menu includes:**

- Glass of Lambrusco, vol-au-vents, cheese + pineapple or onions, Twiglets on arrival.
- Beef stroganoff, mash + peas.
- Black Forest Gateau

**Photo frame for selfies.**

**Bring a 70's photo of yourself for 'guess who?' game.**

**Dance the night away to 70's favourites.**

**Limited tickets. To book contact:**

**secretaryvhsc@gmail.com**

**Or phone Rory on 07811324154**

Charity no.283279

## Community Brunch!

**Sampford Courtenay Village Hall**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am – Midday**



A chance to meet  
and chat with friends and neighbours.

Enjoy a Big Breakfast Bap (your choice combination of bacon, sausages and eggs) together with a cuppa or two.

**£7.00 per person**

Please reserve your seat by email [nickyvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:nickyvhmc@gmail.com) or telephone Nicky 01837 880300

registered charity number 283279



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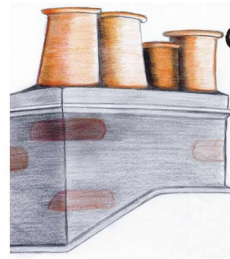
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## Little Seedlings Playgroup

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

## QUAKERS

Ockment Centre

North Street

Okehampton

EX20 1AR

Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

*All visitors welcome*

## Devon Sensory Outreach Service

NORTH TAWTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Free, confidential and impartial service for people  
with hearing and or/visual impairment provided by the  
Sensory Team, Devon County Council.

Available on the third Thursday of each month in  
North Tawton Community Centre,

Barton Street.

10.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

For further information contact:

Care Direct 0345 155 1007 or 07966 596881

## Badminton Club

North Tawton Town Hall

All levels

Beginners welcome

Ring Andrew on

07950373103



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAN YOU HELP FOR A FEW HOURS?

SHOP, BARISTA, COOKING, POST OFFICE

(TRAINING GIVEN)

01837 851928

SHOP@THEUNDERGROUNDSHOP.CO.UK

## NORTH STREET CHAPEL SEWING CLUB

(also knitting, crochet, cross stitch etc.)

For further information contact  
Charlotte Sampson 07706 942901 or  
[charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com)

6.30-9pm

9th & 23rd February 2026

## Sampford Courtenay Flower Club



*Second Monday each month  
2.30pm in Sampford Courte-  
nay Village Hall*

9th February 2026

Helen, Hearts of Flowers - Demo

For more information contact the Chair,  
Anne Gordon on 07824 549086.  
[devonandcornwallfloralart@gmail.com](mailto:devonandcornwallfloralart@gmail.com)



## The Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club

meets on the third Saturday of the month at The Cop-  
per Key, Fore Street, North Tawton, For 10 a.m.  
We are open to all Armed Forces and Reservist Veter-  
ans of all three Services.

For more information contact Ian on 07879 881159





# DARTMOOR AUCTIONS

All are welcome to our monthly auctions of antiques, quirky items, and collectibles. Fresh coffee, tea, fruit and snacks all day!

Goods for sale welcomed: WhatsApp your offerings for sale 07917 104409

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Sticklepath  
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[www.dartmoorauctions.co.uk](http://www.dartmoorauctions.co.uk)



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- Window cleaning inside or outside (Outside 1st and 2nd floors I hate ladders)
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# The Whiddon Mission Community

North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch  
Chagford, Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Gidleigh, Hittisleigh, Murchington,  
South Tawton, South Zeal, Spreyton, Throwleigh, Whiddon Down.

**TEAM VICAR:** North Tawton

**TEAM RECTOR:** Chagford

**ASSISTANT MINISTERS:**

**Rev'd. Dr. David Spence** (01837 89243) revdspence@gmail.com

**Bishop Nick McKinnel** nick.mckinnel@gmail.com

**Rev'd. Rita Bullworthy** (01837 89168) ritabullworthy@yahoo.co.uk

**Rev'd Joe Moesel** (07470 297287) jsmoesel@outlook.com

**CURATE:** Chagford

**Rev'd. Dr. Harriet Every** (01647 432402)

**PARISH WORKER:** North Tawton

**Mr. Wesley Cutler** (07540 127827) wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk

## CHURCH WARDENS

**St. Peter's** North Tawton

Mr. Paul Andrews (01837 82648)

Mrs. Dinah Williams (07944 428195)

**St. James's** Bondleigh

Mr. Danny Semorad (07814 877151)

Mr. Graham Stokes (01837 82240)

**St. Andrew's** Sampford Courtenay

Mr. Rory Robinson (07811 324154)

**St. Mary's** Honeychurch

Mr. Ray Squire (01837 851627)

Mr. Richard Weeks (07790 636920)

Church web page address:

[www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/](http://www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/stpetersnorthtawton/](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersnorthtawton/)

## From the Registers

### Funerals

18 th November	Leslie Arscott (77 years)	St Peter's North Tawton
25 th November	Ann Malcolm (74 years)	St Andrew's Sampford Courtenay
5 th December	Rhona Bragg (77 years)	St Peter's North Tawton
18 th December	Janice Phillips (75 years)	St Peter's North Tawton

### Baptism

4 th January	Karlee Folkes	St Peter's North Tawton
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## The Benefice Choir

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Roger Cleverdon 01837 810320

## Church Flowers & Brass

### Bondleigh

Jan 25th & Feb 1st	Caroline Stokes
Feb 8th & 15th	Jane Semorad
Feb 22nd & March 1st	Lin Warre

## Services at St. Andrew's Church Sampford Courtenay

1st Feb	9.30am	Morning Worship
8th Feb	9.30am	Communion
15th Feb	6.00pm	Full Choral Evensong
18th Feb	7.30pm	Imposition of Ashes & Communion
22nd Feb	9.30am	Communion

## Services at St. James's Church Bondleigh

1st Feb	9.30am	Communion
15th Feb	9.30am	Communion
18th Feb	Ash Wednesday	

## ORTHODOX CHURCH

Devon Parish of Holy Prophet Elias  
For details of services contact  
Celia or Martin Olsson (01837 82796)

## Services for St. Peter's Church currently at North Tawton Primary School North Tawton

1st Feb	11am	Morning Worship
8th Feb	11am	Informal Communion
15th Feb	11am	Family Service
22nd Feb	9.30am	Toast Church
	11am	Traditional Communion
24th Feb	12pm	Midweek Communion

## North Street Chapel Sundays

Feb 1st 11am - Special service – John Wibberley  
Feb 8th - 11am - Breaking of Bread  
Feb 15th - 3pm Tea and Praise – David Spence  
Feb 22nd 11am - Breaking of Bread  
Please contact Richard for further details  
07835033062

## Services at St. Mary's Church Honeychurch

1st Feb	3pm	Evensong Communion
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