

Roundabout

North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch



August 2026

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Sampford Courtenay Parish Website:

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

The website is managed by **Julie Carpenter** who
can be contacted on

juliec2911@hotmail.co.uk

or

admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk

or by phone:

07866 605184

North Tawton Website:
www.northtawton.org



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From The Rectory

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers..." (Hebrews 12:2)

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2-3)

You may well have noticed that some building work has been going on in St Peter's church building! We are sorry that it has taken a little longer than planned to complete the work. Thank you so much for all your patience with the works, particularly with skips and deliveries and so on.

We are thankful for how we have been so warmly welcomed by North Tawton Primary School, the Town Hall and Community Centre who have hosted services, groups and events over the last eight months. We have been delighted to not need to pause any of our groups and activities over the works.

We hope we will be able to return the great

hospitality we have received this year, when the church building re-opens. Our current plan is to have a 'reopening weekend' on the 10th and 11th October when Bishop James will be joining us to re-dedicate the church building. We plan to have an open church weekend and other events during that weekend. So please do put that weekend in your diary.

Jesus and God place a great premium on hospitality. Jesus talks of the gift he offers to his followers as hospitality. He speaks about heading off to God, his Father's, home to prepare a place for his followers to stay there forever with him, after they have died. Ultimately God wants to offer us humans a home in his home. God is a God of hospitality.

So, let's continue building community here in our town and villages through sharing hospitality, welcome and generosity to each and all.

- 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 (4th Sundays) 9:30-10am

The Rectory

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

Community Centre

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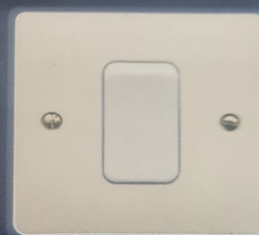


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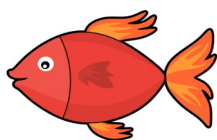
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Little Fishes provides a FREE, fun, safe space for children (aged 0-4) to play and make new friends whilst parents have a hot drink and a chat. All are welcome!

For more information, please contact Wez Cutler on 07540127827



Tuesday Chat

Drop in anytime between
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Now at North Tawton Community Centre

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month:

For more information contact

Jo Fear 01837 82553

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Jackie Tye 01837 880479

Sampford Courtenay/Honeychurch

Rory Robinson 07811 324154
Lynn Robinson 07966 477465

Bondleigh

Danny Semorad 07814 877151
Lin Warre 01837 82089

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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 editor@northtawtonroundabout.com or at The Pottery, 5 The Square, North Tawton, EX20 2ER by the 15th of the month before publication is required.

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And the deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publishing.

Midweek Communion

North Tawton Community Centre

12pm — 25th August 2026

Please do join us for a traditional said communion service from the Prayer Book.

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,
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Sampford Courtenay Flower Club



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August—no meeting

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This year's fundraiser for Devon Historic Churches Trust will be a guided walk around the parish (and, possibly beyond!) followed by a cream tea back at the Church.

Starting from St James' Church around 11.30am, our walk will include footpaths and farmland and may be of particular interest to anyone who is new to our parish, as well as everyone who is familiar with Bondleigh. There will also be a shorter walk option.

Cream teas available from 2pm – 5pm, even if you are not walking, we welcome you to come along and meet with friends for a delicious cream tea.

(50% of funds raised are returned to St James' Church)

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Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

Ever used the 'dehydration' setting on your air fryer? No, me neither. But I know someone who has. He does it with strawberries. His wonderful wife makes delicious ice cream and when she's making a batch of strawberry she puts the dehydrated fruit in it as it gives the ice cream a real flavour boost. She sent me a before and after photo of the strawberries the other day so I showed the photo to husband and gave him three guesses as to what he was looking at. His answers were as follows. Shrimps. Crab. Final guess – locusts. Honestly. Sometimes I am left completely speechless by the way he sees the world. Especially as the 'after' photo was sitting right next to the 'before' photo which was a huge strawberry sized, strawberry coloured, strawberry of a clue - or at least I thought it was a clue. I was wrong. Still – I wonder what locust flavoured ice cream would taste like?

Our July speaker had us entranced by her superb talk – all about locusts. No – don't be silly – it was all about bees. Ruth Stainer-Smith is a member of the Okehampton Branch of the Devon Beekeepers Association and, as she explained, her total addiction to beekeeping only came about when her beekeeper husband went abroad to work for six weeks [in 2009] handed her a book on beekeeping, told her which pages she should pay attention to and left her to [anxiously] get on with it. And she loved it. She signed up for a course on beekeeping and the rest is history. They now have three fields on northern Dartmoor with a small pond and usually four or five hives. Ruth shared a huge amount of bee information with us so here are a few points that particularly interested me.

Apparently, bees much prefer flowers that are purple and the blackberry [bramble] flower is a major source of nectar and pollen for honey bees. Honesty flowers and angelica flowers are also useful, as is the green manure known as buckwheat which, if grown in a patch, can produce flowers over a period of six to eight weeks. Interestingly – we have a green manure called 'phacelia' growing in our little field and it produces purple flowers which are, currently, smothered in honeybees.

If you grow brassicas in your garden, such as Brussels sprouts and broccoli, Ruth asks us to let some go to

seed, as the bees adore the flowers they produce. Ever heard of 'propolis'? It's a type of 'bee glue' – a sticky, resinous mixture that honeybees make from blending their own beeswax and salivary enzymes with tree sap and plant resins. They use propolis to seal gaps in the hive but it also has antiseptic and antibacterial properties – clever stuff isn't it?

And another thing – the Asian hornet – nasty thing. We've probably all heard of it and what it can do to our precious honey bees and other pollinators – but have you heard about sentinel apiaries? These are a bit like the Home Guard for bees – they are healthy honeybee colonies which are strategically placed in high risk locations around the country and their job is to intercept invasive species and act as a trap for any incoming pests. Such a potential sacrifice, but such an important role.

And finally – a plea from Ruth – please buy 'local' honey. I couldn't agree more.

News of a positive invasion next. It's us. We've invaded the Post Office again. There we are – draped around the window showing the world what we've been doing. Well – showing the great people of North Tawton what we've been doing but we're very happy to show the world if it wants to have a look. And it's not just examples of our handiwork displayed for all to see and admire – oh no – there's plenty of photographic evidence to prove that Izzy was a catwalk sensation at our Fashion Show, that we had the most beautiful weather for our Dawn Chorus Walk and that we know a really good Flapjack when we see one – and, more importantly, eat one. So go and have a look. Just do as you're told.

And whilst we're on the subject of eating - these successive heatwaves have a lot to answer for. Don't know about you but when the mercury rises to over 30 degrees my appetite drops off a cliff. And the thought of cooking, especially cake making, is not exactly on my 'fun things to do' list. And that doesn't go down too well with husband cos his appetite is pretty much resistant to anything. So I'm serving up a lot of salads – I can see a tinge of disappointment on his face when I put yet another salad in front of him – and I can tell what he's thinking.

Where do I put the gravy??

- Sue Knott

BONDLEIGH RAINFALL

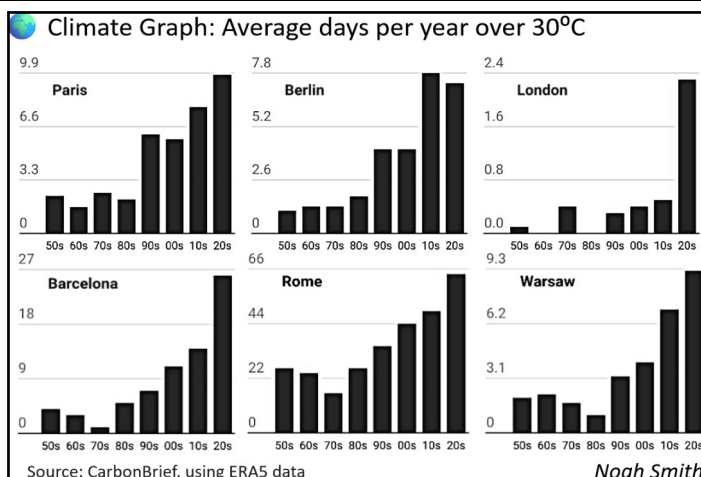
The total rainfall for June was 73.7mm, which was considerably wetter than the previous three months, but drier than last June when the total was 99.4mm.

After the 'heatwave' at the end of May we had rain on the first eleven days of the month, followed by mostly dry weather until the end of the month

After some dampness at the beginning of July another 'heatwave' continues into the middle of the month with high temperatures and drought conditions

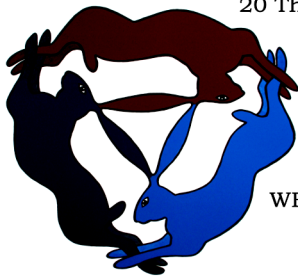
Are we going to see another 1976!?

Danny Semorad



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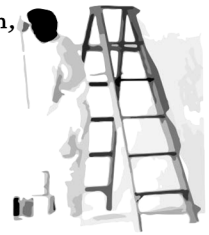
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We are open to all Armed Forces and Reservist Veterans of
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For more information contact Ian on 07879 881159

The British Legion will be holding their Produce, Flower & Vegetable Show Saturday 22nd August in the Town Hall.

Entry forms will be available from the
Post Office from 30th June.

"North Tawton W.I. Craft and Produce Show" Saturday 5th September 12 – 4pm

Why not pop in to North Tawton Town Hall
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looking at the entries?
Looking forward to seeing you!

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In aid of the North Tawton branch of the British Legion and in memory of Alf Bolt

Limited numbers booking in advance advised

*Contact Jane/Derek 07821 721043

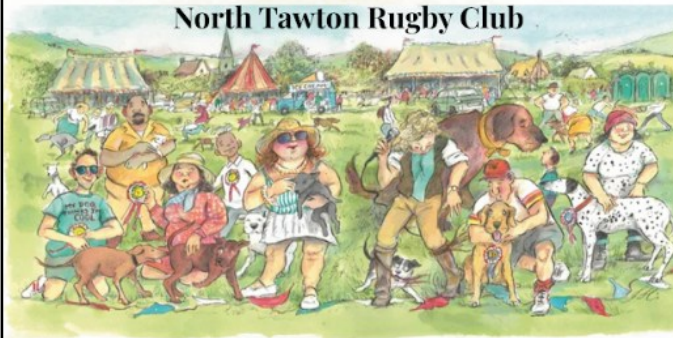


email:janeswilyndyhoppers@yahoo.com

www.swlindyhoppers.org.uk

TAWLAND EVENTS FUN CHARITY DOG SHOW

In aid of The Cinnamon Trust
Saturday 5th September 12-5pm
North Tawton Rugby Club



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Best Puppy 6-12 months | Golden Oldie |
| Prettiest Bitch | Best Trick |
| Handsomest Dog | Waggiest Tail |
| Best Rescue
Judged by Cinnamon Trust | Judge would like to take home |

Entries £2.00 from 12.00 Judging starts at 1pm
In conjunction with End of Summer Fete

TAWLAND EVENTS END OF SUMMER FETE

Saturday 5th September 12-5pm
North Tawton Rugby Club



- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Fun Dog Show
In aid of The Cinnamon Trust | Market Stalls |
| BBQ | Ice Cream |
| Kids Activities | Music |
| Tug of War Match | Hoopers Agility |

MASTERSWEEP

PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEPS

The local, friendly go-to company for expert chimney sweeping, stove repairs and advice.

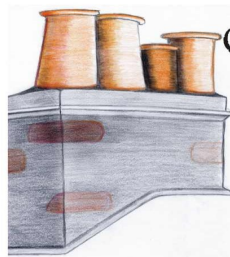
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- Open fires
- Inglenook fires
- Birds nest removal

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🌐 www.mastersweep.uk



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Email: josh@mdff.co.uk

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PARISH@BTINTERNET.COM FACEBOOK LOCAL LOGS WWW.LOCALLOGS.NET

The Two Moors Festival announces programme for October 2026

The internationally- renowned chamber music festival – the Two Moors Festival will take place in October across **Dartmoor from Thursday 1st October until Sunday 4th October** and on **Exmoor from Thursday 8th October until Sunday 11th October**. This year's Festival includes the best of chamber music and song, spanning six centuries of musical tradition, as well as talks and workshops. Eighteen events will be held in twelve venues ranging from Great Fulford to Exeter Cathedral, from East Quay, Watchet to All Saint's Church, Dulverton.

Since 2001, the Two Moors Festival has evolved into one of the most distinctive classical music festivals in the UK. It usually welcomes over 4,000 people to its rural venues. The Festival also nurtures young artists through its Young Musicians' Competition and its residency programme for Duos at the beginning of their careers.

The Festival has become a cornerstone of the South West's cultural calendar. Every October for the past twenty-five years, venues across Devon and Somerset - from village halls to churches from castles to museums, from country houses to railway stations - have come to life with inspiring recitals, concerts, operas, newly commissioned works, talks, poetry readings, exhibitions, school workshops, masterclasses, and more.

Highlights of this year's Festival on Dartmoor include:

- Haydn Salon at Great Fulford
- Armonico Consort – surround sound choral concert with local schools in Exeter Cathedral
- Noriko Ogawa, plays the piano for an 'All Ages' concert including Chopin, Elgar, Mozart and Brahms
- Calidore Quartet play Dvořák and Mark Anthony Turnage's 'Arietta' the UK premiere
- Michael Collins and Noriko Ogawa play works for clarinet and piano by Poulenc, Debussy and Saint-Saëns

And on Exmoor:

- Songs and chamber music by Grieg, Grainger and world premiere of Gavin Higgins' new song cycle with soprano Claire Booth, Artistic Director, Tamsin Waley-Cohen (violin) and Christopher Glynn (piano)
- Rachel Podger and Lucie Horsch, baroque violin and recorder artists join forces to play duos by Bach and Telemann
- Tamsin Waley-Cohen (violin) and Claire Booth (soprano) perform Kurtág's seminal song cycle by candlelight
- She'Koyokh – an exciting seven piece ensembles play klezmer and traditional music from the Balkans, Turkey and beyond.
- Festival Finale – Steven Osborne plays Beethoven's Diabelli variations as well as works by Schumann, Satie and Ravel

Tickets will be available to the general public on Monday 13th July at www.twomoorsfestival.co.uk or tickets may be booked directly by telephone on +44 (0)1772 439 062 Monday to Friday, 9am – 1pm.

SUMMER CONCERT

Ruth Penrose

CLARINET

Roger Cleverdon

PIANO

SUNDAY
2ND AUGUST
4 PM

ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH
SAMPFORD
COURTENAY

£10
AT THE DOOR
including
a glass of wine



Beautiful music in a beautiful setting

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE UPKEEP
AND MINISTRY OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

NICHOLS NYMET HOUSE CONCERT & SUPPER EVENING

JUKKA GEISLER (Munich)

Playing the 4 manual Pipe/Hauptwerk organ

Jukka Geisler (b.2005) is one of the most talented and versatile artists of his generation. As an organist and pianist he has already received several awards including Organ competitions in Northern Ireland, and London.

Jukka is now studying with Prof Dr Martin Sander at Munich University of Music & Performing Arts, and in addition, works as a harpsichordist, continuo player, and choir director.

2026/27 recitals include St Paul's Cathedral London, Salzburg Cathedral, Florida USA, Northern Ireland, Cambridge, York, with his English debut at Nichols Nymet House.

Our concert will include exciting works by Bach, Elgar, Liszt, Wagner and Whitlock featuring several of Hauptwerk's different organs.



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18th at 7pm

NICHOLS NYMET HOUSE

TICKETS IN ADVANCE Price £35.00

INCLUDING TWO COURSE SUPPER & GLASS OF WINE
CONCERT ONLY PRICE £15

RSVP and PAYMENTS to Paul Goodman. Bank transfers available

Limited overnight B & B stays available

NICHOLS NYMET HOUSE, NORTH TAWTON, DEVON EX20 2BP

Just off the A3072—Half way between Crediton & Okehampton

Tel 07836 634071 E-mail mandpgoodman@outlook.com

Website www.devonbedandbreakfast.co.uk

THE ART BOX – August 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



We have just enjoyed the company of Erica Kaminishi as artist in residence at Ruth Smith Gallery. Erica is a Japanese-Brazilian artist living and working between France and Brazil. Her work plays with the contrast between organic forms and artificial aesthetics, often drawing on Baroque motifs and Japanese culture. Working in various media, Erica creates drawings such as these as well as large scale art installations. You can see more of her work here: www.ericakaminishi.com

On Saturday 18th July, Erica led a workshop create colourful

plankton-like sculptural drawings. Our little gallery was packed out at one point with 14 children and 13 grown-ups all enjoying the creative goings on, with various visitors also popping in to see what was happening. Many thanks to Erica for facilitating, and for sharing your work with us this week, and to everyone who came along!

Ruth, Ruth Smith Gallery, North Tawton.



Red Mud Arts dates for your diary:

Open Mic Night: Paused for August, normally second Wednesdays from 7.30, Copper Key. Contact Wez via the Facebook group.

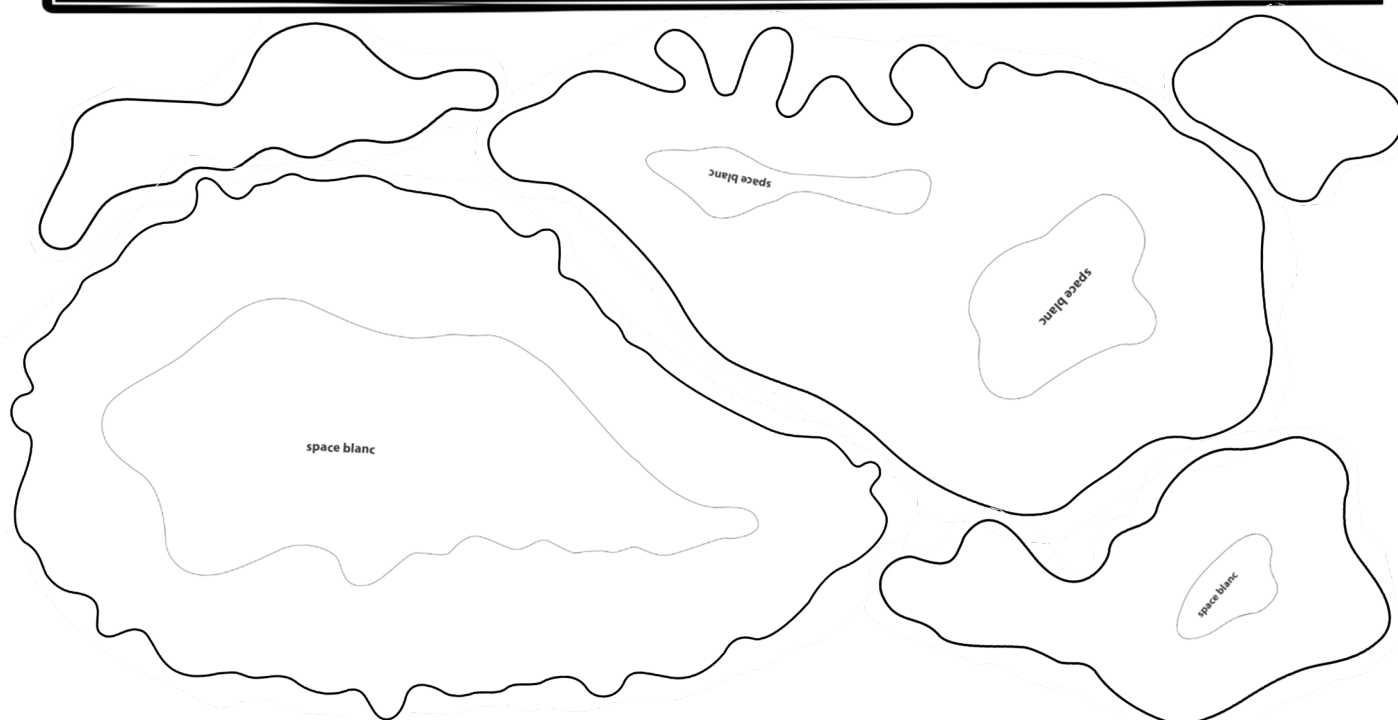
Portrait Sessions: Paused for Summer, normally third Saturdays, 10-1, Community Centre - shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk.

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

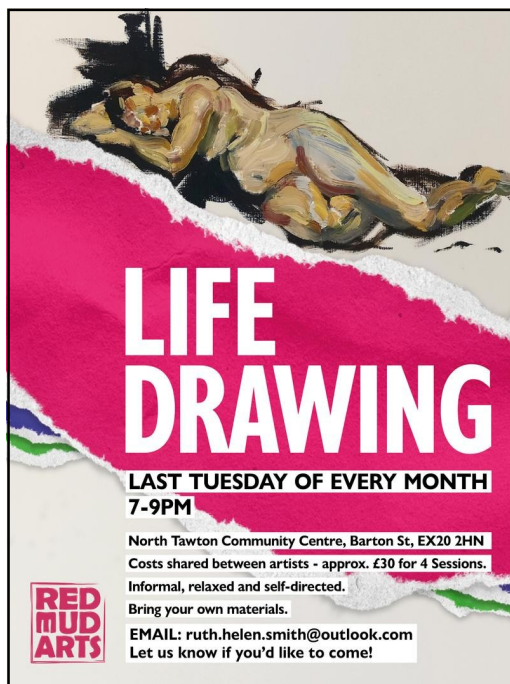
Creative Kin: Morning drawing group 10-12 on the second Monday of the month. Email hello@emmelinewebb.com

Artists' Critique Group: Second Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm in North Tawton. Email ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com.

Join our mailing list to hear about upcoming gatherings, talks and workshops at redmudarts@gmail.com



Try making your own mini version of Erica's plankton-like 3D drawings! You'll need to colour in the shapes, then cut them out and stick them together by layering them up. You can make them look more 3D by gluing pieces of thick cardboard between the layers.



Lend Me Your Ears

This poetry column is co-ordinated by writer and actor, Arran Hawkins of *The Bizarre Poetry Emporium* in Okehampton, to bring you poems from local contemporary poets!

If you would like to submit a poem, email Arran at lend.me.your.ears.2023@gmail.com.

Arran met this edition's featured poet in the bookshop this month. His pen name is, coincidentally, 'Arran the Poet'!

The Myth of a Boy in a Jar

I chose to be a
human boy
on Earth

I was told I am from elsewhere
so I made a jar
and sealed myself in

Walls of brittle light
growing blue daffodils
opening mouths to thunder

Ten feet thick
clothed in a child
not speaking

Here are my hands
the beating pulse of a rabbit
fingerprints pressed pink

against clouded breathing

Outside are muted responses
buffered sideways
by fields of rain

And

now somehow
meadows and falling water
are inside me

Parents are screaming past each other
teaching me love and
fear

My father told me to be different
and from the very beginning
I always have been

just not the difference he wanted

By
Arran The Poet (Arran D'Aubigny)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PARKING IN THE SQUARE AT NORTH TAWTON

Dear Resident

The Town Council was asked at the Annual Town Meeting in May if anything can be done to improve access for parking in the Town Centre. Some concerns were expressed that visitors to the Town may be put off stopping if it is not possible to find car parking easily during the working day (08:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday – Saturday).

In theory some of the parking spaces in The Square are already limited waiting to 1 hour between 08:00 am and 6:00 pm, and there is at least one sign displayed to this effect. However, we don't think this restriction is currently enforceable and clearly some drivers are parking vehicles for much longer than 1 hour. The spaces are:

- 3 spaces outside the Pizza shop and Dentist
- 5 spaces on the Post Office side of The Square (from the disabled space up towards Exeter Street)

There are also other options we could consider, such as introducing some parking restrictions in the main car park – either time limits or pay-and-display parking.

Before we take any decisions we need to consult residents about any possible changes to car parking so we have put together a short questionnaire please see overleaf. If you could kindly complete this and return it to the Council office at 14a The Square, if the office is closed please post it through the letterbox, by 31 July we would be very grateful.

You don't need to give us your name or address but we would like to know if you are a business owner or a resident. If you would like the Town Council to consult you further please provide your contact details on the questionnaire. Any information that you do give us will be treated as confidential in accordance with the Town Council's Data Protection Policy.

Thank you for your help.

North Tawton Town Council

June 2026

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL - PARKING CONSULTATION, JULY 2026

Q1. Would you support limited (1 hour) waiting for some spaces in The Square? Please tick

Yes, definitely	Yes, possibly	May be	No	Definitely not

Q2. Would you support 'Residents only' restrictions for a small number of spaces in The Square?

Yes, definitely	Yes, possibly	May be	No	Definitely not

Q3. Would you support waiting restrictions (1hr max) in part of the main car park?

Yes, definitely	Yes, possibly	May be	No	Definitely not

Q4. Do you think the Council should consider pay-and-display restrictions in the main car park?

Yes, definitely	Yes, possibly	May be	No	Definitely not

Q5. Do you think the Council should consider applying for pay-and-display in the Square and roads leading off The Square? Note this would come under West Devon Council.

Yes, definitely	Yes, possibly	May be	No	Definitely not

Are you a Business Owner?

☐

Or a Resident? Please tick

☐

Do you have any other comments or suggestions that might improve car parking in and around The Square? Please tell us here

Your name, address and e-mail address (Optional and confidential)



NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Caroline Ellis

14A The Square, North Tawton, EX20 2EP - 01837 880121

townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk - deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

The office is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Transport and Parking

As many of you are more than aware, the parking in North Tawton continues to be difficult, and can cause issues for many, including residents, local businesses, and visitors alike. To try and address some of these ongoing problems, the Town Council have established a Transport Consultation Group, who have devised a survey to assess the extent, type and severity of parking issues. This information will then be used by the Town Council to evaluate and consider any possible and practical solutions. Copies of the questionnaire will be available at several locations around the Town, including the Town Council Office in the Square, the Café, and the Post Office, and can also be found in this edition of the Roundabout. The more responses we have, the more accurate a picture we can obtain of the parking issues and the impact that these may have on the community.

The Transport Consultation Group will also organise and support training and volunteer work in the local Community Speedwatch Group to help create safer roads, and safer travel through the Town. If you would like to be a Speedwatch volunteer, and contribute to the community by helping out, this will include full training, which is to be provided, and a commitment for a few hours a month of your time for as long as you are able to manage – even just a few times can make a difference. The Community Speedwatch Group, is sponsored by the Police and we have been trained and loaned a Police-issue speed gun so we can monitor traffic speeds. We don't try to stop vehicles that are exceeding the speed limit, nor do we have the power to

issue tickets. How it works relies on volunteers giving up a small amount of time to stand by the roadside and measure the speed of vehicles. The data is then passed to the Police, and the registered keeper of the vehicle receives a letter from the Police informing them of the date, time and location of the incident and reminding them of the risk they are putting other road users and pedestrians to. We know these letters work in modifying driver behaviour and if anyone is a 'repeat offender' they get a home visit from a Police Officer to give a formal warning.

Both improved parking and the promotion of speed awareness in the community will help to make our Town a safer place for all. To volunteer for Speedwatch or to complete a parking questionnaire, then please do come and ask questions and sign up to help. If you head to the Office, while you are there, don't forget you can use the Book Swap and find out more about the Town Council. We look forward to seeing you. The Full Council Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, usually at 7.30 pm. Office Opening Hours: Monday to Wednesday 10.30-1.30, with both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk working in the office outside of these hours.

Telephone: 01837 880121

Caroline Ellis, Town Clerk:

townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Hannah Bruni, Deputy Clerk:

deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Colin Lee, Chairman:

colin.lee@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

'FABULOUS FUR BABIES!'

Hi - I'm Louise, a mature, calm soul who has **10 years of experience** pet sitting & dog walking.

I love that this gives me the opportunity to make lots of new furry friends!

North Tawton (plus 10 miles)

Fully insured, DBS Checked, Health, Safety & First Aid qualified

10% Weekly Discount

- Dog Walking (Mornings) £20ph, per dog group size = 3 dogs
- Drop-Ins: (Afternoons) £15
- Sleepovers £40

07577 447 220 Free meet & greet louise.pattinson12@gmail.com

RAMBLERS WELLBEING WALKS Okehampton

Walking could make all the difference to help you take the first step towards better health, wellbeing and happiness. In fact, walking could help you feel great again. Meet people and discover nature on your doorstep.

Level 1 and 2 Tuesday @ 10am. Meet at the bandstand in Simmons Park (by the sports centre) for a level accessible local walk.

Level 1 has a 20 minutes walk.
Level 2 has a 40 minutes walk.

Level 3 Wednesday @ 10am.
Meet at the bandstand for a walk lasting up to 1.5 hours
This walk is more strenuous with hills and woodland footpaths through some gorgeous Dartmoor scenery. Decent walking footwear is advised.
After our walks we enjoy a nice cuppa and a chat...

wellbeingwalks@okmail.com
Chris Baines on 07917 795072
Caroline Cornford 07921 068892

Facebook & Instagram: Wellbeing Walks Okehampton

Join us on one of our walks with a trained Volunteer Walk Leader. Make new friends and feel part of the group and we plan the routes for you. It could help you feel more confident and give you a boost, no matter what your age.... It's free to walk and talk!

active devon **Okehampton United Charities**

SPEEDING DOESN'T BELONG IN OUR COMMUNITY

HELP MAKE NORTH TAWTON SAFER FOR EVERYONE

WHAT IS SPEEDWATCH?
A community-led initiative using trained volunteers to monitor vehicle speeds and help encourage safer driving.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Make a real difference in your community
- Work as part of a friendly team
- Help create safer streets for everyone

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
Could you be one of them?

TOGETHER WE CAN SLOW SPEEDING DOWN!

INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH!
townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk
deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk
01837 880121

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Let's keep North Tawton a safe and welcoming place for all.

YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP,
CAFÉ & POST OFFICE
at the heart of Exbourne



COULD YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS?

*Your time
makes a
real difference*



Help keep The Burrow open, welcoming and thriving for our community.



Unfortunately, without more volunteers we will have to consider closing the shop, cafe or post office for parts of the week.



COMMUNITY SHOP

Serve customers, stock shelves and help keep our shop running smoothly.



CAFÉ

Make coffees, prepare lunches, bake or help in the kitchen.



POST OFFICE

Full training provided – no experience necessary.

Why volunteer?

- ♥ Meet friendly people
- ♥ Learn new skills
- ♥ Flexible hours
- ♥ Make a real difference
- ♥ Help protect vital services for our village

WE ARE ESPECIALLY LOOKING FOR:



VOLUNTEER COOK

2-3 mornings per week
(including some Saturdays)

*Could lead to a part-time
paid position.*



POST OFFICE VOLUNTEER

9.00 am – 1.00 pm
(training provided)

*Could also lead to a
part-time paid position.*

We also welcome help in the shop and café – even on hour or two can make a big difference!



**JOIN OUR
OPEN MORNING
SUNDAY 16 AUGUST
10.00 am – 12 noon**
Come along, find out more
and meet the team.



Interested?

Pop in for a chat or call us on

01837 851928

The Burrow
High Street, Exbourne EX20 3RY



Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay, and Jacobstowe WI

A cycle ride from Exbourne to Nice was the title of our June Meeting, our President Cherry welcomed Steve Moir to give his talk on his 2026, 3 week, 1200-mile journey. He brought along his gravel bike, showing what little luggage, you need to take, and tips on washing powder, and using dental floss to make a washing line!

He gave an excellent and interesting talk and provided plenty of pictures of the journey. The tour was

completed in 19 days, despite the souring French heat, climbing the Mont Ventoux (a Tour du France iconic climb) and ended with a dip in the Mediterranean Sea.

Our competition was won by Rosemary, with the flower of the month being jointly won by Karen and Bonnie.

The August meeting sees us visiting The Mowhay Garden at Merton part of the National Garden Scheme.

Please come along to Exbourne and see if the WI is for you - contact 07971413997.

Photo attached of Steve Moir and his bike with some of the ladies at the meeting.



Looking Ahead - A Shared Vision for Sampford Courtenay Parish



Many thriving villages have one thing in common: a community willing to invest in its future. At the June meeting of the Parish Council meeting, Cllr Michelle Wilson presented Sampford Courtenay's Parish Priorities for 2026-27 and outlined a practical and an ambitious plan with key issues highlighting road safety, the village heritage, the local environment and sustainable growth.

Road safety was high on the agenda with support from local volunteers, expanding the Community Speed Watch programme and the start of a volunteer road warden scheme. Improving signage, tackling inconsiderate parking and ensuring road markings remain visible are also key actions to focus upon in order to make local roads safer for residents and visitors alike.

The village's rich history also takes centre stage. Plans to enhance historic buildings through improved directional signage and an audio walking

tour will celebrate the parish's heritage while encouraging visitors to discover its unique story.

The Village Green remains the heart of community life. Continued maintenance, improved accessibility, community-led planning and fundraising for new play and exercise equipment will help create an even more welcoming space for residents of every generation.

Looking ahead, the Council continues to champion better transport links through Sampford Courtenay Station, recognising the environmental and economic opportunities that improved rail services could bring. Support for agriculture and rural businesses also remains an important priority.

Together these ambitions reflect a community that values its past while planning confidently for its future. Their success will depend not only on the Parish Council, but on the enthusiasm, ideas and involvement of local residents. With everyone playing a part, Sampford Courtenay is well placed to remain a thriving and community minded village.



Creative Textiles Fayre

10th & 11th October

Cheriton Bishop Village Hall, 9.30am - 4pm

Creative Textiles Exhibition

Stitching, embroidery, felting and a chance to vote for your favourite piece in this year's competition

Mini Workshops & Demonstrations

Book on the day: Creative stitching to embellish and up-cycle, making felting soap, organic embroidery, patchwork

Textile Craft Market

Beautifully crafted handmade textiles, sewing supplies, eco-dyed fabrics, silk products, embroidery kits & more

Refreshments

Tea, coffee, lunches, cakes, snacks

Raffle Lots of fabulous prizes!



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DEMO'S & WORKSHOPS ARE APPROX 60 MINS



SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:-

TABLE TENNIS Weekly, ring 01837 851659 for details
FLOWER CLUB 2nd Monday of every month 2.30pm

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:-

Summer Skittles Wednesday 5th August 7pm
Skittles Wednesday 2nd September 7pm
Quiz and Puddings Night Friday 11th September 7pm
Community lunch Wednesday 16th September 12.30pm
Film night – The Choral Friday 18th September 7pm

Please see separate adverts or visit sampfordcourtenayvillagehall.co.uk and Facebook for more details of all events.

When you need advice we have the solution

Call our Okehampton office 01837 51 21 00
9 Red Lion Yard EX20 1AW

Call our Crediton office 01363 77 55 66
Manor Office, North Street EX17 2BR

Call our Exeter office 01392 42 42 42
15 - 17 Southernhay East EX1 1QE

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Sampford Courtenay
COMMUNITY
Flower, Vegetable, Produce & Craft Show



Saturday 5th September 2026

- Potato Bucket Weigh in – 1pm
- Show Doors Open – 2pm (£2 pp Under 16 Free)
- Refreshments – this year ONLY £1 per item
- Raffle
- Auction

Any Profit will be split 50/50 between the Village Hall and the Village Green.



Scan QR code for more detail or visit our Website

<https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/flower-show-2026>

SAMPFORD COURTENAY
SCARECROW TRAIL

2026



Scan the QR Code above to access a Trail Map to follow to view all of the Scarecrows on display throughout August.

Or download a paper copy from our Web site or pick one up from the New Inn.

Fill in the form to tell us which are your favourite 3 Scarecrows and either drop it back at the New Inn or Higher Town.

A prize will be given to someone picked at random from all completed judging sheets.

Winners will be announced at the
FLOWER & VEG SHOW
On Sat 5th Sept.

See the website for more details.

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

SAMPFORD COURTENAY
REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPIES

2026



We would like to add to the parish's
ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE CELEBRATIONS
by creating a net of FABRIC POPPIES
(knitted, crochet or felt)

If you would like to have a go at making some poppies to be added to the net, please get in touch with

Marion (marion174@btinternet.com) or 01837 82285 for a knitting & crochet pattern (or feel free to use your own pattern)

There will also be a "Poppy" Class in the
Flower Show on 5th September.

See the website for more details.

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

Or scan QR Code



Community lunch
Wednesday 9th September
12.30 pm
Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

Join us for :



Cottage pie and green beans
Sponge pudding + custard
Tea/coffee and mints

Best of all meet friends and chat.
Tickets £7 - limited places so book early to avoid disappointment.

To book contact :

rory.robinson1@btinternet.com
Or phone Rory on 07811324154

Summer Skittles
at the village Hall

Come and have a go!
Meet with friends old and new!

Bring your own
Nibbles and Drink!



Wednesday August 5th

At 7pm

£2 each plus a raffle

Licensed bar is available!

Quiz and Puddings Night
at Sampford Courtenay village Hall

Bring your own
Nibbles and Drink!

& of course a pudding to share!
£5 per person

FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

@7.00PM

Quiz starts at 7.30!

To book please contact Jon or Julieann
on 07767338899

or email Secretaryvhsc@gmail.com

Licensed bar is available!



All proceeds go to the running of our wonderful village hall

Sampford Courtenay Reading Group

Do you love reading and enjoy a good discussion? If so, the Sampford Courtenay Reading Group might be for you, and we would love to hear from you.

We meet on the last Tuesday of each month, and members take it in turns to choose each month's book. We cover pretty much all genres, both fiction and non-fiction: recent reads have included "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey, "Man Meets Dog" by Konrad Lorenz, and "The Names" by Florence Knapp.

You don't even need to live in Sampford Courtenay; currently, our members come from as far afield as Hatherleigh, Winkleigh, Belstone and East Devon.

If you would like more information, or to join a meeting, please contact:

alisonthornton25@gmail.com.

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News from North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery



As another school year draws to a close, it gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect and celebrate what has been a very busy, productive and rewarding year at North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery.

Schools are, above all, about people, and we are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful staff team. Every member of staff gives their all for our children each and every day. Their dedication, care, enthusiasm and commitment ensure that our pupils are nurtured, challenged and supported to be the very best versions of themselves.

We are equally blessed with a fantastic community of families who work in partnership with us. The support, encouragement and trust shown by parents and carers makes a huge difference to the children and to the life of our school. Whether attending events, helping with learning at home, fundraising, volunteering or simply championing the school within the community, their support is invaluable and deeply appreciated.

The final few weeks of term were packed with memorable experiences. Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a wonderful residential visit, creating memories that will stay with them for years to come. From canoeing and coastering to archery and many other adventurous activities, they embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, courage and determination. It was wonderful to see their confidence and independence grow throughout the week.

We were also delighted to present our school production, *Mission Implausible*. Pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 worked incredibly hard to bring the show to life, delivering a performance full of energy, humour and talent. Their confidence on stage and commitment to their roles made us all very proud.

One of the highlights of the year was our whole-school Sports Day. From our youngest children in Nursery through to Year 6, everyone took part with enthusiasm and determination. It was made even more special by the

wonderful turnout of families who joined us for a picnic lunch on the field. Seeing children, parents, carers and staff enjoying time together in the sunshine perfectly reflected the strong sense of community that sits at the heart of our school.

Throughout the year, we have also been looking ahead to the future. We consulted with families, staff and pupils to consider an important question: *What kind of school do we want to be, and what values matter most to us?* Through these conversations, we developed what we now call ***Our Story: Roots and Wings***.

At North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery, our values begin with our roots. We are a rural town school and, like any tree, we draw our strength from the ground we stand in – our families, our community and the relationships we build with one another every day.

From those roots, we grow. Every child who joins us is nurtured, supported and given the foundations they need to flourish. From strong roots come strong wings. When children feel secure, valued and confident, they are ready to spread those wings – to embrace challenges, to take risks, to learn from mistakes and ultimately to succeed.

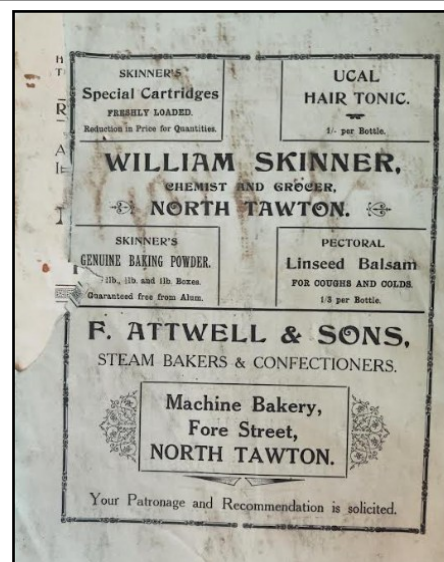
Our five core values spell out the name of our school: **NTCPS – Nurture, Teamwork, Community, Pride and Success**. Together, these values capture both the roots that ground us and the wings that help our children soar.

We have chosen to represent this story through the image of a tree, reflecting both our beautiful rural setting and the fact that all our classes are named after trees. It is a powerful symbol of who we are and what we aspire to be: deeply rooted in our community, while helping every child grow, flourish and reach their potential.

If you would like to be more involved with our school community, we are currently looking for additional school governors. There is more information on our website, or just give us a ring or pop in.

Blast from the Past:

Kathie Drake recently discovered an old North Tawton parish magazine dating back to 1933, whilst clearing out the house of her late father, Brian Drake, of Essington Park. It is fascinating to read, and we hope to share excerpts here over the coming months. For now here's the front and back cover of one dating back to the 1933.



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North Tawton Bowling Club

All welcome. All you need are flat shoes. During the summer we have informal sessions where we practice or roll up on Monday evenings from 6.00 pm. Some taster sessions and tuition can also be arranged.

For further information please visit our website www.northtawtonbc.co.uk or call John Kinsey on 07707 20807136

The Club held a very successful and enjoyable President's Day during June. This is the second year of office for our President Jan Summers and she organised a marvellous day which included fun bowls and a high tea for 48 members and their families.

We have welcomed 8 new members to our club this season giving us a total membership of 60. We are keen to increase this and would encourage anyone at all interested in the sport to make contact with the club. Competitions for internal cups and the wider participation in league and shield matches throughout Devon are making for a busy season.

The Club are extremely proud to announce a three year sponsorship agreement with ARLA the North Tawton based cheese producer. This will be extremely beneficial to the Club and help to achieve it's goals in a new community partnership. The club are also very fortunate in it's ongoing partnership with Smart Drainage and the continued sponsorship it provides to the club's Pub Challenge Day.



 NTRFC 2026/2027 FIXTURES	
LEAGUE - COUNTIES 3 DEVON NORTH & EAST	
SEPTEMBER 2026	JANUARY 2027
12/09/26 vs Cullompton II ✈️ AWAY	09/01/27 vs Newton Abbot II 🏠 HOME
19/09/26 vs Tiverton II 🏠 HOME	16/01/27 vs Exeter Athletic ✈️ AWAY
26/09/26 vs Newton Abbot ✈️ AWAY	30/01/27 vs Sidmouth II 🏠 HOME
OCTOBER 2026	FEBRUARY 2027
03/10/26 vs Exeter Athletic 🏠 HOME	06/02/27 vs Okehampton II ✈️ AWAY
17/10/26 vs Sidmouth II ✈️ AWAY	13/02/27 vs Torrington 🏠 HOME
24/10/26 vs Okehampton II 🏠 HOME	27/02/27 vs Exeter Engineers 🏠 HOME
31/10/26 vs Torrington ✈️ AWAY	
NOVEMBER 2026	MARCH 2027
07/11/26 vs Exeter Engineers ✈️ AWAY	06/03/27 vs Ilfracombe ✈️ AWAY
21/11/26 vs Ilfracombe 🏠 HOME	20/03/27 vs New Cross 🏠 HOME
DECEMBER 2026	APRIL 2027
05/12/26 vs New Cross ✈️ AWAY	03/04/27 vs Bideford II ✈️ AWAY
12/12/26 vs Bideford II 🏠 HOME	10/04/27 vs Cullompton II 🏠 HOME
19/12/26 vs Tiverton II ✈️ AWAY	

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Now we've reached the Summer Holidays, here's some fun ideas to add to the mix!

- **Water Relay** — Two buckets, two cups. Race to fill the bucket using only a cup.
- **Shadow Tag** — Tag but you only have to step on someone's shadow.
- **Garden Bowling** — Use empty plastic bottles as pins and any ball you have to hand.
- **Nature Bingo** — Make a card with things to spot, hear or smell: a butterfly, a yellow flower, a bird call, a cloud shaped like something funny,
- **Leaf Printing** — Collect interesting leaves and use paint to make colourful prints.
- **Story Blanket** — Spread a blanket outside and take turns adding a sentence to a shared story.
- **Picnic** — A simple supper outdoors feels instantly special.
- **Cloud Spotting** — Lie back and see what shapes you can find drifting overhead.
- **Garden Cinema** — A sheet, a projector, and some cushions turn a warm night into a magical one.

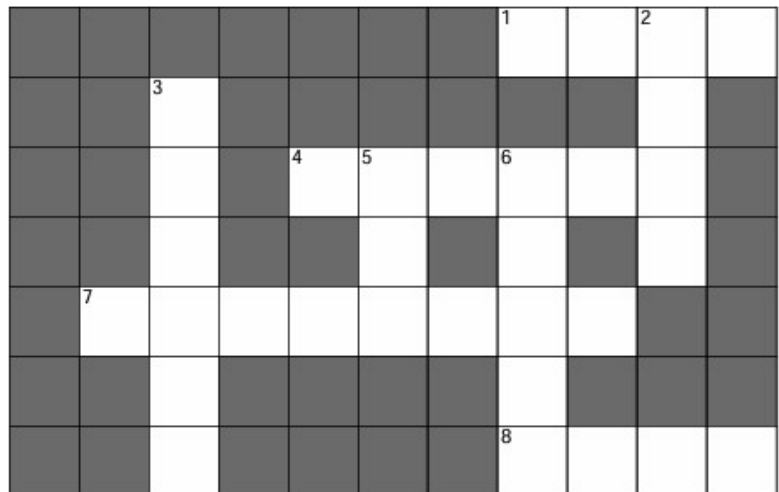
Summer

ACROSS

- 1 Long walk
- 4 Icy dessert
- 7 Protective lotion
- 8 Beach shelter

DOWN

- 2 Flying toy
- 3 Summer month
- 5 Paddle
- 6 Seashore



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Community Centre, Barton Street
12th September 10am–12.30pm
(Last check-in for repairs at 12pm)

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No repairs to bring? No problem! Pop in for the vibe, say hello, and enjoy our growing mix of community fun:

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- 🌱 **Seed Share is back** – Big garden, tiny windowsill... everyone can grow something!
- 🍷 **Scrap Store** – Crafting supplies for the craftiest crafter
- ☕ **Tea, coffee & cake** – Always on hand for a cosy cuppa and a chat.

You can find the latest info at <https://fb.me/NTRepairCafe>

Please note there is no Repair Café in August

Quick note: We can accept up to two sewing repairs per visit, and you may need to stay while we work on them.



2026 EVENT SCHEDULE

25th August	Outdoor Theatre -Romeo & Juliet
6th and 7th November	NGS open gardens
27th November	Christmas Late Night Shopping
28th November	Christmas Fayre

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Bishop Nick McKinnel nick.mckinnel@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

2nd August	11am	Morning Worship
9th August	11am	Informal Communion
16th August	11am	Family Service
23rd August	11am	Morning Worship
30th August	11am	Traditional Communion

Services at St. James's Church Bondleigh

2nd August 9.30am Communion
16th August 9.30am Communion

Services at St. Andrew's Church Sampford Courtenay

2nd August	9.30am	Morning Worship
9th August	9.30am	Communion
16th August	6pm	Choral Evensong
23rd August	9.30am	Communion
30th August	9.30am	Common Worship Communion and Healing Service

Services at St. Mary's Church Honeychurch

2nd August 3pm Evensong/Communion

Church Flowers & Brass

Honeychurch

August Veronica Matthews

Bondleigh

26th July & 2nd August Julie Wilson

9th & 16th August Carol Jones

23rd & 30th August Nikki Jourdan

North Tawton Brass

August Celia Boughton and Jo Fear

North Street Chapel Sundays

2nd August - 11am Special Service John Wiberly

9th August - 11am Breaking of Bread

16th August - 3pm Tea & Praise—Mark Thomas

23rd August - 11am Breaking of Bread

30th August - 11am Prayer and Worship

Please contact Richard for further details 07835033062

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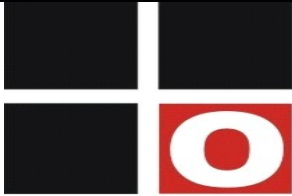
Weddings 13th June - Alex Fewings and Charlotte Radnor - North Tawton (held in St Andrew's, South Tawton)

Funeral 10th June - Ralph Goundry - St Andrew's Sampford Courtenay (Burial of Ashes)

ROUNABOUT DEADLINE:

Community News, Articles, and Events are published free of charge, and must be received by Ruth Smith by the 15th of the month before publication at:
editor@northtawtonroundabout.com

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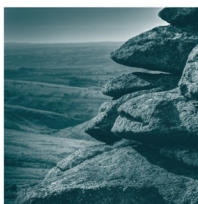
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