

PARISH Magazine

Aug & Sept
2026

Newton Poppleford,
Harpford, &
Colaton Raleigh



Welcome

We are pleased to welcome all new residents to the villages. We wish you every happiness in your new homes. Or, if you've lived here some time, but this is the first magazine you've come across – equally, welcome.

The magazine is delivered, free of charge, every other month. We hope the magazine will be of interest and the listing of events and contacts useful to you. The end pages contain adverts from local traders: we have not tested their services, so cannot vouch for their quality, but they are an important part of our local community, so please look to them first.

The magazine is published by St Luke's Church, Newton Poppleford, but it aims to be of service in carrying news and articles of the wide variety of local life and in providing a calendar and notice of forthcoming events. We welcome contributions from all, providing they are legal, decent, and honest and don't conflict with our charitable status. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors, in their own words as far as possible, to reflect the rich variety of local people and societies and are not necessarily endorsed by the church.

Copy may be placed in the letterbox on the Church gatepost in the week before the closing date, or to the editorial group:

parishmag00@gmail.com

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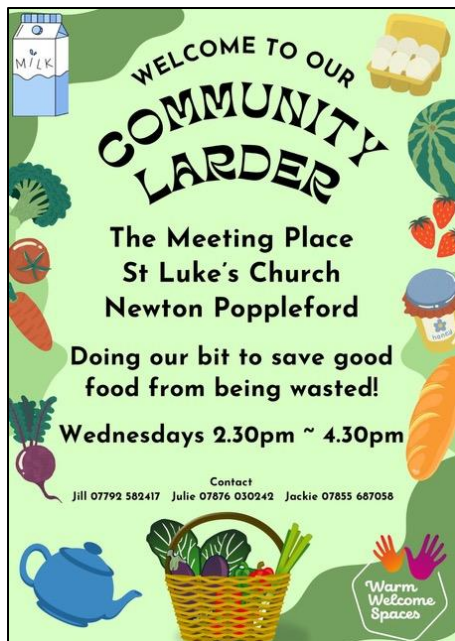
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Cover photo: Unsplash.com



**WELCOME TO OUR
COMMUNITY
LARDER**

The Meeting Place
St Luke's Church
Newton Poppleford

Doing our bit to save good
food from being wasted!

Wednesdays 2.30pm ~ 4.30pm

Contact
Jill 07792 582417 Julie 07876 030242 Jackie 07855 687058

Warm Welcome Spaces



Come and join us for

**Messy
CHURCH**

Fridays monthly 3.30 – 4.45 pm

Details from Rosemary

rmpavitt@gmail.com

07542 194300

Come and join us!



Monday Mornings

Somewhere comfortable to start the
day with a cuppa and a chat, before
you tackle what there is to tackle!

Tea & Toast

and of course, coffee, marmite
and home-made jam and marmalade

If you haven't yet visited us, do
drop in some time, especially if you
are a young mum or new to the village

9.00 – 10.00am

St Luke's Church

We're here every Monday
school is open



Care 4 a Cuppa

Feeling in need of some company,
and a cuppa you haven't had to
make for yourself?

Drop in **2.00 - 4.00pm** every second and
fourth Monday of each month

The Meeting Place @ St Luke's

Everyone welcome

10th & 24th August
14th & 28th September



Could you help with the cost of printing the magazine please?

Your FREE copy of the Newton Poppleford, Harpford, and Colaton Raleigh Parish Magazine is provided to you by the PCC, St Luke's church, six times a year.

It is partly funded by our generous advertisers, but we would welcome contributions from our regular readers by way of donation.

If you would kindly wish to make a donation to the cost of providing the magazine, please use the QR code below (with gift aid, if possible) or donate through the wall safe at the back of St Luke's church (cash or cheque (cheque payable to 'St Lukes PCC')) when the church is open, which is normally every day.

We would suggest £10 could be a very generous contribution for the year.

QR code: point your phone camera at the square and follow the link to the donation page



Ride & Stride

Devon Historic Churches Trust

Village churches have small but joyful congregations, often in need of a helping hand in an emergency. Many of the Devon churches will be open and welcoming on Saturday 12th September, and some offer refreshments.

We are raising money for maintenance and emergency repairs to these small churches, funded by Devon Historic Churches Trust (DHCT). 50% of our fundraising goes to DHCT and 50% comes back to our own parish of St Luke's, Newton Poppleford.

On 12th September, Haylor will take part in the DHCT 'Fun Day Ride and Stride for Churches,' and cycle around the twelve churches in the Otter Vale Mission Community. Ruth has promised to be 'back-up' vehicle and carry the picnic. Last year Haylor visited 16 churches and rode 28+ miles. Some of these churches are little gems tucked away off the beaten track and each is unique reflecting some of our Devon Christian heritage.

Haylor has done a ride annually for at least 50 years, starting with the Suffolk trust when he and Ruth lived there, and he says he doesn't intend to stop unless and until he can no longer do it. If anyone would like to join Haylor on the ride and/or give a little money for DCHT, please get in touch with him on 01395 568786.



From the Vicarage

While Mark is on sabbatical until August, Rev Carys Baker has once again kindly provided the view from the vicarage for this edition:

With the end of the school year having just passed and the new one starting, there's going to be a lot of change happening in many homes in our community. There'll be last days and first days; new classes and teachers; little ones starting school and last year's sixth formers heading off to work or university. It can be a challenging time, as well as one filled with much excitement.

Change is something many of us find difficult. We tend to be creatures of habit. We get settled into our routines and feel we've got a handle on things and then, all of a sudden, we're faced with something new. And yet change defines what it is to be alive, to develop and grow.

In our Otter Vale Mission Community of churches, we too are experiencing change. Our Team Rector, Lydia Cook, will be leaving us for fresh pastures on Sunday 16th August and we will, after a few months of vacancy, be welcoming a new Team Rector. It will be a big change for us and for Lydia as she swaps rural East Devon for the somewhat busier streets of Chelsea. She leaves with our love, our thanks, and our prayers for her new ministry.

In all this, I am reminded of one of my absolute favourite Bible verses from the Letter to the Hebrews. It says this: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). It reminds us that although this world can be chaotic, unsettling and unpredictable, God never changes. His promises to be with us in every season don't evaporate and his mercy and love remain steadfast.

Whenever the ground seems to shift beneath our feet, and we are faced with the fact that our well-laid plans and expectations can dissolve in an instant, the Bible assures us that we can hold onto God who doesn't wobble or move. As a well-known hymn says: "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

And when life calls us to make decisions and take steps that move us away from the familiar into unknown territories, when it's time for us to grow and change, we can be sure that Jesus walks alongside us then too. To truly live is to embrace that change and growth as a core part of our Christian journeys of discipleship.

Change is a 'when', not an 'if'. So, my prayer for us all as we encounter it in our lives is that we may always remember, even when our feet feel a bit unsteady, that Jesus is there holding out his hand for us to grasp, and *his* feet have an excellent grip.

Lydia's Last Service: This will take place at Ottery St Mary church on Sunday 16th August at 10.30am and all are warmly invited to attend

- Carys



*View of Harpford and the River Otter
(Sorry there's Himalayan Balsam in shot!)*

What's on & Where – Regular Weekly Activities

Monday

9.00 – 10.00 am	Tea & Toast (term time)	The Meeting Place
10.30 – 11.30 am	Ballet for Adults	NP Village Hall
• 2.00 pm	Tennis Club Members	NP Tennis Courts
6.30 – 7.30 pm	Zumba	NP Village Hall

Tuesday

• 7.00 pm	Bowling Club	NP Village Hall
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Wednesday

8.50 / 9.45 am	Wednesday Wanderers	Church Green
10.30 – 11.30 am	Dance Exercise & Keep Fit	NP Village Hall
2.30 – 4.30 pm	Community Larder	The Meeting Place
7.00 – 9.00 pm	Table Tennis Club	NP Pavilion

Thursday

• 7.00 pm	Tennis Club	NP Tennis Courts
• 7.00 pm	Whist Drive	NP Village Hall

Friday

10.00 am – 12.30	American Square Dancing	NP Village Hall
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Saturday

9.00 am – 12.00	Community Cafe	NP Pavilion
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Sunday

Sunday Worship	All three Churches
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***After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the
inexpressible is music.***
~ Aldous Huxley

Church Services

Services	St Luke's Newton Popleford	St Gregory the Great Harpford (BCP)	St John the Baptist - Colaton Raleigh
2 nd August	10.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong	9.30am Online
9 th August	10.00am Café Church	-	9.30am Holy Communion
16 th August	9.30am Online	6.30pm Holy Communion	9.30am Online
23 rd August	11.00am Holy Communion	-	11.00am Morning Worship
30 th August	10am Celtic Morning Worship	-	-
6 th Sept.	10.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong	9.30am Online
13 th Sept.	10.00am Café Church	-	9.30am Holy Communion
20 th Sept.	9.30am Online	6.30pm Harvest Service	9.30am Online
27 th Sept.	11.00am Harvest Service	-	11.00am Morning Worship

The **online services** are held on 'Zoom' and are open for all; anyone is welcome. ID 899 4358 5754, pass 863914. Further online services are also available in the week.

All three churches are open for private prayer every day, nominal 9 - 5.



Colaton Raleigh Players

We are looking for new members aged 18-80 to join our friendly group and take part in our pantomime, 'The King's New Suit.'

Please come to our read-through on Thursday, 10th September at 7pm in Colaton Raleigh Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you!

Month Diary – August

Monday 3 rd	NP History Group, 2.30pm, NP Village Hall
Tuesday 4 th	OVA walk, 10.30am
Wednesday 5 th	Wednesday Wanderers, 9.40am Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place
Monday 10 th	Care 4 a Cuppa, 2.00pm, The Meeting Place
Wednesday 12 th	Wednesday Wanderers, 9.45am Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place
Friday 14 th	Colaton Raleigh Village Teas 2.30-5pm
Tuesday 18 th	OVA Walk, 9am
Wednesday 19 th	Wednesday Wanderers, 8.50am Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place
Monday 24 th	Care 4 a Cuppa, 2.00pm, The Meeting Place
Wednesday 26 th	Wednesday Wanderers, 9.45am Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place OVA Walk, 10am



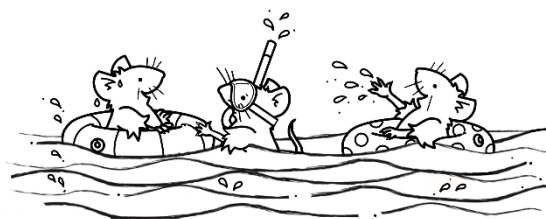
Lunch Club & Coffee Mornings

The Lunch Club runs monthly (except August) and is mainly attended by residents of Colaton Raleigh and Newton Poppleford. The club has recently set up the colatonraleighlunchclub@gmail.com address as an extra way for people to contact them, for diners to have an easy way to receive reminders, to or let them know about attendance.



Month Diary – September

Wednesday 2 nd	Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place Wednesday Wanderers, 9.40am
Saturday 5 th	C-Raleigh Coffee Morning, Village Hall 9.30-12pm
Monday 7 th	Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place NP History Group, 2.30pm, NP Village Hall
Wednesday 9 th	Wednesday Wanderers, 9.40am Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place Probus, 10.00am (new time!), NP Pavilion
Thursday 10 th	Garden Club, 2.30pm, NP Pavilion OVA walk, 10am
Friday 11 th	Colaton Raleigh Village Teas 2.30-5pm
Monday 14 th	Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place Care 4 a Cuppa, 2.00pm, The Meeting Place
Tuesday 15 th	OVA walk 10am **Last day for Parish Magazine items, please **
Wednesday 16 th	Community Larder, 2.30 pm, The Meeting Place Wednesday Wanderers, 9.30am
Saturday 19 th	Colaton Raleigh Picnic, VillageHall, 4-9pm
Monday 21 st	Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place Colaton Raleigh Social Group, Village Hall 7.30pm
Wednesday 23 rd	Wednesday Wanderers, 9.40am Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place OVA walk 10am
Thursday 24 th	Colaton Raleigh Lunch Club, CR Village Hall
Monday 28 th	Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place Care 4 a Cuppa, 2.00pm, The Meeting Place
Tuesday 29 th	OVA walk 10am
Wednesday 30 th	Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place Wednesday Wanderers, 9.40am



Points of Contact

Here are some useful telephone numbers and email addresses, if you want to know more about local organisations.

Bee Keeping & Swarms	Joan Bisseker	07519 454080 01395 568041
Brownies	Nicola Rose	01395 222549 07928 209980
Care 4 a Cuppa	June Smith	01395 562994
Cemetery, NP	Parish Council Clerk	07393 572608
Climate Change Group	Rosemary Walker Gill Cameron-Webb	01395 567108 01395 568928
Colaton Raleigh Parish Council	Clerk: Harriet Pipkin	07966 768832
Colaton Raleigh Players	Claire Blackwell	07775 921063
Community Larder	Julie Murphy	07876 030242
Cricket Club	Matthew Raistrick	01395 567962
Dance Exercise Keep Fit classes	Sally Sinclair	07837 570011
Dance, American Square	Janet Boulton	01297 33019
District Councillor	Chris Burhop	07741 646266 chris.burhop@eastdevon.gov.uk
Footpaths, NP	Ted Swan	01395 904471
Footpaths, CR	Ed Suttie	01395 567046
Funerals St Luke's, NP	Sandra Duffin	01395 567665
Garden Club	Sue Burge	01395 568711
Hospiscare	Exeter Office	01392 688020
Lunch Club	colatonraleighlunchclub@gmail.com	
	Nick / Chris Higgins	01395 568074
Member of	Richard Foorde	
Parliament	RichardFoordeMP@parliament.uk	
National Trust Sidmouth Group	Philip Stanbury	ntsidsmouth@gmail.com

Remembering Bernard

Thank you to Bernard's family for sharing.

Bernard was born in 1935 in Coldridge in mid Devon. The family, including Bernard's younger twin brothers, moved to Ashford, North Devon, in 1937. Bernard remembers walking across the fields on his own to catch the bus to do the shopping and go to school when he was only six. In 1945 they moved to Patchway, Bristol, for six years, and on leaving school Bernard worked on a farm. Bernard became a Christian when he was 12, at the Brean Camp, and was baptised by immersion when he was 15. When the family moved to Aylesbeare here in Devon he worked on a poultry farm near Halfway House.

Bernard was called up for National Service in 1954 and spent most of his two years in Egypt in an army camp on the banks of the Suez Canal. He was interested to see the place again 55 years later while on a cruise on the RMS Queen Mary 2.

After being demobbed, Bernard then worked at Exeter Airport in their stores department. Following redundancy, he worked at The Department of Transport, where he was eventually Office Manager at the Heavy Goods Test Station in Marsh Barton.

Bernard and Ruth were married in Belmont Chapel, Exeter, in 1960, and lived in Heavitree with their three children. Bernard had to take early retirement in 1987 after a long spell of illness with back problems and then ME; he had a lot of sickness over many years but never complained, and just kept taking the tablets, as they say!

They moved to Newton Poppleford in 1995, and Bernard loved having his grandchildren around him, and enjoyed a very special rapport with them all. Bernard and Ruth spent four winters in New Zealand, staying in over 70 of the 'brilliant' backpacker hostels.



In spite of having 21 cancer spots, half a lung, and his gall bladder removed over the years, Bernard never gave up and just coped with whatever was thrown at him! He and Ruth continually thanked the Lord for all His goodness to them over so many years together.

A photograph of an elderly couple, Bernard and Ruth, standing outdoors. Bernard, on the left, is wearing a dark cap and a patterned jacket, smiling and pointing towards a large, light-colored stone monument. Ruth, on the right, is wearing a light-colored jacket and a dark hat, also smiling. They are standing in front of a stone wall and a large, leafy tree. In the background, there is a white building and a green hill under a blue sky with clouds.

Bernard was diagnosed with a cancer on his spleen but decided against surgery to care for Ruth. He was incredibly calm and composed and cared for Ruth right up until she passed.



Bernard John Edmonds, 27th March 1935 – 23rd May 2026.



Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve.
To give and not to count the cost.
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward;
Save that of knowing that we do Your will;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

East Devon District Councillor's Report

Northmosttown Road Closure

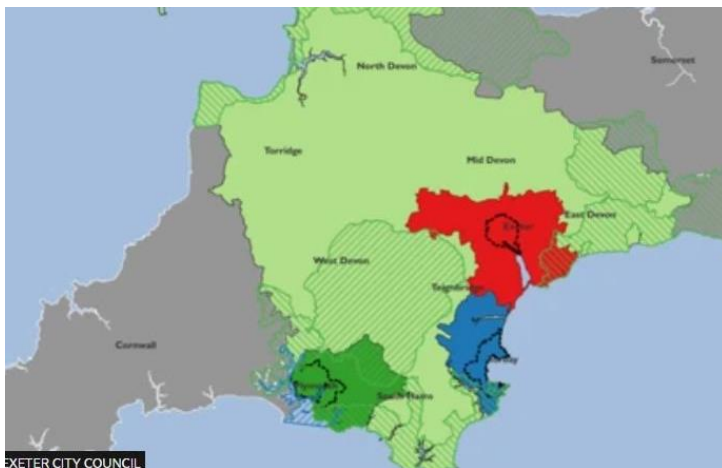
Northmosttown residents continue to be rightly very upset about the lack of progress in repairing the road to the A3052. This has now been closed since the end of January and is causing no end of difficulty to residents, businesses, visitors, and, it transpires, also the residents of Otterton, who all need this route reinstated urgently.

DCC have refused to include discussion on the road at the July Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC), saying that there is now more dialogue with residents and a 'feasibility report' is expected to be completed by the end of September. That is of little comfort to the long-suffering residents of Northmosttown.

DCC should at least meet with residents to discuss residents' ideas for ways to temporarily reopen the road to at least light traffic. I'm not saying that's possible, but at least *listen to residents* for goodness sake.

Local Government Reorganisation

Hot off the press, the government has finally decided on the future shape of councils in Devon and in the opinion of this correspondent it is not good news. The plan proposed by Exeter City Council has been accepted, which features a much expanded Greater Exeter Unitary Council, expanded Torbay, and expanded Plymouth. Everything else will be shoved into a single 'Devon Coast and Country' rural unitary council.



Locally, it means that Aylesbeare, West Hill, and Colaton Raleigh will be subsumed into 'Exeter Unitary Authority,' whilst Newton Poppleford, Ottery, and Sidmouth will sit in the Rural Unitary. Along with Torridge, Barnstaple, Salcombe, etc...

To me the decision is purely political (submitted by formerly Labour-controlled Exeter City Council and supported by Labour-controlled Plymouth City Council) and makes absolutely no sense. Initial reaction from within EDDC is that the new rural authority will be effectively bankrupt from day one, with thousands of square miles to administer, of some of the poorest areas of Devon, and very low levels of business rates income.

The government have effectively ignored their own guidance for putting these reorganisation proposals together, not least by allowing the expansion of existing parish and town boundaries to subsume into a new territory. For instance, Exeter has subsumed 49 parishes from East Devon, Teignbridge, and Mid Devon.

In practical terms, the timetable is that the new authority should take effect from 1st April 2028. This means that local elections planned for 2027 will now be cancelled and the new council elections will presumably take place some time in Spring 2028. Until then the focus of EDDC will be to maintain existing services to residents, whilst planning for a smooth transition to the new authority.

Audit & Governance and Housing

An odd combination but all may become clear. As Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee I am pleased to say that the council remains on track to complete its audit of the 2025/26 accounts. The accounts were published on time on 30th June and are available for scrutiny on the Council's website (or indeed in person from Blackdown House in Honiton). The council had a good year financially, with a modest surplus of income over expenditure allowing an increase in reserves (which will be needed as central government cash is continuing to be cut).

In addition, the (separately accounted) Housing Revenue Account, which focusses on the income and expenditure from council housing, was also in modest surplus allowing reserves again to be increased by £250k, as required by our auditors.

And speaking of housing, I have now been appointed as Interim Chair of the Housing, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which oversees the work of the Housing department and ensures we are making progress with our services.

Bonfires

As I write we are well into our 3rd official heatwave. Residents are struggling to keep their houses cool and I have received a complaint about residents lighting bonfires nearby. No, it's not illegal to light a bonfire, even during this heatwave, but please be considerate to your neighbours. With windows open to cool houses, smoke ingress is very distressing to residents - and smoke goes a long way... So, if you are thinking of lighting a bonfire, particularly during this summer, please ask yourself: do you really need to? Where will the smoke go? Notwithstanding that, everything is tinder-dry. Indeed, on 14th July, the day after they attended a serious hedge fire in Lower Way Harpford, which threatened a nearby property, Sidmouth Fire Station issued a warning message about the dangers of lighting fires in these conditions. Please, if it can wait for safer conditions, then do so.

South West Water

My article in the June / July edition appealed for information about burst water pipe incidents in the parish, so I can try and coordinate improvements from SWW. I had one response (which I'm grateful for) but I was hardly overwhelmed with information. Please let me know dates of water outages over the past two years or so by writing to me at chris.burhop@eastdevon.gov.uk

Whilst on the subject of SWW, it remains outrageous that SWW continue to use the River Otter as an open sewer, discharging untreated sewage into the river upstream from our parish, even during periods of drought.

A resident's dog recently contracted e-coli after playing in the river in the parish, highlighting the effect of SWW's actions. It is outrageous that our beautiful river cannot be safely enjoyed, especially during this period of heat. I wholeheartedly support the excellent work being undertaken by the Otter River Catchment Action (ORCA) group, who continue to pressure SWW to improve the river's quality by undertaking a testing programme using like-minded volunteers, analysing data captured from that programme alongside SWW's own data, building awareness in the community, and campaigning for behavioural and structural change with groups such as housebuilders, farmers, and SWW themselves.

The River Otter remains in the lowest 20% of rivers in the UK for river quality. This should really be a criminal matter, not something that is having to be addressed by concerned volunteers. The Water Cycle Study commissioned by EDDC and finally published earlier this year shows that sewage treatment is currently under extreme capacity constraint in Honiton, Feniton, Fluxton, and Otterton along the River Otter, demonstrating the effect of years of under-investment. This is now coming to light as data on discharges is being published and this can't be hidden any more.

Worryingly, our water supply situation is also at risk, with capacity issues identified at Otterton, Fairmile, and Fenny Bridges. SWW have a lot of work to do.

Chris Burhop



It is not the number of books you read, nor the variety of sermons you hear, nor the amount of religious conversation in which you mix, but it is the frequency and earnestness with which you meditate on these things till the truth in them becomes your own and part of your being, that ensures your growth.

~ F W Robertson

Community Larder

Hello from Julie, Jill, Sandra, and Jackie from the Community Larder.

Many thanks to everyone who attends our Larder sessions every Wednesday afternoon. With your ongoing support and through our weekly donation pots, the Larder continues to thrive.

There's been lots going on over the summer at the Larder. On 26th June we ran a Cake Stall at the school summer fete, raising £138.50, which was very pleasing considering the extremely hot weather that day. On 14th July we hosted a Cream Tea in Jill's garden to say 'Thank You' to our wonderful volunteers who give their services freely and without whom we would not be able to run the larder at all!

Once the school holidays start we will have our usual craft table at the Larder each Wednesday with some new crafts, including Play Dough and various accessories. We don't close for school holidays, so it's business as usual.

If anyone has surplus fruit or vegetables from their allotment or garden, we would be very happy to receive it on Wednesdays at the Larder or, if you let us know, we can collect it from you in advance.

We have already hired out our collection of beautiful vintage china and our prices are very reasonable. We have a large selection of cups, saucers, tea plates, teapots, jugs, sugar bowls, and cake stands. Please contact

Jill Smith for further information on 07792 582417

or email jill.thegardens@gmail.com



The Community Larder is open to all. Our aim is to save good food from being wasted. If you are new to the Larder, we are open every Wednesday afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at The Meeting Place, St Luke's Church, High Street, Newton Poppleford. Do pop in for hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes, a very warm welcome and, last but not least, to SAVE GOOD FOOD FROM BEING WASTED! We look forward to seeing you soon

x

Online Services

On the first and third Sundays of every month, we hold an online service on 'Zoom', starting at 9.30am (ID 899 4358 5754, pass 863914).

This is not a livestream of a church service, but rather it is an in-home service. Although it began in Covid, we have continued them to ensure that all who wish to can join us in fellowship, whether you cannot get to a physical service, you want to stay in your PJs, you're on holiday and still have internet access, or if you'd just like to join in!



How to get rid of squirrels



Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels.

-After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied.

-The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

-It was the Anglican church that succeeded in solving the squirrel problem: The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church.

Now, they only see the squirrels on Christmas and Easter!

Clinton Devon Estates

It has been a hot start to the summer, but our forestry and farming teams work hard to produce food and timber, whatever the weather. From fields of hay ready for baling to timber operations progressing in the woods, here is a snapshot of how our land-based teams are rising to the challenges and making the most of the long summer days.



CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

Forestry

Last winter presented a challenging planting season, with prolonged wet weather followed by a rapid transition to warm spring and summer conditions. Tree losses from this year's planting have so far been moderate, and we continue to monitor how they establish over the coming months.

Timber harvesting at Shortwood Common has now been completed, with operations moving on to Woodbury Wood. Current work includes the first thinning of the Ford Water block, where trees are now approximately 20 years old. This site lies between the roads leading to Four Firs and Blackhill Quarry. Later in the year, harvesting will continue across smaller blocks around Otterton, alongside separate sites near Knowle.

Clinton Farms

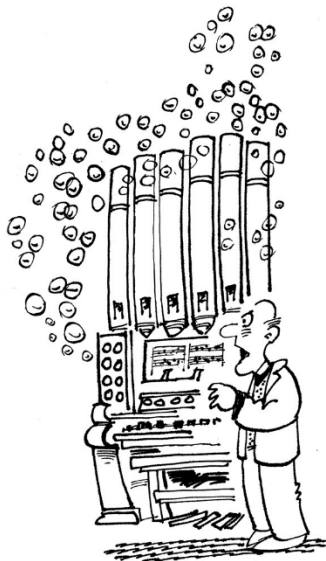
As we move further into summer, we reach a seasonal peak in the farming calendar. At the time of writing, hay has been mown and is wilting in the fields ahead of baling, cattle are grazing in the Otter River valley meadows, and preparations for Harvest 2026 are well underway.

The first crop to be harvested is oilseed rape in late July, sold for processing into rapeseed oil and playing an important role as a break crop within our cereal rotation. This is followed in August by wheat, oats, and spring barley, which are either sold or used on the farm as animal feed.

Straw from the harvest is baled and stored for use during the winter months, providing both feed and bedding for cattle.

And finally... the Estate bids farewell to students Lilly-Ann Osmond, who returns to Harper Adams University after a successful rural surveying placement; Stevie Mears, who heads back to Southampton to complete his Business Management and Finance degree; and Ned Mills, who has completed his Ranger apprenticeship with the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust and will begin rural surveying studies at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, next month. We wish them all every success.

01395 443881 - mail@clintondevon.com - www.clintondevon.com



Parish Magazine NP, H, & CR

Harpford Biennial Flower Festival

The theme of 'Kings & Queens,' at St.Gregory's Church

Drawn into the era of William the Conqueror and moving through Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, right up to the current Royal Family, a timeline illustrated not only what happened in England then, but pinpointed its effect on Harpford Church, and hence, paradoxically, on the timelessness of the place and how we today fit into that continuum. Capped, of course, with a display of Harpford Church Flower Festival photographs from previous years!

Visitors reeling from that extraordinary environment were offered the chance to recreate that buzz in their own back gardens through a magnificent plant stall, and an attractive tombola offered the chance to help with church repairs.

Physical, as opposed to spiritual, refreshment awaited yards from the church in the form of mouthwatering cakes, cream teas, and other delicacies.

On Sunday evening, with the sun streaming through the stained glass of the West window and the bells ringing out across the meadows, over 40 people sang the hymns they had known from childhood in thanksgiving for such a wonderful three days.

A huge 'Thank you' is due to those who worked like bees to prepare exhibits, grow exquisite plants, and staff the refreshment 'tent'; to those who responded with boot-loads of bounty for the Tombola and rained cartons of cakes the minute the cry went up; and to all who not only came but also sent their friends to walk the red carpet and donate generously. We built it and they came - 500 of them! This provided over £4,000 for our beautiful



church (compared with an average of £2,500 for the previous two events). Thank you for your royal response!

Lots more photos are in the Flower Festival photo gallery on our website at: <https://harpfordchurch.wixsite.com/welcome>, which you can download, share, or add to.

Unlike the oft-heard epithet that if you can remember the '60's or Glastonbury, or other riotous occasions, then you weren't there: the contrary is true here. The memory of Harpford Church's 2026 Flower Festival will linger as long as we did.



Newton Poppleford Garden Club

September: Thursday 10th: Garden Club talk, 2.30pm Pavilion

October: Thursday 8th Garden Club talk, 2.30pm Pavilion

November: Thursday 12th Garden Club talk, 2.30pm Todd Gray, Pavilion

December: Thursday 10th Garden Club Christmas tea, 2.30pm Pavilion

January: Thursday 14th Garden Club talk 2.30pm Pavilion

February: Thursday 11th Garden Club AGM



Newton Poppleford & Harpford Tennis Club

It looks like this will be my last Parish Magazine article, as Rosemary and I believe we have sold our house and are working very hard to move by early August. Here's hoping there are no problems. We are moving up to Cambridgeshire to be nearer family so we can help with the grandchildren for a few more years, after which we will be in our dotage, and they can help look after us. Well, that's the plan anyway. Our mobile phone number & email address will stay the same and is shown below.



The Tennis Club has been a significant part of our lives since we moved to Newton Poppleford nearly 20 years ago. We attended the AGM in May 2007 just to join. I ended up being secretary for over 15 years, just having been secretary of Whittlesey Tennis Club for 10 years before we moved. I have been on the committee ever since. It has been fun and a great deal of hard work. Rosemary and I did not know anybody in Newton Poppleford when we moved down here; in fact, we only knew 2 people who lived in Whimple.

The Tennis Club has changed enormously over that period. We had the worst courts in Devon: the surface was concrete blocks and about 25 years old. There was very little money in the bank and membership was low. I think what really bought it home was when we went to Wimbledon in 2008 under the now defunct LTA process. We sat next to another couple from East Devon who hated playing us in the league because of the state of our courts. The committee under Chris Burhop at the time worked tirelessly to increase membership and raise money to get the courts resurfaced. We managed to do both and the club has been successful ever since. We really hope the club attracts some good younger members so we can go up in the league. It has been a hard but very satisfying 19 years, and we both wish the club every success for the future. We will keep in touch.

After a couple of years after I retired for the second time, I joined the Veterans group who played on Wednesdays. One of the players on Wednesday was a person I have been friends with ever since.

On 28th July he will reach the magnificent age of 80, the one and only Robert Hicks. Robert - Rosemary and I will miss your company. Keep playing, but you might have to get a smart phone to keep in touch.

The committee social events calendar kicked off (or should I say served up) with an Open Day on 7th June where we attracted some new members and a lot of interest in the club. On 26th June we held a very successful skittles evening with a buffet at the Cannon. This was enjoyed by all who attended. Our next event will be a BBQ & Quiz Night again at the Cannon on Friday 6th September. Again, details for getting tickets will be on our website and notice board in front of the Tennis Courts.

There is a WhatsApp system to find out who is playing on Thursday evening Club Nights, so we can be sure of a game. There is nothing worse than arriving at the courts only to find just two other players turn up. If you can make it on a Thursday evening at 7pm, please come along: you get to play many different people, all with varying standards of play. If you want to be part of the Thursday evening WhatsApp group, let Steve Filer know on 07958 033882 and he will add your mobile phone number. There is also a separate WhatsApp group for Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Again let Steve Filer know if you want to be added to this group. It tends to be veterans but is not restricted to any age. It is just fun play, but if you want to play more serious tennis contact our Club Captain, Rosemary Sparkes, on 07811 504943, and she will help you get into League Tennis.

If anyone needs tennis balls, we have a stock of them available, and you can buy them at near the cost to the club at £6 for a tube of 4 balls. Just call or text Steve Filer on 07958 033882.

Finally, a big thank you to all past and present members whom we have met and perhaps played tennis with over the past 19 years. We will miss you all very much and hope to keep in touch.

David Zirker (07802 755411, d.zirker@btinternet.com)

Colaton Raleigh News

Village Teas

Village teas in Colaton Raleigh Village Hall, every 2nd Friday in the month
2.30 – 5.00pm

Next: Friday 14th August and
Friday 11th September 2026

Everyone welcome including
walkers.



Donations for local charities

Colaton Raleigh History Project are requesting any local knowledge and photos of village life: One of our researchers will be available to chat and discuss the project at Village Teas.



COLATON RALEIGH VILLAGE HALL
LUNCH CLUB

Why not come and join our monthly Lunch Club?
It's a great place to catch-up or meet new friends,
and it's good value for money.

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- only £8 for two courses + tea or coffee -
- usually the last Thursday of the month -

(NB: No Lunch Club in August)

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For further details, and to book:
E-mail: colatonraleighlunchclub@gmail.com
(or Phone Nick/Chris on 01395 568074)

FREE Coffee Morning

COLATON RALEIGH VILLAGE HALL
- FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH -
(NB: No August Coffee Morning)

9-30-12-00

**ALL DONATIONS
TO LOCAL
CHARITIES**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**



COLATON RALEIGH SOCIAL GROUP

Supported by the Colaton Raleigh Village Hall Committee

Meets on the 3rd Monday of Each Month
7.30pm — Colaton Raleigh Village Hall

Subs: £5 per event All villagers and surrounding communities warmly welcome

Autumn – Spring Programme

- September 21st – Film Night**
A relaxed evening with a great movie, and good company.
- October 19th – Guest Speaker**
An engaging talk from a special invited speaker.
- November 16th – Pre Christmas Craft Evening**
Make festive decorations, gifts, and enjoy a creative night together.
- January 18th – Hot Supper**
Warm up after winter with a hearty shared meal.
- March 15th – Social Night**
A friendly get together... What do you want next?

Picnic in the 'churchyard'

19th SEPTEMBER
4pm - 9pm

Celebrate
the end of
SUMMER
- with friends
and family.

**LIVE
music**

Colaton Raleigh
Village Hall

**BRING YOUR
food and drink.**



COLATON RALEIGH PLAYERS

Present
the KING'S NEW SUIT
WRITTEN BY CHRISSEY BRIMACOMBE



**WED. 17. FEB. ~
SAT. 20. FEB.
AT 7-30pm**

SAT. MATINEE 2-30

Wednesday Wanderers

AUGUST

5th August: Short walk. Meet 09.40am. Bus 9A to Seaton Wetlands (take a picnic). Bus back.

12th August: Meet 09.45am. School Lane, Farthings, Toll House, Littledown, Goosemoor, Common. Bus back from Joneys Cross or walk back via Benchams.

19th August: Meet 08.50am for 157 bus at 09.05am to East Budleigh, pass sewage works to Otterton. Coffee. Bus back from Joneys.

26th August: Meet 09.45am. River to Tipton, Bishop's Court Farm, Metcombe, through gate left to Tipton or right footpath up to the Common and back.

SEPTEMBER

2nd September: Short walk. Meet 09.40am. Bus 9A at 09.53am to Seaton Axmouth, Harbour seafront. Coffee. Bus back.

9th September: Meet 09.40am. Bus 9A at 09.53am to Core Hill, Burscombe, Sidford. Bus back.

16th September: Meet 09.30am. Bus 157 at 09.50am to the Triangle. Bus 899 at 10.25am to Beer. Walk to Seaton. Coffee. Bus back.

23rd September. Meet 09.40am. Bus 9A at 09.53am to Core Hill, walk down to the Byes, sea front, Connaught Gardens. Coffee. Bus back.

30th September: Meet 09.40am. Bus 9A at 09.53am to the Donkey Sanctuary, walk down to Dunscombe Caravan, Weston, Donkey Sanctuary. Coffee. Bus back.



Honey Bee Swarms or Issues

Contact Joan Bissek: 07519 454080 or 01395 568041

150 Years of Mother's Union

The Mother's Union is celebrating its 150th anniversary. At a recent service in St Paul's Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury said she had seen first-hand the profound impact” of its work in communities around the world, “in family life, healthcare, education, social projects — challenging poverty, injustice and violence. . . In fact, I often say, if I need something doing, ask the Mothers' Union to do it.”

Her sermon on Ephesians had asked: “How do we sustain ourselves as we serve? How do we nourish our own spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, whilst we are tending to the needs of others?”

The answer, she suggested, lay in St Paul's words: “I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”



Strong Christian Presence in Elite Football

75 per cent of within the top six tiers of men's professional football clubs across England and Wales have Christian players in their first-team squads. That is according to a recent study commissioned by Christians in Sport.

The study, supported by Eido Research, also revealed the extent of Christian activities taking place within elite football: 40 per cent of clubs regularly host events such as Bible studies and prayer meetings. From a 90 per cent response to the study from Premier League clubs, half reported regular Christian gatherings. More than a third of these activities are player-led.

The research was based on feedback from 134 clubs (164 clubs were contacted).

Otter Vale Association – Walks Programme

Welcome to our Walks Programme for August and September. Our walk leaders have provided a very varied selection of walks: locally alongside the river in the Otter Valley and on the Commons; and a few further afield, e.g., Dartmoor and Powderham; and the return of The Exeter Green Circle in one day. A huge ‘thank you’ to all of our wonderful walk leaders.

For walks on 4th August, and 17th and 29th September, please book with the Walk Leaders - their contact details are included in each walk. This does not mean that we are limiting numbers but is just in case we need to cancel these walks that are farther afield.

Some walks include the optional extra of lunch venues at the end of the walk, a great way to continue socialising - you may need to make your own bookings. Additionally, not all of our walks start at the usual time of 10.00am, so check the Walks Programme. Full details of every walk are also on the website <https://www.ova.org.uk/ova-diary/category/walks>.

Everyone is welcome to join any of our walks. If you have never been on a walk with us before, please do contact the walks leader beforehand and they can chat to you about the route, conditions, and suitability.

As many of our Walk Leaders have holidays, other activities, and responsibilities, we do not have a walk every week. Instead, ‘pop-up walks’ may be offered: these will be advertised on the various OVA media – so keep your eyes open.

Our walks may be subject to change nearer the time, due to weather conditions, etc. – it is always worth checking the website <https://www.ova.org.uk/ova-diary/category/walks>, which will always have the latest information. We also try to update Facebook and WhatsApp.

We hope to see you at one or more walks as we explore this wonderful part of the country.

Paul Kurowski & the Walks Team



Tuesday 4th August, 10.30am - about 6 miles, 3 hours (BOOKING REQUIRED)

‘A Bellever Day’

Meet: Postbridge Visitor Centre Car Park on B3212 postcode PL20 6TH, OL28 SX 648789, what3words: ///passively.muddle.tangling.

Walking from Postbridge out to Bellever Tor, passing many interesting archaeological features and continuing on to Laughter Tor, through the gate into Bellever Woods and over the Clapper Bridge on the East Dart River, back along to Postbridge. Please bring supplies for a coffee break and lunch (good pasties are available from the Postbridge General Stores), or lunch in the East Dart Inn in Postbridge, or at the Warren House Inn on the way back. Please book by WhatsApp or text, in case the walk has to be cancelled due to bad weather.

Walk Leader: Claire Read 07866 435333



Tuesday 18th August, 9.00am - 7.5 miles, 4 hours

‘Ottery Above and Below’

Meet: Land of Canaan Long Stay Car Park, Ottery St Mary, OS115, SY 095 955; what3words: ///mountains.solution.basic

Starting from the Land of Canaan long stay car park we follow the River Otter downstream past Pixies Parlour, where we can help to rescue any bell ringers taken hostage by the Pixies. Then set off cross country to climb Green Hill, taking in magnificent views over Ottery and the landscape beyond. We walk through the beech woods on top of the ridge until we join up with the Orange Way footpath, which takes us back into Ottery. Bring a flask for coffee for a well-earned coffee break at the top of Green Hill.

The Volunteer Inn in Ottery does good lunches (and great beer!) for those wishing to stay for a bite to eat.

Walk Leader: Austin Penn 07850 511670



Wednesday 26th August 2026, 10.00am - 5.5 miles, 3 hours

‘A Figure of Eight to the Reservoir’

Meet: East Budleigh free car park, Hayes Lane, East Budleigh, OS 115, SY 065 848; what3words: ///swinging.talents.awoke)

An easy to moderate walk from East Budleigh to Dalditch, Squabmoor Reservoir, and Wheathill. It features a mixture of woodland trails, open views, and a reservoir. There will be a coffee stop part way round (so bring a flask).

Walk Leader: Ross Hussey, rdandamhussey22@gmail.com

or 01395 227991 / 07902 255915 (mobile on the day). No need to contact in advance unless weather is uncertain.



Thursday 10th September, 10.00am – length and duration to be confirmed – see the website: nearer the time.

‘Around Powderham and Kenton’

Walk Leaders: Fran and Paul Dike, 07977 057546 or 07968 155817.



Tuesday 15th September, 10.00am – 6.5 miles, 3.5 hours

‘Otterton to Otterhead and Back’

Meet: Otterton Village Green (roadside parking), OS Explorer 115, SY 080 853; EX9 7HX; what3words: ///commoners.influence.shirt.

Leaving the charming village of Otterton, we use the cliff-top coast path to reach Otterhead at the mouth of the river and return along the estuary and riverside paths.

Optional
lunch at
The Mill.

Walk Leader:
Jon Roseway
01395 488739
07887 936280

The Otter Valley Association

to celebrate and safeguard the Otter Valley as a truly wonderful part of the world, ensuring it remains a source of joy and inspiration for both locals and visitors alike.

			
"To champion for clean water in the river Otter and its tributaries"	"To encourage sustainable and appropriate development"	"To encourage thriving biodiversity across our Parishes, Heaths, Valley & Estuaries"	"To encourage our local communities & visitors to adapt to better ways of living"

We have different working groups that our volunteers participate in – from water quality programs to enhancing the natural environment, to recognising our incredible heritage and the people who helped create it. We work with our parish and regional councils and collaborate with like-minded organisations to encourage sustainable change. We organise talks to support these programs, and regular walks to encourage health and wellbeing. We have a thriving social community.

Please join us in our mission, and together we can make a meaningful impact on our wildlife and environment
For more information, please visit www.ovva.org.uk

Wednesday 23 September, 10.00am – 4.8 miles, 3 hours

‘The Dog’s Nose’

Meet: Manaton car park (donations), Manaton, Newton Abbot, TQ13 9UL
SX 74990 81193; what3words: ///flopping.economies.remark

A circular route taking in Leighon, Hound Tor, and Hayne Down with a good view of Bowerman’s Nose; includes 900ft ascent. Bring a flask for a coffee stop and a picnic lunch.

Walk Leaders: David and Rosie Conner 07831 406959



**Tuesday 29th September, 10.00am – about 7.5 miles, allow 3.5 hours -
BOOKING REQUIRED**

‘Christow and the Three Reservoirs’

Exploring quiet countryside with some long steep ascents and descents.
Total ascent = 387m.

Meet: Christow Car Park (toilet available) OS 110 SX837 851

what3words ///media.sliding.flashback

Takes about 45minutes from East Budleigh. Please share cars if possible.
A walk from Christow, which takes us up through peaceful woods and countryside to a series of three reservoirs. We walk alongside one, then follow quiet roads to return to Christow. Bring a flask for a coffee stop. You might want to bring lunch to eat when back at the car park, or try out the new community shop located in the car park, which is open all day.

Please book with the Walk Leaders, in case we need to cancel due to bad weather, etc. We may also be able to help with sorting out lifts - Any time up to 8am on the day of the walk is fine.

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742942, 07792 619748

pandp@kurowski.me.uk



Newton Poppleford Local History Group

NEWTON POPPLEFORD – ‘GETTING ABOUT’

In Newton Poppleford in the 1750's there would not have been much transport; you either walked or rode to your destination or your work place. Any goods you had to go to market were carried by pack animals. Cattle, sheep, and other animals were walked to market along narrow tracks. The arrival of horse and coaches meant these tracks were no longer suitable; they had to be improved, so turnpike companies were set up to widen and improve the roadway surface. Newton Poppleford belonged to a Lyme Regis turnpike company; they maintained 36 miles of road, along which they placed toll houses, where you paid a fixed fee to travel that section of roadway. The toll house keeper would collect the money and also made sure that that section of roadway was passable.

Newton Poppleford had three toll houses, one at the bottom of Four Elms Hill, another at School Lane, and the last is still there (image) and said to be the oldest in Devon, near Exmouth Road.



Typical Toll Charges

Cart with 6 horses	1/-	(5p)
Cart with 3 horses	8d	(3.5p)
Cart with 1 horse	3d	(1p)
Horse and rider	1d	(.5p)
20 sheep	5d	(2p)
20 cattle	10d	(4p)

The number of wheels on your cart also affected your toll because of the damage they would cause. The tolls were valid for the day and covered a distance of 4-6 miles. An exception to this was that coaches and timber-carrying wagons paid for each journey.

Here I need to digress a little: when you go to the County Show, you see the wonderful shire horses, the powerhouse of their day. They look handsome with all their regalia, horse brasses, and their mane plaited with bells. Those bells are an important part of horse and man. When pulling a timber-carrying wagon with maybe 20 foot of timber on board along quiet, long, and bendy country lanes, apart from the bird song, the bells would carry a long way. If another timber-carrying cart was travelling from the opposite direction and there was a bend in the track, you would hear each other, so one would pull over where there was a space, their bells would stop ringing, and so both drivers could pass safely.

The River Otter had a bridge crossing at Newton Poppleford as far back as 1259. A five-arched bridge with large outwalls was built in 1809 and proved difficult and dangerous to cross, being only 10 feet wide. The present bridge at Newton Poppleford, built in 1840 at a cost of £2,000 and designed by a Mr Green who built four bridges over the Otter, remained intact after the floods of 1968.

The next History Group meetings are at Newton Poppleford Village Hall, at 2.30pm on Monday 3rd August and 7th September.

[illegible]

David & Rosemary's Fond Farewell

David & Rosemary Zirker's Fond Farewell to Everyone in Newton Popleford

After living at Brookfields for just under 20 years it is time to say farewell as we are busy packing up to move at the beginning of August. When we arrived in Newton Popleford on 6th December 2006, we did not know anybody. Now we can count at least 50 people who have become firm friends and we see regularly.

We have really become part of the village in that time and got involved in the many and varied organisations that have become part of our everyday lives. We will miss you all. If you do want to keep in touch with us, our mobile phone numbers and email addresses will stay the same and are at the end of this article.

Shortly after we moved in, we got involved in the local community going to the pub quiz regularly, even though we were not much good and smoking in pubs was still allowed. Rosemary soon got involved by reopening 1st Sidmouth Brownie Group, which had closed due to lack of Leaders. It took her five years to find her successor. I got involved with the Tennis Club as secretary under the Chairmanship of Chris Burhop and more recently Steve Filer, and we were part of a major fund-raising team to resurface the tennis court and make the Tennis Club an integral part of the village.

I was then asked to run the Pavilion by Brian Woodley and David Atkins and raise funds to get it refurbished after a disgruntled member of the youth club tried to burn it down. Once it was reopened in 2010-11, I ran it till 2018. We also got hoodwinked by the late Joan Entwistle to take over the lunch club, previously run by the Church. It got to the stage that the team running it was older than the people attending, with three over 80 and Rosemary at 75 the 2nd youngest of the team. For those of you who remember the old kitchen, cooking for the Lunch Club was quite difficult.

The team fund raised for four years to raise the £52,000 to add the kitchen and store. I also got involved with the Probus Group and was chairman twice.

When our grandchildren used to complain about the state of the old play area next to the Tennis Courts, David Atkins asked me to investigate the funding offered to refurbish it. We took on the task, and the head of the school was extremely helpful in letting the kids make a film about the need for a new playground. The result was that we won the £50,000 needed to re-equip the area from scratch. As the children had done all the hard work, we thought it was right to let them decide what equipment the Parish Council should buy. It remains a well-used facility in the village today.

I also did four years as a Parish Councillor, although the paperwork involved nearly got on top of me even though as an accountant I should have been used to it. Our big failure was, however, the attempt to get the youth club back up and running. We tried for over a year, but somehow we just could not attract the teenagers in sufficient numbers to make it viable. To try and fail is better than not trying at all.



Rosemary has been involved with both St Luke's and more recently as Church Warden at All Saints in East Budleigh. We have both been involved with the Colaton Raleigh Players; Rosemary as a registered chaperone for the children and me as treasurer for over seven years and a minor actor. Always had a problem remembering the lines and I cannot sing. A big disadvantage for being on the stage .

Well, all good things must end, and we would like to say a big 'thank you' to all you locals for making us so welcome in your village, but we must move to be nearer our family and to help support our grandchildren. During the years we ran our B&B from home we met so many interesting people who visited the area and a few are still in contact with us.

So it is farewell from Rosemary and me. If you are ever in the area around Cambridge and St. Ives (Cambridgeshire not Cornwall) give us a call and I am sure we can meet up. Good luck to everybody and thank you for the great times we have had living in Newton Poppleford. Thank you for taking complete strangers into your community.

David & Rosemary Zirker

Rosemary: 07775 795080 rf.zirker@btinternet.com

David: 07802 755411 d.zirker@btinternet.com



St Clare & St Francis of Assisi

Assisi, a beautiful town in the Italian province of Umbria, was the birthplace in the 12th century of two of that country's greatest saints, Francis and Clare. Francis first, and then Clare, discovered the liberating effect of release from the burden of wealth.

For them, simplicity, or godly poverty, was the way to blessing. Their followers – Francis's monks, the Franciscans, and Clare's nuns, the 'Poor Clares' as they were known, set themselves to live without any kind of luxury. This freed them, they believed, for a life of prayer and service, to care for the poor around them without distraction. They built no elaborate basilicas, though one was erected after the death of Francis, strictly against his wishes, to surround the simple chapel (his 'hovel') where he and his followers were based. The present-day house of the Poor Clares is a perfect example of the sheer beauty of simplicity.

Their lifestyle, their message, their simplicity of life and love of the Creation and its creatures, offered a striking alternative to the society around them.

Devon Wildlife Trust

Wild at home

In this hot weather, here are some simple ways to help wildlife at home:



- Provide fresh drinking water
- Keep bird baths topped up
- Create shady spots in your garden
- Top up ponds if water levels are low

Every small action can make a big difference in the heat.

Looking to attract more night-time visitors to your garden or outdoor space this summer? By planting flowers that release their scent in the evening, you can attract moths as well as bats looking for their next insect meal.

Wildlife Windows

One of the UK's most beautiful butterflies, the purple hairstreak can be surprisingly hard to spot. These dazzling insects spend most of their time fluttering high in the treetops, often hidden among the leaves of mighty oak trees. Oak trees are essential to their survival. Purple hairstreak caterpillars only feed on oak leaves and flower buds, while adult butterflies (flying in summer) use the trees as a home, breeding ground, and safe place to lay their eggs. In fact, an entire colony of purple hairstreaks can live in a single oak tree!



Please make sure you take extra care outside during hot weather

BBQ at home - not in the countryside, never light open (camp) fires, take all litter home - especially cigarette butts, and if you see a wildfire please call 999 with the exact location.

The Bottle That Carries a Story

Earlier this summer, a group of boys from Newton Poppleford and the surrounding villages - the Poppleford Panthers - travelled to Normandy for a football tournament. They went unbeaten across six matches, winning against French opposition on French soil. It was one of those weekends that parents carry around with them for years.

My younger son Raffy was playing. My elder son Noah, who is twelve, was coaching the team.

There is something particular about watching your child play in a team that his older brother is leading. The older one cannot play favourites; the younger one cannot expect special treatment. Each has to earn their place on their own terms. Raffy was magnificent — not because he was the best player on the pitch, but because of how he played with his teammates. The covering runs, the encouragement after a missed chance, the way he carried himself when things were difficult. He was, without fuss or theatre, an extraordinary team player.

I came home with a bottle.

It was a French whisky, finished in a pommeau cask - a Norman apple spirit that seemed to carry something of the landscape of that weekend in it. I will not keep it sealed for long. But I will drink it slowly, a small measure at a time, because I want the bottle to last long enough to keep bringing me back to those two days in Normandy.

This is, I suspect, something most of us understand without quite having the words for it. The bottle of wine brought back from a holiday. The whisky opened at a family gathering and finished years later. The vintage from the year a child was born. We keep these things not because they are investments but because they are vessels for memory - because the act of eventually opening them reconnects us, however briefly, to the moment they came from.

At Devon Drams, we think of this as custodianship rather than collecting. It does not require expensive bottles or special occasions. It requires only the intention to hold something with care, and the patience to open it when the moment deserves it.

If this resonates, we have explored the idea in full - including more of the Normandy story - in an article on the Devon Drams blog: www.devondrams.com/post/the-collector-and-the-drinker-a-case-for-both

Devon Drams runs whisky tastings and community events across East Devon. Everyone is welcome, from the whisky curious to the long-time enthusiast. Find out more at www.devondrams.com

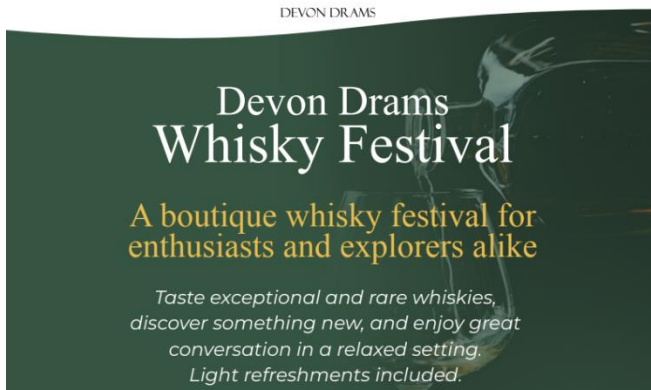
Devon Drams Whisky Festival is running at the Mount Pleasant Hotel in Sidmouth, with sessions on **6th August and 7th August (7-9pm) and 5th September (11am – 4.30pm)**. To book tickets and join us: <https://www.devondrams.com/festivals>

Send an email to community@devondrams.com if you'd like to be added to our free **Devon Drams WhatsApp group**, where we share interesting articles, answer questions, and share opportunities and discounts for UK whisky events.

Johann Malawana, Devon Drams



DEVON DRAMS



Newton Poppleford Probus Club

Escape From A Cult

According to Artificial Intelligence, a cult is broadly defined as a social group centred around extreme or unusual beliefs and practices, controlled by a charismatic and authoritarian leader, typically exploiting and manipulating its members, often isolating them from society. This is a fair description of Christine Wallach's experience, who was the speaker at our June meeting with the title: **Now I belong to me – a cult escape.**

The first part of Christine's life was spent within the Plymouth (or Exclusive) Brethren, a key feature being their separation from worldly influences and contacts. My wife was a primary school teacher and on class outings the Brethren children had to eat their picnic lunches away from the rest of the class. Computers had arrived in the classroom but the internet was anathema and Brethren children were not allowed to touch them. However, they were expert at standing behind other pupils and telling them how to do it! That was 25 years ago and the Brethren have had to move with the times; they now have a website describing themselves as a Christian Church and specifically denying that they are a cult.

Growing up within a Brethren family, Christine had never seen television or gone to the cinema or any public entertainment. There was no mixing outside the Brethren; young people were not allowed to attend university, some got there and were sent home. Having married within the community her place was in the home, couples tending to have large families; Christine had seven children. There were no holidays but by getting up at 4.00am on a Saturday they could take their family right away for a day's treat. Daughters were more accepting of the regime, but her two sons growing up began to rebel. Saturday bedtime was 10.00pm to be ready for 6.00am church service on Sunday, but the boys would sneak out after bedtime to meet up with their mates and stay out to the early hours. When this finally came to light in 1994, the Wallachs were suspended and left the Brethren, although two of their daughters who had married within the Brethren remained. As a result she has had no further contact with them, nor can she meet their grandchildren.

Christine had developed no social skills, and had to learn how to live in a completely new world and how to present herself. She had never cut her hair; she had never used make-up and had an expensive visit to a department store to buy the essentials and be shown how to use them. She had to upgrade her dowdy clothing, with help from charity shops. And she needed a job. Having a love of books, she got one with Dorling Kindersley running pop-up sales outlets at various events and establishments. She was good at it, moved up the ranks, and went on international conferences, bringing a whole new step up to black tie events.

Then came a complete change into cookery demonstration, catering, and running a tearoom. This required qualifications. She had never been allowed to do her A-Levels, but at the age of 63 she enrolled on a university course and was awarded a B.Sc. degree.

Presenting herself was more than just about physical appearance, and she has honed her skills training with Toastmasters International.

Christine has lived two completely different lives and has enjoyed her free life for 32 years.

It was heartening to hear that her first life did not destroy her Christian faith, and she is happy attending her local Parish Church.



We had quite a change in July when Marilyn Bishop spent an hour skilfully interweaving a bit of Venetian history and the life of Casanova.

Venice first came to prominence in the 14th century as the birthplace and home of Marco Polo but its glory days were really the 18th century when it was a key destination of the well-heeled Brits who embarked upon the Grand Tour of Europe as the finale to their education. With its 150 canals and 10k gondolas, fine canal-side buildings, churches such as St Mark's Basilica, the Gothic Doge's Palace, the Renaissance Rialto Bridge, famous coffee houses (such as Florian, which is still around today), and a rather hedonistic approach to life with a love of gambling and opera, 18th Century Venice was known as the pleasure capital of Europe. At various times

Venice was home to Canaletto, Titian, Tintoretto, Vivaldi and, for a while, even Mozart visited or lived and worked there.

Giacomo Casanova was born in Venice in 1725 and we know much of his life because in his final years he wrote about it in a 12 volume autobiography 'Histoire de ma vie', which portrays a vivid look at 18th century European society. His legendary amorous exploits made his name a synonym for an archetypal seducer but he was more than that. He was the son of actors; when he was eight his father died and as his mother was 'on the road' he was brought up by his grandmother. Sent away to school and after university in Padua he was destined to be an ecclesiastical lawyer. It was not to be. At the time the Venetian aristocracy discouraged marriage as a way of avoiding the dilution of their wealth, and they accepted the role of the short term 'affair,' so perhaps it is no surprise that his life went the way it did.

Allegedly he lost his virginity aged 11, but he was known as a kind and caring lover during his many affairs. His life beyond seduction was turbulent. He got his money and other advantages from a string of patrons and at various times was a musician, soldier, diplomat, spy, bankrupt, and even a lottery salesman after he successfully introduced the concept to the Parisian authorities.

He often misrepresented himself as an aristocrat and counted popes, cardinals, monarchs, and intellectuals such as Voltaire and Goethe among his acquaintances. In 1755 he was arrested by the Venetian Inquisition for suspected witchcraft and imprisoned in the infamous and inescapable prison in the Doge's Palace - not that inescapable, because he did just that! He spent the next decade 'on the run' as a sort of peripatetic gambler and intriguer in places such as Berlin, London, Switzerland, and Spain before eventually being allowed to return to Venice in 1774.

His final years (1785-98) were spent relatively peacefully for him, in Bohemia where he wrote his autobiography. What a life!



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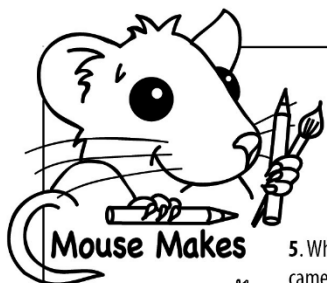
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1. What bird makes
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Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal
was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

5. What plague
came out of the
River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would
go through the eye
of a needle easier
than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



7. Which animal
was Jesus
compared to?
John 1:29



8. What bird did Noah release
from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.

In what creature's mouth
was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



9 down.

What lives
in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird
did the
Holy Spirit
appear as?
Luke 3:22



13. Which animal
did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



14. What bird did God provide
for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



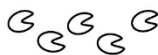
15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



10. What insect
would God send
to destroy
the enemy?
Deut 7:20



11. What animals
eat crumbs from
under the table?
Matthew 15:27



16. Which animal is the
"mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



B I B L E

C R E A T U R E S

Church Contacts

The Vicar is the Reverend Mark Ward:

01404 814282, revmarkward@btinternet.com

Please respect Mark's day off, which is Tuesdays

The Otter Vale Mission Community parish office is in Ottery St Mary:

churchoffice@otterystmary.org.uk, 01404 814573.

Church Contacts	St Luke's Newton Popleford	St Gregory the Great Harpford	St John the Baptist - Colaton Raleigh
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Funerals admin	Sandra Duffin 01395 567665		
Hon. Secretary	Chris Burhop 01395 568766	Angie Charnock 01395 513244	Susan Tyrell 01395 568166
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See also: www.achurchnearyou.com for further church information.



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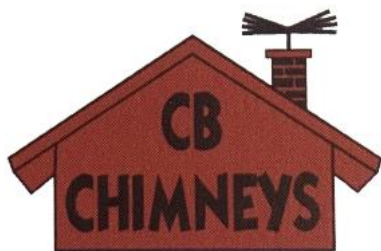


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