

# PARISH

Oct & Nov  
2026

Newton Poppleford,  
Harpford, &  
Colaton Raleigh

# Magazine



# 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 emailed to the editorial group by the closing date (see 'Diary' pages) at: [parishmag00@gmail.com](mailto:parishmag00@gmail.com)

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Cover photo: Unsplash



**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



**Messy Church**

The Meeting Place  
St Luke's Church,  
Newton Poppleford.

**Crafts Games Stories Food Faith**

Come along to Messy Church,  
a fun and relaxed church experience for  
**children from Reception to Year 6**  
with at least one parent or carer in attendance.

**Fraturdays monthly  
3.30 - 4.45**

**Next Messy Church:  
Friday 16th  
October**

For more information please contact  
Rosemary Jackie  
**07542 194300 07855 687058**  
✉ [rmpavitt@gmail.com](mailto:rmpavitt@gmail.com) ✉ [jo.jingles@btinternet.com](mailto:jo.jingles@btinternet.com)



**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  
**12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October**  
**9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

## From the Vicarage

*Good news! Mark has returned!*

*Many thanks to Rev Carys Baker for providing a view from the Vicarage during Mark's sabbatical.*

During my sabbatical in the summer, I had the opportunity to visit Holy Island (Lindisfarne) off the coast of Northumberland. The island is joined to the mainland by a tidal causeway. When the tide is out, you can drive or walk across; when the tide comes in, the causeway is impassable. Most people, most of the time, play it safe. There are clear timetables. But human nature being what it is, each year a few people get caught out, cutting it too fine. And because of that danger, a refuge hut has been built on the side of the road nearest the deepest part. As I hope you can see from this photograph, the refuge is a simple hut but on stilts, holding it above the highest tides. A walker or driver in danger of being overwhelmed by the incoming tide can find refuge until the danger has passed. (The fate of the driver's car would not be so good and would make for a challenging insurance claim!)

Holy Island is a beautiful place to visit just for the landscape, but for me the visit was something of a spiritual pilgrimage. As the 'Holy' name implies, the island has a long Christian heritage, and one name associated with it is St Cuthbert. Learning more about Cuthbert and his way of praying the Psalms has inspired and encouraged me in my praying of the Psalms, and this was an important theme of my sabbatical.

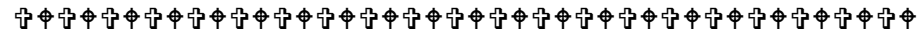


Across the 150 Psalms found in the biblical book of Psalms, God is described as a refuge 44 times! Some of those even say that the Lord God is a refuge “in times of trouble.” As I prayed these Psalms, this refuge hut was a lovely picture of what it means to find refuge. God is far more glorious than a wooden hut, and he is not to be kept in reserve only for times when we are desperate, but we all experience times in our lives when we feel overwhelmed. We can feel overwhelmed by work, family, financial worries, addictions, ours or a loved-one’s health, grief, or any number of life’s pressures. When it feels as though the tide is rising, we can find refuge in the God who is higher than all our troubles.

**Mark**



*View along Church Road, Colaton Raleigh*



**We may ignore, but we cannot evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him – C S Lewis**

# Magazine Contribution

Your free copy of the Newton Poppleford, Harpford, and Colaton Raleigh Parish Magazine is provided to you by the PCC of 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 a donation, please. 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 (payable to 'St Lukes PCC')) when the church is open, which is normally every day. We would suggest £15 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)



**Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council**

# **FIREWORKS NIGHT**

**Newton Poppleford playing fields**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Gates open 5.30pm**

**Hot food Licensed bar**  
**Music & Entertainment**

**ADULTS £10 CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE**

Tickets are limited and will be available from  
 12<sup>th</sup> October at Pride Hair Studio and The Cannon Inn  
 and from the Pavilion on Saturday mornings  
 Online ticket sales to be confirmed

Personal fireworks or sparklers must not be brought to this event  
 No parking available except blue badge holders

**Newton Poppleford Community Café**  
**At The Playing Fields Pavilion**  
**09.00-13:00 every Saturday morning**



**Fill Up with a Fry Up!**



**Enjoy a fresh brew**  
 Tea  
 Coffee  
 Hot Chocolate



**Bacon Butties**  
**Egg Butties**  
**Sausage Butties**  
**Burgers & Hot Dogs**

**Cold drinks/Crisps/Chocolate biscuits/Cake**

## Meeting Place Chairs – Mostly...

After much deliberation of chairs from tea rooms to the garden marquee at the Bishop's Palace in Exeter (which also involved sitting on a number of samples!), the PCC of St. Luke's agreed on the chairs to use in the Meeting Place. Up to now, the chairs had been borrowed from the church.

We awaited a re-stock following our order, due for the end of August. The first suggested delivery date came and went; the truck on its way to collect the shipment had broken down! For some reason the order was then split for one delivery of 30 chairs, and another of six. The 30 chairs didn't appear as scheduled, as there wasn't a delivery vehicle available tall enough for the pallet! By this time, the existing chairs in the Meeting Place had been returned to the church, and a Sunday service was looming. By chance, Haylor had discovered three large boxes in the back of the church, which contained the delivery of six chairs, but which turned out to be the wrong colour!

Saturday morning, the delivery driver pushed the pallet of 30 chairs as far as the cemetery gate and announced he could go no further due to the steep step down to the church frontage, and the instability of the 8-9 foot high pallet load.

On a brighter note, a BIG 'thank you' to Peter of Gardners who assisted with unwrapping, moving, and unstacking - definitely a three person job!

The delivery saga continues as we still have six chairs of the wrong colour to be returned and replaced, but we are so far pleased with the new chairs otherwise!

*Fiona*



## 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      |
| 6.15 – 7.15pm    | Exercise Class          | Otterton Village Hall |
| 6.30 – 7.30 pm   | Zumba                   | NP Village Hall       |

## Tuesday

|           |              |                 |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|
| • 7.00 pm | Bowling Club | NP Village Hall |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|

## 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 |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|

## Saturday

|                |                |             |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 9.00 – 1.00 pm | Community Cafe | NP Pavilion |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|

## Sunday

[illegible]

**Jesus alone can make atonement because He IS the atonement – the at-onement of God and man - *Gonville ffrench-Beytagh***

# Church Services

| Services                                            | St Luke's<br>Newton<br>Popleford | St Gregory the<br>Great<br>Harpford (BCP) | St John the<br>Baptist - Colaton<br>Raleigh |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> October                             | 10.00am Holy<br>Communion        | 6.30pm<br>Evensong                        | 9.30am Online                               |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct                                | 10.00am Café<br>Church           | -                                         | 9.30am Holy<br>Communion                    |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct                                | 9.30am Online                    | 6.30pm Holy<br>Communion                  | 9.30am Online                               |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct                                | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion        | -                                         | 11.00am Morning<br>Worship                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov                                 | 10.00am Holy<br>Communion        | 6.30pm<br>Evensong                        | 9.30am Online                               |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov<br>Remembrance                  | 10.00am Café<br>Church           | -                                         | 9.30am Holy<br>Communion                    |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov                                | 9.30am Online                    | 6.30pm Holy<br>Communion                  | 9.30am Online                               |
| 22 <sup>th</sup> Nov                                | 11.00am Holy<br>Communion        | -                                         | 11.00am Morning<br>Worship                  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov - First<br>Sunday in<br>Advent | -                                | -                                         | -                                           |

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.**



# Month Diary – October

|                            |                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion<br>CR Coffee Club, 9.30-12pm, CR Village Hall               |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>     | NP History Group, 2.30pm, NP Village Hall<br>Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place                |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>    | OVA walk, 10.30am<br>POSITOV (see page 20)                                                          |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Wednesday Wanderers, 8.50am<br>Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place                          |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>   | NP Garden Club talk, 2.30pm, NP Pavilion<br>People's Emergency Briefing, 7pm, CR Village Hall       |
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>     | Colaton Raleigh Village Teas 2-5pm, CR Village Hall                                                 |
| Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>  | NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion                                                             |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>    | Care 4 a Cuppa, 2.00pm, The Meeting Place<br>Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place                |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>   | OVA Walk, 10am                                                                                      |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> | Wednesday Wanderers, 9.45am<br>Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place                          |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>    | Messy Church, The Meeting Place 3.30-4.45pm<br>Bring & Share Social, 7.30pm, CR Village Hall (free) |
| Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>  | NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion                                                             |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>    | Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place<br>CR Village Hall Speaker Night, 7.30pm (£5)               |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> | Wednesday Wanderers, 8.50am<br>Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place                          |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | Colaton Raleigh Lunch Club, CR Village Hall                                                         |
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>  | NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion                                                             |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>    | OVA Walk, 10am<br>BST ends - clocks go back                                                         |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>    | Care 4 a Cuppa, 2.00pm, The Meeting Place                                                           |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> | Wednesday Wanderers, 9.45am<br>Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place                          |
| Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>  | NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion<br>Halloween Experience, 6pm, CR Village Hall (pre-book)    |



# Month Diary – November

|                            |                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place<br>NP History Group, 2.30pm, NP Village Hall<br>People's Emergency Briefing, 7pm, CR Village Hall         |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place<br>Wednesday Wanderers, 9.40am                                                                        |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>     | NP & Harpford Fireworks, 5.30pm, NP Playing Field                                                                                                 |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | CR Coffee Club, 9.30-12pm, CR Village Hall<br>NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion                                                             |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>     | Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place<br>Care 4 a Cuppa, 2.00pm, The Meeting Place                                                              |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> | Wednesday Wanderers, 9.40am<br>Remembrance Day<br>Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place<br>Probus, 10.00am, NP Pavilion                     |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>  | NP Garden Club, 2.30pm, NP Pavilion                                                                                                               |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>    | Colaton Raleigh Village Teas 2.30-5pm, CR Hall                                                                                                    |
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion                                                                                                           |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>    | **Last day for Parish Magazine items, please **                                                                                                   |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>    | Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place<br>Pre-Christmas Crafts, 7.30pm, CR Hall (£5, pre-book)                                                   |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> | Community Larder, 2.30 pm, The Meeting Place<br>Wednesday Wanderers, 9.45am                                                                       |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>  | NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion<br>Art & Craft Show, 1.30-4pm, CR Hall (50p - £1)<br>Italian Night Social, 7.30pm, CR Hall (£5, pre-book) |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>    | Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place<br>Care 4 a Cuppa, 2.00pm, The Meeting Place                                                              |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> | Wednesday Wanderers, 8.50am<br>Community Larder, 2.30pm, The Meeting Place                                                                        |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>  | Colaton Raleigh Lunch Club, CR Village Hall                                                                                                       |
| Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>  | NP Community Café, 9am-1pm, NP Pavilion                                                                                                           |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>    | Tea & Toast, 08.45am, The Meeting Place                                                                                                           |



## 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<br>01395 568041                                                                     |
| Brownies                           | Nicola Rose                                                                              | 01395 222549<br>07928 209980                                                                     |
| Care 4 a Cuppa                     | June Smith                                                                               | 01395 562994                                                                                     |
| Cemetery, NP                       | Parish Council Clerk                                                                     | 07393 572608                                                                                     |
| Climate Change Group               | Rosemary Walker<br>Gill Cameron-Webb                                                     | 01395 567108<br>01395 568928                                                                     |
| Colaton Raleigh Parish Council     | Clerk: Harriet Pipkin                                                                    | 07966 768832                                                                                     |
| Colaton Raleigh Players            | Claire Blackwell                                                                         | 07775 921063                                                                                     |
| Community Larder                   | Julie Murphy                                                                             | 07876 030242                                                                                     |
| Community Speedwatch Team          | Gill Cameron Webb                                                                        | 07891 086871                                                                                     |
| Cricket Club                       | Matthew Raistrick                                                                        | 01395 567962                                                                                     |
| Dance Exercise<br>Keep Fit classes | Sally Sinclair                                                                           | 07837 570011                                                                                     |
| Dance, American Square             | Janet Boulton                                                                            | 01297 33019                                                                                      |
| District Councillor                | Chris Burhop                                                                             | 07741 646266<br><a href="mailto:chris.burhop@eastdevon.gov.uk">chris.burhop@eastdevon.gov.uk</a> |
| Footpaths, NP                      | Ted Swan                                                                                 | 01395 904471                                                                                     |
| Footpaths, CR                      | Ed Suttie                                                                                | 01395 567046                                                                                     |
| Funerals<br>St Luke's, NP          | Sandra Duffin                                                                            | 01395 567665                                                                                     |
| Garden Club                        | Sue Burge                                                                                | 01395 568711                                                                                     |
| Hospiscare                         | Exeter Office                                                                            | 01392 688020                                                                                     |
| Lunch Club                         | <a href="mailto:colatonraleighlunchclub@gmail.com">colatonraleighlunchclub@gmail.com</a> |                                                                                                  |
|                                    | Nick / Chris Higgins                                                                     | 01395 568074                                                                                     |
| Member of<br>Parliament            | Richard Foorde                                                                           | <a href="mailto:RichardFoordeMP@parliament.uk">RichardFoordeMP@parliament.uk</a>                 |

|                                    |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National Trust Sidmouth Group      | Philip Stanbury                                                                                                                      | <a href="mailto:ntsidmouth@gmail.com">ntsidmouth@gmail.com</a>   |
| Nature Enhancement Group           | Gill Cameron Webb<br>Rosemary Walker                                                                                                 | 07891 086871<br>01395 567108                                     |
| NP History Group                   | Terry Gregory                                                                                                                        | 01395 568848                                                     |
| NP Primary School                  | Office / Reception                                                                                                                   | 01395 568300                                                     |
| Otter Valley Association           | Newton Poppleford<br>rep Ted Swan                                                                                                    | 07848 852463                                                     |
| Parish Council NP & Harpford       | Parish Council Clerk<br><a href="mailto:Clerk@newtonpopplefordandharpford-pc.gov.uk">Clerk@newtonpopplefordandharpford-pc.gov.uk</a> | 07393 572608                                                     |
| Parish Magazine                    | Editorial Group                                                                                                                      | <a href="mailto:ParishMag00@gmail.com">ParishMag00@gmail.com</a> |
| Pavilion – Bookings                | Mrs Susan Tribble                                                                                                                    | 01395 567935                                                     |
| Playing Field Foundation           | Mrs Susan Tribble                                                                                                                    | 01395 567935                                                     |
| Prayer Matters                     | Audrey Callis                                                                                                                        | 01395 568742                                                     |
| Probus Club                        | Haylor Lass                                                                                                                          | 01395 568786                                                     |
| Riverside Players                  | Tricia Barclay                                                                                                                       | 01395 568897                                                     |
| Royal British Legion               | Area Organiser<br>Peter Eagles                                                                                                       | 01395 516060                                                     |
| Short Mat Bowls, Newton Poppleford | Paul Kinson                                                                                                                          | 01395 568577                                                     |
| Table / Tennis Club                | Steve Filer                                                                                                                          | 07958 033882                                                     |
| Tea & Toast                        | Fiona Gunn                                                                                                                           | 01395 567077                                                     |
| Village Hall Bookings, CR          | <a href="mailto:papworths@aol.com">papworths@aol.com</a>                                                                             | Janice<br>07843 136278                                           |
| Village Hall Bookings, Harpford    | Sue Jeffries                                                                                                                         | 07762 721801                                                     |
| Village Hall Bookings, NP          | Jackie Barnard<br>Trevor Vincent                                                                                                     | 07813 047646<br>07977 809734                                     |
| Wednesday Wanderers                | Caroline Gregory                                                                                                                     | 01395 568848                                                     |
| Whist Drives, NP                   | Maureen Cook                                                                                                                         | 01395 568348                                                     |
| Yoga                               | Helen Goodman-Payne                                                                                                                  | 01395 568071                                                     |
| Young Church                       | Rosemary Pavitt                                                                                                                      | 07542 194300                                                     |

# East Devon District Councillor's Report

## Northmostown Road Closure

A meeting finally took place between DCC and residents of Northmostown on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September, after nearly nine months of closure. The road closure, following storm damage in January 2026, has had a severe impact on residents and businesses in Northmostown, together with a knock-on effect to residents of Otterton, who also use the road frequently. Emergency response times have been extended by between 15 and 20 minutes and deliveries to homes and businesses are sometimes being refused due to the extended delivery times and distances involved. In addition, the incremental traffic heading south towards Otterton because of the closure is having a significant impact on the quality of that part of the road too. An outline feasibility report commissioned by DCC is due by the end of September but that is the precursor to its review and possible alternative options, identification of funding, and confirmation of the commencement of works. Nothing will be concluded until 2027. In summary, this remains incredibly unsettling to the 100+ residents affected by this continued closure.

## Local Government Reorganisation

Well, you really couldn't make this up. For those who have endeavoured to follow the soap opera that is LGR so far, here is the latest update. Just in time for the last magazine the government at the time, being almost the last throes of Sir Keir Starmer, had decided to press ahead with LGR with the focus being on expansion of cities to the detriment, it would seem, of the 'coast and rural' areas into which Newton Poppleford and Harpford were cast, along with Sidmouth, Torridge, Hope Cove, and Ilfracombe, to name but a few.

Along comes Andy Burnham and his (not so) new Minister for Local Government, Angela Raynor, and they call a halt to the planned reorganisation of the councils.

So, the planned reorganisation has been put on ice for an indefinite period. This means that district council elections will now go ahead as originally scheduled for May 2027, and there is a complete lack of clarity as to what happens to councils in the future. A huge amount of work had already been undertaken by all the councils in Devon on LGR and, with the decision seemingly made in July, that meant work had started on the amalgamation of councils to

the 'Exeter / Plymouth / Torbay & Other' model. That work has been entirely wasted, it would seem.

I've said before that I'm not anti-a-reorganisation - those who know me will know that I have been involved with one or two myself - and there is a clarity to a unitarian council structure, such that the general public are clear that there is one council doing the things councils do rather than scratching their heads trying to figure out who does what... However, this lack of decision making is mind-boggling.

This has real-world impacts on what district councils can plan for over the medium term, such as capital housing projects and improvements, so it does really matter.

### **Potholes, Again**

The pothole outside the Southern Cross Tea Rooms is causing increasing consternation. I received a message from someone outside the parish who had complained to DCC about this, only to be told that the size of the hole 'does not satisfy' DCC's own criteria for repair.

## **Plans for major overhaul of councils halted**

15 hours ago

**Becky Morton**

Political reporter

Share

Save

 Add as preferred on Google



I believe the hole has been caused by a collapsing SWW meter and as such I have contacted DCC Councillor Jess Bailey to ask if she can ‘bang some heads together’ between DCC and SWW and get this repaired. It is causing traffic to swerve into the opposite lane at a known pinch point and as such is not safe. I'll keep you updated on progress.

### **East Devon Uber**

I have asked the Chair of the Licencing Committee why there are no Uber services in East Devon. If anyone has tried to get a taxi to or from Sidmouth after about 7pm, you will know of the problem and, in speaking to business owners in and around Sidmouth, they also acknowledge that it is a real issue with both visitors and locals alike. I was told that ‘Uber haven't applied for a licence in East Devon.’ What are your thoughts? Do you think that Ubers should be allowed? Where they have been introduced in Exeter they are perceived as beneficial, so I am genuinely interested in your views...

### **Exmo\_20 and the Strategic Plan**

Some of the hardiest followers of council business will already know that Exmo\_20 is a contentious potential building site on the outskirts of Exmouth, which has been included in the forthcoming updated Strategic Plan for East Devon as an (in principle) acceptable site for future development. This matters a lot because it adds up to 700 houses to the total potential building land supply (a requirement from the government) but it also means that it adds a potential threat of 700 new houses to already overstretched infrastructure (particularly sewage and roads) in and around Exmouth. Political lines in the sand are being drawn, with the current Exeter and East Devon MP David Reed vocally opposing the inclusion of Exmo\_20 in the emerging local plan. However, it transpires that his East Devon Conservative Association accepted a £5k donation from the prospective developer of Exmo\_20 prior to the last general election, which makes one wonder whose side he is really on? Whilst most, if not all, EDDC councillors would be genuinely opposed to development so close to the Pebblebed Heaths, there remains the question of ‘if not there then where?’ Which opponents to date have really failed to answer.



# Community Larder

## Hello from the Newton Poppleford Community Larder!

As you may know, the Community Larder is open all the year round and it was good to see so many people at the Larder during the holidays. For those of you who are new to the area, or have just started at Newton Poppleford School, we would like to tell you a little bit about our wonderful Community Larder.

The Larder was started on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 with a simple aim: to save good food from being wasted by making it available within our local community. Every Wednesday we receive around 100kg of food from FareShare, and we are also very happy to accept excess produce from your garden or allotment. So, if you have a glut of vegetables, fruit, or other produce, please think of the Larder before it goes to waste!

We are open every Wednesday afternoon from 2.30–4.30pm at The Meeting Place, St Luke's Church, High Street, Newton Poppleford.

It is worth remembering that **we are not a food bank** - we welcome everyone! If you would like to support the general running of the Larder, we are very grateful for cash or card donations. We also serve hot and cold drinks and delicious homemade cakes — a great opportunity to stop for a cuppa, enjoy a slice of cake, and have a chat with friends and neighbours.

Children aged 17 and under are very welcome, provided they are accompanied by an adult, or have written permission from a parent or guardian. We always have toys, books, and our chalkboard to keep little ones amused.

Throughout the year, we organise a variety of fundraising activities. We recently ran the cake stall at the school summer fete, which was a great success. We also have some beautiful vintage crockery, tablecloths, bunting, and other items available to hire, helping you to make your special occasion even more memorable.

On **14<sup>th</sup> October**, we are holding a special one-off charity event. A few of our volunteers have sadly had personal experience of cancer and have

benefited enormously from the wonderful work of **FORCE cancer charity**, based at the RD&E. For this event, instead of donations going towards the Community Larder, **all donations will go to FORCE**. We hope you will come along, support the event and give generously to this very worthwhile local charity.

Finally, we are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful team of volunteers. This includes our teenagers working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award, who give up their time to help us each week. Their enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to get stuck in are very much appreciated.

The Community Larder is about much more than food - it is about reducing waste, supporting our community, and bringing people together.

So, whether you are a long-standing resident or new to Newton Poppleford, come along and see what we are all about. We look forward to welcoming you!



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

## Pilgrimage of Song in the Otter Valley

The Pilgrim Singers are a motley collection of people from a variety of places in England and Wales who love singing church music. They have been meeting every year for a long weekend in May/June for more than 20 years at Knighton on the Welsh Borders; to walk together with Jesus, enjoy meals together, and sing as a choir together in churches and chapels on the way. Their inspiring leader welds them into a choir within a few minutes of their first rehearsal. Travelling together with a brilliant organist and with a spiritual chaplain, it is such an uplifting time that most come back for more the next year.

Occasionally, they have undertaken an extra pilgrimage. Last autumn we were at Aberdaron, on the western tip of the North Wales mainland, on the ancient pilgrimage route along the north Wales coast which leads to Bardsey Island 'Isle of 10,000 Saints'. It was there that I had the idea for a pilgrimage of song here in the Otter Valley. We may not be on an ancient pilgrimage route, but we do have wonderful walking country and a goodly number of welcoming historic churches.

This Pilgrimage of Song in the Otter Valley (POSITOV) will run between Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026. The theme is celebrating creation, and over 30 people have expressed an interest in joining. I anticipate a choir of about two dozen singers, when all is confirmed. We will be based at the Kings Arms in Otterton, and will be singing services at the churches at Colaton Raleigh, Newton Poppleford, and Harpford, as well as at East Budleigh, Ottery St Mary, and Venn Ottery.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October:

- 11.30am Morning Prayer at Colaton Raleigh Church (short service)
- 2.00pm Midday Prayer at Newton Poppleford Church (short service)
- 4.00pm Evensong at Harpford Church (main service)

Anyone is welcome to come and join us in worship.

Haylor Lass (Newton Poppleford)

## Online Service

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!



*A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran, she prayed. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"*



*Suddenly, she tripped on the pavement, and fell over, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"*

# Clinton Devon Estates

## Discover the Otter Estuary at the Wetland Weekender This Autumn



CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

As autumn arrives on the Otter Estuary, thousands of migratory birds will pass through or pause to refuel on one of Devon's most important wetland habitats. With changing colours across the landscape and shifting tides shaping the estuary each day, it's the perfect time to get outdoors and reconnect with nature on our doorstep.

Join the **Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust** for the **Wetland Weekender**, taking place from **23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October**. This exciting three-day event will bring together wildlife, learning, creativity, and community on the **Otter Estuary Nature Reserve**, with activities and experiences designed for everyone from keen birdwatchers to those just beginning their interest with the natural world.

Across the weekend, visitors can enjoy a wide range of guided walks tailored to different interests and activity levels, from birdwatching, botany, and local history to gentle social strolls and Trumper hire. Experience the reserve at its most magical with opportunities to watch wildlife at dawn and dusk, take part in family-friendly discovery activities, workshops, and expert talks.

One of the reserve's most frequently photographed visitors in recent years, the osprey, has captured the imagination of local wildlife enthusiasts. Don't miss our Friday evening talk at The Holt, in which Otter Estuary Ranger, Rick Lockwood, and Seb Loram, from the **Devon Osprey Partnership**, will explore the importance of wetlands like the Otter Estuary as vital stopover sites for migrating birds and discuss the exciting possibility of ospreys breeding on the estuary in the future. It's sure to be an inspiring conservation about a success story in the making.

On Saturday, **The Holt at Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club** will serve as the event hub. Visitors can drop in between 9am-4pm to browse displays, take part in activities, and enjoy refreshments before or after exploring the reserve on their own or as part of the weekend's guided activities.

On Sunday, take **Action for Nature** by getting involved in practical activities on the reserve, meeting local environmental groups, building a bird box, or supporting volunteers at a fundraising cake sale. Whether you're a keen birder, a nature lover, a crafter, or a walker, there really is something for everyone and we hope to see you there!



Could you spare a bit of time please?

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to join this merry band - as an example, the 32 houses in Turner Close take just 20 minutes to deliver.

Please contact me at [chrisburhopnph@outlook.com](mailto:chrisburhopnph@outlook.com) or 07741646266 to find out more! Thank you, Chris

# Newton Poppleford & Harpford Tennis Club



**NEWTON POPPLEFORD & HARPFORD**

**TENNIS CLUB**

**We welcome all ages and abilities from  
beginners to experienced players**

**Club night every Thursday evening**

**Fun tennis tournaments and social events**

**Join Our Club**

 **More Information**

[https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/  
NewtonPopplefordHarpford  
TennisClub](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NewtonPopplefordHarpfordTennisClub)

 **Our Contact**

**Steve Filer**  
**07958 033882**

## Drainage Conformity in Property Sales

Being in a rural location, not all properties (homes, businesses) are on mains drainage and instead have a sewage treatment system and septic tank. Mortgage lenders may require that all sewage treatment systems should meet the latest building regulations.

You can check the current General Binding Rules that apply at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-the-ground>

In particular, systems more than 10 years old may not comply, and it could prove to be very expensive to undertake the work necessary to meet the General Binding Rules, if required for a property sale.

Changes to the General Binding Rules are not generally notified to householders, and Estate Agents may not notify you of such requirements.

## Newton Poppleford Garden Club

October: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Garden Club talk, 2.30pm Pavilion

November: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Garden Club talk, 2.30pm Todd Gray, Pavilion

December: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Garden Club Christmas tea, 2.30pm Pavilion

January: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Garden Club talk 2.30pm Pavilion

February: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Garden Club AGM



## Colaton Raleigh Village Teas (& Map)

Village teas in Colaton Raleigh Village Hall, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the month  
2.30 – 4.30pm

Next: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October and  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2026

Everyone welcome, including  
walkers.



On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October, we will be  
joined by Penny Silverthorne (from the earlier time of 2pm), who would like  
us to **paint or draw our houses for a future map of the village** – created  
by the people who live there. She will provide materials and guidance.  
Please bring a photo of your house with you. All proceeds from that and the  
tea in October will go to Children in Need. Any questions, please ask Penny:  
[pennysilverthorne@gmail.com](mailto:pennysilverthorne@gmail.com)

Colaton Raleigh History Project are also requesting any **local knowledge,  
photos, and information on village life**. One of their researchers will also  
be available to chat and discuss the project at Village Teas.



## Colaton Raleigh Village Hall Bookings

Village hall bookings are currently in a handover period, so please do not  
rely on the calendar on the Village Hall website because it is now out of  
date regarding availability.

For bookings or queries, please message or call Janice on 07843 136278  
or email [papworths@aol.com](mailto:papworths@aol.com).

## Colaton Raleigh Flower & Produce Show

Thank you to all those who entered, was a judge, helped, and organised the flower and produce show that was held in July. The trophy winners are:

The winner of the Herbert Staddon Cup for most points in the vegetable section: **Malcolm Alison**

The winner of the Johnson Cup for most points in the fruit section: **Edna Turner**

Winner of the Barkworth Pease Tray for most points in the flower & pot plant section: **Annette Trim**

Winner of the Perennial Trophy for most points in perennials: **Roger Hammett**

Winner of the Flores Cup for the best specimen rose: **Roger Hammett**

Winner of the Mary Carter Cup for the most points in the flower arranging section: **Margaret Wheaton**

Winner of the Ledger Cup for the most points in the preserves & baking section: **Sarah Hayes**

Winner of the Adrian West Cup for most points in the junior section: **Tommy Haines**

Winner of the Charge Cup for the most points overall: **Malcolm Alison**



## Art & Craft Show

Schedules and entry forms can be obtained in the village hall, the village shop, and at any time from inside the green village book bank at the top of the drive at Pheasants Cry, Church Road

See page 33 for the poster!

## THE COLATON RALEIGH CHARITIES

Reg Charity 202653

# Notice of Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2026

In the Village Hall at 6.45pm

The Charity invites written grant requests from parishioners who feel their need falls within the Charity's objects as stated below. The objects of the charity are to relieve either generally or individually, those resident in the Parish of Colaton Raleigh who are in conditions of need, hardship, or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship, or distress of such persons. To make a request or for more information please contact Mrs Harriet Pipkin by phone: 07966 768832 or email: [clerk@colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk)



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.

- only £8 for two courses + tea or coffee -
  - usually the last Thursday of the month -
- (NB: No Lunch Club in August)

**For further details, and to book:**

E-mail: [colatonraleighlunchclub@gmail.com](mailto:colatonraleighlunchclub@gmail.com)

(or Phone Nick/Chris on 01395 568074)

## Colaton Raleigh Church Flowers Fund

Over some years we have held a fund to help especially towards the flowers used in the stand for Christmas and other special festivals in the church calendar. For the rest of most of the year, those of us who see to the stand are willing to buy, and so provide the flowers we arrange. If you would like to give a contribution towards the flower fund for special occasions, it would be much appreciated.

Over the years the number of people able to do the church flowers has decreased, due to various reasons. We really do need more help. Even if for only once in the year. We also always welcome extra hands to help with all the extra decorating at Christmas and Easter.

Please contact Gill 01395 567460



## Newly Appointed Village Hall Committee

Following the resignation of a number of the previous team, new members have now been formally appointed and are settling in, reviewing the hall's day-to-day needs, and working to support the continued use of this much-loved community space.

The village extends its thanks to the outgoing committee for their time, care, and dedication to the community, and for the support they have given to the hall over the years.

The committee is already planning forthcoming events and activities designed to bring people together, celebrate village life, and make full use of the hall and the other facilities that are available to the community. We look forward to working alongside members of Colaton Raleigh, the Church, and the wider surrounding area to strengthen connections, encourage participation, and help the hall continue to thrive as a welcoming, inclusive, and valued space for all.

If you would like to book the hall, get involved, or share ideas for future events, please do get in touch: 07843 136278, [papworths@aol.com](mailto:papworths@aol.com)

## Wartime Colaton Raleigh History

While living at Stoneyford in the late 1980s, we came across the two Hale brothers, Reg and Ron, who were evacuees in Colaton Raleigh during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Their experiences in our area at that time might be of interest to all who live in these parishes, especially to those who, like me, grew up in that war.

Reg and Ron were young lads who were torn from their parents at an early age and foisted on a strange family at the top of Shepherds Lane, Colaton Raleigh - with, joy, oh joy!, a bathroom and indoor toilet, plus a paddock and ponies for their pleasure. Two older daughters were their company too – a good set-up for the waifs.

The younger boy, Ron, missed his parents and his life in Croydon and was unhappy, so his father eventually came down and took him home. Reg wanted to stay, and did so, becoming very attached to his foster parents, who treated him as a son. After a while, with German invasion expected, the family decided to take up the Government's offer of an assisted passage to Canada on the liner 'The City of Benares', and wanted to take Reg with them. His father was adamant he should not go and answered 'NO!' And as Reg did not want to go back to London, he was transferred to another foster family in Colaton Raleigh – the Boards.

In contrast to his former cosy billet, he was now in a much lowlier home. Mr Board made a sparse living working as a farm labourer for Mr Ralph Sellek at Hardys in Hawkerland Road, and lived in a thatched cottage which, after the war, was demolished to make way for what was always known as 'The Nurse's Bungalow.'

Despite the affluence of his previous family, he had a wonderful life with the Boards and made friends with the local lads. He told us that for some of their entertainment they used to collect the unexploded incendiary bombs the Germans jettisoned on their return from Exeter before whizzing back across the Channel, and lay them in patterns on the main road, on which there was, with petrol rationing, very little traffic. Then they would set fire to them with purloined matches and sit back and watch the fun.

On one occasion, Reg traced his surname, Hale, across the road, but unfortunately the local policeman happened to pedal by on his beat – he dwelt at Otterton and you saw a policeman in those days - and stopped by to examine the burnt tracery, with the name of the miscreant just visible. Upon enquiry, a visit was made to the Boards and a few words said. That put paid to those exploits. Back then, the Bobby made his presence felt, as did his strong fist in his sleeve, and he wasn't backward in using it!

In the meantime 'The City Benares,' on her way to Canada, was torpedoed by the Germans and sunk and of all those who perished, not one of the many children under 10 years old on board survived. So, Reg owed his life to his father and the magic word 'NO!' He heard that his host family were saved, the girls being older than the Hale boys.

In later life, when we met him, he was on holiday and looking over his old hunting ground. He visited Colaton Raleigh churchyard and found the Board's gravestone. There was Mr Board's name and date of death on it but not his wife's; Reg was horrified and wished to put it right. On enquiry he found she was indeed buried there, but their children hadn't added her name. He couldn't trace them and, after much discussion with the necessary people, was granted permission to have the stone removed and her name added. He also paid for a stone plaque. Ron had this inscribed 'kind parents to evacuees', for posterity.

We heard from Ron, who eventually came back to live locally and visited Colaton Raleigh a lot, that Reg lived at Weymouth, where he had previously worked. Both brothers have since disappeared from our lives.



*Doris Russell*

*View from Shepherd's Lane*



## **Notice of Vacancy for a Parish Councillor**

### **Make a difference in your community!**

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Parish Council as a councillor. We are looking for enthusiastic, committed people who care about their local area to help shape the future of our community.

### **What does a Parish Councillor do?**

Parish Councillors attend regular meetings, representing the views of local residents and help make decisions such as:

- Planning applications
- Local services and facilities
- Community projects and events
- Managing local spaces and budgets

Meetings are held in the village hall bi-monthly, on a Monday evening with training and support being provided to new members.

### **Are you eligible?**

To qualify, you must be at least 18 years old; registered to vote in the parish area, own/rent land or premises in the parish area (or within three miles of it) or have your place of work within the parish

### **How to Apply**

If you would like to apply, or ask any questions, please send a short letter or email to the Parish Clerk (Mrs Harriet Pipkin) explaining your connection to the area, why you would like to join the council and any skills or experience you would bring to the role.

[clerk@colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk)

# 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 Village Art & Craft Show 2026

Open to ALL Free entry to all classes  
Schedule inside including Entry Form  
Please read notes carefully on the back page

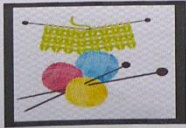
**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November**  
**in the Village Hall**

Doors open for viewing 1.30pm – 4pm

Cash Admission Adults £1 Children over 5yrs 50p

Prize giving at 3.30pm followed by the Raffle Draw  
Homemade cakes and refreshments  
available to purchase on the day







## People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

### Colaton Raleigh

Film screening and discussion with  
interested parties

For film info scan here



Colaton Raleigh Village Hall, 7pm for  
7.30pm film start, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October  
and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
**FREE ENTRY**  
October screening to be followed by discussion with  
District Councillor Charlotte Fitzgerald on district and  
county wide steps to tackle the climate crisis

[www.nebriefing.org](http://www.nebriefing.org)

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## COLATON RALEIGH PLAYERS

Present  
**the KING'S NEW SUIT**

WRITTEN BY CHRISSE BRIMACOMBE



**WED. 17<sup>th</sup> FEB. ~**  
**SAT. 20<sup>th</sup> FEB.**  
**AT 7-30 pm**  
**SAT. MATINEE 2-30**

# Wednesday Wanderers

## OCTOBER

7<sup>th</sup>: Short Walk. Meet 8.50am for 157 bus at 9.05am to Lidl's Exmouth. Castle Lane, coffee at the Old Barn. Bus back.

14<sup>th</sup>: Meet 9.45am. Millmoor Lane, Dotton, to Otterton. Coffee. Bus back.

21<sup>st</sup>: Meet 8.50am for the 157 bus at 9.05am to Exmouth, the marina, seafront, to Foxhole, coffee, back via Madeira Walk. Bus back.

28<sup>th</sup>: Meet 9.45am. School Lane, Monkey Lane, Little Down, Burrow, Back Lane, Webbers Field, and back.

## NOVEMBER

4<sup>th</sup>: Short Walk - Autumn leaves. Meet 9.40am for the 157 bus at 9.50am to the Bowd. Harpford Woods, back to Newton Poppleford.

11<sup>th</sup>: Meet 9.40am for 9A bus at 9.54am to the Donkey Sanctuary. Walk to Oakdown. Coffee. Walk back to the sanctuary. Bus back.

18<sup>th</sup>: Meet 9.45am. Benchams, Deer Park, Elliot's Farm, Venn Ottery. Coffee at Bowhayes. Back to Newton Poppleford

25<sup>th</sup>: Meet 8.50am for the 157 bus at 9.05am to Otterton. Maunders Hill, Clamour Bridge, White Bridge, Budleigh. Coffee. Bus back.



## Additional Colaton Raleigh Village Hall Events

**Bring & Share Social** – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm, free, raffle for two cash prizes

**Speaker Night** – 19<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm, £5, Pebblebed Heaths, Clinton DE

**Halloween Experience** – 31<sup>st</sup> October, 6pm, pre-booking helpful

**Pre-Christmas Craft Making** – 16<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm, £5, pre-book

**Italian Night Social** – 21<sup>st</sup> November, 7.30pm, £5, raffle for two cash prizes

**Contact:** 07359 363228, [colatonraleighevents@gmail.com](mailto:colatonraleighevents@gmail.com)

# Devon Wildlife Trust

## Nature News



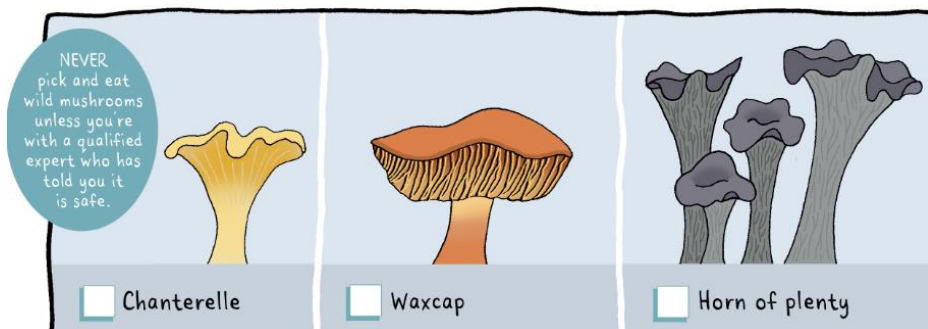
We're delighted to announce a special new collaboration with much-loved Devon footwear brand Moshulu, inspired by the wildlife and wild spaces that make our county so special. From welly boots and soft slippers to socks and pouches (featuring beavers and pine martens!), this limited-edition collection brings the colour, character, and joy of our wildlife into everyday life – whether you're heading out on an autumn adventure or getting cosy at home.

And the best part? A proportion of every purchase from this special DWT x Moshulu collection will go directly towards our work to protect and bring back nature across land and sea. Browse the collection online, or in-store at Moshulu's 18 locations nationwide (including Sidmouth).

## Wild at home

Do you know your jelly ear from your chicken of the woods...? The UK is home to over 15,000 of species of fungi, and they play a vital role in our ecosystems by breaking down dead wood and leaves and recycling nutrients back into the soil.

For the next couple of months, keep your eyes peeled on woodland walks, parks, and even your own garden. The 'Fungi Identification' spotter sheet at [www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk) can help you get started with learning about our weird and wonderful fungi!



# Otter Vale Association – Walks Programme

Welcome to our Walks Programme for October. November's are still being formulated, so please check the website: [ova.org.uk](http://ova.org.uk).

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.

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 6th October: 10.30am, 12-13 miles, about 6 hours - BOOKING REQUIRED**

**‘Round Exeter in a Day’ by popular request.**

Meet: Exeter Central Station, Queen Street, Exeter.

OS 192, SX 919 930; EX4 3SB; what3words ///folds.groom.common

*The 10.00am train from Exmouth arrives at 10.23am at Central Station; in time for the 10.30am start.*

We will follow the Exeter Green Circle, this time in an anti-clockwise direction starting from the station forecourt (joining the Hoopern Valley Walk part-way through); a great walking experience within the boundaries of Exeter - from green countryside valley parks to the pavements of quiet leafy suburbs.

The walk is divided into five sections so it is possible to do all or part of the walk, to join or leave at various points.

For those who don't want to do the full 12-13 miles ... you could leave at a convenient point.

The Circle is split into five sections and there are bus routes near to the start/finish of each section:

- Hoopern Valley Walk: just over 2 miles – from Pennsylvania Road / Stoke Valley Road, finish Exe Street by the Millers Crossing
- Redhills Walk: approx. 2.5 miles – from Exe St., finish Dunsford Road / Little John's Cross Hill
- Alphin Brook Valley Walk: about 3 miles – from Little Johns Cross Hill / Dunsford Road, finish Clapperbrook Lane East swing bridge canal crossing
- Ludwell Valley Walk: almost 3 miles - near swing bridge over canal: Topsham Road for bus, finish Vaughan Road / Whipton Lane
- Mincing Lake Valley Walk: just over 2 miles - from Vaughan Road / Whipton Lane, finish Pennsylvania Road / Stoke Valley Road

Please bring coffee, lunch, water, and hopefully everyone will like to eat at the 'Mill on the Exe', Bonhay Road at the end of the walk.

Walk Leader: Claire Read, 07866 435333

Please book the walk and meal with Claire via WhatsApp or text



**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October: 10.00am, 5 miles, 3 hours**

**'Views from Venn Ottery Common'**

Meet: Tipton St John playing fields CP

OS Explorer 115, SY 090 910; EX10 0AF; what3words: ///informer.shoelaces.dubbing

The walk ascends to Venn Ottery Common for a coffee stop with, weather permitting, splendid views over the Otter Valley. We then proceed to the edge of West Hill, descend to Fluxton, and then follow the river back to Tipton.

For those in need of refreshment, the Golden Lion in Tipton is to hand.

Walk Leader: David Conner, 07831 406959



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October: 10.00am, about 3.5 miles, 2.5 hours**

**‘A history-focused walk around the River Otter estuary’** - part of the ‘Wetland Weekender’ hosted by the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust. Meet: Otter Estuary Nature reserve car park, South Farm Road, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6EW

OS SY 066 848; what 3 words ///prevents.fishnet.hails

As part of the ‘Wetland Weekender,’ this is a history-focused walk around the River Otter estuary. We will walk down to the Lime Kilns, cross the Elizabeth Bridge, up towards Otterton, crossing at Clamour Bridge, then Big Bank back to the start. The focus will be on historical aspects before the River Otter was canalised, from the Romans through Saxon invaders, to fishing, salt, mills, ports, the wool trade, smuggling, and wars, and will mention some of the recent history as we go along.

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742942, 07792 619748  
[pandp@kurowski.me.uk](mailto:pandp@kurowski.me.uk)

### 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.ovala.org.uk](http://www.ovala.org.uk)



**Though the Lord is out of sight, we are not out of His - M Henry**

## Thursday Evening Whist Drive

Fancy a friendly evening of cards, good company, and plenty of fun?  
Come and join us for our Thursday evening Whist Drive at Newton  
Popleford Village Hall!

We start at 7pm and there is parking at the rear of the hall.

Whether you're a regular player or haven't played for a while, everyone is  
welcome. Bring a friend, enjoy a cuppa, and help us keep this much-loved  
local tradition going.

Sessions are just £5 per person. For more information please contact  
Maureen Cook on 01395 568348 or 07857 861261

**Thursday evenings, starting at 7pm** — we'd love to see you there!



**100 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1926, the children's book  
'Winnie-the-Pooh', by A A Milne, was published**

# Newton Poppleford Local History Group

## NEWTON POPPLEFORD RAILWAY

The railway opened at Newton Poppleford 1<sup>st</sup> June 1899. It transformed the life of many village people, as travel became more readily available. The transportation of goods, both in and out of the village, became so much easier; local hauliers were good, but limited in the amounts they could carry. The train was faster, meaning perishable goods arrived at their destination fresher.

Newton Poppleford was connected with a branch line from Tipton St. John to an Exmouth line. The line was originally owned by the 'London & South Western Railways.' Staff at the station consisted of a porter and a station master, the first being a Mr. Luscombe Roberts.

Mrs Harrison (nee Roberts), who was the organist at St. Luke's Church until her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, sadly died in 1988. She remembered the arrival of the first train at the platform, which was decked with flags and bunting. Most of the population of Newton Poppleford turned out and Mrs Harrison was one of the very first passengers to travel on the lines, and was one of the last passengers before its closure in 1967.

### Railway Station

Newton Poppleford opened 1<sup>st</sup> June 1899

Location: on the north side of Station Road, east of its junction with Back Lane

Co. on opening: Budleigh Salterton Railway

Closure: 6<sup>th</sup> March 1967

Co. on closure: British Rail (Western Region)

Present state: demolished, no trace of the station remains; the road bridge has also been demolished and the ground levelled

Ordnance Survey Ref: SYO89899

The railway served Newton Poppleford for about 68 years. There is a tape recording of an interview with members of the Roberts family, the same family who ran the 'Turks Head.'

They say on this tape that the gangs working on the railway drank a hogs head of cider every day. A hogs head is equivalent to 56 gallons, and that would have been Devon's rough cider, locally made. It's a surprise to everyone that the line reached its destination! If there were 50 men in that gang, it meant each man was drinking about 9 pints a day.

The cider would have been collected from local farms. Those that collected the cider had to sample it; a sort of quality control. Apparently, it was never a sip but a pint at each stop. No doubt they would have a chat and catch up on the news, so when they returned to the 'Turks Head' with their cargo they may have been a little worse for wear.

The station had a single curving platform on the up side of the line. On the platform there was a small single storey brick building, with a pitched slate roof, which comprised of a booking office and a waiting room. There was a separate brick built Gentlemen's toilet at the south end of the building. No Ladies convenience. Passenger access was by a ramp from Station Road. Goods facilities were very basic, with only general goods and parcels handled. The small goods yard was opposite the platform, where there was a single siding accessed from the north. Initially there were no substantial buildings in the yard, but sometime after 1927, some 28 years after it opened, two grain stores on straddled stones were built at the north end of the yard. The siding was also extended south under Station Road with camping coaches positioned at the end, mainly rented by railway workers for their holidays.

Goods services were withdrawn from 1964, and the station was downgraded to an unstaffed halt. The track was lifted around 1968/69.

## **Train ticket London & South Western Railways**

Sidmouth to Newton Poppleford, via Tipton St. John: 41/2d (11/2p)

## **Timetable – Tipton St. John & Exmouth**

Down – Bradshaws, July 1922

Train stopped at Newton Poppleford at 8.50, 9.23, 10.18, 11.41, 1.27, 2.46

Up - train stopped at Newton Poppleford at 7.35, 8.46, 9.59, 10.46



# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the Laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.

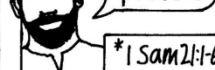


The Pharisees said to Jesus



Why are your disciples harvesting on the Sabbath? That is against the rules!

But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests\*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath\*



Don't you understand when God says 'keeping rules' doesn't make up for not having kindness'?\*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.



.. and it was healed!

The Pharisees left and made plans.



## Newton Poppleford Probus Club

I think if one conducted a small poll in the village, I feel sure there would be few people who had not read 'The Thirty Nine Steps.' I have read it several times, seen two film productions, and listened to at least one radio play. The book was published in 1915 and has never been out of print; it establishes the hero, Richard Hannay, as a sort of early James Bond, and as such was an exciting new literary genre. It was of course written by John Buchan, and he is famous for it; however, there is much more to Buchan than that. He is a national figure, and noted not only for his writing (he wrote over 100 books) but for his many and varied contributions to public life and as a highly influential figure in the first half of the 20th Century. Marcus Paul, a celebrated author who has written about and edited books on Buchan, took us through his life.

John Buchan (1875 -1940) was the first child of a Free Church of Scotland minister. He was educated at a Glasgow grammar school and then Glasgow and Oxford universities. He was called to the Bar (Middle Temple) in 1901. He was undoubtedly very able, and was writing and publishing books to critical acclaim while still an undergraduate. But, perhaps even more importantly and again perhaps typical of his generation and middle class 'Son of the Manse' origins, he was *very* driven to serve and succeed.

He soon left Middle Temple and towards the end of the Boer war served as private secretary to Lord Milner, who was then Governor of Cape Colony and colonial administrator of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. He was appalled by both government policy, particularly the concentration camps, and the devastation of farming communities, and he travelled widely and battled against an obdurate bureaucracy to correct what he saw as blatant injustices. Although only partially successful, he was widely respected for his efforts and as one local dignitary is alleged to have said 'the only good thing to come out of the war was John Buchan.'

He returned to England in 1903 and continued as a barrister and editor of The Spectator until 1907, when he joined Thomas Nelson and Sons publishers, and at the outbreak of war began writing a wartime history for them. It was a huge work, eventually amounting to 24 volumes and well



## Some Tipton St. John Shout-Outs...

The Tipton St. John Scout Group are looking for more young people, aged 8 to 10 years old, to join their cub pack. The cub pack meets on a Tuesday evening, 6.30pm to 8pm.



**1<sup>st</sup> Tipton St. John Scout Group**

The cub programme includes a wide variety of activities from wide games (such as capture the flag), campfire cooking, athletics, night hikes, overnight camps, learning of outdoor skills (such as fire lighting), knots, pioneering, and much more. If your child would like to join Tipton Cub Pack, please email: [tiptonstjohnscoutgroup@gmail.com](mailto:tiptonstjohnscoutgroup@gmail.com), for further details.



IT'S GETTING CLOSER...

AND CLOSER....

That Transylvanian hotel, Dunnem Inn, is gearing up for an influx of visitors arriving for Halloween (*in Tipton St John's Community Hall!*). Weird things happen and someone meets with an unfortunate accident. Your help is urgently needed to solve the mystery and find the guilty party!

Be a guest at the hotel and enjoy a two course meal with coffee and a well stocked pay bar. Come on your own, in twos, or why not fill up a table for six with some friends? Places in the dining room are going fast!

**Murder AT THE Dunnem Inn**  
TRANSLYVANIA

**TIPPS**  
Tipton St John's Community Hall  
Tipton St John's Community Hall

*When??*  
THURS 29<sup>TH</sup>  
FRI 30<sup>TH</sup>  
SAT 31<sup>ST</sup>  
OCTOBER 2026

7PM FOR  
7:30PM START

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COMMUNITY HALL

*Why??*  
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# Remembrance

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

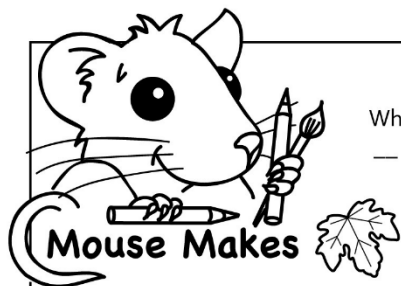
But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.



These endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin, who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



## THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?  
"Go and bear

John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?  
Thrown into the



READ  
John 15:1-17

How many times does Jesus use the word **FRUIT**?

What does Jesus command?  
To \_\_\_\_\_  
one another.  
John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to **LOVE** one another?

and \_\_\_\_\_  
John 15:6

H T H R O W N A W A Y  
I R A B I D E W I S B  
D U F R U I T F U L U  
N E R A J S I A M J R  
C V U N F C U T V P N  
L J I C W I T H E R S  
E O T H O P J E S U S  
A Y V W R L C R O N V  
N G A R D E N E R E I  
O S F J E S I S W S N  
E R E M A I N F I R E

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER  
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## Church Contacts

The Vicar is the Reverend Mark Ward:

01404 814282, [revmarkward@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@otterystmary.org.uk), 01404 814573.

| <b>Church Contacts</b> | <b>St Luke's<br/>Newton<br/>Popleford</b>                | <b>St Gregory the<br/>Great<br/>Harpford</b>                    | <b>St John the<br/>Baptist - Colaton<br/>Raleigh</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Church-wardens         | Haylor Lass<br>01395 568786<br>Chris Lee<br>01395 567715 | Brian Bartlett<br>01395 568718<br>Tony Charnock<br>01395 513244 | <i>Vacant</i>                                        |
| Funerals admin         | Sandra Duffin<br>01395 567665                            |                                                                 |                                                      |
| Hon. Secretary         | Chris Burhop<br>01395 568766                             | Angie Charnock<br>01395 513244                                  | Susan Tyrell<br>01395 568166                         |
| Hon. Treasurer         | Mike Gunn<br>01395 567077                                | Hendrik Vollers<br>01395 568330                                 | Brian Turnbull<br>01395 567339                       |
| Ringers Captain        |                                                          | John Pearce<br>01395 568628                                     | David Pester<br>01395 446043                         |
| Safe-guarding          | Fiona Gunn<br>01395 567077                               | Jane Bartlett<br>01395 568718                                   | Martin Marshall                                      |
| Prayer Coord.          | Audrey Callis<br>01395 568742                            |                                                                 |                                                      |
|                        | Musical Director<br>Ruth Lass<br>01395 568786            | Flower Team Org.<br>Lorraine Frost<br>01395 567521              | Flower Co-ord.<br>Gill Townshend<br>01395 567460     |

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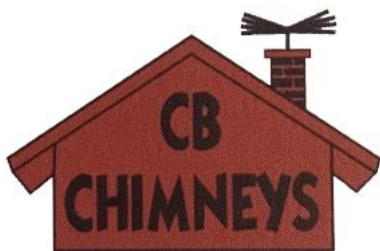


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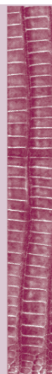
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