

# Roundabout

North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch



June 2026

"Roundabout" is printed by Hedgerow Print  
Credon EX17 1DN

### Sampford Courtenay Parish Website:

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

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

juliec2911@hotmail.co.uk

or

admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk

or by phone:

**07866 605184**

### North Tawton Website: [www.northtawton.org](http://www.northtawton.org)



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## From The Rectory

In the last few months, I seem to have had a few more visits to our doctors and hospitals than I normally would. Maybe it shows I'm not as quite as young as I once was! I've always found our doctors surgery here in North Tawton to be helpful and give a quick response. It makes me grateful to live in a country and an age where there is free and available healthcare.

Anyway, when I've been fit and healthy (and younger too) I have not expected to see my doctor very often. In fact, I think we'd all be hoping that our GPs were focused on helping those who were unwell and needed their help.

But when Jesus was around he had to make this point exactly. He came as a doctor for spiritual and emotional things as well as for physical ailments

too. But as a religious leader he was judged for spending time with those who were spiritually unwell, those who were wrongdoers, sinners. He had to point out how illogical that was:

"Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I'm here inviting the sin-sick, not the spiritually-fit." (Mark 2:17)

I find this so encouraging when I trip up and get things wrong, make mistakes and even wilfully do wrong. The people that Jesus, the Son of God, is attracted to and helps are not the perfect goodie-two-shoes, but those who are sick with wrongdoing. He invites those sorts of people, those who muck it up, to come to him and find spiritual healing and forgiveness.

- David Spence



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

### Primary School

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

### The Rectory

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

### Community Centre

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

### Town Hall

Little Fishes (Thursdays) 9-11am

### Contact

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

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

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

### Be Still

*A short informal monthly service of themed prayers, reflections & readings and creating space to dwell in the presence of God*

**St. Andrew's Church, Sampford Courtenay,  
Fourth Thursdays at 10 a.m.**

### Midweek Communion

**North Tawton Community Centre**

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



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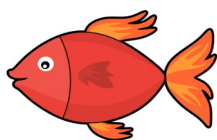
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## LITTLE FISHES

Baby & Toddler Group

Thursday Mornings

9am - 11am @ North Tawton Town Hall

(while St Peter's building project is in progress)

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For more information, please contact Wez Cutler on 07540127827



## Tuesday Chat

Drop in anytime between  
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Now at North Tawton Community Centre

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month:

For more information contact

Jo Fear 01837 82553

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### North Tawton

Ken Bragg 01363 530673  
Jackie Tye 01837 880479

### Sampford Courtenay/Honeychurch

Rory Robinson 07811 324154  
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is published for the community on behalf of the four parish churches of North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay, Bondleigh and Honeychurch.

Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by the Church, by the PCC, by members of the four churches, or by the Editor.

Contributions should be sent by email to Ruth Smith at [editor@northtawtonroundabout.com](mailto:editor@northtawtonroundabout.com) or at The Pottery, 5 The Square, North Tawton, EX20 2ER by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication is required.

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Advertisements can be arranged for shorter periods than one year or for single editions.

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See us online on [www.northtawtonroundabout.com](http://www.northtawtonroundabout.com)

## PLEASE NOTE...

Change of email address for submissions and adverts to be included is now to Ruth at:

[editor@northtawtonroundabout.com](mailto:editor@northtawtonroundabout.com)

And for advert pricing and invoicing to Simon at:

[adverts@northtawtonroundabout.com](mailto:adverts@northtawtonroundabout.com)

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

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# Can You Help Keep Cubs Alive in North Tawton?

**For generations, North Tawton Cub Scouts has been a place where young people build confidence, learn new skills, and experience real adventure. Today, we are at a turning point.**

**After nearly 50 years of combined service**, our current team of four leaders will be stepping down this Christmas. We have loved every minute of it but now it's time for a new generation to step forward. Without new volunteers, this long-standing and much-loved group may not be able to continue.

## What We Offer Young People

This is not just a weekly club; it's something truly special. Our Cubs develop skills for life:

- Problem solving and resilience / communication and teamwork
- Confidence and independence
- Leadership, responsibility and respect for others and the world around them
- Outdoor adventure - Archery and practical outdoor skills / Camping and adventure experiences
- Water activities including kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding
- A safe, supportive environment to grow and thrive

We are incredibly fortunate to have **excellent equipment, facilities, and resources already in place** everything needed to run a fantastic programme. You can bring your own expertise and flair to the role too.

## What You'll Get Back

Volunteering as a Cub leader is one of the most rewarding things you can do. You will:

- Watch young people grow in confidence week by week
- Help children discover skills they never knew they had
- Be part of a positive, welcoming community
- Share laughter, challenges and unforgettable moments
- Make a real difference in your local area

Every one of us would say the same **"We have gained far more from this than we have given."**

## Who Are We Looking For?

You don't need to have been a Scout before. We're simply looking for people who:

- Can spare some time each week
- Enjoy working with young people
- Want to give something back to the community
- Are willing to learn (full support and training will be provided)

Whether you can help lead regularly or support in other ways, every contribution matters.

## We Will Support You

We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. We will:

- Help train and guide new leaders
- Share our knowledge and experience
- Support a gradual handover starting after Easter

You will not be left to do this alone.

## The Time to Step Forward is Now

If no one comes forward, this opportunity for local young people could be lost.

But with the right people, North Tawton Cubs can continue to thrive for many years to come.

## Interested?

If you've ever thought *"maybe I could help"*, now is the time.

**Please get in touch to learn more:**

**Paul Grainge - [graingev952@gmail.com](mailto:graingev952@gmail.com) - 07808170122**

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Small grants can be made towards expenses of students going to University, College or taking apprenticeships etc.

We have already helped many young people of this Parish.

Applications should be made in writing to:

**Clerk to the Trustees  
North Tawton School Lands Charity  
3 Letheren's Meadow  
North Tawton  
EX20 2FQ**

And should state the name, age and address of the applicant, and give details of the type of education/apprenticeship they are pursuing.

Applications must be sent before the **31st July 2026**.

Applicants will be advised if a grant has been awarded as soon as possible after that date. It is emphasized that these grants are small and are made entirely at the discretion of the Trustees.

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## Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

We went. We saw. [Or we heard] **38** different bird species. Including the cuckoo. Our long anticipated Belstone Dawn Chorus Walk, with our brilliant guide Chris Walpole, was simply sensational. Alarm clocks and Smartphones were set for ridiculous hours of the night/morning and 'suitable clothing' was laid out ready to be chucked on, mindful of the fact that Spotlight weather man, David Braine, had warned his loyal viewers about 'a touch of frost in rural areas'. Husband nagged me to go to bed, even though it was still light, and warned me that I'd be 'maggotty' [which I think is either a Devonian or North Tawtonian way of saying bad tempered] if I didn't get enough sleep, so – for once – I did as I was told. Wasn't long until the alarm was dragging me from my cosy bed and husband showed his total support by muttering something about not making too much noise cos he wanted to go back to sleep. Fellow Dawn Chorus Walkers lurked in North Tawton Square waiting to be collected and it was at

this precise moment that a lone fox decided to wander through the Square – don't think he batted an eyelid at the 'suitably dressed for freezing temperatures' walkers gathered there. But it was so worth it. The birdsong, the sunrise, the stunning views as we came out of Priestacott Wood and up on to the open moor – I had to begrudgingly admit that it was worth sacrificing several hours sleep for this fantastic experience. If you get the chance – just do it.

A crafter I am not. However – regular crafters within our wonderful W.I. have noticed a new me emerging. My name was added to the lino cutting workshop list. And I turned up. Then, my name was added to the woodcarving list. And I turned up. Both workshops were fantastic and I came home [after using very sharp implements] with all my fingers intact. Result. But there is a lady within our group who insists her talents do not lie within the crafting world. But she can't half write a brilliant poem! Take it away – Jan Gray!!!!

- Sue Knott

## The Cack-Handed Crafter

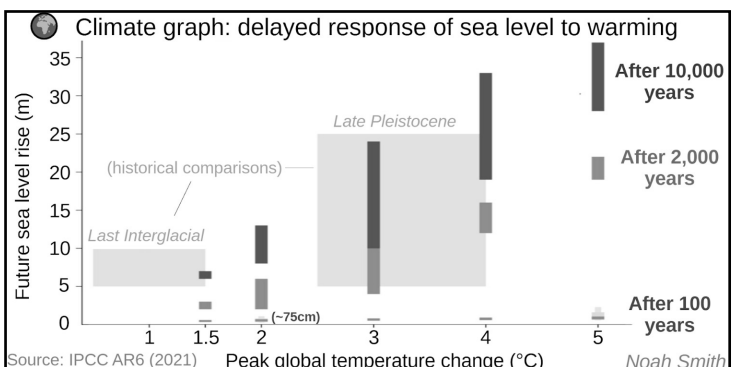
You know I'm not much of a crafter—everything I attempt is a mess,  
If I had to produce my own clothing, I'd be in a state of undress.  
Give me a needle, I'd prick myself; don't ask me to take up a hem,  
And as for the mysteries of knitting, I'd rather just leave it to 'them.'  
I tried out my hand once with pottery, but I hated the feel of the clay,  
And the thing that emerged from the kiln at the end, I promptly threw away.  
Don't trust me with hammer or chisel; it's a truly dangerous decision,  
For with one slip of a thumb or a careless move, I'd be needing to see a physician.  
Decoupage, you might think, would be simple—bits of paper stuck on with some glue,  
But the end result was so awful, it was something a dog wouldn't chew.  
Painting a scarf of pure silk? I thought: *that's bound to be easy to learn*,  
Who knew that the iron would be so hot, or how quickly my skin would burn?  
Wet felting—oh no... too messy! And lino-cutting? Risk with the blade!  
And the look from the glass-cutting tutor... well, let's just say she was afraid.  
I sometimes wonder what happened, for creativity to pass me right by,  
My nick name is Mrs Cack-Handed and will be 'til the day that I die.  
If there's a button to break, I will break it, every tool unsafe in my hand,  
And written instructions that come with most things, I struggle to understand.  
I hate to get my hands dirty, and always wear rubber gloves when I can,  
And if there's a task that needs practical skills, wasn't that why God made a man?  
So never ask me to make something crafty, I'd hate to cause you alarm,  
'Cos if it involves any scissors or knives, I'm liable to cause myself harm.  
It's lucky you've all got the talent, because if crafting was left up to me,  
The only thing that you ever see I could make, was a scene in the A&E.

- Jan Gray

## BONDLEIGH RAINFALL

The total rainfall for April was only 22.1mm. This has come after a relatively dry March with only 44.4mm. The two months together are much drier than March and April last year, when the total was 95.4mm. This dry weather has continued into May. It has been accompanied by cold winds making for very slow plant growth. Looking forward to some warmer temperatures!!

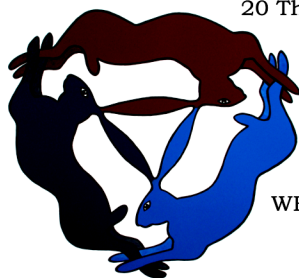
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Date for your diary -

**Saturday 22nd August**

the British Legion will be holding their  
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in the Town Hall.

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

Okehampton

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**Our June speaker is Ashley Jones MBE**

**Tuesday 16 June**

**2.30pm at Fairplace Church**

**'David Niven: the Ultimate  
Gentleman, Movie Star & Hero'**



David Niven was a British actor, soldier, memoirist, and novelist. He was known as a handsome and debonair leading man in Classic Hollywood films. He received numerous accolades in his lifetime, but his life journey was anything but smooth. After a troubled childhood, he encountered many setbacks before finding his calling as a screen actor, but his flourishing career was almost ended by World War 2.

Join Ashley for this enrichment talk where we learn about Niven's path to success, and how, even 40 years after his death in 1983, he is still regarded as the *ultimate chap*.

Admission - £1.00 to help towards the cost of the speaker, hiring the venue and refreshments.  
Non members welcome

## **OKEHAMPTON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY TALK**

**Jane White and Mark Bazeley:**

**'The History of the Dartmoor Folk  
Festival' (including original footage of  
early Festivals).**

The Dartmoor Folk Festival started in 1978 by Bob Cann. It was always his dream to hold a festival on 'Dear ole Dart-i-moor'. His aim was to preserve the song, dance, music and craft of the moor.

His family, along with a brilliant committee have continued the festival in his legacy. His two grandchildren, Jane White and Mark Bazeley are going to give you some of the history of the festival and show some film footage.

**OCKMENT CENTRE, OKEHAMPTON**

**Wednesday 10th June - 7.30 pm.**

**All Welcome. Visitors £4.00**

**This poetry column is co-ordinated by writer  
and actor, Arran Hawkins of *Lend Me Your  
Ears*, to bring you poems from local living poets!  
If you would like to submit a poem, email Arran  
at [lend.me.your.ears.2023@gmail.com](mailto:lend.me.your.ears.2023@gmail.com). This  
poem is by Ivor Manfred Evans-**

## **THE VISITOR**

I first came in the depths of night  
And, as you slumbered, whispered in your dream-filled mind  
My images of past delight,  
My promises of untold riches still to find.  
Then stole away, afraid just now  
To risk you waking from that soon forgotten dream;  
Keeping from your conscious mind how  
Wind is fed by zephyr and ocean by the stream.

To know me better, understand  
The nature of the friend you welcome in your life;  
Too late to cry a reprimand  
When pleasure turns to pain and happiness to strife.

Just as the rock on which we build  
Our proudest monuments to every passing age,  
So will I stay secure, strong-willed  
Enough to hold you firm and all your fears assuage.  
But when my alter ego reigns,  
And feet with confidence are planted on the ground,  
My steadfast form its birth disdains -  
To draw you down and all your certainties confound.

At zenith's reach my sun-bright flame  
Unwary voyagers may often quickly blind,  
But sweet gentility's my name  
When bitter frosted soul and fireside warmth I bind.

With all the Mistral's summer might  
My power can sweep its way through barricades of steel,  
Yet, at the storm's most potent height,  
Caresses you with touch no gossamer could feel.

Thus so, came I at depth of night  
And in your dream-filled mind did all my shadows move  
But, fearing a rejection's slight,  
Forsook to mention truthfully - my name is love.

**Ivor Manfred Evans, 1991**

## **BOW & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Elizabeth Shakespeare  
'The Ordeal of Miss Lucy Jones'**

**7.15 for 7.30pm Monday 22 June**

Her novel of the same title is based on a true story set  
in Torrington in the nineteenth century.

**Bow Village Hall, EX17 6HU  
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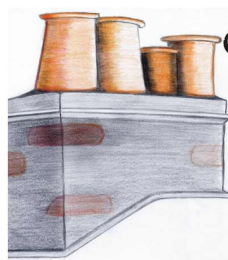
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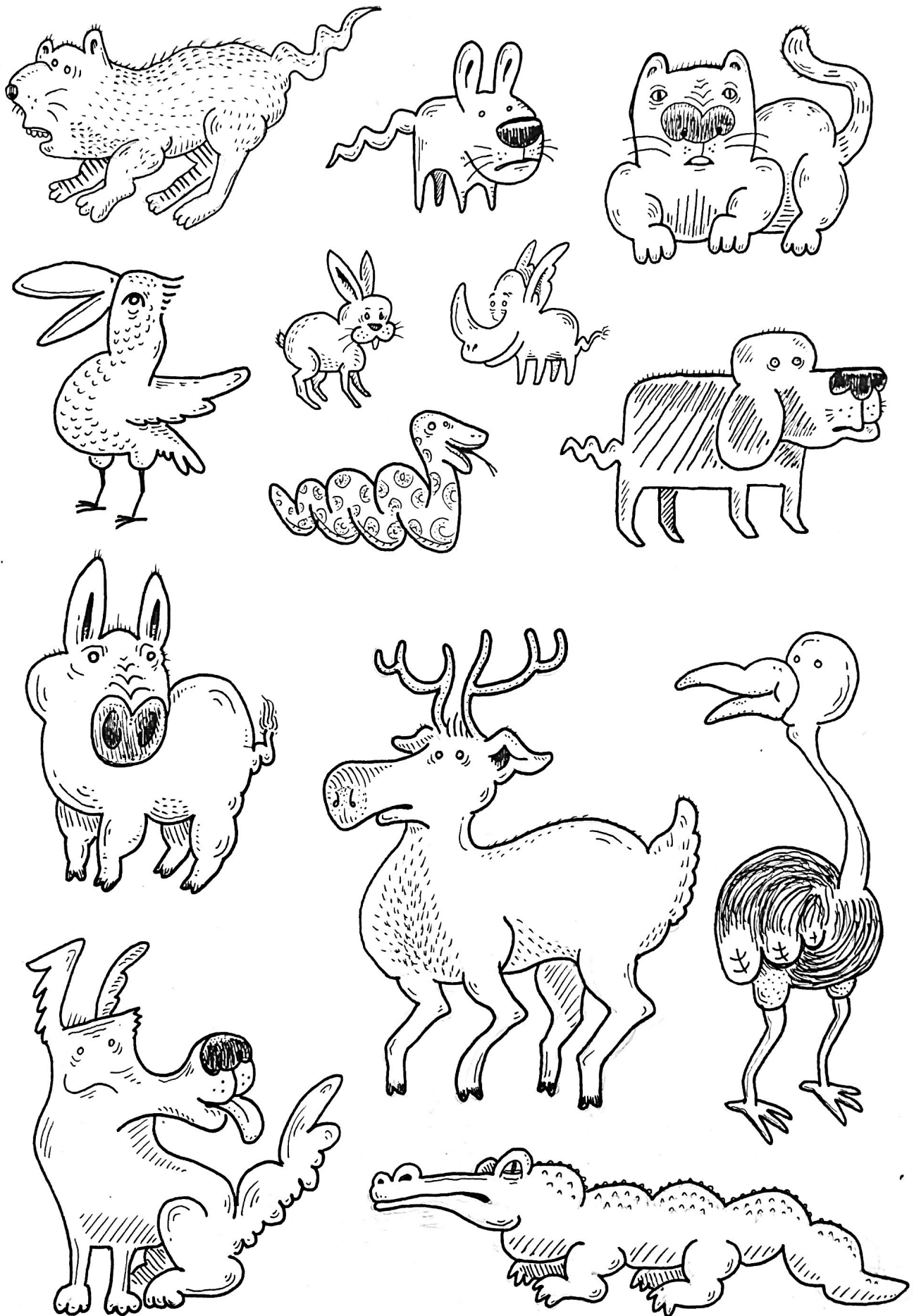
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This month's colouring in page is drawn by local artist and printmaker Alon Gershtein—@alongers

## Den Brook Community Fund

**The Den Brook Community Fund invites local Charities, Community Groups and Not-for-Profit organisation's based within the five parishes below to apply for grants which can be used to contribute towards funding for new Capital Projects.**

The deadline for receipt of applications for this "round" of funding is **31<sup>st</sup> July 2026** and as a guide, it is envisaged that about £123,000 will be available for the 2026-27 financial years' allocations. As a guide, the amounts available to each parish are likely to be –

Bow - £44,600

North Tawton - £38,600

South Tawton - £22,400

Spreyton - £8,400

Zeal Monachorum - £9,000

An "Easy Guide", Full Terms and Conditions and the new Application Form are available by e-mail only from [denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com)

**Applications using on old versions of the form will no longer be accepted.**

*The Den Brook Community Fund is administered by representatives of Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton, & Zeal Monachorum Town and Parish Councils.*

### ST. ANDREW'S SPRING CONCERT

Many thanks to all those who sang or played in the St. Andrew's Spring concert held on 18th April in the church at Sampford Courtenay. They provided a lively and varied programme to a large and appreciative audience which enjoyed the mid-concert break with a glass of wine in their hands, kindly provided by Dr. and Mrs. Richards.

Thanks are due to the group of helpers who provided tea for performers in the parish rooms between the after-

noon rehearsal and the evening performance and to those who managed the ticket sales and helped pour wine! We are grateful for the support of all those who attended as well as those who were unable to come but either bought tickets or made a donation.

The pleasing final result was that the event raised £855 which will go to the Devon Air Ambulance. Thank you to all concerned!

With thanks,

Richard.

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## THE ART BOX – June 2026

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



### Under the Same Sky

By Rob Harris

Exhibition of photographs at  
Ruth Smith Gallery 12<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June  
Opening 6-8pm 12<sup>th</sup> June

Under The Same Sky is a collection of photographs by Rob Harris that celebrates the richness and quiet dignity of the wildlife with whom we share this planet. Through intimate and often striking imagery, the work invites us to pause and reconsider our place within the natural world—not as observers standing apart, but as participants within a vast, interconnected system.

These photographs serve as a reminder of the extraordinary diversity of life on Earth. Each species, no matter how small or seemingly distant, plays a role in maintaining the delicate balance that sustains us all. By presenting animals not as curiosities or “others,” but as fellow inhabitants, the collection

challenges us to recognise a shared existence—one in which every life is shaped by the same environmental forces and vulnerabilities.

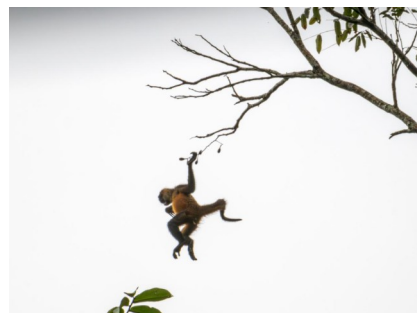
Every image captures a moment in an unfiltered world: a life lived without the buffers and protections that humans so often construct for themselves. Each creature is portrayed with its own character, resilience, and beauty, yet also with an underlying fragility. These lives unfold under constant pressure—from climate change, from shrinking habitats, from the presence of predators, and increasingly, from human encroachment.

While humanity builds walls, borders, and shelters in an attempt to control and define space, the sky above remains unchanged—an ever-present, unifying expanse that belongs equally to all living beings. It is a quiet but powerful symbol of our shared reality. Beneath it, the relationship between humans and

nature is revealed as both profound and precarious: a balance that demands awareness, respect, and care.

In essence, Under the Same Sky is both a celebration of wildlife and a gentle invitation to reflect on our shared existence with the natural world. It encourages us to look more closely, to feel more deeply, and to recognise that the fate of every species—including our own—is inseparably linked under the same sky.

- Rob Harris



### Red Mud Arts dates for your diary:

*Open Mic Night: Second Wednesday of the month, music from 7.30, Copper Key. Contact Wez via the Facebook group.*

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

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

*Creative Kin: Morning drawing group 10-12 on the second Monday of the month. Email [hello@emmelinewebb.com](mailto:hello@emmelinewebb.com)*

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

*Tawland Music Festival: 20th June 2026, North Tawton Rugby Club, tickets at Merry-Go-Round in North Tawton & Okehampton.*

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

# LIFE DRAWING

LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
7-9PM

North Tawton Community Centre, Barton St, EX20 2HN  
Costs shared between artists - approx. £30 for 4 Sessions.  
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Let us know if you'd like to come!

# PORTRAIT SESSIONS

THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
10AM - 1PM

North Tawton Community Centre, Barton St, EX20 2HN  
Coming soon! - More details to follow  
Email: Shelley - [shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk](mailto:shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk)  
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**Level 2** has a **40 minutes** walk.

**Level 3 Wednesday @ 10am.**

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## The Guides will be holding their Walking Treasure Hunt & Takeaway Cream Teas on Sunday 7th June.

The treasure hunt will start at 2.00pm from Church Cottage, 5 Exeter Street, cost £1 per adult and 50p for a child, Please bring a pen.

Takeaway Cream Teas will be available from 3.00pm Please remember to bring a container.

Proceeds for Guide funds.

## North Tawton Bowling Club

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

For further information please visit our website [www.northtawtonbc.co.uk](http://www.northtawtonbc.co.uk) or call John Kinsey on 07707 20807136



## The Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club

meets on the third Saturday of the month at The Copper Key, Fore Street, North Tawton, For 10 a.m.

We are open to all Armed Forces and Reservist Veterans of all three Services.

For more information contact Ian on 07879 881159

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## Sampford Courtenay Flower Club



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**8th June 2026**

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Backwards Forwards**

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Anne Gordon on 07824 549086.  
devonandcornwallfloralart@gmail.com

## The passing of Heather Duke.

Many thanks to all who attended the funeral on the 8th April.

Donations in memory of Heather for the Multiple Sclerosis Society were £170.

Thank you all for your kindness.

Rita & Ann

## Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay, and Jacobstowe WI

The May meeting was full of wonderful pictures of colourful local landscapes inspired by nature and how we could may be achieve the same, after listening to local artist, illustrator and teacher Julie Vickery.

She works in a variety of materials including acrylics and inks oil pastels and felt. Julie explained perspective, tone, colour and form, and is certainly an inspirational, patient, talented artist, teacher.

After a very informative talk everyone was very keen to look at the work that Julie had brought along, leaving us all in awe of her talent.

The flower competition was won jointly by Gillian and Margaret, the monthly competition jointly won by Rosemary and Karen showing their painting and needle workskills.

Despite torrential rain, a most enjoyable afternoon was spent looking around the gardens of Broomford Manor, Jacobstowe, by kind invitation of the owners, including a wonderful afternoon tea, all money raised was kindly donated to Hospice Care.

The WI Spring Coffee morning was a great success, which was held in Jacobstowe Church, with plenty of buyers for the plants, books, and cakes.

Our meeting in June is a talk on Forest Crafts, from Ben May of the Devonshire Farm Shires.



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

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200 Club Draw - the Winner for the final draw was Sandra Collier - Congratulations

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Our Crafternoons & Knit & Natter afternoons are proving to be really popular with a chance to try your hand at a new skill and meet people along with Coffee & Cake.

Have you visited our underground shop & cafe? Pop along for a meal (up to 1pm) coffee & cakes (till 3.30) or to shop for those essentials. Also stock gifts, cards and more..

New Volunteers always welcome "Volunteering is genuinely a source of great Joy" Dara O'Brien

Reminder the Post Office is Open daily till 1PM (12.30 Saturdays)

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## Okehampton Diabetes support group

We are a friendly support group for people living with, or otherwise connected to, diabetes.  
We hold a monthly meet up on the first Thursday of the month- all welcome!



For more information please contact volunteer Caroline-diabetesukoke@gmail.com or scan the QR code below..



Meeting location:  
The OCRA Pavilion  
Simmons Park  
Okehampton  
EX20 1GE  
10.30- 12 midday

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

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## NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Caroline Ellis

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

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

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

### **Blooming Marvelous – the enjoyment of Spring**

This month here in the Town Council Office we have been planning how we can bring nature into the Town Square. The hanging baskets are back by popular demand, and we would like to thank Councillor Burrow and a local resident for all their hard work on arranging for the six baskets to be filled and distributed around the Square. These are in addition to the planters and displays in the town's shop windows. Over the summer months, the Town Council will also be considering a new Biodiversity Policy and Tree Policy, as part of reaching the targets we have set ourselves in the newly written Strategic Plan, which is now available on the Town Council Website.

One of our other objectives for this year is to promote the use of the Diana Memorial Garden by the bridge. This garden offers a quiet space down by the river and has benches and picnic table for summer outings and moments of quiet reflection. There have been ideas of adding some wildflowers to this garden and other sites around the town, so watch this space. Another of our objectives is to raise awareness of the historic and natural environments in the town. Most residents are aware of the number of historic buildings we have, and some of these locations appear in the Photo of the Week on our Facebook Page.

On the 30th of April we hosted the Annual Town Meeting. This was attended by Councillors and residents and proved to be a positive evening. The local First Responders gave a talk and demonstrated how important they are to the community. The Town Council will be holding a Defib training session at the Rugby Club on 3rd September at 7pm, so do come along and join us if you are interested in learning this key skill.

We also discussed the ongoing issue of parking availability in the Square and we are planning to conduct a consultation to accurately assess the needs of both residents and local businesses, with a view to finding a solution to the problems that arise. Information on this will follow in due course. Updates will be noted on the Facebook Page and Website, so do keep an eye on those. If you don't have either, then have a look at the Town Council Notice Boards around the town. We use these to notify residents of events, both Council run and otherwise, along with relevant information regarding the Town Council and its services.

Do you have concerns about speeding vehicles in North Tawton? Have you had an accident or near-miss because somebody was driving too fast? Then please consider joining our Community Speedwatch group, sponsored by the Police and we have been trained and loaned a Police-issue speed gun so we can monitor traffic speeds. We don't try to stop vehicles that are exceeding the speed limit, nor do we have the power to issue tickets. How it works relies on volunteers giving up a small amount of time to stand by the roadside and measure the speed of vehicles. The data is then passed to the Police, and the registered keeper of the vehicle gets a letter from the Police informing them of the date, time and location and reminding them of the risk they are putting other road users and pedestrians to. We know these letters work in modifying driver behaviour and if anyone is a 'repeat offender' they get a home visit from a Police Officer to give a formal warning.

Speedwatch can only work if we can get more volunteers - you only need to be able to give maybe an hour a month. We provide all necessary training and a hi-viz tabard so drivers know they are being monitored. You should have a clean driving licence although it does help if you can recognise makes and models of vehicles. Want to know more? Please contact the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk and they will put you in touch with the Speedwatch group. You would be helping to keep our Town safe.

The Book Swap sees its first anniversary this June, and we have been so pleased to meet the residents and regular users of this service. The book swap is still going strong, and books from our collection are also available to borrow via the Repair Café. So if you also feel like bringing more nature and greenery into the town, then stop by and see whether any of the many gardening books we have will be of inspiration.

The Town Council Office is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 10.30-1.30, although we are in the office outside of these times for email contact on [townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk) and [deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk). The Facebook Page is North Tawton Town Council, and website is at <http://www.northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk>

Wishing you all a lovely Springtime!

### **Sampford Courtenay Parish Council**

Last month, the Parish Council held their Annual Parish Meeting and voted to appoint Cllrs Michelle Wilson and Mike Carpenter for a further term as their Chair and Vice Chair. A list of all the Councillors appointed; their responsibilities and contact email addresses, are published on the website [www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk) and on the Parish noticeboards. Parish Councillors work hard behind the scenes! Working groups and partnerships manage the footpaths, the village green, check on the defibrillator, and the play equipment. Councillors represent the parish as members on varied organisations groups – the Oke Rail group is one example where the Parish maintain a presence and ensure that Sampford Courtenay has a voice.

The Open Parish Meeting followed the Parish meetings and was well attended by parishioners. The topics discussed

ranged from the traffic and road issues affecting the village, the rail transport links between Okehampton and Exeter and future plans for the development of the village green and play area. The notes from this meeting are now posted on the website. Please do take a moment to read them. Thank you! If you were unable to attend and have any comments on any of the issues discussed, affecting the parish or its residents, please contact the Chair or the Clerk.

[Cllr.Wilson@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Wilson@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
[Clerk@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk)

One of the new Park Benches - installed this Spring 2026. Grant funded by the DCC Locality Fund Complimenting the recently built pathway. A Parish Council project managed from funding to installation.





# DARTMOOR AUCTIONS

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You can join online or with a paper form (available in the Post Office).

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

## Devon Sensory Outreach Service NORTH TAWTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

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

10.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

For further information contact:

Care Direct 0345 155 1007 or 07966 596881



A space to meet people, have a coffee (or tea!) and get broken things mended

## North Tawton Repair Café

We are also now able to offer repairs to computers and to bikes. Bikes must be booked in – please drop us a message on Facebook, or call Ruth 01837 82207.

Second Saturday of the month

At the Community Centre, Barton Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HN.

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

## The Food Bank & Community Fridge

Drop off at:

At The Merry Go Round on Market Street

Opening times are:

**School Term Time**

Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm & Sat: 10am - 1pm

**School Holidays**

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



## 2026 EVENT SCHEDULE

|                      |                                          |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> May | Deliciously Devon Food Fair              |
| 20th and 21st May    | NGS open gardens                         |
| 24th May             | Outdoor Theatre - Pinocchio              |
| 27th June            | Wood Fair                                |
| 29th July            | Outdoor Theatre - Much Ado about Nothing |
| 25th August          | Outdoor Theatre - Romeo & Juliet         |
| 6th and 7th November | NGS open gardens                         |
| 27th November        | Christmas Late Night Shopping            |
| 28th November        | Christmas Fayre                          |

Ashridge Court, North Tawton, EX20 2DH  
Tel: 01837 352025  
email: [info@ashridge-court.co.uk](mailto:info@ashridge-court.co.uk)

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Joy Tucker 07749 522996

## NORTH TAWTON TOWN HALL

Chairperson: Tony Jelley 07969577719  
Secretary/Booking Sec.: Lin Ford 07821472495

## Orthodox Church

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

## North Tawton Community Centre

Barton Street  
Call Mark: 01837 82608

## Quakers

Ockment Centre, North St., Okehampton, EX20 1AR  
10.30 - 11.30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month  
01837 55805 - [okehampton.quakermeeting.org](http://okehampton.quakermeeting.org)

# The Whiddon Mission Community

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

**TEAM VICAR:** North Tawton

**TEAM RECTOR:** Chagford

**ASSISTANT MINISTERS:**

**CURATE:** Chagford

**PARISH WORKER:** North Tawton

## CHURCH WARDENS

**St. Peter's** North Tawton

**St. James's** Bondleigh

**St. Andrew's** Sampford Courtenay

**St. Mary's** Honeychurch

Mr. Paul Andrews (01837 82648)

Mr. Danny Semorad (07814 877151) Mr. Graham Stokes (01837 82240)

Mr. Rory Robinson (07811 324154)

Mr. Ray Squire (01837 851627) Mr. Richard Weeks (07790 636920)

Church web page address: [www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/](http://www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/)

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

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

**Bishop Nick McKinnel** [nick.mckinnel@gmail.com](mailto:nick.mckinnel@gmail.com)

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

**Rev'd Joe Moesel** (07470 297287) [jsmoesel@outlook.com](mailto:jsmoesel@outlook.com)

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

**Mr. Wesley Cutler** (07540 127827) [wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk)

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

|           |        |                       |
|-----------|--------|-----------------------|
| 7th June  | 11am   | Morning Worship       |
| 14th June | 11am   | Informal Communion    |
| 21st June | 11am   | Family Service        |
| 23rd June | 12pm   | Midweek Communion     |
| 28th June | 9.30am | Toast Church          |
|           | 11am   | Traditional Communion |

## Services at St. James's Church Bondleigh

|           |        |           |
|-----------|--------|-----------|
| 7th June  | 9.30am | Communion |
| 21st June | 9.30am | Communion |

## Services at St. Mary's Church Honeychurch

|          |     |                    |
|----------|-----|--------------------|
| 7th June | 3pm | Evensong/Communion |
|----------|-----|--------------------|

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

|           |        |                 |
|-----------|--------|-----------------|
| 7th June  | 9.30am | Morning Worship |
| 14th June | 9.30am | Communion       |
| 21st June | 6pm    | Choral Evensong |
| 28th June | 9.30am | Communion       |

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## North Street Chapel Sundays

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14th June - 11am Breaking of Bread

21st June - 3pm Tea & Praise—Collin Smallacombe

28th June - 11am Breaking of Bread

Please contact Richard for further details 07835033062

## Church Flowers & Brass

### Honeychurch

|      |              |
|------|--------------|
| June | Vera Collins |
|------|--------------|

### Bondleigh

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 31st May & 7th June | Margaret Bridgman |
|---------------------|-------------------|

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| 14th & 21st June | Sonia Rix |
|------------------|-----------|

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 28th June & 5th July | Jane Semorad |
|----------------------|--------------|

## From the Registers

### Baptism

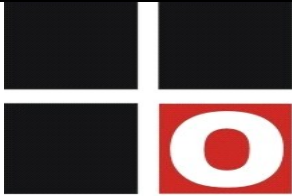
|            |             |                                |
|------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 12th April | Lola Dallyn | St Andrew's Sampford Courtenay |
|------------|-------------|--------------------------------|

## ROUNABOUT DEADLINE:

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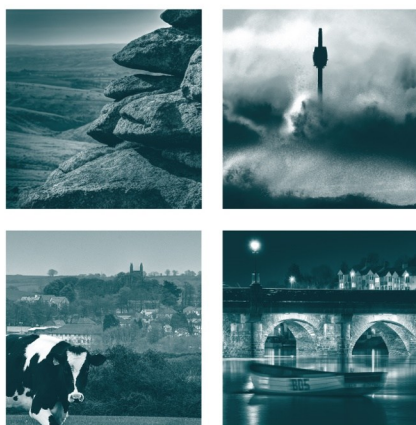
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