

No. 3

Autumn 2024

KIRTON quarterly

a magazine for the Crediton community

INSIDE:

Around the music scene

Mid Devon Mobility

Public Questions answered

and LOTS MORE

delivered free to at least 3,800 homes, shops and businesses in Crediton

Amapola

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Wine, Beer, Cocktails

THE DUKE OF YORK

74 High Street, Crediton

CREDITON SPORTS VENUE

SKY SPORTS

TNT SPORTS

AMAZON PRIME

Cover picture:

Locally based ensemble Hayne House Hot 5 played gypsy jazz at Parish Church in May. Including buffet meal and drinks bar, the event was part of Holy Cross's initiative to open up the church to a broader range of events, as well as raise funds for the church's Music Endowment Fund which pays for young choir members to have musical instrument tuition.

See report page 19.

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Poo Corner

Everyone of a certain age receives in the post a box from the NHS. Inside is a personalised letter, a plastic container with a cap attached to a 'sampling stick' and a postage-paid return envelope. The box is the sort of size and shape you'd think might contain a selection of chocolate truffles as a thank-you present for some last minute baby sitting. It is actually your Bowel Cancer Screening Test Kit.

Under the lid are pictures of the process needed to acquire a very small sample of your 'poo'.^{*} Essentially you are to catch one as it drops into the toilet bowl, give it a gentle scrape with the sampling stick, seal up the container, write the date on it and pop it into the nearest Royal Mail post box. Oh yes, and kindly wash your hands after taking the sample.

Someone in Guildford, Surrey (where the sample is addressed to) has the unenviable task of examining these scrapings to detect tiny amounts of blood which might, or might not, be a sign of bowel cancer.

Most participants get a letter a couple of weeks later confirming they've nothing to worry about. But a few will be offered a further consultation which may involve a colonoscope - a camera/torch arrangement on a 1.5m cable, inserted via the rectum. Eek!! But it's all in a good cause. Early detection and treatment saves the lives of a high percentage of sufferers. Around 7% of the population will get bowel cancer at some point, mostly in their later years. That sounds a lot but, put the other way round, 93% won't. You may prefer to take your chances and not participate.

The NHS has been expanding the programme in England since 2006. There's plenty of supporting information on its website, such as: *'Bowel cancer is cancer that's found anywhere in the large bowel, which includes the colon and rectum. The large bowel is part of your digestive system. It helps absorb water from your food and removes food waste from your body.'*

Under a paragraph *How to Lower your Risk of Bowel Cancer* the NHS recommends: *'Eat a healthy diet including at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day, stay active and exercise regularly, lose weight if you're overweight, quit smoking, drink less alcohol [and] eat less red and processed meat'*. Once upon a time it would have been out of the question to ask people to poke around in their own excrement, let alone parcel it up and send it to someone in the post. But today's NHS has gone beyond such taboos, and gives the impression that it's really quite a normal thing to be doing. Even so, the idea does seem a tad distasteful. I don't suppose many people discuss their poo sampling afterwards with friends over morning coffee. But after reading this, perhaps they will?!

^{*}The NHS uses the term 'poo' - which is surely a word for primary school pupils, not grown-ups! Whatever happened to the quasi-medical word 'stool' to call a (less fragrantly expressed) turd?



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Crediton Town Council

June was an exceptionally busy month with D-Day 80, Crediton Food Festival and the Big Boniface Bash taking place across 6-9 June.

Not only do we want to thank everyone involved in making these events happen, but we want to express our thanks to the Crediton community for coming out to support and enjoy them.

Over the weekend, visitors from Dokkum in the Netherlands and Fulda in Germany came to Crediton to take part in the St Boniface Day celebrations and it's safe to say we showed them just how much community spirit there is. It was great to see the events enjoyed by all ages. We have received such positive and helpful feedback, all of which will be taken on board to make future events even better.

If you would like to see what else the town council has been involved in over the past 12 months, grab a copy of our Annual Report for 2023-2024. The Annual Report is made up of individual reports submitted by the chair of each of the town council's committees, providing an overview of the year's activity. You can download a copy from our website or paper copies are available at the town council offices, Library and Post Office.



Saxons in action at Big Boniface Bash

At the annual meeting of the council, Cllr Guy Cochran was elected as Chair and Mayor for 2024-25 and Cllr Steve Huxtable as Deputy Chair. Looking ahead, the Council will be progressing the development of Old Landscore School, whilst continuing to run its youth club sessions. We also hope to see the new toilets installed in Newcombes Meadow near the play area.

As summer recess commences in August, it will be all systems go getting arrangements in place for this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations as well as the Christmas in Crediton light switch-on, taking place on Saturday, 30 November. Keep an eye on our social media pages for updates.

Following the full council meeting on 25 June, changes have been made to the town council's standing orders and a new informal discussion session approved. Before each full council meeting, there will now be an opportunity for informal and open discussion amongst members of the public and the council.

All members of the council are invited to attend, and the importance of this session has been heavily discussed by members. This will not form part of the meeting,

however, and therefore members are not required to attend this pre-meeting discussion.

The open discussion will begin at 19.00, with the full council meetings starting at 19.30. Self-serve refreshments will be available, and it will be an informal, social format, encouraging open conversation. The council is looking at ways to improve open and transparent communication with the public, alongside providing the opportunity to meet and chat with members and officers in a relaxed environment.

This is a new idea, and we are looking forward to seeing how it develops. In addition, standing orders now allow members of the public to contribute to discussion during the formal meeting. This can be done so by the member of the public raising their hand and they will be given three minutes to speak. A copy of the revised standing orders are available on our website www.crediton.gov.uk/policies.



Royal Horticultural Society judges inspect St Lawrence Green & meet local volunteers in July

On 16 July, the RHS Britain in Bloom judges visited the town to assess Crediton's entry into the Pennant Competition. Crediton last entered in 2022 and received the Silver Gilt Award.

With the wonderful work of local volunteers, working on numerous floral displays and maintaining the streets, we hope we can achieve silver standard again this year and

continue working towards achieving gold! Look out for the results in October.

As you may have seen, a volunteer-led group known as Crediton Urban Taskforce [CUT!] has been holding action days every other Saturday from 3 pm to 6 pm, to tackle the maintenance of our pavements, kerbs, paths and other public areas (due to service cuts by Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council). If you would like to join the [CUT!] mailing list, or find out how to get involved, please contact the town council – reception@crediton.gov.uk.



Morris people relax at Big Boniface Bash

Alternatively, if you are not able to join one of the action days, we would like to encourage all residents to focus on the area outside of their property. If we all work together to maintain our individual space, this would go a huge way in making the town look more attractive.

Emma Anderson, Deputy Clerk



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Public Questions answered

At each meeting of Crediton Town Council members of the public are invited to ask questions about the work of the council.

The town council's website has a Public Questions page, under the Your Council heading, recording these questions and the council's official responses.

Here are examples of some recent questions, with the council's responses, along with background context. In some cases, readers may feel that questions could receive fuller treatment. Please write to KQ (or indeed to the town council) with your views!

Keeping Town Square tables clean (Full council 19th March)

Background

The 12 tables/benches on the Town Square belong to Crediton Town Council but, unlike seating & tables belonging to commercial outlets around the Square, there appear to be no arrangements for keeping the council's own property clean. Given that the tables are used variously for food and drink consumption, by smokers, and are also subject to bird mess . . .

Q: What arrangements does the council have in place to keep the tables and seating on The Square clean and hygienic through the summer months?

A: Turning Tides will continue to provide their services, part of which involves tending to some of the needs of the Town Square.

Drugs and anti-social activity (Full Council, 19th March)

Background

Anecdotally Crediton has experienced an increase in the trading and possession of illegal drugs, the sale of which may be conducted through meetings at pre-arranged spots, including on public roads, parks and around the railway station.

Q: Does the town council consider that drug-dealing is now out of control in a number of public areas in Crediton? What is its strategic approach to reducing this activity, in particular with a view to removing drug-dealing and other anti-social behaviour from Newcombes Meadow and around the train station?

A: The council is committed to making Crediton a safe environment for both its residents to live in and to provide a pleasant experience for visitors. The solution to such issues . . . is not something that can be achieved by one individual, organisation or agency, which is why the council is working with others to determine the most appropriate solution.

Public Toilets for Newcombes Meadow

(Full Council, 19th March)

Background

The location of the toilet block up a steep slope at the top of Newcombes Meadow (adjoining Union Road), and a long way from the children's playground - along with its frequent closures (eg: for maintenance reasons or because of vandalism) - has long made this facility impractical. Funding has been allocated by Mid Devon District Council for new toilets close to the children's playground, this new location being supported by Crediton Town Council.

Q: What progress has been made with regard to new toilets at Newcombes Meadow?

A: The council continues to liaise with Mid Devon District Council with regards to the provision of new toilets and more information will be shared as soon as firm dates are available.

Town Council & King Charles portrait

(Council Affairs & Finance, 12th March)

Background

The Government's Cabinet Office offered a free photographic portrait of the new King to all government departments, agencies, councils etc. Asked in January whether the town council would be applying for the portrait, the initial answer was 'We'll get back to you on that'. The question below followed up the initial enquiry.

Q: Will the town council be making an application to the UK Government for a free portrait of the king?

A: The council sought views of the public as to [the] portrait and as a result will not be ordering a copy of the portrait at this time.

Requests for bus shelter on the south side of the road at Redlands surgery

(Full Council, 19th March)

Background

Visitors to Redlands are inconvenienced by there being just one bus shelter on the north side of Joseph Locke Way (for those disembarking for the surgery). Those waiting for a bus back into the centre of town must either stand on the grass verge, or sit in the shelter on the wrong side where there is poor visibility of buses approaching.

Q: Please could we have an update on the progress of a new bus stop at Redlands surgery?

A: [This is a matter] which needs to be raised with the appropriate councillors.

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Mon 9.30am & 6pm, Thurs 6.30pm
Old Town Hall, Searle Street



nattienoo@gmail.com
07841 764817



Come along and join the party!

KIRTON CONTACTS

Because of the demand for space (for advertising as well as articles and pictures) and the cost of printing x 4,300 copies - we've decided to publish the Kirton Contacts local information section just once a year, as a pull-out-and-keep 4-page section.

This will now appear as the centre pages of the February issue (KQ5). In the meantime, if the information in the last issue was useful to you, please cut it out and fasten to your kitchen noticeboard or fridge/freezer!

Can you deliver?

KQ would dearly like to share the task of delivering this quarterly community mini-magazine among more local residents. Would you be willing to take a batch of these to, say, 100 homes near you, once every three months?

One or more volunteers to deliver around Blagdon and Creedy Road welcomed!



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Lords Meadow Industrial Estate, Crediton, EX17 1EU

Mid Devon Mobility

Now based in a ground floor office in Tanner's Yard, 99 High Street, the Crediton branch of Mid Devon Mobility continues its long history of helping older, disabled and rurally isolated people in our community to get where they need to go.

The Ring and Ride service provides a minibus from outlying villages to the supermarkets in Crediton, and from Crediton and some villages to Exeter. Passengers are collected from their door and taken home afterwards. This service is operated by our friendly drivers Daryn and Neil. Daryn is our longest serving staff member with 26 years' service. We have regular day trips to places of interest, usually with Paul behind the wheel. There are occasional lunch outings to pubs and restaurants in the local area. Details of the days, routes and fares are published in our quarterly newsletter. Our wheelchair-accessible minibuses are also available for specialised transport needs and group hires, subject to availability.



Mid Devon Mobility minibus – with driver Daryn

The Community Car scheme is based on a team of volunteer drivers who use their own cars to take passengers to their destination and home again. These are often medical appointments but can be for any purpose. We take people to the hairdressers, to funerals, and even cats to the vet's! One-way transport is available if required. All our drivers are DBS-cleared and we ensure that the vehicles are properly insured and roadworthy. Passengers are charged according to the number of miles they travel, subject to a minimum fee. Volunteers receive mileage expenses, but they give their time for nothing. This helps keep costs down, plus our drivers have time to chat and help carry your bags!

Community Car bookings must be made in advance as we are not licenced to take bookings on the day. The more notice you give, the better the chance of finding an available driver. There is no limit on journey length and we have been known to take people to Barnstaple, Torquay and Taunton – it just depends on volunteer availability and willingness.

As a charity, Mid Devon Mobility depends on grants and donations, as well as A £12 annual membership and fares charged to passengers for each trip. The Community Car scheme relies entirely on volunteer drivers, and our Transport Coordinator, Sarah, is sometimes helped with admin by office volunteers. We always need more volunteers – so if you are a confident driver with some free time available, why not drop into our office for an informal chat? Or if you have basic computer skills and a good telephone manner, we can find a role for you!

We have a wheelchair available to hire and will soon have a mobility scooter as well. The office is open Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm. Drop in to pick up a newsletter and find out more about what we do, or give us a call on 01363 773303.

Sarah Holmes, Crediton Coordinator



Train services crossing at Crediton station

Palin's Ponderings

Welcome to the reappearance of Palin's Ponderings, a column which appeared in the past in various issues of the Crediton Country Courier.

Better train and bus services

Since the Ponderings last appeared Crediton has seen improvements to the bus and train services, and now buses serve Crediton Railway Station to and from Exeter. There is an hourly train service from Exeter to Barnstaple and, since 2021, Exeter to Okehampton seven days a week.

Seating capacity could be better, especially on the Barnstaple line. The Okehampton line seating capacity appears to be holding, though any increase in patronage would require additional rolling stock.

Only Stagecoach bus 5B serves both Crediton and Exeter St Davids railway stations, so if you're on a different bus (5,

5A, 5C) and aiming to connect with an on-going train service at Exeter St Davids, you may wish to change from bus to train at Crediton station to continue your journey to Exeter St Davids station.

The improvements to the signaling system at Exeter in the mid-1980s saw the line from Cowley to Crediton reduced to a single track. At the time the train service could cope with this, but now with lines both to Barnstaple and Okehampton providing an hourly service this can be restrictive - and hopefully in the future the route will be renewed as double-track.

The King's portrait

It was most unfortunate that Crediton Town Council, on behalf of the residents, turned down a free photograph of our king which was offered to all communities. Portraits of our late Queen adorned many public buildings without question, so why refuse a portrait of our current monarch/head of state?

George Palin

Letters

New status for Holy Cross Parish Church?

I read with interest [Editorial KQ2] the suggestion to make Credenon a city and the church of the Holy Cross a Cathedral.

Credenon Parish Church already has one of the most unusual church designations in the Church of England: *'The Church of the Holy Cross and the Mother of Him who Hung Thereon'*, as well as being a Collegiate Church.

It is built on the site of the previous Cathedral, before that moved to Exeter, and I am glad the history of Credenon is well-remembered, St Boniface honoured,

and the See of Credenon continues in the Diocese of Exeter.

Whilst I couldn't recommend that the church become a Cathedral, perhaps the Rector and PCC might look at becoming a Minster? Minster is an honorific title bestowed on major churches of regional significance in the Church of England, to reflect their importance and contribution to the local communities they serve. That would suit Credenon rather well!

*The Rt. Revd. Jackie Searle
Acting Bishop of Exeter*

More information can be found at:
lawandreligionuk.com/2016/11/17/churches-minsters-and-cathedrals-2/

Kirton Quarterly notes

Please send items for publication (e-mails preferred) by 15 Oct for the Winter issue.

If you would like to be involved in the magazine's content, production, advertising or distribution, contact pveclipse@btinternet.com

edited by Paul Vincent

published by Friends of Credenon Library

Information is published in good faith but KQ does not accept responsibility for its accuracy. Opinions expressed are those of individual contributors.

KQ ADVERTISING

Full page £160 | Half page £90

Quarter page £50 | Eighth page £25*

**NB: We are happy to help you prepare a basic design for no extra charge. For artwork specifications please contact pveclipse@btinternet.com*

Latest date for artwork for Winter issue is 15th Oct (magazine covering period mid-Nov – end of Feb)

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DEPENDENT - CRAFT BEER & LOCAL ALE - LIVE MUSIC - DAILY BRILL

LIVE LOUNGES COMING UP

TUESDAY 13TH AUGUST

OPEN MIC NIGHT - With Jacob Terry, Join in or come & watch

BH MONDAY 26TH AUGUST

RHYTHM & SHOES - Vocal harmony & acoustic duo

SATURDAY 31ST AUGUST

RUSH HOUR R&B - Blues with soul & groove R&B 4 Piece Band

FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

BICYCLE REPAIR MAN - Toe tapping acoustic duo

TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER & 8TH OCTOBER

OPEN MIC NIGHT - With Jacob Terry, Join in or come & watch

FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER

KARINA & THE SLAVES - High energy 4 piece pop rock band

SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

QUEEN ANNES REVENGE - Pirate Party Night!
Pirate Cocktails & Menu Specials

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Music is thriving!

Hazel Underwood reports on our busy music-making scene

Crediton is such a lively creative place for local music. People new to the area don't always realise how much goes on, and if you've been here a long time it's still not easy to know what's happening. Publicity is variable, so I've tried to compose a list of everything that goes on. If there are omissions, let me know!

Community musical events are often free to attend, though venues may expect to buy at least one drink! Regular groups may ask for up-front termly fees to cover venue hire and conductor's remuneration. Performance events will set their own prices, but sometimes just ask for donations.

Venues will usually let you know what else is happening if you give them your e-mail address. Crediton In & Around (website) is also a good guide to local events.





Crediton Youth Orchestra (including grown-ups!) in cheerful mood before recent performance, with founder and conductor Alison Golby on far right



Holy Cross parish choir, photographed on its recent visit to Salisbury Cathedral



Good Afternoon Choir (conductor John Rawles) performed at CCC in July

CONCERT/RECITAL PROMOTERS

Crediton Arts Centre

See seasonal printed
programme and website for
performance events
East Street
creditonartscentre.org

Jazz on the Green

Professional jazz ensemble
plus Sri Lankan meal
Arts Centre
1st Thurs of month
sepali.godakanda@gmail.
com

Lapford Mill

See website for folk, jazz
performers
Lapfordmill.uk

the Music Makers'

Occasional recitals by local-
ly-based performers
Elephant on the Green
pveclipse@btinternet.com

St Boniface Concert Society

Classical chamber music by
professional performers
Recitals April-Oct at Parish
Church, membership
available, but open to all
bonifaceconcerts.co.uk

*NB: Classical music
enthusiasts may note that
informal chamber music
recitals (international soloists,
trios etc) take place in a
private residence close to
Crediton. Contact KQ for info:
pveclipse@btinternet.com*

COMMUNITY ORCHESTRAS & PERFORMING GROUPS **CODS** (Crediton Operatic &

Dramatic Society)
Musical productions,
performances
Old Town Hall Wed 7.30pm
codsonline.com

Crediton Strummers

Rock & pop numbers in
group setting
Arts Centre Tues 7.15pm
Ed Finch 07810 861917

Crediton Town Band

Community engagements,
concerts
Haywards Primary School
Thurs 7.30pm
info@creditontownband.org.
uk

Crediton Youth Orchestra

(young players, year 6 up)
Wed after-school
rehearsals, CCC Occasional
performances
alisongolby@hotmail.com

Crediton Youth Theatre

Drama for young people,
training & performance incl.
songs
Director: Jez Taylor
cyt@waxroom.co.uk

Moon Jazz Club

House band plus invited
players/vocalists
Three Little Pigs, Parliament
St
3rd Thurs of month 7.30pm

The Turning Tides Project

(for those with learning
difficulties or autistic)
includes music-making and
occasional performances
Based at Crediton Station
Tea Rooms
theturningtidesproject.org.uk

CHOIRS & SINGING GROUPS

Ad Hoc choir

Upton Pyne Village Hall
Thurs 7.30pm
Jo Ward 07977 101843

Copplestone Community Choir

Coppleston Methodist church
Thurs 7pm

Crediton Musical Theatre Choir

Conductor: Rosie Box
Arts Centre Wed, 7pm
(term-time)
creditonmusicaltheatre-
choir@gmail.com

Crediton Singers

Conductor: Tim Matthews
Elephant on the Green Mon
7pm creditonsingers.org

Good Afternoon Choir

Conductor: Jonathan Rawles
CCC Tues 2pm
07957 789923

Holy Cross (Parish Church) Choir

Adults: Fridays 7pm
Juniors: Tues 5.45pm & Fri
6pm
creditonparishchurch.org.uk

Mellow D

Methodist Church Tues 7pm
Dave Powis 0789 668 5393

North Creedy Choral Society

Conductor: Richard
Stephens
Parish church/Boniface
Centre Mon 7.30pm
northcreedychoral.co.uk

Sandford Sings

Conductor: Claire Anstee
Sandford Parish Hall Wed
7.45pm
canstee@hotmail.com

OPEN MUSIC SESSIONS

Blues Jam

Red Deer, Joseph Locke Way
2nd Sun of month 7-10pm

Folk music session

Instrumental
Half Moon, Cheriton
Fitzpaine
Last Sun of month 12-3pm

Folk session

Mainly song
New Inn, Coleford
Last Tues of month 8pm

Folk session (Pennymoor Singaround)

Mainly song
Lamb Inn, Sandford
3rd Wed of month 7.30pm

Folk session (Pennymoor Singaround)

Mainly song
London Inn, Morchard
Bishop
1st Thurs of month 12 noon

Great Crediton Jam Night

Amplified jam and open mic
Red Deer, Joseph Locke
Way
Last Sun of month 7-10pm

Informal song/music share

Red Lion, Shobrooke
2nd Wed of month 8pm
Music night
Lapford Mill Thurs 6.30pm
lapfordmill.uk

Jazz

Red Deer, Joseph Locke
Way

3rd Sun of month 7-10pm

Open Mic

Music & spoken word
Three Little Pigs, Parliament
St
1st Thurs of month 8pm

Open Mic

@100 Café, Crediton High St
Last Fri of month 7pm

Sandford folk session

Mainly song
Lamb Inn, Sandford
1st Tues of month 8pm

u3a Ukulele group

Boniface Centre
2nd & 4th Mon of month
u3asites.org.uk/crediton

LOCAL PUBS, CLUBS

The Mitre, Red Deer, Ship
Hotel, White Swan, Kirton
Cow, Crediton Rugby Club
and Crediton United football
club host live bands and
karaoke events. See notices
on premises, posters etc.

Trev the Pianoman

Trevor Woodison on piano
Crediton Inn
1st Sun of month 6-9pm

PARENTS, TODDLERS & BABIES

Bounce and Rhyme

Nursery rhymes and action
songs
Crediton Library, Mon
fortnightly 11am
devonlibraries.org.uk

Mainly Music

Singing and action songs for
pre-schoolers/carers
CCC Mon 10am
creditoncongregational.org

CEILIDHS, BARN DANCES

Occasional dances at
venues such as Sandford or
Yeoford village halls.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

There are smaller festivals
from time to time during
the summer, including
Withyfest (Witheridge),
Lapstock (Lapford) or
Yeomad (somewhere beyond
Yeoford!)

BUSK-IT!

A Crediton tradition, this,
to fill the High Street and
Town Square passages and
doorways with singer-song-
writers and instrumentalists
on occasional market-days
and special events.

Hazel Underwood:
sagalout1@gmail.com
See also:

Crediton In
& Around
website for
upcoming
events





Elephant on the Green
14 St Lawrence Green, Crediton

CAFÉ OPEN
Thursday-Saturday
10am-3pm

NB: on holiday until 24th August
also available for daytime and
evening hire
private, business and community
groups welcome
01363 775048

NB: dogs welcome, with well-behaved owners!



Church does jazz, has drinks bar, serves hot food!

Hayne House Hot 5: Gypsy Jazz at Holy Cross **Wed 8th May 7.30pm**

Controversial, maybe? Would all be delighted for our Parish Church - its interior sanctity suffused with dim light through stained glass, its austere stone pillars and ecclesiastical woodwork exuding ancient aromas – to be turned into a lively jazz venue?

Could there be members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) who'd object to a bar selling local beers, wine and cider, or the food station serving tasty braised chicken? The rigging of colourful stage lighting above the musicians might hint at late-night clubbing to come . . . This was a radical attempt to push the boundaries of the permissible in our Parish Church.

But the event was also in a good and charitable cause: the church's Music Endowment Fund which enables young members of Holy Cross choir to have musical instrument tuition.

The music was excellent. The band, named after leader Tim Herniman's events venue at Hayne (near Zeal Monachorum), is good. On electric violin and keyboards is Herniman, on saxophone Pete Lowe & on guitars Harry Avis and Glen Hawkins, on double-bass Marcus Vergette and on drums Tony Plato. Tim's 15-year-old daughter Martha joined the band to sing a number of songs captivantly. Don't miss them if they're playing again anywhere soon.

The turnout for the evening – a mixture of mostly church members or supporters of the Endowment Fund – was somewhat poor, reducing the audience to a pool of around forty clustered around small tables. Not quite the rave in the nave that some might have hoped for, though a couple of gallant couples did partake in a little dancing in an aisle. Delicious hot food included in the £15 admission was generously provided by Baobab Cafe, and the lighting by electrician and community stalwart Jo Ward. The gig was great value and several hundred pounds were raised.

PV

Will the Parish Church one day follow the lead provided by the other local churches in Crediton, remove its hard Victorian pews and create a more comfortable, spacious and flexible space for worshippers and everyone else?

There may be some long-standing members of Holy Cross who will not countenance the removal of the pews – even at the expense of letting the church fall into disrepair for lack of income from such events as this and much else. But what does the community think?

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General Election, Thurs 4th July

The Central Devon parliamentary constituency returned former cabinet minister Mel Stride as its Member of Parliament at the General Election – by a whisker. Stride held off Labour candidate Ollie Pearson by a mere 61 votes – or just 0.1%.

The sprawling Central Devon constituency includes, as well as Cridton, much of Dartmoor and the towns of Okehampton, Ashburton and Bovey Tracey along with many Mid Devon villages, hamlets and farmsteads.

The votes cast, after a tantalizing early morning re-count at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre were:

Mel Stride (Conservative) 16,831
Ollie Pearson (Labour) 16,770
Mark Wooding (Liberal Democrats) 8,232
Jeffrey Leeks (Reform UK) 7,784
Gill Westcott (Green) 3,338
Arthur Price (Independent) 477

Town Council elects new Mayor

Cridton Town Council's 7 Liberal Democrat members of in May voted to elect fellow Lib Dem Cllr Guy Cochran as Cridton's Chair and Mayor for 2024/25. The 5 independent councillors did not support the appointment. Independent town councillor Steve Huxtable had also stood as a candidate, but was instead elected as Vice-Chair and Vice-Mayor by all 12 councillors.

Recently the council has amended its Standing Orders to require the town's mayor, elected annually, to stand down after a maximum of 2 consecutive years in the post.

Failed fixing foils festive flags

A joint statement from Rachel Avery, Town Clerk and Rosemary Stephenson, Chair, Cridton Heart Project: *"We know how disappointed businesses, residents and visitors will be to see the early end of Cridton's Flag Festival. Following the failing of a bracket, a joint decision ... was made to take the flags down following professional advice".*

Lidl progress at Commercial Road

Behind hoardings work is busily going on to build Cridton's new Lidl store at Commercial Road, which promises jobs for 40 people when open. The Lidl will have parking for 114 vehicles. Planning permission was granted in late 2022, with Lidl required to pay £87K which has been allocated to traffic flow and air quality issues around St Lawrence Green and the High Street. Lidl also gave £400K to assist Cridton Rugby Club to relocate its former playing field.



Groundworks for Lidl on former playing field

Asked on-line when the new store will open, Lidl's own chatbot 'digital assistant' replied: *"Unfortunately I'm not able to confirm new store opening dates. This will be heavily advertised within your area".*

Park enjoyed by young swingers



A new 360° cantilever swing has been installed at Newcombes Meadow, improving entertainment for older children - who have previously enjoyed the equivalent swing in the under-8s playground area. It is being very well used. New football goal posts are also coming soon, we are told, and the goal-mouths improved.

May's water torture

Crediton resident Imogen May (who appeared in July as Viola in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* on the Town Square) is being pursued by South West Water after conscientiously objecting to paying her water bill, citing the company's poor environmental record.

In an article in The Guardian newspaper Imogen is quoted: *"They are openly polluting our waters and I'm done with it."* South West Water has secured a legal stake in Imogen's cottage, its future sale

to be used to pay the outstanding £3K demand. This is the first known case of a water company enforcing a claim against a customer's home.

Meanwhile SWW's chief executive Susan Davy last year received a total pay award of £860,000 despite an 80% increase in pollution incidents (194 in 2023) and parasite-contaminated drinking water in Brixham. An active environmentalist, Imogen also stood as an independent candidate for Crediton town council in 2019.

Music-hall enthusiast and folk festival promoter passes away

Jo Ward writes:

"Peter Lister, well known for his knowledge of folk music and musicians, and for his knowledge of old-time Music-hall music and performers, was easily recognised by his Viking appearance with long grey flowing locks and beard."



Peter was a real character of Crediton, by adoption if not by birth. With long-standing colleague John, he was organiser of the Crediton Folk Festival for many years and supported Crediton Jam Nights at the former Buccaneers bar on East Street. John and Pete could often be heard at open mic events and performing at local cafes.

A great character, with a deep voice and unique guitar playing style he will be greatly missed". His funeral was held at the Parish Church on 16th July.

All bets are off?

In June BBC Radio 4 decided to abandon its horse-racing tips (provided since 1977 despite their notorious unreliability). Just prior to the General Election a number of people close to the former Prime Minister were being castigated for 'having a flutter' on the date of the election. Near simultaneously BetFred bookies on the High Street closed down, no doubt due to the growing popularity of on-line betting on smartphones.

CCC funded summer Fun Day

The Congregational Church held its fourth two-yearly free Fun Day in Newcombes Meadow on Sat 13th July. Under the inexhaustible stewardship of co-ordinator Sarah Preece church members cooked and served 1,150 burgers and hot-dogs, free to all comers, refuelling families enjoying face-painting, bouncy castle, soft gladiatorial contests, along with musical entertainment from QE school's jazz band and teenage girl band Seraph among others. A couple of light showers failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the afternoon. Around 250 helium-filled balloons accompanied many a child returning home. In mid-August CCC hosted its annual summer Holiday Club for 50 children, volunteers running entertainment over three days, with a little Christian teaching included.

Church roof appeal – what progress?

A noticeboard outside Holy Cross recording the progress of the church's roof repair funding appeal (started in 2014) has been removed after several years in situ. A total of £171,000 was the last sum posted, against a target of around £2 million.

The Roof Appeal's own website www.roofappeal.org can no longer be reached. Crediton's Parish Church, unusually is the property of 'the people of Crediton' to whom it was sold by King Henry VIII



Holy Cross Parish Church: the Governors' room is upstairs in the oldest part of the building.

in the 16th century, and its upkeep is the responsibility of twelve Governors, rather than being owned by the Church of England as most UK churches are.

Crediton Town Council was asked in March why it was not taking an interest in the church's deteriorating condition. Its reply, posted to the council's website, says: *"There is regular communication with the church on various topics, and to date there have not been any requests for assistance from the Governors."*

A statement from Holy Cross's annual report of 2022 on the subject says:

"The Governors have very little money available to them for repairs and maintenance given the size of the building . . . The Governors have drawn the appeal for the roof repairs needed into a larger Heritage Project with a focus on our cultural heritage and to improve and provide much needed facilities at Holy Cross. Progress with the project remains slow due to the level of thought, planning and work required. Urgent maintenance is completed as and when required."

Nipping it in the buddleia

Now you see it . . . now you don't. Remedial action was taken in mid-July to remove a buddleia shrub stubbornly growing out the Old Town Hall – which was built in MDCCCLII (1852).



CAUTIONARY ADVICE

Buddleia, once established, will quickly damage masonry on walls etc. This operation to remove this specimen cost Crediton & Area Development Trust (owner of the Old Town Hall) in the region of £1,000.

KQ GUIDE TO ROMAN NUMERALS

M = 1000

D = 500

C = 100

L = 50

X = 10

V = 5

I = 1

Larger numbers are composed by adding the value of each numeral, arranged biggest to smallest from left to right, with some letters (C, X and I) repeated if necessary to create the exact number. If a smaller numeral comes before a larger one, then the smaller one is subtracted from the larger one. (Thus IV = 4 or IX = 9, but VI = 6 and XI = 11.)

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CREDITON AUTUMN CALENDAR

Info for next issue required by 15th Oct (covering period c20 Nov to end of Feb)

EVENTS: CIVIC & COMMUNITY

Tues 17 Sept, 7.30pm

Full Council Meeting (CTC)

incl public discussions from 7pm

Old Landscore School

1st & 3rd Sats 9.30 -1pm

Farmers Market

Town Square

4th Sat, 10-12 noon

(NB: not in August)

Repair Café

(Sus Cred)

Elephant on the Green

Tues 19 Nov, 7.30pm

Full Council Meeting (CTC)

incl public discussions from 7pm

Old Landscore School

Sat 30 Nov, 1-6pm

Christmas in Crediton

Town Square

Alternate Saturdays 3-6pm

[CUT!] – contact town council

volunteer-led weed

clearances

SOCIAL EVENTS

Fri 20 Sept, 12 noon

Community Lunch [B] CCC

Sat 5 Oct, 7pm

Tearfund Big Quiz [B] CCC

Fri 18 Oct, 12 noon

Community Lunch [B] CCC

OUTDOORS ACTIVITY

1st Sun of month

Sunday Walk (CCC)

14 Aug, 10am

Working Party (Sus Cred

Pollinator Group) Belle Parade

Fri 16 Aug, 7.00pm

Walk: Rebellion in Crediton

(CAHMS)

Sun 15 Sep, 2pm

Walk: Crediton Railway Special

(CAHMS)

Wed 25 Sept, 10.15am

Walk: The Bishop's Deer Park

(CAHMS)

PERFORMANCES/ EXHIBITIONS/TALKS/ WORKSHOPS

until 18 August

Summer Arts Festival:

(Crediton Heart Project)

Various locations

Until mid-Sept

Michael Harket: paintings

Café @100, High St

Fri 17 May, 7.30pm

Until 26 Oct

Wed-Fri 10-4pm, Sat 11-2pm

Customs, Charms & Cures

(CAHMS) Crediton Museum

14, 15, 16 Aug

(Sus Cred)

Making Dragon Wings

Holiday Activity (11-16 yrs)

Sun 18 Aug, 2pm

Those in Glass Houses

(Circus Around & About 2/

Crediton Library

Town Square

Fri 23 Aug, 2pm

Digital Media Workshop

(Sound Communities)

Crediton Library

Fri 23 & Sat 24 Aug 7.30pm

(plus 4pm Sat)

Community Spirit (CYT)

Arts Centre

Tues 27 Aug, 2pm

Draw your own Comic Book

Library

Sat 31 Aug, 7pm (also Sats 5/10 & 9/11)

Sound Bath

Arts Centre

Booking: kellyday.co.uk/

events

Sun 1 Sept, 5pm

Crediton Singers

(performance)

Elephant on the Green

7 - 22 Sept

Devon Open Studios

Various locations – pick up brochure!

Mon 9 Sep, 7.30pm **Talk:**

Aethelred the Unready & the

South West (CAHMS)

Boniface Centre

Thurs 12 Sept, 7.30pm

Flutes & Frets:

Beth Stone / Daniel Murphy

(SBSC)

Parish Church

20 & 21 September

(CODS)

Walking the West End

Cabaret, plus supper

Boniface Centre

October – dates tba

(CODS)

The Men who Walked Away

QE Upper School, Western Rd

Mon 14 Oct, 7.30pm **Talk: The**

Song of The Skylark (CAHMS)

Sat 5 Oct, 7pm

Great Crediton Fire Walk

(Crediton Lions Club fund-

raiser: register to take part:

peterbryan2539@gmail.com

Town Square

Tues 29 Oct, 2.30pm & 6pm

Boxes of Delight & Scrolls of Wonder

(workshop, then storytelling)

Library

Mon 11 Nov, 7.30pm **Talk:**
**Understanding churchyards
& burial monuments** (CAHMS)
Boniface Centre

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Wed 21 Aug, 10-4pm
Craft Activities (yrs 5+)
The Bookery
(also Wed 30 Oct)

REGULAR ENTERTAINMENTS

1st Wed, 7pm
Games Night
Café @100, High Street

1st Thurs, 6.30pm
Jazz on the Green
(jazz combo/Sri Lankan
buffet: advance booking
only) Arts Centre

1st Thurs 7.30pm
Open mic Three Little Pigs

3rd Thurs, 7.30pm
Moon Jazz Club
Three Little Pigs

Fri 15 Nov + 6 Dec, 7pm
Cider-making tour [B]
Sandford Orchards,
Commonmarsh Lane

1st & 3rd Fri, 7.30pm
[re-starts September]
Curious Cinema Club:
Incl 'Migrant Stories' series
Elephant on the Green

3rd Sun 7-10pm
Jazz Red Deer

Last Fri 7pm
Open Mic @100 Café

1st Sun, 6-9pm
Trev the Pianoman
Credition Inn

2nd Sun 7-10pm
Blues Jam Red Deer

Last Sun of month 7-10pm
Great Credition Jam Night
Red Deer

REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS

Tues 10-11.30am **Tuesday
Drop-In** (coffee social)
Boniface Centre

Wed 10am-12
Causeway (coffee social,
esp for those with learning
disabilities, carers etc)
CCC

Wed monthly **Credition &
District Probus Club**
(lunch & invited talk)
Red Lion, Shobrooke
barryglge@gmail.com

Thurs 10-11.30am
Coffee & Company
(esp older residents) CCC

Sat 10am
Together4Coffee
Methodist Church

SPORTS FIXTURES
Credition Rugby Club,
creditionrfc.rfu.club

Credition United AFC (football)
fulltime.thefa.com/

SUNDAY SERVICES
Holy Cross Parish Church
9.30am
Choral Evensong 1st Sun, 6pm

Congregational Church
(CCC) 10.30am

Methodist Church 10.30am

St Boniface R.C. Church
9.30am

OUT OF TOWN
Mon 26 Aug, 2pm
Sandford Summer Show
Sandford Parish Hall

SCHOOL DATES
QE Academy
Autumn terms starts:
4 Sept (yrs 7, 9, 11, 13); 5 Sept
(yrs 8, 10); 9 Sept (yr 12); Half-
term: 28 Oct – 8 Nov; Last day
of term: 20 Dec

Haywards Primary
Autumn terms starts:
5 Sept; Half-term: 28 Oct – 1
Nov; Last day of term: 20 Dec

Landscore Primary
Autumn terms starts:
5 Sept; Half-term: 28 Oct – 4
Nov; Last day of term: 20 Dec

This is by no means a
comprehensive listings
service. Readers are
recommended to sign up
to mailing lists or social
media pages for any/all of
the above venues and/or
organisations.

See also *Credition Courier's*
Kirtan Raiser events diary,
published Thurs weekly.

NB: booking may be required
for some events – please
check! Events include free
or drop-in events as well as
those with admission charge

Abbreviations
CAHMS = Credition Area
History & Museum Society
CCC = Credition
Congregational Church
CTC = Credition Town Council
CYT = Credition Youth Theatre
SBCS = St Boniface Concert
Society
Sus Cred = Sustainable
Credition

credition.gov.uk/Your-
Council/Meetings

creditioninandaround.co.uk

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Project



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19/10/24



9/11/24



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Cromwell's Cutting, painting by Suzie Yates



Suzie writes: *I have lived in Crediton for 25 years and teach Music at Haywards Primary School. I studied Visual Arts and Performing Arts in Cheltenham in the 90's. In my spare time I paint, mainly views of the area that I have photographed during dog walks, but also of Exmoor where I grew up and places that inspire me.*

Suzie's cards, prints and originals are available to purchase online - see W: pinkandgreens.co.uk and also from Thornes Farm Shop, Cheriton Fitzpaine.



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