

No. 5

Spring 2025

KIRTON quarterly

a magazine for the Crediton community

INSIDE:

Who pays for our paddling pool?

Review: Crediton Visitor Guide

Focus on Sustainable Crediton

Pull-out section: Kirton Contacts

and LOTS MORE



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Cover picture:

Gas pipes being installed caused
problems for motorists at Blagdon
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The two perceptions of Crediton

People's views of Crediton split two ways. Residents and local users have a very different understanding of our town from those simply trying to pass the town (in a car) and get someplace else.

For those just wanting to get along the main artery - of Exeter Road/High Street/Western Road - the experience can be a grim one, especially when traffic is at its peak. They may be trying to get to Exeter from some outlying village or heading out from the city to Dartmoor, a country pub attraction, or a surfing beach on the north coast.

For these poor travellers the Crediton stretch of the A377 is an irritating aggregation of stopping buses, milk and grain lorries, farm, trade and utility vehicles, parked-up delivery vans, traffic lights, the odd cyclist, pedestrians crossing, shoppers manoeuvring into parking spaces or family cars doing the school run. The best they can hope for (they think) is a takeaway Costa coffee or Chinese chow-mein to keep them going.

For the settled Kirton resident, however, it's a different experience. Young families have chosen Crediton as their home precisely because there is so much local activity dedicated to their needs. Daily destinations are in walking distance – shops, library, playground, swimming pool, nurseries and schools. (Never mind the downsides: we residents ignore the blight of heavy traffic - the ever-present threat of accidents, noise, rumble and fumes, and long-term health effects of exhaust particulates.)

When the children get older they don't need ferrying about, they can simply get on a bus or train. Graduates and young professionals, factory employees and self-employed tradespeople, home-workers and commuters treat the town like a university campus, opting in and out of work-spaces, hospitality venues and recreational centres.

Meanwhile local manufacturing, service and hospitality sectors, schools and retail stores provide opportunities for many hundreds of workers, creating a real and rounded working economy. For residents (theoretically) you can get all you need from a shop without leaving the town. If you do need to go elsewhere we have more, and better connected, public transport than any other Devon town.

Born and bred Kirtonians have immersed themselves from an early age in netball, rugby, football and much else. As years go by, they take up other recreational activities - pub games, educational groups, church life, social and arts organisations, environmental campaigning, volunteering roles and council work. Younger ones, if not into sport, jostle in a rough-and-ready night life.

Newer residents often profess themselves surprised at how pleasant life in Crediton can be when they start getting involved. If there were a barometer to measure community spirit, Crediton would rank highly.

There are threats, of course, and local anxieties. How will hundreds of new homes change our town? Will Crediton ever be the same, now a McDonalds drive-thru has arrived?! Can our parking arrangements take the strain? Will there be a by-pass one day?

Crediton Town Council

Town Council Budget 2025/26, from Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

It is a challenging time for local government and the current difficulties faced in Crediton reflect broader issues impacting many communities. Balancing competing priorities while addressing financial constraints, infrastructure needs and the expectation of residents is no small task, both for us at Crediton Town Council but also the two higher authorities in Devon (Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council). We are committed to navigating these challenges with transparency and a focus on long-term solutions.

Crediton Town Council's Precept (Crediton Town Council's part of your council tax) has been set at £510,750.00 for 2025/26.

For a Band D property, this is:



£182.74 per year/£15.23 per month

**An increase of £8.66 per year
72p per month/2.4p per day**

Graphic supplied by Crediton Town Council

In November we held two budgeting workshops to focus on which services matter to Crediton residents. The importance of our street scene was raised many times, alongside the provision of a youth service and the town council's commitment to community grants.

Whilst it is important to recognise that Crediton Town Council does not have a responsibility to deliver some services, such as pavement clearance and the provision and maintenance of public litter bins, we do our best to work with other authorities to deliver on requests where possible. Many people feel that the delivery of floral displays and hanging baskets enhances the town and we are proud of their continued provision. This has also been recognised through our entries to Britain in Bloom and we are hugely grateful to our community organisations who also contribute to the enhancement of our town.

Following the workshops Crediton Town Council's Oversight Committee has spent two months looking at the budget in detail. Ongoing increases have been considered, whilst ensuring the current provision of assets and services is maintained at least to its current standard.

In 2024, new drought-friendly hanging baskets were trialled, reducing the requirement for such regular watering and we have reduced grass cutting in areas where this is possible. We are committed to using local suppliers where possible, moving away from the use of online suppliers such as Amazon. We also recognise that businesses and contractors have seen

increased costs, above inflation, and the budget set reflects the general increase in costs to services such as ground maintenance.

Crediton Town Council recognises that the cost of living continues to rise, but the provision of services that it provides is of high importance to so many of our residents.

Full details of the budget can be found on the Crediton Town Council website www.crediton.gov.uk or for more information please email me r.avery@crediton.gov.uk or phone 01363 773717.

2025 EVENTS

8 May – VE Day Cream Tea
Location TBC

10 May – VE Day Picnic in the Park
Newcombes Meadow, vintage family fun

8 June – Big Boniface Bash
Newcombes Meadow, family-friendly festival

12 July – Crediton Food Festival
Crediton Town Square, food, drink, demos

9 Nov – Remembrance Sunday Service
Crediton & Hamlets War Memorial

29 Nov – Christmas lights switch-on
Crediton Town Square, family-friendly



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Paddling pool debate reveals tensions between town and district councils

Report from Full Town Council meeting, Tues 21st January, Boniface Centre



Newcombes Meadow playground with paddling pool (empty in January) awaiting the outcome of funding decisions...

Background

Newcombes Meadow – in which our paddling pool is situated - is owned, maintained and its amenities serviced by Mid Devon District Council. The district council has been cutting back on non-statutory services, on the grounds of having insufficient funds available; these in turn being restricted by a government-imposed cap on local authorities' budgets, preventing them from raising council tax beyond a certain annual percentage.

This is why we are witnessing the deteriorating quality of the street scene

(pavements, kerbs, street furniture accumulating weeds, dirt, buddleia etc), the closure of public toilets, less frequent refuse collections and so on, all historical responsibilities of the district council.

Government caps on local authority budgets apply to county and district councils, but not to town or parish councils which have almost no statutory responsibilities - but are nevertheless empowered to raise their own Precept, a proportion of the council tax bill intended for modest local activities.

Crediton's Precept for 2025/26 has been recently set at £182.74 (per Band D property) raising a total of £510,750. Our twelve town councillors have wide-ranging discretion on how this is spent.

Looking to exploit this un-capped town/parish Precept (which theoretically enables money to be raised with no upper limit) Mid Devon District Council has suggested that, if Crediton wishes to continue to benefit from certain services, the town council could instead pay the district council for them. The counter-argument is that facilities such as a park or public toilets are used by a population much greater than Crediton's own: why should Crediton's tax-payers alone pay for services enjoyed by people from all over Mid-Devon?

Paddling Pool discussions

The funding of the Newcombes Meadow paddling pool, along with ownership and development of the park, occupied the minds of Crediton's town councillors for a full 30 minutes when the Full Council convened at the Boniface Centre on 21st January.

Former mayor Liz Brookes-Hocking made the case for keeping the paddling pool open. She reminded colleagues that the pool served families that don't go away in the summer, especially during the school holidays. There seemed to be no doubt that the paddling pool is a much-appreciated and enjoyed seasonal play facility, and must be kept open.

But, given that Mid Devon District Council gave notice some months ago of its reluctance to continue paying for it this year, councillors' attention was drawn to the unresolved question of who is going to pay for it – and how much it will cost.

The implication of Mid Devon's statement was that if Crediton wants this (Mid Devon-owned) facility up and running during the summer months the town council will have to fund it from its own resources. The Full Council had discussed the matter in November and decided that £20,000 would be made available, easily enough (?) to cover all conceivable costs - should the town council agree to fund the pool's opening and running, from April through to September.

Was the sum of £20K put aside merely as a contingency if talks between town and district councils broke down, or did it mean that the town council had already accepted it would be footing the bill this year? (As it happens Mid Devon had in 2024 also declared it wouldn't be opening the paddling pool but, following furious representations from local families, changed its mind. Would Mid Devon behave similarly this time round if faced with renewed angry protests at another threat of closure?)

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that a figure of £12,000 for the pool's routine daily maintenance had been quoted, but Mid Devon - despite her repeated requests – had failed to supply

costings for the additional expense of preparing the pool for opening (cleaning the pool and any necessary repairs).

Without knowing the costs, she said, the council could not take a decision: *'It would be like signing a blank cheque.'*

Cllr Rachel Backhouse said she thought £12K was absurdly expensive. *'I just don't believe it'* she said. She was also *'livid and disgusted'* that the district council had failed to provide the additional costings. Anyway, if it was a case of testing water quality daily, why not ask a favour of a local industry with a testing lab, such as Crediton Dairy, to help out?

Cllr Natalia Letch suggested that Section 106 money could be used to fund the paddling pool maintenance. Section 106 funds (held by the district council) are provided by housing developers as part of new planning permission contracts, and the funds are used to commission new community facilities and enhancements. They are not, however, intended for on-going running costs.

The Chair, Cllr Guy Cochran, allowed the debate to stray into wider territory – the possible transfer of Newcombes Meadow in its entirety into town council ownership, and also the replacement of the 'old' paddling pool with a new 'splash park'.

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking argued that, by having control over Newcombes Meadow, the town council would no longer have to deal with the district council over the provision of services. Councillors took a vote to approve the

town council entering into negotiations with Mid Devon District Council to transfer the park in its entirety.

A splash park – an area containing water jets activated by walking over the surface – would, she said, be enjoyed by a wider age group, as well as being less costly than maintaining a pool of standing water.

A member of the public interrupted to demand why this new project was being introduced when the slow progress of installing new toilets in the same location was being ignored. Cllr Steve Huxtable acknowledged the intervention and reported that the district council had said the installation of new toilets, originally intended for this year, would be delayed until 2026.

Returning to the main theme - but with the missing costings for the existing paddling pool prohibiting a resolution of the issue - how should the council proceed?

Another intervention from a member of the public identified four town councillors present who happened also to be district councillors. Since one was also the Chair of the meeting (and thus has a casting vote if required) and all were members of the same political party in majority control of both district and town councils, why didn't they vote immediately to decide whether the town council would pick up the cost of the paddling pool? Cochran dismissed this idea, indicating there were quite enough proposals being put forward already.

Another (the only other) member of the public was permitted to speak. Shouldn't the council be thinking about what the people wanted? he asked.

It was finally agreed to delegate responsibility for the paddling pool issue to three councillors (Cochran, Chair of the town council, Brookes-Hocking (Chair of Community Committee) and Huxtable (Chair of Oversight Committee) to make the final funding decision when all required costings have been received.

Summary

So it looks very much like Crediton Town Council may end up paying the annual costs to keep the Newcombes Meadow Paddling Pool open over the summer months. Assuming there's no further financial hitches, small children and their families will continue to enjoy the pool for another year.

The only thing that has changed? It will be Crediton tax-payers alone funding the paddling pool, rather than the cost being shared amongst all Mid Devon's households. (The Town Clerk also notes that the town council, if agreeing to fund the paddling pool this year, may establish a precedent which may be difficult in practice to reverse.)

So will it open for sure? We will only know when the pool has once again been filled with sparkling clean water in April!

Choice of meeting venue

The town council has held a number of meetings at the Boniface Centre, having finally acknowledged that the council's own building Old Landscore School (the former Early Birds nursery at Threshers) is just too cold during the winter months for either staff, councillors or members of the public to put up with.

The Boniface Centre is certainly a warmer venue, but a serious alternative problem arises here. Tuesday evenings when council meetings are being held coincide with the regular practice sessions of the parish church bell-ringers high up in the bell-tower next door.

Anyone wishing to listen to the excellent quality of bell-ringing in Crediton should visit the town council's Facebook page (search for Crediton Town Council) where the council meeting is recorded!

Current greetings

Alternatives to "Good-bye" in local shops keep changing. Common just now is the phrase: "Have a nice rest of your day," though the less specific "Have a good one" can also be heard. One venue likes to say "Go carefully" as you step out the door, while another shopkeeper sticks with the simple farewell "Bye for now."

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Sustainable Crediton

Sustainable Crediton is a local environmental action charity, working in the town and surrounding parishes. We are run entirely by volunteers and offer a welcome to all who share our enthusiasms and concerns about how we use (or abuse) our world: climate change, loss of biodiversity, the state of our rivers, waste of resources, whatever it may be.

We are a broad church and non-dogmatic. While our concerns are real, we aim to have fun working together and provide a real-life social network - which does not rely on screens!

Sustainable Crediton began life as Crediton Climate Action in 2007. Soon afterwards we re-named as Sustainable Crediton and affiliated to the Transition Towns network which recognises the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reliance on fossil fuels, and to make wise use of precious resources. In 2024 we were granted Charitable Incorporated Organisation status by the Charity Commission.

We are a practical bunch of people who try to make a tangible difference to Crediton and the surrounding parishes. Our projects and events include:

Annual Green Fair

This popular event in the Town Square showcases our activities and those of kindred organisations: for example, Devon Wildlife Trust, The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Friends of the River Exe, cycling groups. The Fair is

held in September of each year and is well attended.

Seed Share event

An annual event each spring, where supporters can exchange saved seeds, plants and garden-related items. This is a family-friendly event, with music, activities for children and support from like-minded organisations.

Pollinator Project

We plant areas of publicly owned land with pollinator-friendly flowers. This is mainly carried out on land owned by the District Council with its permission and support. We are maintaining some nine sites in Crediton, including at Belle Parade, Newcombes Meadow, Greenway, Spurways Almshouses and others.



Pollinator-friendly planting at Belle Parade

Community Larder

Our trusty band of volunteers collect surplus food from local shops and supermarkets and receives other food donations, which are then made available in the town library for anyone

to collect free of charge. The purpose is to prevent surplus food from going to waste, so there are no eligibility criteria for those wanting to use the service. Just help yourself to meet your personal needs.

Tree Planting Group

Formed four years ago, this group plants and maintains newly planted trees on any available site in or around Crediton, mainly on District Council land. Sites where you may have seen our planting include Lords Meadow, Beacon Park and Southfield Drive. We may also carry out planting on private land for landowners who would otherwise have difficulty in resourcing this.

Woodland Management Group

This group works in the winter months on a long-term coppicing project on a farm approximately six miles north west of Crediton. Coppicing is beneficial in creating varied habitats within otherwise heavily wooded areas, and encourages the woodland to regenerate.

Sustainabubble Eco Hub

By kind agreement of the Town Council, we have the use of 8A North Street overlooking the Town Square, where we can showcase our activities. Find us there most Saturday mornings when there is a Farmers Market (1st & 3rd Sat of month).

Community Wrapping Paper Project

This project hand paints/stencils decorative wrapping paper. Popular with children, this activity cuts down on commercial wrapping paper, which often includes hard-to-recycle elements.

Repair Cafe

The Repair Cafe enables broken and damaged household goods to be brought back into use and kept out of landfill. It is held once a month (4th Sat of month from 10am-12) normally at the Elephant on the Green, St Lawrence Green.

Climate Action Team

Recently formed in 2023, this group combines campaigning with practical action such as wilding the parish churchyard and making representations to the District Council on relevant planning matters, such as energy efficiency, active/green travel provision and flood risk.

We also work with projects who share our concerns, eg: Friends of the River Exe and the Crediton Swift Project.

We are always on the lookout for new opportunities: for example we would be interested in developing a 'library of things' where tools, gadgets etc can be shared and borrowed by anyone who wishes to use them.

Our ability to do stuff is sometimes limited by money, sometimes by physical resources such as premises or equipment, but by far our most valuable and wanted resource is people - like you! If you are interested, take a look at our website (currently a bit cranky - renewing it is another of our projects!), subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk and join our Facebook Group to keep up to date with what we are up to.

*John Craythorne
on behalf of Sustainable Crediton*

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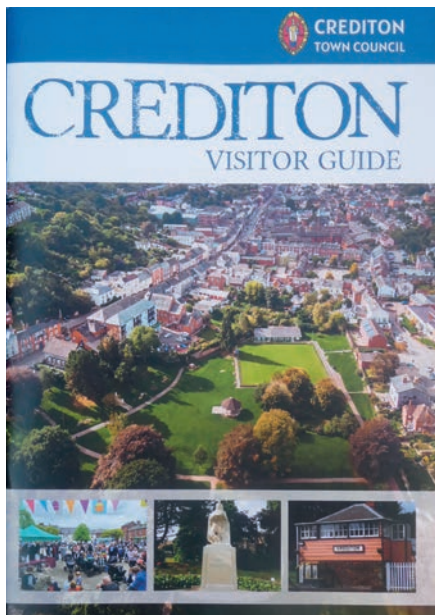


Vera (left), Collie, 5 years old, and Millie, Greyhound, 11 years



Scooby, Hungarian Vizsla, 8 years old

Crediton Visitor Guide



Is Crediton the must-see destination for tourists that the town council proposes?! Local residents will surely be eager to see how our town's attractions are marketed to the outside world.

According to the council the aim of the new guide, published last October, is "*primarily signposting visitors and showcasing what Crediton has to offer, with the hope of boosting the town's economical development.*"

A printed guide is a key opportunity for the council to represent all that is good, useful and characterful about Crediton to those as yet unaware of the town and its community.

So it is an important exercise to get it right. It is probably the only tangible marketing tool we have. The council's seal and name boldly printed at the top should confirm that the task has been done to its - and our - proper satisfaction.

However, is this actually a town council publication? Despite the council's name and logo emblazoning front cover and contents page, the publication was produced "*on behalf of Crediton Town Council*" by a company called Bamboo Publishing, based somewhere near Bath, and it turns out no town councillors had sight of the guide before it went to press.

Overseeing it was an 'operational' matter, explained former Chair Liz Brookes-Hocking. That is, the guide was left to council staff to see to. But Deputy Chair Steve Huxtable has distanced town council staff from direct responsibility. "*It was an out-of-house piece of work,*" he said. According to Cllr Huxtable it was the publisher who supplied the content and enlisted businesses to advertise.

Ultimately the nub of the matter is that promoting a place as a visitor destination is fine if you're Bath or Bristol, for example, but a big ask if you're a small Mid Devon town like Crediton. Despite the enthusiasm of the descriptions, lots of information and photos of local life . . . Crediton's history, culture and attractions seem, well, just a bit lacking in pulling power.

Let's face it, when it comes to boosting tourism, Crediton's appeal is a modest one. And as the guide itself comes close to stating: if you want to visit a farm or a craft brewery, stay at a local hostelry, find a school, see historic architecture (other than the parish church), enjoy moorland or the seaside . . . you'll have to go elsewhere!

So why is the town council's branding splashed all over it? It certainly *looks* like a Crediton Town Council publication, and the town council has taken on responsibility for its distribution.

However by the end of 2024, despite a page featuring Christmas in Crediton, few of the 4,000-copy print-run had been circulated to would-be outlets, and the fact that nearly all of the guides were still languishing in boxes in the council offices is unfortunate for businesses who have paid hundreds of pounds each to advertise in it.

That said, Cllr Huxtable stated to KQ (in December) that some copies had been passed to Crediton Library, the leisure centre and The New Inn (which has an advert). He confirmed: *"The guide will be distributed in the new year to all High Street and industrial businesses . . . We intend to get them to other outlets in the neighbouring villages. We have also contacted the local B&B's."* Let's hope Crediton's B&B's are obliging, but there's no Accommodation listings, and only The New Inn is featured (a ½-page ad) as a place to stay. But it's not in Crediton, it's in Coleford! Why no mention of The Ship Hotel, Motovelo and Taw Vale, or Beare Mill camping and caravan site – an easy walk from town towards Salmonhutch?

So what actually is in this 24-page guide? There's a **Welcome to Crediton** page, where readers might have hoped for a friendly invitation to make the most of their visit - from the Mayor perhaps? But there's no such greeting, just a short list of public toilets, pharmacies, council contacts and car parking. We learn there are a total of 217 pay-and-display parking spaces.

To give some credit to the writer of the text Crediton's visitor attractions, such as they are, are treated with enthusiasm - even if not with total accuracy - and an impressive dose of alliteration. (It wasn't written by A.I. was it?)

Things to See and Do. Under this heading are *"five fantastic walks in and around Crediton, including the famous Redvers Ramble."* And what visitor would miss out on the Boniface Heritage Trail: *"a number of beautifully produced stained glass panels to celebrate the town's celebrated son St. Boniface."* Only they're not stained glass, they're sheets of coloured vinyl sandwiched between two pieces of toughened glass.

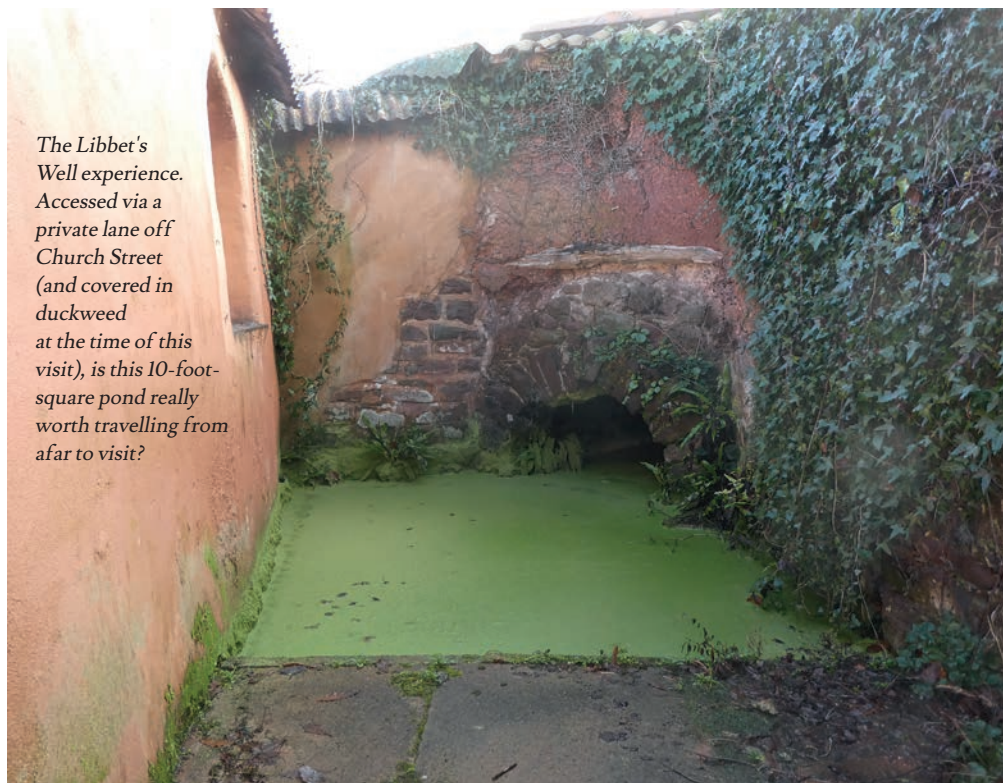
The Town Square is *"a wonderful open space to visit,"* and *"alfresco eating"* there sounds enticing. It is *"also the venue for annual theatrical productions, events and fortnightly Farmers Markets."* The last is incorrect: the Farmers Market is not held 'fortnightly' but on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month - which is not quite the same.

Our parks and open spaces include *'playground, paddling pool . . . and pollinator-friendly planting.'* This is all fine but, wherever these visitors are coming from, haven't they got most of this back home?

A photo of the tiny pool and stone culvert that is Libbet's Well (off Church Street) illustrates *"an ancient Grade II listed monument thought to date from the 17[sic] Century (or earlier) and dedicated to Saint Elizabeth."* Interesting in a way, yes, but a genuine visitor attraction? *"The holy well . . . is free to visit."* Is it really a consecrated spot? At least it's great value!

Re more energetic pursuits, there is mention of Downes Golf Club, Lords Meadow Leisure Centre and Planet Play (a commercially run soft-play venue). But at this point the compiler of these pages perhaps despairs of identifying any more credible Crediton

The Libbet's Well experience. Accessed via a private lane off Church Street (and covered in duckweed at the time of this visit), is this 10-foot-square pond really worth travelling from afar to visit?



attractions. (Forgetting, it seems, to mention home fixtures at our long-established rugby and football grounds – both clubs being keen to attract spectators.)

Instead, under a Further Afield section, readers are referred – unbelievably! – to Exmouth and Dawlish, with their *"miles of golden sands, surrounding rock pools and entertainment"* and to Okehampton and Dartmoor which is *"great for walking and boasts vast moorland where ponies roam"*. Romantic, for sure, but they certainly aren't in Crediton. (Actually, are there rock pools at Exmouth and/or Dawlish?)

Still, if you're into local history there's four pages of it, with notes on St Boniface, the parish church (and its cathedral antecedent), an incident during the Prayer Book Rebellion, stop-overs by King Charles I and Oliver Cromwell *"during the Civil war"* [sic], about our former woollen industry and status as a market town, and some complimentary words about General Buller. Under a paragraph *Fire! Fire!* the guide explains that two serious conflagrations account for *"the relative lack of pre-18th century buildings in the West Town."*

We discover that the Governors of the parish church *"were required to provide £8 a year for the education of four poor boys of the town,"* that Boniface *"has been described by eminent historians as 'The greatest Englishman of all time'"* and that he *"compiled the first ever dictionary of Latin grammar."* Where on earth did they get this stuff?!

And, of course, there's shopping. Here the guide is on firmer ground. "*Crediton's colourful High Street is a thriving hub for shoppers who want a range of interesting independent shops and friendly and helpful local eateries . . . There is something for everyone!*"

You can't say fairer than that – but they could surely have mentioned the large number of pubs, wine-bar and variety of hot-food takeaways. These have been ignored. Have they been air-brushed out, erased in case they were a stain on the town's reputation? Or are they just for the locals?!

Another issue is that some of the advertisers (who have funded the guide) aren't in Crediton at all. Indeed the only picture in the guide to include a pub is the advert for the lovely-looking thatched New Inn at Coleford, along with its slogan Eat, Drink, Stay and Relax. Other businesses advertising (a veterinary practice, a stair-lift company, solicitors, insurance providers and so on) don't really offer much to enhance the visitor's experience.

One such ad is for Blundell's, billed as 'the school of choice in Devon' - somewhat provocatively, given that Crediton is home to two primary schools and former state comprehensive QE Academy. The independent Blundell's school, as most people know, is not in Crediton. It's in Tiverton. (And not everyone can *choose* to pay its £28,000 annual day-pupil fees!)

The village of Bow is not so far away, but it still seems unfortunate that Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre has a full-page advert, while Crediton's own (newish) Homeleigh Garden Centre at Barnstaple Cross doesn't even get a mention. Homeleigh's spacious cafe enjoys tremendous views over the Devon countryside.

Finally, the back cover is given over to an ad for Rose Removals (based at Lapford). Their shrewd thinking? If you've enjoyed your visit to Crediton enough, you'll soon be planning to move here!

To what extent did the town council - and therefore local council tax-payers - fund the Crediton Visitor Guide? Cllr Huxtable confirms that the council paid £450 to produce a centre-page map of the town centre, and the publisher told KQ that the council had funded the cost of one advertisement. No doubt there were some hours of staff time dedicated to the project, and time allocated to ensure it reaches as many prospective visitors as possible?

Will it boost our local economy? Only time and effective distribution will tell. And what then? Is Crediton braced for an influx of excited newcomers, all eager to explore what our town has to offer? *"I could tell 'em a thing or two about Crediton,"* said one born-and-bred Kirtonian in his seventies, with a glint in his eye . . . *but they might not like to hear it!! Anyway, where are they going to park up all the holiday coaches?"*

PV

NB: The pages of the Crediton Visitor Guide have been added to the town council's website. Copies, it says, can be picked up at the town council offices, Crediton Library, leisure centre, supermarkets, cafes and further afield at holiday parks & campsites within Devon.

Kirton Contacts

KQ's pull-out & keep annual guide to useful contacts and local services

Where a landline phone no. is given the Crediton area code 01363 should be prefixed. Abbreviations used:

CAHMS = Crediton Area History & Museum Society; CCC = Crediton Congregational Church; PC = Police Constable; PCSO = Police Community Support Officer; u3a = University of the 3rd Age

TOWN, DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILS

Crediton Town Council

The Bungalow, 8a North Street

Town Clerk: Rachel Avery

773717 W: crediton.gov.uk

reception@crediton.gov.uk

Crediton Town Councillors:

(See town council website for contact details)

Chair & Mayor: Guy Cochran

(annual election Spring 2025)

Deputy Mayor: Steve Huxtable

BONIFACE WARD

Jim Cairney (Lib Dem)

John Downes (Lib Dem)

Joyce Harris (Independent)

Steve Huxtable (Independent)

Natalia Letch (Lib Dem)

Paul Perriman (Lib Dem)

LAWRENCE WARD

Rachel Backhouse (Independent)

Liz Brookes-Hocking (Independent)

Guy Cochran (Lib Dem)

Giles Fawcett (Independent/

Environmentalist)

Frank Letch (Lib Dem)

(one vacancy at time of publication)

For meetings of Town Council see:

crediton.gov.uk/Your-Council/Meetings

These are also live-streamed to town council Facebook page

Mid Devon District Council (MDDC)

Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton

EX17 6PP (01884) 255255

W: middevon.gov.uk

MDDC councillors for Crediton wards:

Jim Cairney (Lib Dem)

Guy Cochran (Lib Dem)

John Downes (Lib Dem)

Frank Letch (Lib Dem)

For rubbish & recycling collection dates:
[middevon.gov.uk/residents/recycling-](http://middevon.gov.uk/residents/recycling-rubbish/check-collection-dates/)
[rubbish/check-collection-dates/](http://middevon.gov.uk/residents/recycling-rubbish/check-collection-dates/)

Devon County Council (DCC)

County Hall, Topsham Rd, Exeter EX2

4QD 0345 155 1015

W: devon.gov.uk

DCC councillor for Crediton Rural*:

Frank Letch (Lib Dem)

**NB: county council elections to be held*
on 1st May 2025

To report a highways problem:

W: [devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/](http://devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/)
[report-a-problem/](http://devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/)

CREDITON SERVICES & FACILITIES

POST OFFICE

(incl some banking services)

7 Market St. 0345 611 2970

ROYAL MAIL SORTING OFFICE

(drop-off & collection point)

Hawkins Way 03457 740 740

CREDITON LIBRARY

(incl scanning, photocopying, printing;
social events)

Belle Parade 772578

W: devonlibraries.org.uk

LORDS MEADOW LEISURE CENTRE

(incl swimming pool, tennis etc, café)

Commercial Rd. (01884) 234970

W: [middevonleisure.com/lords-meadow-](http://middevonleisure.com/lords-meadow-leisure-centre/)
[leisure-centre/](http://middevonleisure.com/lords-meadow-leisure-centre/)

NEWCOMBES MEADOW

(park, incl playground, Crediton Bowling
Club)

off Belle Parade and Union Rd.

TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS

140 over 3 sites: Exhibition Road,
Moffatts Land (Newcombes Meadow),
Barnfield

Contact: e.armitage@crediton.gov.uk
773717

WHAT'S ON WEBSITE
W: creditoninandaround.co.uk

HEALTH, SAFETY, WELL-BEING

DOCTORS' SURGERY

Redlands Primary Care, Joseph Locke Way 727111 (out-of-hours GP: phone 111)

CREDITON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

For range of out-patient services see W: royaldevon.nhs.uk/our-sites/crediton-hospital/
Western Rd. 775588

PHARMACIES

Crediton Pharmacy, 19a High St. 773030
Boots, 126 High St. 772062
Tesco Wellparks, Joseph Locke Way 0117 240 3898
Pharmacy at Redlands, Joseph Locke Way 779848

POLICE

Crediton Policing Team: PC Dan Armitage, PC Neil Minehan, PCSO Nicola Payne, PCSO Andy Fee
phone 101 or W: dc.police.uk

EMERGENCIES

Police, Ambulance, Fire: phone 999

Defibrillators

Landscore School, Threshers; Leroy Funeral Directors, High St; Post Office, Market St; Masonic Hall, Union Rd; Morrison's, Mill St.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (CAB)
c/o CCC, 98 High St. 01237 879230

AGE CONCERN

Lady Mills Centre, Deep Lane 775008

CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) (for debt advice, housing needs)
01884 255606

CREDITON FOODBANK

The Manse, CCC, 98 High St.
07740 202721
help@creditonfoodbank.org.uk

DROP IN ENERGY ADVICE
Exeter Community Energy
1st Tues of month
c/o CCC

SKILLS, EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING

Learn Devon (advice on free courses)
Mondays, 9.30 – 4.30pm
The Bookery

JOB SEEKERS SUPPORT

(help with CVs, courses, job search)
Tues 9-10am; Fri 5-6pm
Library

SOCIAL & CULTURAL

CREDITON ARTS CENTRE
East St. 773260

CREDITON GARDEN CLUB

(horticultural talks)
4th Tues of month, 7.30pm
Crediton Library

CREDITON MUSEUM

(CAHMS) (exhibitions, family history)
Open April - Oct
Old Town Hall, High St. 773919

CREDITON BONIFACE ROTARY CLUB

(charitable and fund-raising, with social events) 84242

CREDITON & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

(charitable & fund-raising, with social events) 0345 833 4962

CREDITON AREA MUSEUM & LOCAL

HISTORY SOCIETY (CAHMS)
(exhibitions, talks, ancestry research)
W: creditonhistory.org.uk

CREDITON HEART PROJECT

(creative/social initiatives, incl Crediton In & Around website & What's On listings)

SUSTAINABLE CREDITON

(environmental initiatives)
sustainablecrediton.org.uk

u3a (social & educational activities)
Various locations
W: u3asites.org.uk/crediton

SPORT & EXERCISE CLUBS/VENUES

Bang Bang Boxing
Mill Street
07852 965362

Crediton Bowling Club
Season starts April
Newcombes Meadow
07792 139333

Crediton Leisure Centre
Swimming pool (incl teaching), squash,
tennis, gym astroturf, skate park
01884 234970

Queens Badminton Club
Friday 6pm / Sat 8.30am
QE Upper Sports Hall, Western Rd
07590 564009

Roller Rebels
(roller skating disco)
Tuesdays 7-8.15pm
QE Upper Sports Hall, Western Rd
rollerrebels@hotmail.com

HOSPITALITY VENUES

ACCOMMODATION
Motovelo, 3 Union Rd 777299; Taw Vale,
2 Taw Vale Terrace, Station Rd. 777879;
The Ship Hotel, 132 High St. 894020 See
also W: airbnb.co.uk

PUBS - WITH GAMES, TV SPORTS,
ENTERTAINMENT
Crediton Inn, 28a Mill St. 72882; Duke
of York, 74 High St. 775289; Kirton Cow,
37 High St. 530008; Mitre, 9 High St.
772508; Plymouth Inn: Dean St.
Red Deer, Joseph Locke Way 774248;
Ship Hotel, 132 High St. 894020; Three
Little Pigs, 1 Parliament St. 774587;
White Swan, 33 High St. 77226

CAFES/RESTAURANTS/PUBS SERVING
MEALS
Ashtons, 9 Market St. 0791 471144;
Baobab, 2 Market Square House, Market
St. 894004; Café @100, 100 High St.
0759 831 5423; Co-Co's, 11-12 High
St 0798 993 2911; Costa, High St.;
Crediton Tandoori, 137 High St. 775548;
Dive In, Leisure Centre 07702 411744;

Elephant on the Green, 14 St Lawrence
Green 775048; Eva's Restaurant, 22 High
St. 0787 749 2488; Hay Loft, Mole Avon,
Joseph Locke Way 774786;
Homeleigh Garden Centre, Barnstaple
Cross 773110; Kirton Cow, 37 High St.
530008; Kitchen at No. 25, 25 High St.
772332; McDonald's, Joseph Locke Way;
Motovelo, 3 Union Rd. 777299; Red
Deer, Joseph Locke Way 774248; The
Ship Hotel, 132 High St. 894020; Tesco,
Joseph Locke Way 0345 671 9454; Three
Little Pigs, 1 Parliament St. 774587;
Yummy Tummy Thai, 113 High St.
779416

HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS

Al's Grill, Down End, Lords Meadow Ind
Est.; Chef's Choice (fish n' chips, fried
meals); Crediton Tandoori, High St.; Exe
Vale Pizzas, St Lawrence Green;
Golden Bridge, High St. (Chinese);
Happy Garden (Chinese); Hot Stuff,
Jewson's car-park, Exeter Rd 07849
787718; McDonald's, Joseph Locke
Way (burgers etc); Saffron, High St.
(Indian); The Sandwich Shop, High St.;
The Ship Hotel (Sunday roast lunches);
The Trawler's Catch (fish n' chips, fried
meals); Yummy Tummy Thai Thai/
Chinese)
*Visit also bakeries & convenience stores
for hot pasties etc*

SCHOOLS & DAY NURSERIES

Landscape Primary School
Threshers 772018

Haywards Primary School
East St. 772970

Queen Elizabeth's Academy (QE)
Lower School, Barnfield; Upper School,
Western Rd. 773401

Leapfrogs, East St. 776474

Pippins, Market Square House, Market
St. 772474

Sunflower Day Nursery, High St. (01392)
777020

CHURCHES

Crediton Congregational Church
98 High St. 772577

Crediton Methodist Church, Union Rd.
777308

Holy Cross Parish Church, Church Lane
773226

St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church,
Park Rd. (01392) 271191

TRANSPORT

TAXIS

Crediton Cars (07764 302301)
White Swan Taxis (07928 115421)

TRAINS

GWR services to Exeter, Barnstaple,
Okehampton W: thetrainline.com

BUSES & MINIBUS SERVICES

Stagecoach services to Exeter,
Hatherleigh, Bideford, Chulmleigh
5, 5A, 5B, 5C; to Mordach bishop &
Witheridge/Exeter 369
W: stagecoachbus.com

MD services: Crediton circular, Crediton
Fitzpaine, 607. For other services (eg:
to Coldridge, Cheriton Bishop, Zeal
Monachorum, Black Dog and Tiverton)
pick up Mid Devon Bus Times
W: bustimes.org

Mid Devon Mobility (Ring & Ride) 773303

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Crediton Youth Club (town council-run)
The Bungalow, 8a North Street
(or at Old Landscore School, Greenway)
W: crediton.gov.uk/Youth-Work

Crediton Youth Football Club
Lords Meadow playing fields
W: creditonyouthfc.co.uk

Crediton Youth Orchestra
CCC
creditonyouthorchestra@gmail.com

Crediton Youth Theatre
Crediton Arts Centre
cyt@waxroom.co.uk

Friday Youth (church-run youth club)
Congregational Church
ccc youth10@gmail.com

Holy Cross Junior Choir
W: creditonparishchurch.org.uk

Queens Badminton Club
W: queensbc.co.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

CASHPOINTS

SPAR, High St
Tesco Express, High St
Post Office, Market St
Tesco Wellparks
Morrison's, Mill St
Exeter Road Garage

NEWSPAPERS & LOCAL PUBLICATIONS

Crediton Country Courier
Published Thursdays
editor@creditoncourier.co.uk

Kirton Quarterly

Local magazine delivered to all Crediton
addresses 4 times a year
pveclipse@btinternet.com

TOURIST INFORMATION

Visit Crediton Library, Crediton Museum,
The Bookery

WORK SPACE

The Hub at The Bookery, 21 High St
774740





Adams: eve of closure?

A senior and long-serving member of staff confirms that Adams Homewares will – in the absence of any prospective purchaser of the business – close soon, after over a century's trading. Its loss will be keenly felt by CREDITON people, its long-serving staff, and many who have relied on the store for an astonishing range of goods and services, along with patient and friendly advice.

Courier reaches 50, but . . .

Last autumn the CREDITON Country Courier, first issue launched in 1974, recorded 50 years in print. But celebrations, were muted by the news that its co-founder and reporter Sue Read had died a few weeks earlier, this being shortly after the Courier closed its High Street office.

A display at the Library showed historic front pages, including the very first edition. It led with the resignation of the vicar Anthony Bray 'on medical grounds' after 22yrs at the parish church.

There was a feature on the Cartwheel Folk Club lately started by Judy and Malcolm Bestwick at the stone stables behind The Railway Inn. An up-and-coming folk singer Martin Carthy was booked to appear. There was a profile of 'Jifty' Steer, President of CREDITON Rugby Club, whose 45-year involvement

was commemorated. A piece entitled Trans-Atlantic Education featured boarders and trainee teachers at QE school coming over from the U.S.A. and other countries.

Advertisements included 'a selection of modern semi-detached and terraced houses in CREDITON for £8,900' marketed by Gribble, Booth & Taylor at 144 High Street. W. F. Chinn of Marsh Lane – their factory is still at Lords Meadow Ind Est - advertised their 'sausages, pork puddings and beefburgers.' Dart & Francis Ltd 'est. 1800,' who traded as builders until the early 1980s, described themselves as 'specialists in English Oak joinery and carving.'

Yellabellies gig rocks Cow

Last spring a cherry-picker vehicle plucked the signage off The General Sir Redvers Buller, renaming the former Wetherspoon's pub The Kirton Cow. The pub has enjoyed a colourful and eclectic re-vamp, including new furniture and lighting, curious animal-headed portraits and bold wallpapers (and removed TV screens showing silent world news).

Cheap beer (Wetherspoon's unique selling point) has been replaced by good local lagers, ales and cider. Food remains part of the deal, with weekly offers on popular meals, including Sunday roasts.



Yellabellies attract loyal following at their Kirton Cow gig

On Sat 4th Jan Crediton's long-standing and arguably most impressive band Yellabellies - *"southern US rock through bluegrass and cajun to alt-country and the fringes of psychedelic rock"* – attracted a keen local following to the Kirton Cow for an entertaining evening set, thus proving the Cow a handy and central venue for good home-grown musical entertainment. Long may it continue!

Yellabellies are formed of Russell Frampton (guitar/ lead vocals), Paul Wilson (melodeons), Paul Bateman (bass/vocals) and Tony Plato (drums). For those in the district with long memories Frampton and Wilson were original members of Irish-folk band The Joyce Gang, while Bateman and Plato were part of Exeter indie outfit Jackdaw Music (as was also Jez Taylor – another Exeter Uni graduate – who directs the excellent Crediton Youth Theatre and writes both music and the scripts for its summer productions.

Toned down BT building on Belle Parade

The BT Exchange opposite Crediton Library on Belle Parade (built c.1958) with its modern façade and colour scheme reminiscent of a Mondrian painting, has had some decorative attention, resulting in a calmer exterior in cream and white.

The building still houses old-fashioned copper wiring that carried local phone connections. Apparently soon all the old 'analogue' systems will be turned off, and services will all be provided over broadband instead. What future then for these Exchanges, usually very centrally located in towns?



Then (above) and now (below): BT Exchange, Belle Parade

[CUT!] fights weeds with volunteer support

Crediton Urban Taskforce aims to keep pavements and kerbs and other parts of the town's urban environment clear of leaves, grass, weeds and any other stubborn and recurring growth. The voluntary initiative, supported and co-ordinated by the town council, is a response to the withdrawal of maintenance formerly carried out by the district council.

Frequent photos in the Courier and in KQ have shown energetic town councillors Natalia Letch, Rachel Backhouse, Giles Fawssett and Steve Huxtable leading the way in scraping weeds, filling sacks - and leaning on brooms to have their picture taken. They have been joined by other community-minded residents, including a number of Ukrainian evacuees - and once by a troupe of Crediton Brownies.

It was announced in September that [CUT!] would be reducing its fortnightly outings to a single morning per month (on the 2nd Sat). Will this be enough to keep Crediton weed-free? Has the seed been sown yet for the widespread take-up that is hoped-for? Would-be volunteers are invited to contact the council's deputy clerk, Emma Anderson - or check on the council's website for information re upcoming destinations.

Town council by-election to be announced

In late January a dozen residents made a request to Mid Devon District Council for a by-election for a single seat in Lawrence ward. The mid-term vacancy has been created by the disqualification of a councillor for not attending a meeting during a 6-month period. At the time of going to press, it is not clear if the election will be contested (ie: more than one candidate standing). If no candidate is forthcoming, then the vacancy will be filled by co-option (councillors appointing a willing person). The last by-elections held in Crediton were in November 2021. Turnout was around 19%.

Lead ripped off church roof

Several sheets of lead roofing from Holy Cross parish church were removed overnight in mid-January, by thieves who drove a vehicle around the building, gouging deep tyre marks around the grass as they did so. No-one seems to have witnessed the event.

Commenting on the callous enterprise Bill Jerman speaking for Holy Cross church said that temporary protective sheeting had been put in place to protect the roof structure. In the longer term the Governors of Holy Cross are engaged in a major project to upgrade the church's fabric and interior facilities, including replacement of the whole lead roof - a project costed 10 years ago at around £2 million.

The Bookery's grant bonus

In 2025 The Bookery will celebrate 12 years trading.



Customers, volunteers, shareholders and local organisations have all contributed to its success, both as an independent book-seller and in extending enthusiasm for literary matters into the wider community.

To further develop its resources, which include its Hub meeting space (accessed through the bookshop) it launched a second community share offer. Funds raised by patrons and supporters have been matched from Co-operatives UK. The share offer finished at the end of January, with upwards of £20K raised by the end. That's not to say you can't still donate, or just keep buying books and giving book tokens!

Stagecoach takes over 369 Morchard Bishop – Exeter bus service

A smallish Stagecoach bus has taken over the Dartline 369 service into Exeter. This is probably good for passengers, as the 2-hourly Mon-Sat service through Crediton provides a more frequent service for those using Stagecoach buses. www.devonbus.org

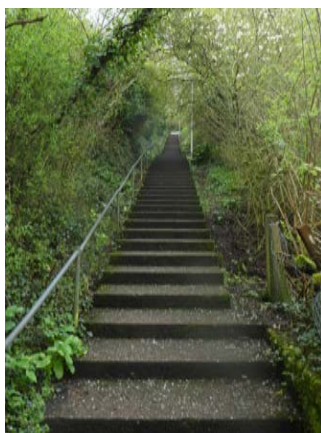
The new vehicle is fitted with a digital noticeboard showing and announcing each stop. Some of the stops are curiously named, if not wholly outdated. Travelling east from the High Street, one passenger noted Crediton Snooker Hall, The Crown, Fordton Tesco . . . and further along, Crown & Sceptre and Newton St Cyres Primary School.

But the one-time snooker hall (Potters Bar, later Buccaneers Bar) is now part of Crediton Dairy's premises, The Crown is no longer operating as a pub or Chinese takeaway, The Crown & Sceptre (at Newton St Cyres) became Belluno restaurant several years ago, and Newton St Cyres Primary School is now nowhere near the bus-stop. Its former site is being transformed into an estate of 25 houses, called Orchard View.

MONTAGE OF LOCAL FEATURES

Paths in Town

Can you identify these paths? Locations on page 35





We're here

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Lidl delay: pedestrian access to the new store, photographed 5th February. Opening was widely advertised for the 6th, but was said to be delayed by a week or so (info at time of writing)



Bicycle delivery van at the Bike Shed's Union Road base. Staff say electric bikes sold well at Christmas – including electric bicycles for children . . .

KIRTON QUARTERLY NOTES

Please send items for publication (e-mails preferred) by 16 Mar for the Summer 2025 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 Crediton 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 2025 issues 6-8

Full page £180 | Half page £90

Quarter page £50 | Eighth page £25*

Advertisers booking 3 issues (and paid in full by end of June) receive 25% discount.

**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 Summer issue is 20th April (magazine covering period mid-May – end of Aug)

DOG 'U' LIKE

Crediton's most cherished and characterful canines



Henry, Cockapoo, 1 year old



Zac, Bedlington Whippet, 7 years old

Public Questions answered

Members of the public are invited to submit questions about the work of the council. These may be asked directly during the Public Questions item on each town council meeting agenda, or otherwise sent to the town council.

The town council's website has a Public Questions page, under the Your Council title, recording these questions and the council's official responses. Here are examples of some recent questions and answers, along with background context.

Town Precept 2025/26

Background

The town council has imposed above-inflation increases in its share of council tax (town Precept) for several years in a row. Currently the town raises over £500K annually based on a charge of £174 per Crediton household (Band D property). A further rise of 4.75% has been recommended for approval by Full Council.

Q: Given the continued cost of living crisis, what measures will the town council take to limit any increase in the Town Precept?

The town council has not provided an answer to this question. Cllr Steve Huxtable, Chair of the town council's Oversight Committee states, however:

A: It is crucial to work collaboratively with Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council to ensure that our community needs are met, and that shared resources are allocated effectively.

Town and parish councils are not subject to the same limitations when increasing their council tax, and are taking on additional services that were once delivered by other tiers of local authority in order to safeguard them

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking (Chair of Community Committee, meeting Jan 7th) said that it was council policy not to cut town council services in order to reduce the level of the Precept.

Public Toilets at Union Road

Background

Formerly run by Mid Devon district council, Crediton Town Council took them a few years ago, but experienced problems with vandalism,

organising regular cleaning etc. Currently a single unisex cubicle is provided.

Q: How many days were the toilets been open to the public during 2024? What public toilet provision will Crediton Town Council be making in 2025?

A: In the period from 1 April the toilet has been open and available for use for most of 2024, bar a few days when there was a water leak. CTC anticipates the Union Road toilets being open throughout 2025 between 09.00 and 16.00.

Old Landscore School renovations

Background

The town council stated (KQ4) that Old Landscore School has 'closed for the winter to prepare for some renovation work'. The town council purchased the former school and latterly day nursery from Devon County Council in 2019 to use for community purposes.

Q: What works are to be carried out, at what cost, for what purpose, and when?

A: The intention was to prepare for renovation work but this has been delayed as we are still waiting plans to be finalised by the architect.

Regardless, CTC was determined not to hold meetings throughout the winter months in the building as it is difficult to heat effectively, and so bookings were made to use the Boniface Centre for Full Council meetings.

Citizen's Awards

Background

The town council spent £500 on a number of brochures to present to local people in recognition of voluntary service to the community. To date there has been just one recipient*



Q: Has the town council identified any other members of the local community on whom to confer an award?

A: There have not been any further members of the local community discussed with regards to an award. There was never an intention that these awards would be regularly granted, but when there was an appropriate recipient identified.

**An award was made to Bert Jewell, for his many years of horticultural work and floral displays in the town.*

Portrait of King Charles

Background

Early in 2024 the Town Council rejected a request to apply for a portrait of King Charles (offered free by HM Government to government departments, agencies, councils etc). Following protests in the local press the then Mayor Liz Brookes-Hocking told the Crediton Courier that the town council might look again at the decision.

Q: What is Crediton Town Council's current position?

A: September's Oversight Committee agreed to request a copy of the King's portrait - which has been received. The portrait has not been hung but there is every intention to do so.

Notes

Crediton Town Council is made up of 12 councillors, each elected by voters in either Boniface or Lawrence ward.

Following the last local elections 7 councillors were elected as Liberal Democrat members, the remaining 5 as Independents (with one Independent member identifying as an Environmentalist.) In January a vacancy for a Lawrence ward seat was created after one councillor failed to attend a meeting over a 6-month period. A new member will be chosen either by co-option or at a by-election.

The Chair and Mayor for 2024/25 is Cllr Guy Cochran (Lib Dem). The post is for one year at a time, with a maximum consecutive tenure of 2 years.

The next town/parish elections (held on a 4-year cycle) will be held in 2026.



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edfinch@edfinch.org

07810861917

humanist.org.uk/edfinch/

ZUMBA WITH NAT DANCE FITNESS CLASSES

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



nattienoo@gmail.com
07841 764817



Come along and join the party!

Donald Reeves (1934-2024)



Donald Reeves' presence in Crediton during the last 25 years of his life was as quiet and unassuming as - when Church of England vicar - he was frequently called radical, controversial, even dangerous.

His career began as a curate at Maidstone, before moving to a church serving a housing estate in South London. In 1968 he took up an opportunity to work among black civil rights activists in Chicago, an experience that radicalised him. He became an evangelist for ethnic and gender equality, women's ordination and gay rights in the church.

From 1980 he was the 'radical' rector of St James's, Piccadilly, the 17thC church designed by Sir Christopher Wren, bombed-out in the 1940 London Blitz but restored, the parish having mostly lost its residential congregation. Donald turned St James's into a venue not just for prayer, but for shelter and dialogue for those otherwise rejected from society, from homeless wanderers to campaigning delegations from 'terrorist' organisations.

Quoting the Daily Telegraph's obituary: "international, inter-ethnic, inter-sexual, and inter-religious" ... where "the street people rubbed shoulders with the intellectuals".

Moving to Devon 18 years later with long-term partner Peter Peltz he formed The Soul of Europe, dedicated to peace-making, focused on the successful re-building of a mosque in Banja Luka, Bosnia, previously destroyed by Serbs in the 1990s Balkan conflict.

Donald was awarded an MBE in 2008 for interfaith work, conflict resolution, and peace-building. His books include *Making Sense of Religion* (1989) and *The Memoirs of 'A Very Dangerous Man'* (2009), the latter title taken from a comment made about him by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He died aged 90 on 31st October.



Crediton Dairy's storage tanks tower over Boniface Centre. See Letters opposite...

A taxing question

When are we as a nation going to wake up to reality? We all want good public services, there's only one way to have them and that's by paying for them. The money can only come through taxation yet it appears that no political party is prepared to say so.

The last lot 'gave' us loads of extra money with things like National Insurance cuts, but what good is that money in our pockets when chemists are closing, class sizes rising, infrastructure is struggling? I dare say everybody could add to the list.

The present administration is criticised at every return whenever it puts a plan forward; that's no wonder really, as it's to trying to achieve the impossible - getting more for less from an increasingly small pot - and as soon as it suggests any additional taxation every news headline whinges and, of course, those most affected or likely to lose money will complain.

So what's the solution? We have to bite the bullet and, after raising tax thresholds for low incomes, put income tax up. Of course there will be pain but what do you expect - rainbows and unicorns?

James Cookson, Alexandra Road

People's Park pothole policy

Potholes have become a talking point in the county of Devon for motorists and cyclists. It has been of less concern in adjacent counties. Repairs to, and replacement of, suspension and wheels in local garages have increased over the last couple of years.

Some potholes have become an annual occurrence, notably the ones at the road edge near the eastern end of People's Park. It is evident that springs emanating from the park are contributing to the break-up of this part of People's Park Road.

Every winter this occurrence is predictable. The potholes usually appear in November. Unfortunately the road repair teams take several months to arrive and effect 'temporary' repairs to this watery site.

Prior to the next visit of the repair team perhaps a thoughtful analysis could be undertaken by our eminently competent council officials. Routing the spring water into the storm drains could eliminate this annual problem.

Name & address provided



People's Park pot holes: a watery trap for unsuspecting motorists

In response to The Smells of Crediton (Editorial, KQ4)

Kirton Quarterly received a message from Crediton Dairy, including the following statement:

"We are in the process of changing the current effluent plant on site which has been in situ for many years, to a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant. This will not only positively impact our neighbours but also produce much cleaner water back into the water system.

As a responsible employer we really do care what impact we have on our local and wider environment and what people think of the Dairy."

Paths in Town – locations (p. 26)

Top row (left-right): Cockles Lane (from Dean St.); path from Avranches Avenue towards Queen Elizabeth Drive; Tin Pot steps (from Lansdowne). Middle row (l-r): path from top of Downhead Lane to Tarka View; steps from bottom of High Street to Bray's Close/Barnfield; St Lawrence Drive (off Western Rd). Bottom row (l-r): Peep Lane (off Charlotte St/Mill St); Albert Place (off High Street); path between Church Lane and Church St (behind parish church).

CREDITON SPRING CALENDAR

Info for next issue required by 20th April (covering period c15 May to end of August)

EVENTS: CIVIC & COMMUNITY

22 Feb, 11-2pm

Annual Seed Share

(Sus Cred)

Boniface Centre

Mon 24 Feb, 2pm

Crediton Library AGM

(all welcome)

Library

Tues 18 March, 7.30pm

Full Council Meeting (CTC) incl public discussions from 7pm

Boniface Centre

Sat 10 May

VE Day 80

(town council run, 1940s themed picnic)

Newcombes Meadow

1st & 3rd Saturdays

Farmers Market

9.30 -1pm

Town Square

2nd Sat of month 10-12

[CUT!]

community weeding – contact town council

4th Sat of month, 10-12

Repair Café

(Sus Cred)

Elephant

SOCIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Thurs 20 Feb, 3.30pm

Afternoon Author: Jonathan Croft

The Bookery

Tuesdays 10.30am – 12

Knitwits (knitting group)

Library

Fridays, 10.30am-12

Craft Inn

(Sus Cred craft activities)

@100 Cafe

Fridays, 12.30 – 2pm

Soup & Stories

The Bookery [B]

PERFORMANCES/ EXHIBITIONS/ TALKS/FILMS/WORKSHOPS

Fri 21 Feb, 7pm

History of Devon Libraries

(Crediton Library, talk)
Library

Wed 26 Feb, 2pm

Film: The Little Stranger

Library

Wed 26 Feb, 7pm

Film: The Critic

Library

Fri 28 Feb, 7.30pm **Sherlock**

Holmes: The Last Act

(play, Nigel Miles-Thomas)

Arts Centre

Fri 28 Feb, 7pm

Shanty evening

(Crediton Library, performance)

Library

Sat 8 March, 1-4pm

Calligraphy (workshop)

The Bookery

Mon 10 March, 7.30pm

Misfortunate Women

(CAHMS, talk)

Boniface Centre

Fri 14 March, 7pm

Church folklore

(Crediton Library, talk)

Library

Thur 13 March, 7.00pm

Film: O Brother Where Art Thou

Arts Centre

Fri 14 March, 7.30pm

Lady Maisery

(Vocal harmony/folk trio)

Parish church

Sat 15 March, 7.30pm

Blackheart Orchestra

(2-person music performance)

Arts Centre

Thur 20 March, 7.30pm

Moon Jazz (performance)

Arts Centre

Fri 21 March, 7.30pm

Acoustic by Candlelight

(acoustic music by local musicians)

St Lawrence Chapel

Sat 22 March, 7.30pm

CYO Rising Stars

(Crediton Youth Orchestra)

CCC

Sun 23 March 2.30pm; 7pm

Crediton Strummers

(music workshop & performance)

Arts Centre

Thurs 27 March 7.30pm

Orfeo ed Euridice

(Exeter Opera Co)

Arts Centre

Fri 28 March, 7pm

Harp Concert

(Elizabeth-Jane Baldry)

Library

Fri 28 March, 7.30pm

Four Choirs Concert

(West Gallery, Ad Hoc, Sandford Sings, Spectrum choirs)

Methodist Church

Sat 29 March, 7.30pm

Ashley Hutchings (Arts Centre)

Parish church

Sun 30 March, 7.30pm

Xogara & Owl Light Trio

(2 folk bands)

Arts Centre

Thur 3 April, 7.30pm

Jazz on the Green

(jazz + Sri Lankan cuisine)

Arts Centre

4 April, 7.30pm

The Bridge

(Eduardo Martin guitar duo, classical Cuban)

Arts Centre

5 April, 11 – 4pm

Pizza & Music

(Turning Tides)

TT Garden, Four Mills Lane

Sun 6 April, 3pm
Revival
(Americana, bluegrass)
Arts Centre

Sat 12 April, 7.30pm
It is I, Seagull
(opera/comedy)
Arts Centre

Sun 13 April, 4pm
Tongues + Savage Love (plays
by Sam Shepherd) (Talking
Faces)
Arts Centre

Mon 14 – Sat 19 April
Beauty and the Beast
(CODS, musical)
QE Lower School, Barnfield Mon

14 April, 7.30pm
Connecting Late Antiquities
(CAHMS, talk re digitizing
archives)
Boniface Centre

Mon 12 May, 7.30pm
Dowsing in Crediton (CAHMS,
incl. hands-on)
Boniface Centre etc

Sat 15 Feb, 6pm
St John Passion
(charity event for Second Sight:
oratorio by J S Bach)
Parish church [B]

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN
Sat 22 Feb, 2.30pm
The Great Baldini (magic show)
Arts Centre [B]

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

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

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

1st & 3rd Fri, 7.30pm
Curious Cinema Club
Elephant on Green

Sundays 7-10pm
**Jazz, Blues Jam or Acoustic
nights**
Red Deer

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

2nd Fri, 7pm
Open Mic Night
Elephant on Green

Last Fri, 7pm
Open Mic Night
@100 Cafe

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

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

Fridays (until Easter)
Community Lunch
CCC

4th Friday of month, 6.30pm
BSL social evening
(deaf/hard of hearing)
Elephant

Sat 10am
Together4Coffee
Methodist Church

SPECTATOR SPORTS
Crediton Rugby Club,
creditonrfc.rfu.club
Exhibition Road

Crediton United AFC (football)
fulltime.thefa.com/
Lords Meadow

SUNDAY CHURCH 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

SCHOOL DATES
QE Academy
Spring term 2025
Half term: Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb;
Non-pupil day: Mon 24 March;
Last day: Fri 4 April

Summer term
Tues 22 April; Half term Mon 26 –
Fri 30 May Last day: Fri 18 July

Haywards Primary
Spring term 2025
Half term: Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb;
Last day Fri 4 April

Summer term
22 April; Half term 26 – 30 May;
non-pupil day 2 June; Last day:
Tues 22 July

Landscore Primary
Spring term
Half term: Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb;
Last day: Fri 4 April

Summer term
Tues 22 April; Half term: 26 May
– 2 June: Last day: Wed 23 July

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 = Crediton Area History
& Museum Society; CCC =
Crediton Congregational Church;
CTC = Crediton Town Council;
CUFC = Crediton United Football
Club; [CUT!] = Crediton Urban
Taskforce; CYT = Crediton Youth
Theatre; Elephant = Elephant on
the Green; SBCS = St Boniface
Concert Society; Sus Cred =
Sustainable Crediton

Useful website
creditoninandaround.co.uk

Crediton
Heart
Project



Image taken from a 3D animation See Me Skywards, by Morgan Vincent



Morgan submitted this short film (2 min 54 sec) to the Young Animator of the Year 2024 competition run by industry body UK Screen Alliance. This piece was the winner in the 15-18 years age group in the 3D Animation category. It was shown at the Manchester Animation Festival last November and can be seen at [W: younganimator.uk/winners/](http://W:younganimator.uk/winners/). Morgan is a former pupil of Chulmleigh School and studying Creative Digital Media (BTECH) at Exeter College.

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