

No. 8

Winter 2025/26

KIRTON quarterly

a magazine for the Crediton community

INSIDE:

Bell-ringing in Crediton
Our newly elected (council) representatives
(No meat!) breakfast survey
New! Critters of Crediton
and LOTS MORE

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Cover picture:

Crediton Parish Church bell chamber:
one of the larger bells, the (red) head-stock,
and the wooden wheel which turns the
whole set-up. (See feature page 15).

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Christmas at CCC

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Service on the Square
10.30am, Sunday 14th December

The Word Made Paint
6.30pm, Sunday 14th December

Community Christmas Lunch
12noon, Friday 19th December – please book

Carols in the Courtyard
5pm, Sunday 21st December

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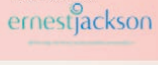
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There's Soap for All of Us

Given Christmas is coming up, with the usual challenge of finding presents for all the family, one product makes an appropriate gift for almost everyone. Affordable, widely available - but often overlooked - we are talking about the humble and compact bar of soap.

There is a saying, Cleanliness is next to godliness, which has got to make a bar of soap pretty good value even before considering its other merits. But soap bars need our support. Bathrooms, kitchens and washrooms have been invaded by pump-action dispensers of so-called body washes and hand cleansers that threaten to supplant the traditional solid tablet. We are besieged by these bottles and their spurting protuberances, but it's not too late to fight back. You have only to take a stroll around Crediton to find a soap suited to each and every person, personality and station in life.

Say, for instance, you're a motor engineer or a horticulturalist, you're going to be delighted to receive a (slightly abrasive) bar of Mechanic's or Gardener's soap. Good news, too, for hyper-sensitive or germ-averse people: irritant-free and anti-bacterial soaps are available, even if they smell of Dettol, coal tar, tea-tree, or nothing at all. Even a cheap bar may trigger a lovely sense of nostalgia. Who isn't transported to their childhood at the mere whiff of Pears original?

Beyond cleansing, soap can send a variety of messages. Unwrapped by a sporty teenager, a multi-pack of Cussons' Imperial Leather might hint at improving his/her personal hygiene. But an up-market bar scented with Bergamot & Ginger or Magnolia & Pear (made for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) could only be for one with an already fragrant personality.

A rose, lavender or lemon fragrance will impress a favourite great-aunt, while a soap scented with patchouli and containing jojoba oil may well suit someone with alternative leanings. Some products will claim miraculous restorative, even rejuvenating properties: look for references to Aloe Vera. Sandalwood is a reliable go-to if you need to impress a man (and can't afford a macho designer brand). But we don't want to gender-stereotype: who would not be intrigued by Dove's Oatmeal & Berry Brulée or Coconut Milk & Sugar Lychee cleansing bars - even if they'd sound better off on a dessert menu. If you'd like something really novel try African Black Soap, which is made with cocoa pod ash.

There's environmentalism, identity politics and virtue-signalling in one's choice of soap. One label reads 'cruelty-free, vegan-friendly, recyclable': all very reassuring, but we only wanted to get clean! A 'no palm oil' claim shows awareness that tropical rainforests are under threat from industrial plantations. But beware of marketing: does calling your brand Pure, Simple, Faith in Nature, Little, or even Friendly mean the products are necessarily virtuous? And can you be sure the virtue will rub off on you?

NOTE

Visit the following to check out Crediton's soap offer: The Green Shop, Stevie B's, Mimosa, various chemists, larger stores and supermarkets. For truly local and hand-crafted products explore Aponi Aromatics upstairs at The Creedy Centre.

Cllrs Jim Cairney, Vix Frisby, Tim Stanford

In March, May and June this year by-elections were held for the Crediton county, district and town council seats formerly held by the late Frank Letch, and a town council seat that became vacant due to the continued absence of one of the Liberal Democrat group.

The results in all but the March by-election were wins for Lib Dems: Jim Cairney in the county council seat for Crediton (adding this to the district and town seats he already held), Tim Stanford, a political newcomer who won both a district and a town council seat.

The remaining town council seat was won in March by Independent candidate Vix Frisby. Her electoral leaflet stated that she considered the town's Precept (the portion of council tax set by the town council) 'too high'. Crediton's town Precept, currently over £180 for a Band D property) is the highest set by any town or parish in Mid Devon.

During the preparation of this article we were surprised to encounter some reluctance on the part of two councillors to take the opportunity offered by Kirton Quarterly – which is delivered to all addresses in Crediton - to communicate with their constituents, the residents and electors of the town.



*Issues for our county councillor? Left: Grassy verge by Redlands surgery awaits bus shelter.
Right: missing Crediton town sign at the western approach to the town . . . Can Jim fix it?!*

We believe that the community will benefit from improved engagement between constituents and their elected representatives. This article was planned with adequate spaces to accommodate responses to topics raised. It is a matter of regret that Kirton Quarterly has been unable to fill some of these with any useful content.



JIM CAIRNEY (Liberal Democrat)

Devon County Councillor, elected for Crediton division in a by-election in May 2025

Cllr Cairney (Lib Dem), following in the footsteps of former mayor Frank Letch, now holds seats at all three levels of local government: county, district and town. He wrote to residents shortly after his election to the county council: *"I will be holding regular surgeries so you can speak with me directly about any local concerns or ideas for improvement."* KQ is pleased to publish these below:

Jim Cairney's County Councillor Surgeries

**Crediton Farmers Market
1st Saturday of the month
Town Square**

(The Farmers Market is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month)

We have been informed from another source that Cllr Cairney has advertised a regular monthly surgery at Bow Farmers Market, held on the 4th Saturday of the month at Bow Village Hall

We have also received the following statement on behalf of Cllr Cairney:

Coordinating Roadworks Better for Crediton

"As your Town, District, and County Councillor – and Chair of the Highways and Roads Committee – I know how frustrating poorly coordinated roadworks can be. At our October [town] council meeting, a resident rightly pointed out that diversions often lead straight into other closures, causing needless gridlock.

"I share this concern. Too often, works are planned in isolation, without considering the wider impact on our road network. I've started discussions with County Highways and utility companies to push for better coordination. My aim is simple: fewer unnecessary traffic lights, smarter sequencing of works, and diversion routes that make sense. I'll be pressing for a stronger approval process so that future closures are properly reviewed before being signed off.

"To make sure your views are heard, I hold a monthly drop-in surgery at the Town Square during the first Farmers' Market of each month. Please come along to raise any local concerns or share your ideas – especially on how we can keep traffic flowing more sensibly in Crediton."



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Two further local issues have been raised at town council meetings with requests that he press for more rapid action. He was invited to respond to these.

Crediton Town Signs

These were removed by persons unknown (for what reason is unclear) as far back as early spring, but at the time of publication had not been replaced, despite assurances (from the town council) that Devon County Council is on the case. How much longer shall we be a town with no name?! What action had he taken to address this problem?

By the date of going to print we regret that no response had been received from Cllr Cairney

Bus shelter (towards town) outside Redlands

Since the opening of the NHS health centre at Joseph Locke Way people awaiting buses towards the town centre have been inconvenienced by the absence of a shelter and seating for their return journey. Since clearly passengers will include those with infirmities and health concerns, you might think this was an urgent priority?

By the date of going to print we regret that no response had been received from Cllr Cairney

Local case work

What other local concerns or ideas have you been working on as County Councillor in response to requests from Crediton residents? For example, a local business owner has raised with Cllr Cairney the problem of rats inhabiting the mixed residential, retail and hospitality outlets around Union Road/North Street/High Street.

By the date of printing we regret that no response had been received from Cllr Cairney



VIX FRISBY (Independent)

Town councillor for Crediton (Lawrence ward): elected in a by-election in March 2025

Cllr Frisby reports on her first months as one of the town's 12 elected representatives:

"I have spent the first few months of my role getting as involved as I can with Town Council-organised and other local events, and with People's Park wildlife area. It is my belief that, as a councillor, I should be visible within the community, and I want to encourage more feedback and community participation in the decisions we make.

"We hold an open discussion prior to Town Council meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, and I make a point of speaking with members of the public that attend. Concerns have been raised about the lack of Citizens Advice Bureau services in the town, so I contacted the CEO to ask for a resolution – which has resulted in the resumption of face-to-face provision from October.

"I've also joined three of the council's sub-committees that oversee grants, youth provision and HR (Human Resources) to gain insight into council policies and procedures, and engage in the shaping of our town council's service delivery. I would especially like to see our [town council] grants distributed more widely throughout the community with more robust advertising and improved links with local organisations.

"I'm keen to encourage residents to engage with our public consultations regarding budgeting and the Precept, which will take place in November [see Calendar for dates]. As a single parent I'm aware of the economic pressures on many local households, and that Council Tax is often one of the largest monthly bills. Public involvement will help guide town council priorities and services for next year.

"I hope that by serving on the Town Council, I can help make our community representation more inclusive. If anyone has any questions or issues they want raised with the Town Council I can be contacted via email at vfrisby@crediton.gov.uk "

CREDITON BUDGETING CONSULTATION SESSIONS

Mondays 17th & 24th Nov, 10am - 2pm; Tues 18th Nov, 6.30 - 7.30pm

Have Your Say on Local Spending: Crediton residents are invited to take part in budgeting consultation sessions hosted by the town council at Crediton Library. These drop-in events offer a chance for the community to share views on how the town council's portion of council tax should be spent on local services and assets. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of Crediton by telling us what your priorities are.

Whether it's open spaces, community spaces, allotments, community grants, CCTV . . . your input matters. Come along, speak with council representatives and make your voice heard.

Editorial note: readers may wish to consider whether, in addition to the above, staffing/office costs (roughly half of total budget of approx £510K) and the town council's Crediton Youth Service (?£50K annually, mostly in staffing costs) represent value for money for Crediton council tax-payers. A number of Independent town councillors have raised these as possible areas of concern. The Liberal Democrat group on the town council has indicated no position on these or other future spending decisions. For an indication re how the council allocates payments W: crediton.gov.uk/Portals/0/Budget.pdf



TIM STANFORD (Liberal Democrat)

**Town and District councillor for Crediton (Lawrence ward)
elected at by-elections in June 2025**

The campaign to elect Tim Stanford was an unprecedented effort on the part of his party. It included up to six different pieces of electoral literature to local homes, and campaigning visits from three members of Parliament, plus the leader of Devon County Council. This level of electoral campaigning suggested a candidate of considerable future potential. KQ invited him to expand on the Lib Dem electoral claims

that his election was all about 'Making the Difference in Crediton'

Cllr Stanford has sent the following statement with a request to print it. (It has also appeared in the Crediton Courier, so some readers may already have read it.)

Looking Forward Together

"As one of Crediton's newer councillors, I've been struck by the warmth, energy, and resilience of our community. St. Lawrence Ward - and Crediton more broadly - is full of people who care deeply about where we live and how we shape our future.

"While challenges exist, I believe they're matched by opportunity. Whether it's the way we look after our shared spaces, support local initiatives, or simply greet each other on the High Street, there's a quiet strength in our town that deserves celebration.

"I'm particularly hopeful about the growing appetite for positive change - especially when it comes to how we care for our environment. There's a real sense that Crediton can lead by example, and I'm keen to support efforts that make our town cleaner, greener, and more connected.

"I'd also love to hear from a wider range of residents about the issues that matter most to you. Far too often, councillors only hear from a small minority - and I believe we need many more voices in the conversation. Here's to a future."

Cllr Stanford has also e-mailed the following (received 31st October):

"Both Jim and I intend to hold a surgery at the first Farmers market of each month barring weather or personal commitments of course.

"On the bus shelter question the land still belongs to Tesco, but I have personally been into see Tesco 4 times but still haven't had a return call. I need to drop in again today [31/10/25] so will ask yet again which is extremely frustrating. I'd really love to sort this and if I could build the shelter myself I would but sadly I lack the skills to do so.

"I also understand that the town signs are well in hand and should be replaced soon. I hope they aren't promptly stolen again".

Town Council votes to reduce public participation at meetings

At the Full Town Council meeting on 21st October, in an apparent push-back against increasing engagement between town councillors and members of the public attending town council meetings, a vote was taken to rescind a change in Standing Orders made some months ago to permit members of the public to contribute to Agenda items at the discretion of the Chair, rather than by the more bureaucratic means of being asked to agree in each instance to suspend Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to speak.

All six Lib Dem members voted to restrict the level of public participation, supported by independent councillors Joyce Harris and Liz Brookes-Hocking. The decision restricts the freedom of the Chair to invite potentially useful views on Agenda topics from outside the elected body. The motion was proposed by Cllr Harris (Independent) and seconded by Cllr Cairney (Lib Dem).

Three of the five members of the public who were attending the meeting walked out in disgust.

STOP PRESS!

Town Council steps in to open Library on Mondays

Quoting from the town council's latest newsletter: *"Crediton Library has re-opened on Mondays as part of a partnership between the town council and the library. You can now pop in between 10am and 2pm to meet with the Town Council about local issues; borrow or return books; use the free WiFi and enjoy the space; use the photocopier (cash only).*

"NB: There will be no library staff available on Mondays, so account help, new sign-ups, public computers and printing will not be available."



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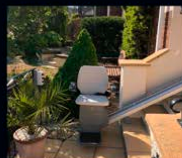
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Rounds, Changes, Methods - the appeal of bell-ringing



*Crediton bell-ringers in action at Holy Cross**

One small group of local performers enjoy the largest audience of any in the town, frequently but anonymously and unseen. They are Crediton's bell-ringers, up to twelve of them at any one time.

The band of ringers enjoy a certain independence from the rest of church activity. While many are deeply involved with the church, they don't all necessarily feel drawn to the church services they summon the parish to. With a key to the tower they come and go as needed. But on Tuesday evenings and each Sunday morning, plus Evensong on the 1st Sunday of the month, its members climb a steep and narrow spiral granite staircase (accessed by an inconspicuous door on the north side of the church) to the ringing chamber.

There the room is suddenly spacious, being mainly devoid of furniture. Apart from some benches for ringers to take a rest and some low plinths for ringers to stand on if they need, the room's main feature is the set of long ropes hanging down through eyelets in the ceiling above. Each rope has its distinctive 'sally,' a soft woollen addition. It has two purposes: to ease the task of catching and holding firm the rope (to delay or hasten the passage of the bells) and to provide a visual split-second clue for the next ringer to follow – 'ropesight' as it is known.

Once assembled, following the instructions of their conductor, each ringer takes hold of an allotted bell-rope. They get into the swing of things with a repeated cascade of the bells, a 'round' from the highest note to the lowest. When a nice smooth rhythm is established the

**While ordinary parishioners may be conscious only of the general sound of the bells, the ringers themselves engage themselves in a much more complex activity as they draw on their skills, experience and knowledge to construct ever more intricate ringing patterns. (The wheel in the background is only for decoration: it was part of the mechanism in the bell-chamber above before the whole set-up was renewed in 2004.)*



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conductor will call out 'changes' by which two adjacent ringers will swap over their positions in the sequence, done by one ringer pulling a bit earlier and the other holding their bell back. This can be done any number of times by any neighbouring pair – though generally the lowest-sounding bell will remain where it is, at the end of each round.

If that wasn't enough of a challenge, the world of campanology has developed many pre-set ringing patterns known as 'methods,' some which are famous for both length and complexity. A painted board in the ringing chamber records rare occasions on which monumental sequences of 5,000 rings have been undertaken. (No wonder bell-ringers have the reputation of being thirsty beer-drinkers.)

It is a curious world of opposites and extremes. Holy Cross is the most prominent building in Crediton and the oldest, with Norman period foundations, yet very few have visited the upper stories of the medieval tower: the ringing chamber, the room above which contains the clock mechanism, and the bell chamber at the top.

Church bells, sometimes thought of as a single instrument by those who pull on the ropes far below, are the loudest and heaviest of all (acoustic) instruments. Of Crediton's peal of 12 bells, the biggest 'tenor' bell weighs in at 1,360kg – about the weight of a Nissan Qashqai. Imagine knowing there was the weight of several family cars suspended and swinging in the room above your head . . .

The bells are turned by means of each rope pulling on a large wooden wheel which acts as a pulley. Fastened to the inner side of the wheel is a cast-iron 'head-stock' under which the top of the bell is firmly bolted. With the bells starting in an upside-down position, a pull on the rope brings the bell down and nearly full-circle before a shorter pull of the rope on the wheel brings it back in the opposite direction. The clapper inside the bell follows the bell's trajectory until it catches it up and strikes the widest part of the bell (which is prevented by a further mechanism from going right over the top if pulled too vigorously).

The sheer weight of these bronze titans moving invisibly high above, and the huge sounds they combine to make, can't fail to instil a deep sense of awe, a feeling too for the history of life and death events over which the bells have presided for so many centuries. It is also unnerving to learn that the tower itself sways a little when the bells are in action.

Crediton's set of bells were cast in London (at the now closed Whitechapel bell foundry) relatively recently, the former bell-ringing captain Howard Egglestone having masterminded the raising of £100,000 or more to replace the worn and chafed early 19thC set that were melted down to make new ones. The new set (bar two that were donated two years later) were installed in 2004.

A robust steel framework (replacing the old wooden structure) was constructed, beams and supports being carefully winched up to the bell-chamber through a series of wooden trapdoors running up through the tower's floors. Modern materials and techniques now sit alongside medieval stonework and the massive oak beams supporting roofs and floors. Some of the oak has been dated to the 14th century.



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Do bell-ringers think of themselves as musicians? A sense of rhythm is certainly useful, as is a feeling for a musical scale (the full set of Crediton bells play in the scale of D major), but some ringers will tell you that having a mathematical mind is more helpful to grasp the complexity of ringing patterns. Does ringing require strength and fitness? It's definitely a physical activity pulling on those ropes, but for some it's rather more of a challenge getting up all those steps than actually wielding the bell ropes. In fact during an extended ringing session bell-ringers can get caught up in the rhythms of repeated actions and lose any sense of time passing.

Is it easy to learn? Fairly. One of the senior bell-ringers says the younger you are the easier it is to learn. On the other hand older people who have settled locally may offer a more reliable period of service! (One Crediton member has been ringing at Holy Cross for over 50 years.) New ringers are taught, one-to-one, using a 'dumb bell' (a rope attached not to a bell up above but just a heavy lump of concrete).

They could do with some new members since some have retired in recent years and it can be rare that there is a regular turn-out of twelve to perform – why not give it a go?!

Many ringers feel part of the whole nationwide community of English bell-ringing. Much of the fun in the activity is travelling to other churches to try out their bells and even take part in ringing competitions. Most become members of the 150-year-old Guild of Devonshire Ringers which oversees training, social events and festivals.

There is a strong social side to bell-ringing, leading to firm friendships, and more. Two senior Crediton members who took up bell-ringing while at university owe their life-long partnership to starting ringing in a church up north somewhere.

Do they get paid? Well, the ringers may be paid to ring for a wedding but most of the fees go to the bells' maintenance fund. The rewards are in the activity itself. Beyond that, says one local ringer, it's nice to do something for the community and to know one is part of a tradition that's been going for at least 700 years.

The immediate residential population in the streets nearby, perhaps one needs to admit, are not always delighted by long bell-ringing sessions. Some residents of East Street, for example, object that it can be difficult to hold a conversation outside on a Tuesday evening, and recreational ringing at weekends by visiting groups can, apparently, be a trying experience for some. And evening bookings at the Boniface Centre on Tuesdays are not advisable if a peaceful meeting or lecture is intended. *"We are aware of local concerns. We try to finish our practice no later than 9pm,"* responds the captain of the bell-tower, in a hopefully conciliatory statement.

Could the bells be made to ring quieter? There are occasions, the death of a monarch for example, when the



The bell chamber is in the uppermost part of the church tower, with louvred fenestration (wooden slats rather than glazed windows) on four sides to let the bells sound out in all directions



The ringing chamber, with ropes (and sallies) hung up

bells' clappers will be muffled with leather pads, but it's tricky and time-consuming to attach and remove them. An alternative might be to have sound-proofing shutters to cover the tall slatted windows, but these would be at considerable cost. Perhaps some local landlords might like to help out with a donation?!

NOTES

Reverberations from the Tower

A much fuller and informative description of the techniques and history of bell-ringing has, since May 2025, been provided by instalments in the monthly Parish Magazine, available at £1.20 from Holy Cross church and the Boniface Centre. It is written by one of the bell-ringers, under the pen-name of Stedman (after Fabian Stedman (1640–1713) the inventor of many a complex ringing 'method').

The Westcountry - and Devon in particular, with its 370 bell towers - has the highest concentration of bell-ringing in England (and bell-ringing is very much an English thing). In other countries, Belgium for instance, a carillon is more often heard.

VEGETARIAN BREAKFASTS

Judith Casey reports on non-meat alternatives in Crediton

Taking up a challenge (in KQ1) to find alternatives to the meat-centred full English breakfast . . . Apart from the classic continental coffee/croissant combo there are some interesting, unexpected choices on local menus . . .

Al's Grill

Open early and popular with Graphic plc workers and delivery drivers at the top of Lords Meadow Ind. Est. Veg options mostly require leaving out the burger or sausage! Some sweet traybakes with your (help-yourself) take-away coffee.

Ashtons Coffee Lounge: Alongside classic egg breakfasts and American-style pancakes the most unusual offering is Swedish-style crustless toast with lumpfish caviar, red onion and cream cheese. Lots of outside seating.

Baobab: Slip in early (while they're preparing lunch) for an eastern-Mediterranean experience. Black coffee flavoured with cardamom, perhaps accompanied by a morsel of honey-rich baclava? Or sip outside under the trees.



Coco's: the best cinnamon rolls in Mid Devon!

Coco's: Not just delicious homemade cakes, but granola bowls, pancakes, cinnamon rolls and French toast in addition to eggy options. Open every day of the week: enjoys a keen Sunday morning clientele.

Costa: Buy a Costa coffee and pastry to eat in or take away. In the savoury line, tortilla wraps. Open from 6.30am



Crediton Coffee Co: dedicated to great coffee

Crediton Coffee Company

Savour CCC's own roasted coffee here while browsing a newspaper. Filled croissants - almond, pistachio & raspberry, crème brulee and tiramisu. If sunny, sit outside.

Dive In Café

Down at the leisure centre, Dive In has bagels: smoked salmon/cream cheese or chocolate with strawberries. Also banana, peanut butter or vanilla shakes or a Hail Kale smoothie after your swim/workout.

Elephant on the Green

A make-your-own toast corner is supplied with a variety of spreads. A nicely made scrambled egg on toast is also possible. Orange juice a speciality - squeezed to order!

[Former @100 Café]

Under new ownership (by adjoining tray-bake specialist Creedy Kitchen) a new name and menu is being prepared at this small but handy venue.

Hot Stuff

Early trade here for busy tradespeople. Fried eggs in a bap, or a mushroom omelette for you?

The Kirton Cow

No longer a Wetherspoons, and under second subsequent ownership, sample breakfast baguettes, pancakes and a breakfast tortilla wrap. In a mood for something more exotic? Mambonito toast - black rice, tomatoes, avocado, azuki and soybeans, spring onion and scrambled egg.

Kitchen@25

Fine cheeses on sale here, so all nice quality. A low-carb breakfast bowl of poached egg, avocado, tomatoes, spinach and mushrooms sounds inviting.

McDonald's

For shift-workers and insomniacs among others - it's 24hrs, 7 days - there's porridge, pancakes with syrup or toasted muffin. Drive in and take away, if you must.

Mole Avon

Seasonal variety advertised here, but all-day brunch has American pancakes, as well as cheese or beans on toast (GF options) and smoothies. (Tip: pick up fresh unpasteurised milk and flavoured milks/smoothies by Sandford Gate farm kiosk at edge of car-park)

Motovelovelo

Opposite parish church - and not just for bikers or overnight guests - MV has powerful local following. Croissants available, or breakfast cookies made with fruit, nuts and grains, along with traybakes.



Motovelovelo: where else can you sit next to a Harley Davidson?

Paint Pots

Around this time customers are busy painting ceramic baubles for Xmas trees, but this tucked-away paint-your-own pot venue has a variety of cakes and cooked breakfast items.



Eggs Florentine at The Ship - well tasty!

The Ship Hotel

An increasingly popular dining destination, the menu includes Eggs Florentine or Royale* - and an Avocado Smash. Stay till noon, and enjoy a pint.

Tesco Wellparks

From the homely to the exotic here: posh beans', smashed avocado or buttered mushrooms on sourdough; yoghurt, berry & granola bowl; toasted banana bread; shakshuka-style* eggs.

**KQ guide to poached egg dishes with Hollandaise sauce on toasted English muffin - Benedict: with bacon; Florentine: with spinach; Royale: with smoked salmon. Also, Shakshuka: fried eggs in a spiced tomato, pepper and onion sauce.*



Tempting pastries at Crediton Coffee Co.

Al's Grill

Commonmarsh Lane, Lords Meadow Ind
Est.
07967 992895
Tues-Fri from 7.30am

Ashtons Coffee Lounge

9 Market Street
07971 471144
Mon-Sat from 9am

Baobab

2, Market House, Market Square
01363 787718
Wed-Sat from 9am

Coco's

12 High Street
07989 932911
Mon-Fri from 8am, Sat/ Sun from 9am

Costa

High Street
01363 774716
Mon-Fri from 6.30am, Sat from 7am, Sun
from 8am

Crediton Coffee Company

1 Market House, Market Square
01363 775065
Mon-Sat from 9am

Dive In Café

Leisure Centre
07702 411744
Mon-Sat from 9am

Elephant on the Green

14 St Lawrence Green
[no phone!]
Thurs-Sat from 10am

Hot Stuff

Outside Jewsons, Exeter Road
07849 787718
Mon-Sat from 6am

[new name pending . . .)

100 High Street
07598 315423
Days/times tbc

The Kirton Cow

37 High Street
01363 530008
Daily from 9am

Kitchen@25

25 High Street
01363 772332
Mon-Sat from 9am

McDonald's

Joseph Locke Way
0370 524 4622
24 hours daily

Mole Avon

Joseph Locke Way
01363 774786
Mon-Sat from 9am, Sun from 10am

Paint Pots

6/7 The Creedy Centre, High St.
07854 716032
Mon-Sat from 9.30am

The Ship Hotel

Market Street
Phone:
Mon-Sat from 11am, Fri/Sat from 9am

Tesco Wellparks

Joseph Locke Way
Mon-Sat from 8am, Sun from 9.30am

Moto Velo

1 Union Road
01363 777299
Tue-Sat from 9am, Sun from 10am

*NB: times and days of the week are
subject to change*

Soon to open?

CMC Eakers, at Marsh Lane,
Lords Meadow ind. Est. has been
undergoing major renovations
after merger with Crediton Milling
Co. Upstairs promises a new
café – maybe in the new year?
Already R&G barber & hairdresser
is relocated here!

A new occasional column featuring some of the weird and wonderful creatures with which we share our town

Woodlice



Common rough woodlouse (*Porcellio scaber*)

If you've ever lifted up a log or stone you will be familiar with the strange little 14-legged isopods known to us as woodlice. These humble little creatures fulfil a vital role in our gardens and woodlands: they help to recycle rotting matter such as fallen leaves to provide the rich soil we need for growing new plants.

Despite their name, you might be glad to know that woodlice are not actually lice. They are crustaceans, distantly related to lobsters, crabs, and shrimp. Unlike their marine cousins they have evolved to live entirely on land, although they still need moisture to survive.

This is why we find them on damp wood or underneath

flowerpots, where they thrive in dark, wet environments. While many species are grey or brown, woodlice are found in many colours, including yellow and purple. There is even a black-and-white striped 'zebra woodlouse' (*Armadillidium maculatum*) in the south of France.

Each part of the country has given the woodlouse its own nickname, many of these clearly affectionate, some drawing upon the supposed similarity in shape between woodlice and pigs. Woodlice have at least 34 names in Devon alone, including 'granfer-grey', 'chizzle-ball', 'chiggy-pig', and 'zowey pig'. Another Devon name is 'Anthony's pig', St Anthony being the patron saint of swineherds. Oxfordshire gives its woodlice the rather grand name of 'God Almighty's pigs', and Kent considers them to be 'monkey-peas', while throughout much of the north of England they are known as 'slaters'.

The common name 'pill-bug', used for the *Armadillidium vulgare* species that can curl up into a protective ball, reminds us that woodlice were once used (somewhat ineffectually) for medicinal purposes. It's hard to imagine much enthusiasm on the part of the patients!

Woodlice have made a few forays into the popular imagination via works of literature. Iris Murdoch compares policemen emerging from hiding places underneath boarding to

'disquieted wood-lice' in her first novel *Under The Net* (1954), while a century earlier in Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* (1856) Emma Bovary met 'many-legged woodlice' on the vineyard wall on dewy days.

Their reserved nature has even been commemorated by the poet Jean Kenward (1920-2022) in *Woodlice*: 'Deep in a crumbling / darkness, crisply armoured / against attack, / grey woodlice are assembled, dry and silent, / cushioned in cleft and crack.' Bizarrely, these amiable isopods were once subject to censorship: the publisher of Beatrix Potter's story *The Tale of Mrs Tittlemouse* (1909) insisted that the word 'wood-louse' was unsuitable for a children's book, and demanded that Potter change it to 'creepy-crawly'.

These remarkable creatures have adapted to a wide variety of habitats, living for up to 2-3 years and moulting every so often to enable growth. They spend their time helping to break down many kinds of detritus to make fertile earth. So, if you find that a woodlouse has wandered into your house, do gently put it back outside, where it will thrive and continue to do its important job of being one of nature's great recyclers!

by Bess Tiarie

Photograph 'Kellerassel (Porcellio scaber)' by Dat Doris, licensed under CC BY 4.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

DOG 'U' LIKE

Crediton's most cherished and characterful canines



Daisy, Staffordshire terrier, who has passed away aged 10 years. In memory of a much loved companion, and friend to many customers at The White Swan

Folklore, fantasy and chocolate

author Joanne Harris at Boniface Centre, Sat 6th September



There's only one thing local literary folk like better than cosying up with a good book, and that's cosying up with a good author, especially one like Joanne Harris who's really famous, and also got a new book out.

Her story *Chocolat* was published in 1999 and has sold millions of copies and was made into a very successful and much-enjoyed film. Based in rural France, the arrival of a determined young woman and her daughter, setting up as a chocolatier, provokes responses ranging from innocent delight at her delicious confections to the fear of the moral corruption that might ensue - since the opening of her shop coincides with the start of Lent and the church's emphasis on abstinence.

The Boniface Centre was sold out (at £10 a head) and many local fans came to hear Harris in conversation with Mark Norman, Founding Curator of the Folklore Library & Archive (but better known in his role as Assistant Librarian at Crediton Library). The event was a fund-raiser for the charity. An added bonus was the announcement that Harris had agreed to become a Patron – folklore being an essential inspiration for the writer from a young age.

Asked who had seen the film of *Chocolat*, practically everyone in the room raised a hand, and most of the 100 or more present had read the book too. Harris spoke of the 'whirlwind' experience of finding you've written a best-seller, and the 'emerging scenario' as it is made into a film. It's not every day you get a phone call from French actress Juliette Binoche. Or hob-nobbed on set with Johnny Depp.

Mark Norman questioned Harris about how she became a published author, and on the role of magic and folklore in her literature. These themes, she said, are a lot more significant in our everyday life than we acknowledge. Folklore is about what the people know, not the official histories written by those in power. Magic is about perception and transformation. We talk casually of chance or of a person's glamour and charisma: what are these but magic?

She answered a question about Tarot cards, witchcraft and divination, recounting how she'd known an elderly fortune-teller in France who would tell people their futures – according to what she felt her clients deserved! The idea of divination was more about *"bringing out the knowledge that you already have inside."*

Harris is entertaining, a likeable and engaging speaker. The daughter of school-teaching parents, she always liked reading, loved stories and liked making them up. At the age of 8 she realised it was possible to do it for a living but was told firmly: *"it's not a proper job."* Nursing her more contrary side, she herself went into teaching (languages) but kept writing

meanwhile, becoming an author 'by stealth.' Only half in jest she said her determination to be a writer was partly "to annoy my mother," who had banned horror and crime novels from the house when she was young. There's nothing like prohibiting a child to make them want to do it! "Don't judge people on their reading habits," advised Harris. Exposure to stories and different methods of expression are all good.

Asked about finding her own 'voice', Harris conceded she started by copying the styles of others whom she admired, but after a while settled into her comfort zone – "my own register" she described it. Her themes, she suggested, were staple, universal folklore themes: "doing good brings rewards, monsters can be overcome, courage can effect change".

The publishing world initially rejected Harris' work for not fitting into an easily marketable genre – was her writing Fantasy, was it Literary, was it Crime fiction? They didn't like the setting of *Chocolat* in a French village, when obviously a big city like New York would be a better bet. The book, she said, "wasn't supposed to be published . . . they advised against it, so I went and wrote it anyway."

Her agent even told her to read Albert Zuckerman's manual *Writing the Blockbuster Novel*. If you're going to write about food, why not do a cookery book? was another suggestion she ignored. She knows her readers better than 'big publishing' does, and anyway she wasn't prepared to become 'a battery hen' writing sequels to please commercial literary agents. Her advice? Write what you want to.

She talked of her synaesthesia – experiencing senses as colours. "A book can be an entirely immersive experience," she says. And that means writing not just about sights and sounds, but smells, taste and tactile things.

Harris is an active member of The Society of Authors, the organisation that oversees the rights of published writers. What were its greatest concerns these days? The internet and digitalisation, privacy and, of course, A.I. – "the greatest monster of all."

She finished with a short reading from her new book *Vianne*, which is a prequel to *Chocolat* (ie: the backstory to an existing story: Vianne is the name of *Chocolat*'s main protagonist).

Many in the audience were eager to acquire the book and to exchange a few words with the author, as she signed the chunky hardback in its smart red cover for them. Her admiring fans left the Boniface Centre stimulated also by the magical properties of chocolate, having sampled edible offerings from Creedy Kitchen, Hex (formerly @100 Café) and Tempt, a chocolatier from Totnes, who had all been invited along to provide an appropriate cacao-themed tie-in.

NOTE

Folklore Library & Archive. Until recently partly shelved at Crediton library here and in storage around the town, the FL&A is fast hoarding materials in various media. It now has permanent premises at the rear of Tanner's Yard, 100 High Street (above Crediton Osteopaths). www.folklorelibrary.com



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Devon's libraries under pressure

Until the end of Jan there is a Devon County Council consultation re the future of our library service. Apart from examining how our libraries are used by the community, future options are being considered due to funding pressures, including *"revised opening hours, extending access through volunteers and technology, and transitioning some libraries into community hubs managed by local organisations with DCC support"*.

Devon's 50 libraries have been run for several years as charity Libraries Unlimited, but its core services are funded by DCC. Libraries Unlimited chief executive, Alex Kittow, says: *"We have been using our reserves . . . to try to plug the gap and deliver the service as it was, but we cannot continue to do this."*

In practice, what does this mean? Fewer paid staff, shorter opening times, more volunteer helpers? It is important to make our views known.

Financial pressures have led to a 'vacancy freeze' – meaning that staff posts are not being filled when someone leaves. Crediton Library has suffered particularly of late due to the retirement and resignation of two members of staff (including Library Supervisor) and a third member of staff being on maternity leave.

Retail reshuffles

Sole Sanctuary, a new footwear outlet selling mainly trainers – opened at 50 High Street – under a sign for *Devon Roofing Co*. It turns out that the enterprising partners are running both businesses – administering the roofing business upstairs while a growing range of footwear is on offer on the ground floor.

Café @100 (Hex as it was renamed latterly, has sadly closed, but the adjacent tray-bake specialist Creedy Kitchen will expand into the vacant premises. A new name is in the offing – and a full English breakfast has been promised.

A South African-themed food & drink emporium, to be christened *Lekkersaffer* (roughly 'happy South African') aims to open before Xmas at 103 High St. Previous occupant Pinkies nail bar has moved to Market St.

A new meaty destination *Stone's Steakhouse* has opened at 31 East St, replacing the lately closed Cairney's Bistro. Meanwhile Ashton's Coffee House is to extend into an upper storey overlooking the Town Square. *The Loft* will, posters advertise, offer house burgers, lobster and mussels.

The imaginative craft workshop and outlet called *Makers Boutique*, late of North St, has sadly moved out of Crediton. We wish designer/owner Laura all the best at her new home at McCoys Arcade in Exeter's independent-minded West Quarter.

Not retail but . . . at the top of a spiral external staircase (very fairytale) a small but nationally significant library of folklore materials has been installed by *National Folklore Archive* curator Mark Norman. The archive will be open



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to visit with days and times to confirm, subject to the eagerness of volunteers.

And finally . . . the future's not orange any more at *The Kirton Cow*. Under its second ownership since being sold by J D Wetherspoon, ground-floor window-frames have been repainted white. Not everyone seemed to like the orange, it seems, on the historic Liberal Club building.

Netting is pigeon death trap



Staff and customers at The Ship Hotel have been distressed by pigeons failing to free themselves from inside netting - which is intended to keep them out. A decomposing pigeon can be seen at gutter level on the roof of 135 High Street (above Amapola wine bar)

It could be in the landlord's interest to attend to this, and for more than humanitarian reasons: a Buddleia shrub is growing vigorously under the netting. Before long it may cause havoc to the building.

Timed out? Clocking off?

Crediton's town clock at the Old Town Hall stopped several weeks back. They say that even a stopped clock tells the right time twice a day: with this one you've



got four chances of it telling the right time, since its opposing faces have stopped at different hours. A clock-repairer has been booked to attend the ailing timepiece, says the Town Clerk.

Our town clock is serviced annually at a cost of around £1,000, but with people inseparable from their smartphones and vehicles universally fitted with a digital clock, is a town council-maintained clock still needed?

Volunteers care for public spaces

Local residents are doing gardening and grounds maintenance - services that local authorities have cut back on.

Many will have seen volunteers, including groups such as Lions, Rotary, Sustainable Crediton and Turning Tides, engaged in horticultural, arboreal or overgrowth-removal activity at Peoples Park, St Lawrence Green, Deep Lane plus flower beds, public paths, roundabouts and pavements.



Cllr Giles Fawcett presents certificate to volunteers who have looked after floral displays on the Town Square

Their efforts have been warmly recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society in an annual awards event called In Your Neighbourhood. Crediton itself has been awarded Silver Gilt status for the town's overall effort.

The town council-supported [CUT!] initiative has also gained favourable press as its small group tackles overgrown pavements, eg: at Jockey Hill, Exeter Road and around the War Memorial.

New episcopal success for Crediton

Hot on the heels of Crediton-born Winfrith, subsequently St Boniface, who brought Christianity to much of northern Europe in the 8thC AD, Crediton can now boast the success of another bishop who has risen to the highest episcopal rank in the Church of England.

The national press, in celebrating the appointment (in early October) of Sarah Mullaly as Archbishop of Canterbury, largely failed to mention her earlier position as Bishop of Crediton, a post she held for 3 years from 2015 before being promoted to Bishop of London. She was one of the first two women bishops to be appointed and is the first woman to become Archbishop of Canterbury.

White Room wins arts space prize

The White Room is a set of studio spaces for artists to rent, along with a useful meeting room, at Commonmarsh Lane, Lords Meadow Ind. Est.

Its founder and organiser Bindy Sawood is delighted to report it won the Heather Jansch award for its contribution to the arts in Devon, following the Devon Open Studios event in September. Over 1000 people visited the studios where 14 artists and craftspeople exhibited.

The award is in memory of the late Heather Jansch, a well-known sculptor who specialised in life-size horses made from driftwood and bronze.

Town Council latest . . .

In September one recently elected councillor arrived at a meeting half-way through – and only after his party leader had texted him to hurry down. In early October another Lib Dem member arrived just 5 minutes before the end of a meeting!

Councillors failing to attend a meeting are registered as Absent - but how late can a councillor arrive before they are considered present? A reply has been given . . . that if a member arrives at any time they will be registered as attending! Is this really good enough?!

Among recent initiatives, the town council has held a Strategy Meeting. The renovation of Old Landscore School was voted a high priority for action. (See town council's schedule for OLS published in KQ7.)

A new member of staff, Tim Bland, has been appointed as Events & Town Centre Officer (replacing Jo Davey who has left). His role is to co-ordinate town council-organised community events, such as Crediton Food Festival, Big Boniface Bash and Christmas in Crediton.

Royal portrait update

The prospects for the imminent hanging of a photograph of King Charles III must surely be edging closer.

The portrait, offered free to all town councils and public bodies, was rather reluctantly ordered by Crediton Town Council many months ago - after an earlier decision not to order one had been rescinded following complaints by irate local residents. 73% of government bodies have requested the portrait for public display, but take-up by hospitals, universities and churches was considerably lower.

When asked on progress towards its being displayed, the council stated this would be delayed until the council moved premises – from 8A to 6 North Street – so as not to make a hole in a wall which would need to be re-filled.

A377 diversion mayhem!

Travellers on the A377 through Coppleshope have endured enough this year.

In early November a further road closure sent cars, agricultural vehicles and commercial vans and lorries along lanes entirely unsuitable for two-way traffic. Alternative routes (eg: via Coleford or New Buildings) were impassible due to vehicles being unable to manoeuvre.

Crediton traders and events have been badly affected as many people, whose journeys were non-essential, stayed at home. Pity those who must commute, get to school or keep their doctor's appointments. "This level of Highways incompetence is intolerable!" said one irate motorist, arriving late to an evening event in Crediton.

Festive season approaches

Meanwhile the Christmas season is nearly upon us. Make some time one evening to visit Westernlea beyond Crediton's western fringe. For several years residents have created spectacular Christmas displays to brighten their street and raise the spirits!



A home in Westernlea, December last year

Our beautiful laundrette – now open on the High Street!



CREDITON WINTER CALENDAR

Info for next issue required by 15th Jan (covering period c15 Feb to end of May)

[B] = booking required/
advised

See p.36/37 separate
listings for **The Bookery &
Crediton Arts Centre**

CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

Mondays 17 & 24 Nov,
10-2pm: Tues 18 Nov,
6.30-7.30pm

BUDGET/PRECEPT CONSULTATION

(Crediton council tax-
payers, CTC staff &
councillors) (CTC)
Crediton Library

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tues 18 Nov, 7.30pm Full
Council (incl. Finance)

Tues 2 Dec, 7 for 7.30pm
Informal public/ councillor
discussion followed by Full
Council (incl Planning)

Tues 16 Dec 7.30pm
Full Council (incl Finance)

Tues 6 Jan, 7.30pm
Full Council (incl Planning)

Tues 20 Jan, 7.30pm
Full Council (incl Finance)

Tues 3 Feb, 7 for 7.30pm
Informal public/ councillor
discussion followed by Full
Council (incl Planning)

Tues 17 Feb, 7.30pm
Full Council (incl Finance)

Tues 3 March 7 for 7.30pm
Informal public/ councillor
discussion followed by Full
Council (incl Planning)

REGULAR EVENTS: CIVIC & COMMUNITY

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
(not Dec)
REPAIR CAFÉ
(Sus Cred)
Elephant

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Wed 19 Nov, 6-9pm
CHRISTMAS MARKET
(craft, food, bar, music)
Crediton Rugby Club,
Exhibition Road

Sat 22 Nov, 10-2pm
ST NICHOLAS FAIR
(craft, cakes etc)
Parish church

Fri 28 Nov, 6.30–9pm
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
(local makers): (Crediton
Air Ambulance)
Boniface Ctre

Sat 29 Nov, 1-6pm
**CHRISTMAS IN
CREDITON** (CTC)
(incl Lights Switch-On,
music, food & drink)
Town Square

Sat 6 Dec, 10-2pm
**CHRISTMAS CRAFT
MARKET**
The Ship Hotel

Thurs 4 - Sun 7 Dec
**CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL** (refreshments
at Boniface Ctre)

Sun 7 Dec, 11-4pm
ELEPHANT BAZAAR
(table-top sale of affordable
local crafts, produce etc)
Elephant

Tues 16 Dec, 5-8pm
**MULLED CIDER & MINCE
PIES**
Elephant

Sat 20 Dec, 10-12 noon
MINCE PIES & COFFEE
(FoCL)
Library

Sun 21 Dec, 6pm
**NINE LESSONS &
CAROLS**
Parish Church

PERFORMANCES/ EXHIBITIONS/TALKS/ WORKSHOPS

Wed 19 Nov, 10am
Talk: **ALEX LEGER:
Working with the
Military** (u3a)
Boniface Ctre

Sat 22 Nov, 6.45pm
VOICES FOR GAZA
(fundraising evening:
musical groups, food etc)
(Crediton Palestine Group)
Boniface Ctre

Sat 29 Nov, 9pm
Band: **YEO DIVISION**
The Ship Hotel

SOCIAL EVENTS
Sat 6 Dec, 8pm
COMEDY NIGHT
The Ship Hotel

Sun 30 Nov, 4pm (time tbc)
**JIM PETERS & SPECIAL
GUESTS**
Piano/songs etc
Elephant

Mon 12 Jan, 7 for 7.30pm
TALK AND TAPESTRIES:
Witchcraft & Women in
Devon (CAHMS)
Boniface Ctre

Mon 9 Feb, 7 for 7.30pm
**PHOTOGRAPHING
RURAL DEVON:** (James
Ravilious & Chris Chapman)
(CAHMS)
Boniface Ctre

REGULAR ENTERTAINMENT
3rd Thurs, 7.30pm
MOON JAZZ CLUB
Three Little Pigs

1st & 3rd Fri, 7.30pm
[not Dec]
CURIOUS CINEMA CLUB
Elephant [B]

2nd Fri of month, 7pm
OPEN MIC NIGHT
(Night Train)
Elephant

**REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS/
ACTIVITIES**
Tuesdays 10-11.30am
TUESDAY DROP-IN
(coffee social)
Boniface Ctre

Tuesdays 10.30am-12
KNITWITS (knitting)
Library

Wednesdays 10am-12
CAUSEWAY (coffee social,
for those with learning
disabilities)
CCC

Thursdays 10-11.30am
COFFEE & COMPANY
(esp older residents) CCC

4th Fri, 6.30pm
BSL SOCIAL
(deaf/hard of hearing)
Elephant

Saturdays 10am
TOGETHER 4 COFFEE
Methodist Church

SPORTS FIXTURES
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

OUT OF TOWN
22 Nov-18 Jan
**JOAN MIRÓ: Painting
and Poetry**
Burton Art Gallery, Bideford

Sun 14 Dec, 3pm
CREDITON SINGERS
(choir, plus mince pies etc)
Stockleigh Pomeroy church

For children: between 14 &
28 Dec
**ERNIE AND THE SEA OF
ICE** (Quirk Theatre)
Exeter Phoenix

NB: This is not 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 *Crediton Courier's*
Kirton Raiser events diary,
published Thurs weekly.

NB: booking may be
required for 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;
u3a = Crediton Area u3a
(University of the 3rd Age)

Useful websites
crediton.gov.uk/Your-
Council/Meetings
36/37
u3asites.org.uk/crediton/
home

creditoninandaround.co.uk



*Rural crafts alive and well:
thatching a house in Mill
Street this autumn*



KIRTON QUARTERLY NOTES

Please send items for publication (e-mails preferred) by 15 January for the Spring 2026 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

This issue is the last to be published by Friends of Crediton Library: from KQ9 the magazine will be produced by a new independent group of local residents.

KQ is especially grateful to many kind people who have volunteered to deliver copies locally. We would very much appreciate a few more!

We acknowledge and thank the local community for your encouragement and, where deserved, helpful criticisms. Many thanks to our advertisers and corporate sponsors for placing your confidence in the magazine's effectiveness in reaching well over 4,000 households, shops and businesses in Crediton and beyond.

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

KQ ADVERTISING 2026 issues 9-12

Full page £180 | 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 Spring issue is 20th Jan (magazine covering period mid-Feb - end of May 2026)

30% DISCOUNT FOR FULL YEAR SERIES! Bookings for all four issues in 2026 (KQ9-12) receive 30% discount: invoices payable following publication of KQ9 (mid-February)



Every Friday 12.30-2pm at
7th Nov - 12th Dec The Bookery

SOUP & STORIES: hot soup, good company, fun stories - free of charge, all welcome, no need to book

Thursday 15th 7.00pm at
January The Bookery

BRIGIT MCNEILL in conversation with Sophie Pavelle discussing THE WILD WITHIN

Thursday 22nd 7.00pm at
January The Bookery

TOM HINDLE in conversation with Orlando Murrin discussing A KILLER IN PARADISE

Thursday 12th 7.00pm at
February The Bookery

DANIELLE GILES in conversation with Mark Norman discussing MERE

Thursday 19th 7.00pm at
February The Bookery

PHILIP MARSDEN discussing UNDER THE METALLIC SKY

Weds 18th 10-1pm at The
February Bookery

HALF TERM CRAFT DROP-IN for age 5+

Tickets from The Bookery,
21 High Street, Crediton, EX17 3AH
or visit www.thebookery.org.uk



Events at Crediton Arts Centre

(information assembled by Kirton Quarterly)

East Street, Crediton EX17 3AX

info@creditonartscentre.org 01363 773260 or 07719 903643 creditonartscentre.org Reg charity 1155513

ARTS CENTRE-PROGRAMMED UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri 21 Nov, 7.30pm

Folk gig: **RED DIRT BAND**

with support **PETE MATTHEWS**

Sun 23 Nov, 2-4pm

Dancing: **RUACH** quartet
(Klezmer) with caller Pam Hayes

Fri 28 Nov, 7.30pm

Film: **PINK FLOYD LIVE AT
POMPEII** (remastered)

Fri 5 Dec, 7.30pm

Irish folk: **THE JEREMIAHS**

Fri 12 Dec, 7.30pm

BIG CHRISTMAS QUIZ
(presented by Pat Laver)

Fri 19 Dec, 7.30pm

SOLSTICE LIVE LOUNGE
(Crediton area musicians)

Fri 16 Jan, 7.30pm

Stage performance: **FAGIN'S
LAST HOUR**

OTHER EVENTS

(incl contacts for organisers)

1st Thurs of month

JAZZ ON THE GREEN

Top quality musicians incl
visiting performers, plus Sri
Lankan buffet supper. Curated
by guitarist Neil Burns, Sepali
Godakanda provides delicious
meal, plus licensed bar

sepali.godakanda@gmail.com or
0791 7495429

Thurs 27 Nov, 7.30pm

Film: **LIMBO**
[Films for Crediton]

Sat 6 & Sun 7 Dec, 10-1 & 2-5

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FEST
Various creative workshops
(Crediton Heart Project)
Plus (free) film: Sat 6 for 6.30pm:
A MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL

ART CLASSES

(incl contact details)

Mondays, 9.30 - 12 noon

Observational Drawing
lucyrunge@googlemail.com

Mondays, 7 - 9pm

Watercolour
jellyartist@gmail.com or 01363
772787

Tuesdays, 10 - 12 noon

Tuesday Morning Art Club
James.hdg@gmail.com

Tuesdays 2 - 4.00pm

Drawing and Painting
anjumkmoon@gmail.com, or
07713 627021

Fridays 10am - 12noon

Portrait Club
Hilary Hamilton: 01363 772365

Saturday 10.00 - 12.00 noon

Watercolour
jellyartist@gmail.com or 01363
772787

OTHER CLASSES, WORKSHOPS

Tuesdays, 7.15 - 8.45pm

CREDITON STRUMMERS
(instrumentalists/vocalists)
Ed Finch: 07810 861917

Wednesdays 1 - 4pm

STRENGTH & BALANCE
(Exercise classes)
dawnroe65@gmail.com

First Wed of month 7.30-9.00pm

CLOWNING AROUND
(Comedy Improv Workshop)
amirosemaya@hotmail.com or
07958 074852

MAGICAL TOTS

Fridays, termtime
(Learning through dance
-18mths-4 yrs)
10.45 - 11.15am

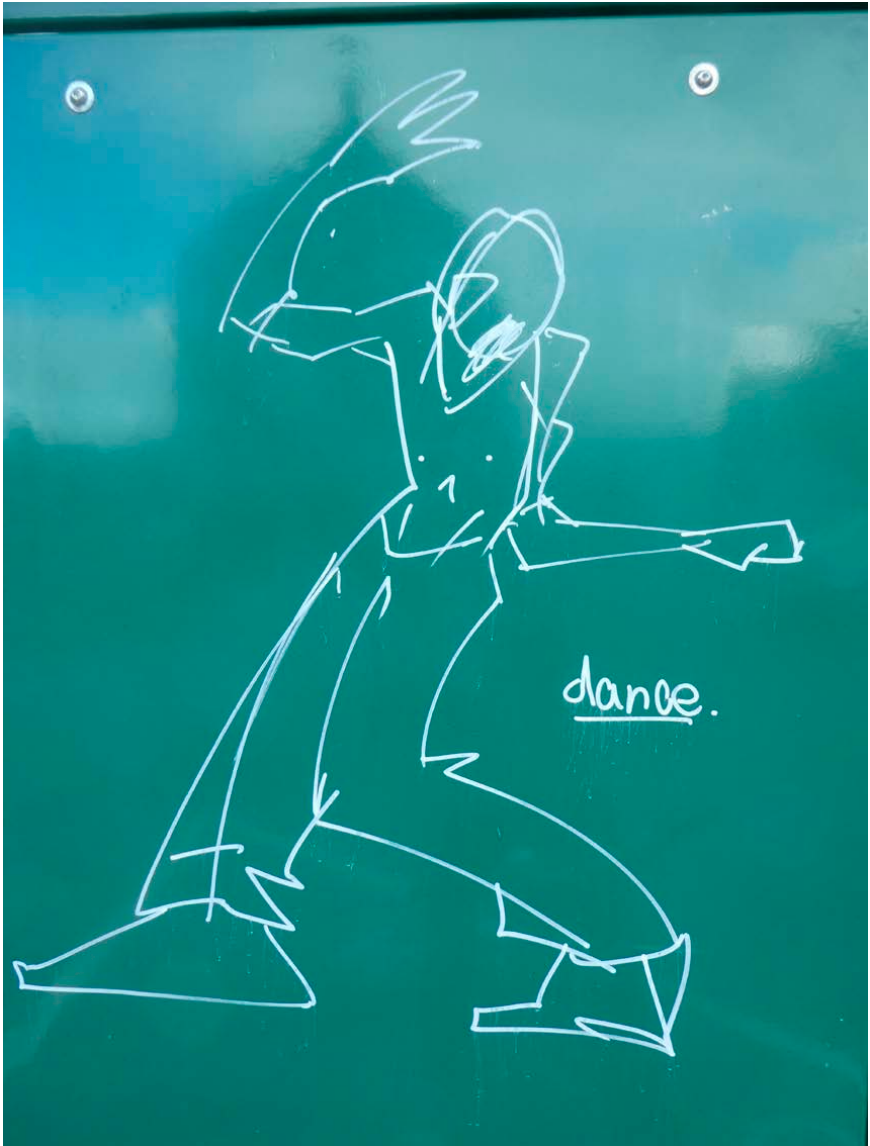
Tuesdays, 5.30 - 7.00pm

CREDITON YOUTH THEATRE
For ages 11-18. Run by Jez Taylor,
CYT explores theatre, incl. games,
warm-ups, exercises, group
work, singing and improvisation.
No audition required, new
members welcome subject to
availability. Annual production
staged, usually in Summer cyt@
waxroom.co.uk or www.credyt.
co.uk

*See Arts Centre's website for
more details, or pick up its
printed seasonal programme
from various town venues*

ARTS PAGE

Marker-pen figure, utilities cabinet (at Market Street carpark) – anonymous artist



While graffiti is often frowned upon as a form of low-level vandalism, some famous artists (eg Banksy, Jean-Michel Basquiat etc) have built their reputations on this medium.

Some local authorities (including Crediton Town Council) have actively enabled 'street art' projects to take place, using similar techniques, with a view to 'cheering up' unloved places or engaging teenagers creatively. Recent examples can be seen on and around the public toilets at Union Road and more recently on a utilities cabinet on Belle Parade.

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