

Copplestone *Enlightener*

DECEMBER 2025

Lighting Up the Parish

Dear Reader, seeing as you live in Copplestone, you probably heard and maybe saw something of the firework display on Saturday 8th November as part of Lighting up the Parish? You may have seen the fire? Or the procession of Morris men, children and their families coming through the village and up to the field at Dulings on a wonderfully dry and clear evening? And if you were there and participated, you will be aware of all these things and possibly felt the warmth from the fire?



The last time this event was held two years ago we had a turnout of around 1,300 people. This year's event was even bigger with around 1,700 people! We hope everyone had a great time!



Behind the event is a truly amazing group of people who worked hard to get things ready, then deliver on the night. It takes a few days to set up, then a few days to get things back to a state where you wouldn't know anything had ever happened.



We are not sure how many people are aware that the event is funded by our Parish Council and put on by the Copplestone Recreation Association (CRA) and the Copplestone Community Hall fundraising team? It is a fundraising event that we hope will help us ultimately deliver a community hall for our village. It has been a long road and significantly, Dave Brassington (who you may know as being instrumental in putting this event on among many other things), is stepping down from his role as one of the CRA directors. We thank him for his leadership and efforts in moving things forward.

Over the coming months, on Facebook and through other messaging facilities like the Enlightener, we will be in touch with our community to ask again for people to vote on the future of the community hall project. Please be on the lookout for this information, whether this comes through your door, into your feed, or both! Your vote will count.

Thank you to all who came, you helped us raise £7,500 to help the hall project on its way and help fund future events for the village. Lastly, thank you to Charles Edwards for allowing us to use Dulings for all the refreshments and food 'pop ups', and to Roger Pennington for use of the two fields which provided parking, bonfire and fireworks display.

Nick Walker

On behalf of the CRA





Save the Date:
Quiz Night
Copplesone School
Friday 27th
February 2026





Copplestone Church

Sunday 14th December

10:45am & 5pm

Kidzone & Grid Play

'Groovin' - the nativity'

Sunday 21st December

**6:15pm - Community Carol Service
with Copplestone Community Choir**

Christmas Morning Service

10:30am - Family Service

Very informal, suitable for all ages

*Wishing you all a joyous Christmas
and a peaceful & happy 2026.*



Copplestone Parent Teacher Association



As we start the descent into Winter, it has been a wonderfully bright one for us. The academic year started with our Meat Bingo event which raised an amazing £611; a huge thank you to those who attended, donated and volunteered.



We've recently partnered with *Rags Bags* to arrange a permanent external bin where old clothes can be donated. This would mean the community can bring any unwanted clothes up to the school at their convenience.

On **Friday 5th December**, we'll be hosting a **Christmas Disco** for the children of Copplestone School — a wonderful way to kick off the festive season. Refreshments, glow sticks and tattoos will be on sale. This festive event will be followed by a Polar Express movie night the following week. Children will be invited to wear pyjamas and can purchase sweets, popcorn and hot chocolate. Santa will be visiting Copplestone School on **Friday 19th December** to bring the term to a festive close.

Diary Date: Plans have begun for our Summer Fun Day which will be held on Saturday 20th June 2026.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help support and run the PTA. The PTA is an organisation of parents and teachers who work together to improve schools and promote parental involvement in education. As a PTA we organise events, fundraisers and community activities to support the children and the school. We raise money to fund various school initiatives, such as purchasing equipment, providing educational resources, and supporting extra curricular activities. Every little bit of help that you can give is benefiting the children. It would be great to see some new faces on board.

Rachel Pearce

Email: pta@copplestone-primary.devon.sch.uk

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Piglets Baby & Toddler Group



Piglets is a community run Baby and Toddler Group and it runs on Wednesdays from 9.15am at the Copplestone Methodist Church hall (entrance door and parking is around the back of the church).

We have a variety of age appropriate toys out for the children to play with and there is a separate space for small babies to lie down if needed. There are also craft activities and we try to tailor these if there are upcoming holidays/celebrations. We end the session with some nursery rhymes and the children love to join in with musical instruments.

Snacks of fruit, a biscuit and drink are provided for the children and there is always plenty of tea and cake for parents and carers. We would like to thank the Copplestone Farm Shop for providing the fruit for the children's snack.

We are a really friendly and relaxed local group who love to welcome new and regular faces. We run every Wednesday during term time from 9.15am - 11.30am for babies and children up to school age (and their parents/carers!). The first visit is free and then £1 for children under 2 years, £2 for children 2 and older or £2.50 for a family.

You can contact us on Piglets Facebook page or email us at pigletstoddlergroup@gmail.com if you have any questions.

We will be looking for new volunteers to help run Piglets; please let us know if you're interested in helping. The current volunteers are Sophie Browning and Poppy Bird. We look forward to seeing you at Piglets!

Sophie Browning



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Copplestone Primary School



We have had a fantastic start to the new school year! In September, the children quickly settled into their new classes and became accustomed to their new class teachers and teaching assistants, and to me as the new head of school.

Throughout the Autumn Term, the children have been working hard. I have the pleasure of popping in and out of classes, teaching, talking to children about their learning, looking at their work, and celebrating their successes in our assemblies.



As well as our usual curriculum subjects – English, Maths, Science, Art, DT, Music, RE, Geography, History, PE and French, the children have taken part in lots of additional activities such as time in our Forest School, learning to ride a bike, swimming lessons at The Waie Inn and taking part in the Kick Start Art project.



This term, we have celebrated events including Diwali, Superhero Day and Children in Need. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the school community at Harvest. Our school council helped load my car with donations for the Crediton foodbank.



It has been a joy to get to know many of our families over the term through conversations at the gate, and at our Grandparents Tea Party and Meat Bingo.

I was very impressed by the maturity and sincerity shown by our Year Six class who attended the Remembrance Service at the Copplestone memorial. They recited the poem *In Flanders Fields* and laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the whole school.

As we approach December, we are looking forward to lots of exciting Christmas activities.

Do see our school website for more news and information about our school <https://www.copplestone-primary.devon.sch.uk>

Tara Penny - Head of School
Tel 01363 84265



Copplestone Pre-School

We are open from 9.00am until 3.30pm every weekday during Term Time



We accept Children from 2 – 4 years.

Two-year-old funding, 15-hour universal funding and 30 hour working entitlements funding available.

We have strong links with the primary school with access to large outdoor areas including forest school.

If you would like to come and have a look around or for a parent information pack, please contact the

Pre-school Administrator on **01363 84265** or email copplestoneps@devonmoorsfederation.devon.sch.uk



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Children and Youth Project



As we head into December, there is plenty to look back on and be thankful for in the Children & Youth work, but also plenty to look forward to. Here's an overview of some of the standout moments since the last Enlightener and a quick look ahead to what's coming up.



At Coppleshone Church, we don't celebrate Halloween, however we kept the doors open on Friday 31st October as we ran a Light Party. All were welcome to drop in and join us as we focussed on God's love, light and all things good. Inside the church there were fun games and activities, craft, a sensory area as well as biscuits, tea & toast. Outside the front doors under the gazebo we served free hot chocolate (with cream and marshmallows for those that wanted) and gave out free goody bags to the children. Thank you to all those that gave their time and energy to make this event happen once again this year. We hope that all those who stopped by felt truly welcome.



MINI YOUTH CLUB

In September we held our first Mini Youth Club - a new monthly event for children in school years 3-6 which runs on the 3rd Friday of each month. It's been brilliant to see so many children coming along and enjoying hanging out together and also making use of the inflatable sports pitch in the car park. Towards the end of October, we also had a night where we toasted marshmallows over a fire pit outside. In December, we'll be having a Christmas party on the 5th December rather than on the 3rd Friday due to other events. If you'd like more information about Mini Youth Club you can contact Nathan or Mark (contact details at end of article).

YOUTH CLUB

We've been continuing to run Youth Club twice a month, normally on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month for those in school years 7-11. Like the younger ones, we've been making use of the inflatable sports pitch outside, but now we're into the darker nights we've been getting the laser tag out too! Our last Youth Club of 2025 will be on **Friday 12th December** for a Christmas Party and we'll then take a break for Christmas before returning in the new year. For more information or to book a place, please contact either Mark or Nathan.



Kidzone is our Sunday morning group for primary school aged children. Each week we share news with each other of the things we've enjoyed over the last week before playing a game and learning from the bible in fun and creative ways. In September, we began learning about some of the parables that Jesus told - stories that had a meaning in order to teach the people who were listening. The parables included *The Good Samaritan*, *The Lost Coin* and *The Lost Son*. More recently we've looked at the Christmas story - the circumstances in which Jesus came into the world - as well as spending time getting ready for our Christmas play which is taking place on **Sunday 14th December** (see below for details).



Our Youth Group for secondary and 6th form aged young people is called The Grid and over the last few months we've been working through the letters in the New Testament of the bible. Each week we've covered a different letter, seeking to understand why the letter was written and what we can still learn from it today.



More recently, we too have been spending time getting ready for the Christmas play together with Kidzone.

Up and Coming Events:
Sunday 14th December, 10:45am & 5pm at Coppleshone Church:
Kidzone & Grid present
'Groovin' - the nativity'

In the lead up to Christmas, why not come and join us as our children and young people re-tell the Christmas story in a fun and light-hearted way. All are welcome.

Sunday 5th April, 2026: Easter Egg Hunt

We're planning to run another Easter Egg Hunt in the park on Easter Sunday morning followed by prizes and refreshments at the church - save the date!

Friday 26th - Sunday 28th June: Spree 2026

We're already making plans to take a group of young people to this amazing summer festival at Westpoint. Keep an eye out for details in the new year.

Tuesday 11th - Friday 14th August: Holiday Club
 Our annual Holiday Club for children aged 5-11 years old is provisionally booked for the above dates in August. There will be the usual mix of fun, games, craft & drama in our action-packed event that promises to be fun for all.

Mark Williams, Children & Youth Worker
markwilliamsccy@gmail.com
Nathan Redstone, Part-time Children & Youth Worker
youthcoppleshonechurch@gmail.com



Love



Hope



Joy



Peace

The Café



The Café at Coplestone Church has been relatively quiet over the past few months despite having a fabulous array of homemade cakes and a warm welcome. We really would love to see more of the village enjoying this community event.

We are open every Thursday, except Christmas and New Year's Day, from 9am - 12pm with a dedicated band of qualified volunteers, all of whom are DBS checked, have done Safeguarding Training and are Food Hygiene Level 2 certificated.

There's no charge, we just have a donation box for a local charity if people feel they would like to give but it's not expected. Over the past 3 months our guests have raised the following:

August - Exeter Street Pastors - £125
September - Hospiscare - £165
October - Coplestone Defibrillator - £85

We serve toasted tea cakes and lemon drizzle every week and the rest is what our bakers fancy making - it could be coffee cake or apple cake or flapjacks or iced cakes. It's always a pleasant surprise!

Not only is there home-made cake but we also serve refreshments just like you would get in a café - cappuccino, latte, americano as well as hot chocolate with all the trimmings - cream and marshmallows.

We also have toys and soft play for little ones or jigsaws and puzzles for older guests. The hall always looks welcoming with a vase of lovely flowers on each table. The volunteers are always ready to serve you with a smile or to sit and chat with you if you would like company. Honestly, where would you get all this for nothing!

We have events as well. In October, it was Izzy from the library talking to people and showing them books about the 50s. In November, Gary from Bridge Books in Exeter, ran a pop-up shop with an array of Christmas cards and gifts for sale. Coming up on **Thursday 18th December**, we will be joined by Coplestone Community Choir for Christmas carols and songs to get us in the mood for the festive season.

So, if you're a mum or dad, grandparents, fancy meeting up with friends or retired and want some company or just passing through, then please come in. We even have a separate room (if it's free) if you want somewhere quiet for a chat or for a meeting.

We are in the community room at the back of the church and there's a car park. We would really love to encourage more people from the village to come along to enjoy The Café. We are open to everyone and where else in the village can you sit in the warm for cake, tea or coffee and a natter? We would love to see you.

Lulu Couchman
07727 693 099



The Perfect Gift



'The perfect gift' is the title of one of the many (now much anticipated) Christmas adverts adorning our screens over recent weeks. Whether we spend our time shopping on the high street, looking through the vast array of Christmas magazines or browsing online (which can at times be overwhelming!), we do this because we too want to find something 'perfect' for those we love. Something that shows someone how much we value them. Unfortunately in reality we know there isn't a perfect gift that money can buy that can meet a person's every need, however incredible it might be, but we do our best to get as close as possible.

In the Christmas story we read of how a woman called Mary gave birth to a baby boy named Jesus. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem, wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger (a long feed trough). A very humble beginning to what was to be an extraordinary life. It tells us in the Bible that Jesus lived a perfect life. This may be hard to believe and easy to discount but this is not another case of 'fake news'. All scholars believe that Jesus existed but the decision each of us need to make is whether we think Jesus did have the power to heal, turn water into wine and even raise the dead to life!

If we accept Jesus was the Son of God (rather than a lunatic or liar - which are the other widely accepted alternatives) then we have the opportunity to receive a truly perfect gift. By believing that Jesus died to pay the price for all of our mistakes we can be made perfect again and look forward to eternal life in heaven. We can then sing with the angels declaring:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' **Luke 2 v 14**

I trust you have a blessed Christmas.

Shaun Stanbury
On behalf of the leaders
at Coplestone Methodist Church



If you would like to find out more then please use the QR code which links to the first video of the Alpha Course - **Is there more to life than this?** The Alpha Course is an informal way of exploring the Christian faith through a series of videos with time for discussion afterwards.



As I write this, the planning team are just making final preparations for our Eco-crafternoon, a wonderful event run jointly by Sustainable Credton and Significant Seams, featuring active craft stands, a give-and-take of craft materials and (as ever) yummy cake to be held on Saturday 29th November at the Boniface Centre.

The winter months are busy with our ongoing activities: the Community Larder at the library, our regular Repair Cafes, our film shows, tree planting and woodland work, and general campaigning including a new flurry of action to support plans for a cycle track from Credton to Exeter. Look out for our tree in the Parish Church's Christmas Tree Festival in the first week of December. To find out more, please sign up for our newsletters at info@sustainablecredton.org.uk, look at our website or Facebook page or you can visit us at our stall in the Credton Farmers' Market (first Saturday of each month) to chat with us and find out more.

We moved our monthly info-sharing events from our previous 'hub' into the main market when the lease on the old building came to an end in October. We'd like to record our gratitude to Create Storage Ltd, who have supported us by generously providing space for us to store all our kit.

2026 Annual Seedshare

As we move into 2026, our next big planned event is our annual Seedshare on **Saturday 28th February**, from 11am to 2pm. Always a lovely get-together with stalls, live music and delicious soup lunch. Be ready to bring your surplus seeds/plantlets along to share. Free entry; donations welcome.

Caroline Romijn



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December 2025

Thursday 4th December, 7pm
Music and Food: Jazz on the Green

Friday 5th December, 7.30pm
Music: The Jeremiahs

Saturday 6th December, 10am - 4pm
Credton Heart Christmas Craft Fair

Sunday 7th December, 10am - 4pm
Credton Heart Christmas Craft Fair

Friday 12th December, 7.30pm
The BIG Christmas Quiz

Thursday 18th December, 7.30pm
Music: Moon Jazz

Friday 19th December, 7.30pm
Music: Solstice Live Lounge

January & February 2026

Thursday 8th January, 7pm
Music & Food: Jazz on the Green
More quality jazz and delicious Sri Lankan cuisine

Friday 9th January, 7.30 pm
Film: German Expressionist Double Bill
The Cabinet of Dr Caligari (1920) is regarded as the quintessential example of Expressionism in cinema; F W Murnau's *Nosferatu* (1922)

Friday 16th January 7.30pm
Theatre: Fagin's Last Hour

Friday 23th & Saturday 24th January, 7.30pm
Theatre: *So Many Words*
An evening of monologues, poetry and spoken word

Thursday 29th January, 7.30
Film: Last Thursday Picture Show

Thursday 5th February
Music & Food: Jazz on the Green

Friday 13th February
Film: This is Spinal Tap

Thursday 26th February
Film: Last Thursday Picture Show

Saturday 28th February
Opera: Carmen



SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS

- 1. QUALITY OVER QUANTITY**
- 2. SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS**
- 3. EXPERIENCES OVER THINGS**
- 4. SHOP LOCAL**
- 5. GIFT REUSABLE ITEMS**

Anna Chaplaincy

Anna Chaplains provide spiritual care and support for older people no longer able to leave their homes with frequency and ease. It is called 'Anna Chaplaincy' after the faithful older woman who appears briefly in the Bible in Luke's gospel. Spiritual care takes many different forms, not all is religious, but it nearly always involves chatting over a cup of tea or coffee.



In Coplestone, my role as an 'Anna' involves linking with older folk in the village. I visit people at home, but also try and encourage those who can to come to the Thursday morning Café in the community rooms at the rear of the church. Chatting over a cuppa there is supplemented by the amazing cakes that appear week by week! If you, or someone you know (who lives in Coplestone) would value a visit please contact me.

Anne Greig, 07484 263 574.

Disability Champion Coplestone Church



Disability is defined as having a need, that impacts a person's ability to carry out routine, everyday functions, and can't be easily sorted. At Coplestone Church, we want everybody who uses our facilities to be able to access the building, the worship if they wish to, and, where appropriate, be able to use some of their skills.

We hope we have it right, in terms of making things accessible, but if we don't please let us know. We don't want anyone to stop attending our activities because of such difficulties and for us not to know why. So if you, or anyone you know, is struggling with access, please let me know. Sometimes we will be able to make a small adjustment in order to make things easier for someone. You can contact me on 07817 603952 or annehnicolls@gmail.com.

Anne Nicholls

Coplestone Community Choir



Durning the autumn, the choir enjoyed singing at several events. In September, we sang at Lapford celebrating 10 years of The ARK. In October, we gave a concert at Chulmleigh Pavilion helping to raise money for the Children's Hospice SW and in November we gave a concert at Wembworthy Church.

If you would like to see and hear the choir sing, please do come along to the following events at which we have been invited to sing:

Saturday 6th December, 7pm
Concert at Knowle Church

Saturday 13th December, 3pm
Christmas Singing at Homeleigh Garden Centre

Thursday 18th December, 10.30am
Carols at The Café in the Church Community Room

Sunday 21st December, 6.15pm
Coplestone Church Community Carol Service

We are a very friendly choir and welcome new singers of all ages, men and women, to join us. You do not have to be a music reader as our aim is to simply enjoy singing and socialising together. So, if you enjoy singing and are interested in joining us, please do get in touch or just come along to Coplestone Church any Thursday evening, 7pm - 8.45pm to see what we do. There are no regular charges and apart from singing, we also enjoy a short social time for coffee and cake mid-way through our practice times - a great opportunity to chat and make new friends! For more details please email: lunn.family4@gmail.com or Tel: 07814 372828.

Suzanne Lunn



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ACE Archaeology Club



It's been another busy year for ACE!
Even though we haven't done our main Moistown dig this year, we've all been busy with other things.

We started off the year with some test pitting. This is where we excavate a small patch of land looking for any archaeological finds. This is a quick way of discovering the history of the land in preparation for other things. This year we did test pitting at Stourtown and various places on the Moors. We've also been busy contour surveying at Moistown. Contour surveying is where we use tape measures to look at the geographical features of the land - this can help identify things like wall remains under the ground without having to dig.

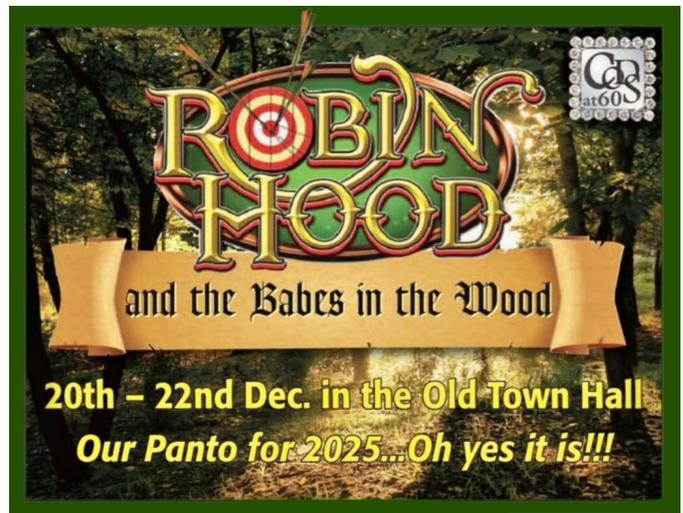
At time of writing, we've just had our AGM. This is something we do every year in order to catch up on the events of the year now that any finds have been processed, and to plan events for the next year. Furthermore, we had a talk from Ian Bishop about the upcoming Routes project. The Routes project is a look into the possible Roman Road between Coplestone and Bideford and looking at how it has evolved. This is an interesting project and really helps to give an insight into our local ancient history!

This year we had some talks from Andy Crabb about the finds from this year's test pitting; details of which can be found on the website. This is lovely to hear as an update from all the things we've been doing throughout this year and to get an idea into the steps taken after we have excavated it.

Next year has been planned so we are looking forward to a year filled with more test pitting and getting back to our Moistown dig in Winkleigh during the summer. All of the dates for next year have now been put up onto the Website so if anyone is interested, regardless of skill or experience, please get in touch because we'd love to have you there! It's been a wonderful year and we hope to have another great year of archaeology in 2026!

Hazel Worsnop

<https://acearchaeologyclub.wordpress.com/> / Facebook



20th – 22nd Dec. in the Old Town Hall
Our Panto for 2025...Oh yes it is!!!

Crediton Operatic Dramatic Society



Join CODS this December for a classic family panto full of fun, laughter and festive cheer! Follow the daring Robin Hood, his Merry Men and Maid Marian as they try to outwit the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham. Along the way, expect plenty of panto mischief, slapstick comedy, singalong songs and, of course, the lovable Babes in the Wood who need saving.

Packed with colourful characters, larger-than-life costumes and bags of audience participation, this panto promises festive fun for all ages! We have mats in front of the stage for children to sit there if they prefer that to their ticketed seat. From **Saturday 20th to Monday 22nd December 2025** with matinee performances on 20th and 21st.

Please visit our website for more details www.codsonline.com or go to the box office to buy tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/codscrediton/1832746>

Crediton Library



Crediton Library is on Belle Parade in Crediton, EX17 2AA. It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am – 5pm, Fridays 9am - 6pm and Saturday 9am – 1pm. It is a one-storey building fully accessible to all, with off-road parking, including disabled space. Aside from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction book titles, the library offers audiobooks to borrow which can all be issued using the self-service points.

The library has a small study area with free Wi-Fi, including 4 public access computers, which are free to use for up to 2 hours each day, plus printing, photocopying and scanning facilities. There are a range of regular events for all ages, both social and various informal learning activities, such as Bounce & Rhyme, knitting groups, Duplo & Lego Club, tabletop games and reading groups for adults and younger readers. The library also has several specific events during the course of the year.

Email: crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk
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1st Crediton Scouts offer a postal service within Crediton town and the villages of Copplestone, Sandford and Newton St Cyres

Stamps cost £2 for 5, or 50p each
(cash only, please try to have correct change)

Our special stamps are on sale and cards can be posted at: Creedy Kitchen, CJ Interiors, Crediton Congregational Church, Age Concern, Quicke's Farm Shop, The Bookery, CraftSisters, and the Christmas Tree Festival Café (Sat 6th only), with additional post boxes (no stamps) at Morrisons and Tesco.

Last posting: midday on Friday 12th December

Cards will be delivered by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
14th – 16th December

Please only post to addresses within the built-up areas of Crediton, Copplestone, Sandford and Newton St Cyres. We cannot guarantee delivery to Shobrooke, Yeoford, Coleford, Knowle, Newbuildings, or any other hamlets or outlying properties!

If you have any queries, or know of an elderly / housebound local resident who would like us to collect post from their home, please call Helen 07814 977693

**Thank you for supporting 1st Crediton Scouts
Merry Christmas**

Your Local Policing Team

Insp Mark Arthurs, Sgt Sarah Stevens,
PC Dan Armitage, PC Emily Ravenscroft,
PCSO Lisa McMillan

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BBC

Children in Need

What a great afternoon we had at our community Children in Need event on Saturday 15th November at Copplestone Church. Our fabulous car washing team, made up of the Church Youth and some 'not-so-young' members, had a very busy afternoon and cleaned 29 cars and vans in the Church car park quite a feat considering how muddy cars get at this time of year!



Meanwhile in the Community Room, the café served hot drinks with a wonderful array of homemade cakes and savouries. Children could enjoy some Pudsey themed activities, including cake decorating and a Treasure Hunt, and the 'Togs & Toys' giveaway was open for parents to browse and pick up any free items of clothing or toys for their children. There were also some competitions: *Guess the weight of the cake* (2lb 15^{1/2} oz) won by Lee Donalan and *Guess how many sweets in a jar* (59) won by Joshua Luxton.



Thank you to everyone who washed cars, baked cakes and savouries, made drinks, manned the activities and generally helped out and to all those who supported this community event and donated so generously which helped us to raise an amazing **£555** for Children in Need.

Suzanne Lunn

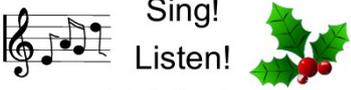


THE CAFÉ IS OPEN
*Community rooms
behind Copplestone Methodist Church*
Thursdays 9.00-12.00

**Next Event
18th December**

**Carols with
Copplestone Choir**

Sing! Listen! Celebrate!



Winter Warmth and Wonder at The Bookery



This autumn, The Bookery hosted a vibrant programme of events, including a moving tribute to Frank Letch MBE, atmospheric storytelling with Mark and Tracey Norman, and engaging author visits from Alexandra Dawe, Tom Fox, and Michael Warren. Families enjoyed creative workshops with Claire Barker and the dynamic duo Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre.

As the festive season approaches, The Bookery, Crediton's independent bookshop, is full of warmth, creativity, and community spirit. Our **free Christmas Catalogue** is now available, packed with brilliant book recommendations for all ages. Whether you're looking for inspiring reads, thoughtful stocking fillers, or literary puzzles, our beautifully re merchandised shop is ready to help you find the perfect gift.

This year's magical Christmas window has been hand-painted by author and illustrator Claire Barker, bringing colour and joy to the High Street. Inside, you'll find a wide selection of calendars, cards, notebooks, and diaries – ideal for gifting or treating yourself.

We're open for **late night shopping on Thursday 5th December until 8pm**, and for **extended hours on Saturdays throughout December (9.30am–4pm)**. Join us for Crediton's Christmas Lights celebrations on **Saturday 29th November**, and we'll be open until **2pm on Christmas Eve**.

Winter Events at The Bookery

Our popular **Soup & Stories** sessions continue Friday mornings, offering a warm and welcoming space for community connection.

In the new year, our events programme resumes with a stellar line-up:

- **15th January:** Bridgitt McNeill and Sophie Pavelle discuss *The Wild Within*, a moving story of recovery and renewal through nature.
- **22nd January:** Tom Hindle and Orlando Murrin present *A Killer in Paradise*, a gripping winter crime novel.
- **12th February:** Danielle Giles and Mark Norman explore *Mere*, a darkly atmospheric tale perfect for long winter nights.
- **19th February:** Philip Marsden joins Sasha Swire to discuss *Under A Metal Sky*, a journey through minerals, greed, and wonder.

World Book Day & Outreach

To celebrate the National Year of Reading 2026, The Bookery will visit over 20 primary schools, including Coppleshill Primary, from late February, ahead of **World Book Day on March 5th**. Volunteers will read from our Top Titles and offer books at discounted prices, helping children discover the joy of reading.

Our regular sessions continue with **Playtime at The Bookery on Wednesdays** and **Jam Babies on Thursdays**. To register for these free events, email kate@thebookery.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to The Bookery this winter!

Dominic Myers

Crediton u3a



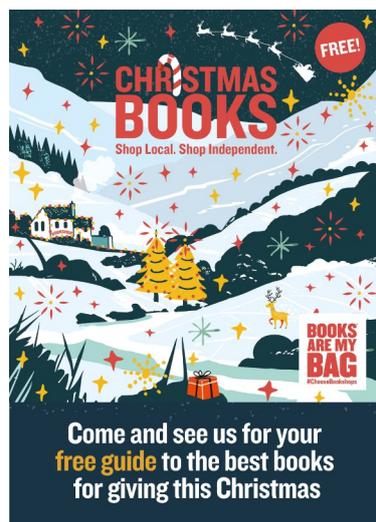
Learn, laugh, live

We've had a busy time over the last few months. We celebrated our 10 year anniversary where all members present were treated to a slice of our celebration cake and a glass of fruit punch to wash it down with. We also handed out free pens to all and sundry. Other things which are progressing are the arrangements for the members Christmas lunch which is being held out at the Waie Inn in December as usual.

Other than that, our organisation continues as normal. November's open meeting was a talk by Alex Ledger on "Working with the military, TV presenters working under stress". In the new year, the first talk will be on "The weirdest buildings in the West Country" by Robert Hesketh on **Wednesday 21st January**. Our talks are held at the Boniface Centre and start at 10:00am. As usual the cost will be £2.00 to cover entry and a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

All the normal group activities will be carrying on during the coming months for details please take a look at our website <https://crediton.u3asite.uk/>

Ian Fenn



Why give them a book this Christmas?

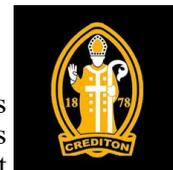
A book is a chance to explore new worlds, learn about amazing things and let their imagination run wild. It's easy to wrap, no batteries are required, and it can spark lively discussions with family & friends!

There's a book out there for everyone, and we're here to help you find it!

But that's not all - every book you buy from us helps to fund local community projects and outreach in schools! #BuyBooksDoGood



Walking Rugby



Walking rugby is exercise that develops agility and thinking skills by activities and playing games using a rugby ball, at a walking pace. There are no bone-crunching tackles or head-banging scrums. Men and women play together and it's an activity for all ages that requires no previous involvement with rugby. It is popular with those who have retired and want to keep active, those who want to improve their fitness and is used by those returning to sports from injury or as an out of season activity.

We hold one-hour sessions on Tuesday and Friday evenings at Crediton Rugby Club, meeting at the clubhouse at 6:30pm. Our participants are drawn from a wide area around Crediton. Come and give us a try; you don't need kit, just some loose-fitting clothes and suitable footwear; you don't have to commit to playing regularly. We play all year round, weather permitting. Just turn up at a session or come and watch if you prefer. For more information Tel: 07436 877033

Martin Rich

Crediton ELF Fundraising Group



A big 'thank you' to all the friends and supporters who attended our recent fundraising events.

We held another successful 'BIG BREAKFAST' on Saturday 4th October and as always are very grateful to our friends at Copplestone Methodist Church for allowing us to use the community hall and kitchen and especially to Mandi and Nigel Schofield for cooking such a tasty breakfast. Thanks also to Darts Farm for donating the bacon and A J Cox Butchers, Crediton for donating the sausages and to all who helped in any way. Despite coinciding with Storm Amy the event was well attended and it was lovely to see so many friends braving the weather to support us.

This was preceded by our September meat bingo at Crediton Football Club, which as always was well attended – a special mention to Ian Cann our caller.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our annual quiz at the Boniface Centre on Saturday 29th November, once again organised by John and Suzanne Lunn - as always this has proved to be a very popular event.



Our fundraising this year will end on **Wednesday 10th December** with our annual Christmas Bingo at Crediton Football Club please come along – doors open at 6.45pm, eyes down

at 7.30pm. Christmas prizes and top prize for each flier will be a Christmas Hamper. Our first event of 2026 will be a meat bingo at Crediton Football Club on **Wednesday 21st January**, look out for our posters for more details.

Finally, thank you to all the local businesses who display our posters and help us to publicise our events – it really makes a difference. We value your support and wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and best wishes for 2026!

Glenn Bearn, On Behalf of Crediton ELF



Copplestone Gardeners Ferns, Fifty Shades of Green



Ferns are a magical group of plants, they give a garden wings with their shuttlecock shapes and mobile fronds. Ferns give sense of place and atmosphere to damp and shady gorges and are redolent of fairy dells. Think of St Nectan's Glen in Cornwall or Lydford Gorge with its moist air and rushing water. It is ferns that conjure that ethereal, other worldly feel.

Naturally at home in a woodland setting with dappled shade and soil rich with leaf litter, ferns can also play a great part in our gardens. They have the happy ability to transform some of the trickier garden conditions, dry shade? ferns have that smashed, very damp soil? there's a fern for that, deep shade? yep, there's a fern for that too. Of course it isn't the same fern which answers all these garden conundrums, there are many different ferns to choose from, they just share a couple of distinguishing features; they are mostly green (but lots of shades of green), they do not flower and they grow from spores, not seeds.

Hopefully, you didn't switch off at the mention of no flowers, what they lose in flower power they make up for in texture, charm and those magical, transformational qualities. So where to get started with your new fern obsession? Well you could just go to a nursery or garden centre and choose a couple you like the look of, no harm in that, but do check their growing needs before planting in an appropriate place with plenty of compost/organic matter tickled into the soil and mulched on top of the soil.

However, let me give you four varieties to look out for of types of fern that are good to start with. I give the Latin names which are poetic and great to roll off the tongue. Dryopteris (aka the Male Fern) is one of the chunkier, larger ferns with the traditional shuttlecock shape and lacy fronds. Polystichum (aka the Shield Ferns) also a shuttlecock shape with lacy fronds but somehow prettier and more beguiling. Polypodium (aka polypody) means many feet and this has a much simpler leaf with a sort of ladder pattern, the common polypody is prevalent in our roadside Devon hedges. And finally, Asplenium scolopendrium (aka Harts Tongue Fern). This has a very simple strap-like leaf often with wavy edges and great as a contrast to the more flamboyant ferns.



Many ferns are great in the winter garden, they are what's called Wintergreen, keeping their green colour and shape throughout the coldest months, then needing a tidy up in late winter to clear the way for new fronds to uncurl and beguile us once again. Do you find ferns fascinating and enjoy their fifty shades of green?

*Christine McSweeney
christine.mcsweeney@gmail.com or Tel: 84605*

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National Trust

News from the Moor

Hi everyone, I hope that you are all keeping well. As I write, it is racing towards December. We are celebrating another successful inter-school run with over 200 children from local primary schools racing down the main drive and out on to the estate. I am sure you heard the cheers from the children. This is the 12th year of us hosting this brilliant event and it continues to bring such joy and a great experience for young runners. Huge thanks to the OCRA team for working so hard to plan and deliver this with us.

Castle Drogo is ready to open for a 70s Christmas and is looking fabulous. You can see the full opening dates on the website, but please do check on the day of your visit just in case of any extreme weather. After the positive feedback from last year, the Castle will once again be open from **Saturday 27th to Wednesday 31st December** for some post-Christmas mooching. The Visitor Centre, Gardens and Castle then close from Thursday 1st January re-opening Saturday 14th February. The car park and estate walks will still be open throughout but don't forget that the toilets will be closed.

During the closure, we will be completing the annual deep clean and working our socks off to get ready for the 2026 season. Best wishes all,

Paula Clarke,
Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor
 07826 945107, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

Lifeline Alarm Service



A Lifeline alarm provides help at the touch of a button 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The service provides peace of mind to people who feel vulnerable in their own homes. It gives people the freedom to live their life independently knowing that they can obtain assistance if:

- you have become immobile or incapacitated;
- your security is being threatened or,
- you are suffering from a medical emergency.

The alarm is supplied with a wireless pendant worn around the neck or wrist allowing help to be summoned from anywhere around your house or garden (up to 50m from the main unit). Calls for assistance are answered by specially trained staff who will immediately contact family members, friends or neighbours nominated by you for help. In the case of a medical emergency, the appropriate emergency service will also be called.

The Lifeline alarm service is available to everyone in Mid Devon of any age. It is designed to enable people to maintain independence in their own home. The new lifeline unit is compatible for when BT goes digital and will work off of a cellular network, so it will pick up on the strongest cellular network it can find in the area. Due to the upgrade on our equipment we have had to increase our prices; Installation fee of £40 and £80.99 per quarter. We also offer Key Safes and Fall Detectors.

For more information or to arrange installation, please contact our MDDC Lifeline Alarm Service on 01884 255255 or email lifeline@middevon.gov.uk

Tracey Stubbs, Telecare Officer MDDC



KJ Stoneman

*Garden Machinery Sales,
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Visit our showroom in Coplestone to view a wide range of garden machinery products.
New battery garden machinery available in store now!

Call one of our team to arrange service or repairs of your ride-on tractors, lawn mowers and petrol hand-helds.

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www.kjstoneman.co.uk





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2026 Dates for your diary
 Saturday 2 May - Guided Bluebell walks
 Saturday 27 June - Wood Fair

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01837 880192 or 07872 598659
www.ashridge-court.co.uk

Saint Boniface Concert Society



I'm glad to report that the five concerts in our 2025 season were highly enjoyable and well-attended. Plans for our 2026 season are very nearly finalised - watch this space! Two definite dates for your diary:

- Our AGM-Recital on **25th January** at 3pm.
- A return visit from the fabulous Kammerphilharmonie Europa for a concert on Sunday **17th May** at 3pm.

Good things to look forward to ... all are welcome. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page or write to us at concerts@bonifaceconcerts.co.uk if you would like to join our mailing list.

Caroline Romijn



**AGM
&
free
RECITAL**

Luke Tyrell

Multi-award-winning young, local guitarist who plays from a wide-ranging classical repertoire, including 'neglected' works and twentieth century music from Spain. Has played at distinguished venues across the UK including the Spanish embassy.

Sunday 25th January 2026 at 3:00pm
Crediton Parish Church

All welcome
Disabled access, free parking, refreshments (donations welcome)

www.bonifaceconcerts.co.uk

The Saint Boniface Concert Society is a local charity (Reg no 282441) kindly supported by Crediton Town Council, 'Making Music' and several musical trusts.



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Copplestone Walking Group



The walking group usually meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Walks vary from local to further afield. Due to poor weather, we have had to cancel some recent walks but we did enjoy a lovely walk at Ball Hill, Okehampton and a local walk to Colebrooke and Coleford. On two other occasions we just met up for coffee and a chat.



We are a very informal and friendly group and walking routes are led by different group members. Walks are typically 4 to 5 miles, over 2 to 3 hours, with a refreshment break mid walk. We sometimes enjoy a pub lunch or café stop at the end of the walk.

These walks provide an opportunity to enjoy the countryside, get some fresh air and exercise whilst enjoying the company of others.

John Lunn (Walk Co-ordinator)
lunn.family4@gmail.com

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St. Boniface Church, Knowle

You are invited to join us for our regular Church services on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of the month at 10am.

During December, we have the following special events:

Saturday 6th December - 7.00 pm

Musical Concert with Coplestone Community Choir

Sunday 21st December - 6.00 pm

Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Day - 10.00 am

Holy Communion

January and February

1st Sunday of the month - 10.00 am - Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month - 10.00 am - Family Service

Jean Pennington

St. Boniface Church, Knowle

MUSICAL EVENING

with

Coplestone Community Choir

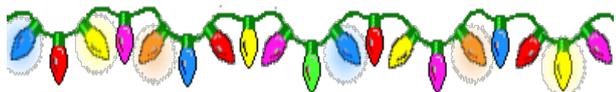


Saturday 6th December
7.00 pm

Tickets £8

including mince pies and mulled wine

Contact: Jean 07568 588675
or Jill 01363 84476



St Petrock's Clannaborough

*Our Christmas Carol Service
will be at 3pm
on Sunday 28th December*



Down St. Mary Church



It has been busy in the past few months at St. Mary's Church. On Sunday 12th October, Rev'd Caroline Ralph led our celebrations at our Harvest Festival Service. We thanked God, our farmers and food producers for the food on our tables. Donations of dried and tinned goods were given to the Crediton Foodbank. The collection of £138 was donated to The Farming Community Network. Following the service, fellowship continued with refreshments. On Sunday 2nd November, Rev'd Caroline Ralph led our Christmas Shoebox service. 90 Shoe boxes were donated to those vulnerable and those in most need in Bulgaria and Eastern Europe.

Our Christmas preparations commence with two short and reflective mid-week lay led Evening Prayer Service at 4pm on **Wednesday 3rd & 10th December**. At **6pm on Wednesday 17th December** Rev'd Ralph will lead our **Carol Service**, where traditional Carols are sung, together with Christmas readings. You are warmly welcome to stay after the service to continue fellowship with mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls.

Finally, on **Christmas Eve** Rev'd Ralph will lead our popular **Crib Service at 4pm**. Excited children (and adults!) will help to put nativity figures and animals into the Crib, as the Christmas story unfolds with carols and readings. This year



we are sharing the **Christmas Eucharist Service on Christmas Eve** at Morchard Bishop with St. Mary's, Morchard Bishop at **9.30 pm**.

Our regular services are:-

1st Sunday – Lay Led Evening Prayer at 4.00pm

2nd Sunday – Priest Led Eucharist Service at 9.00am

3rd Sunday – Lay Led Morning Prayer at 10.00am

4th Sunday – Lay Led Morning Prayer at 10.00am

*You are welcome to any of our services. At present though,
our heating is not working so please dress up warm!!*

Nigel Fidock



Beacon Church, Newbuildings

Our normal monthly morning services are held on the first Sunday of the month at 8.30am. All are welcome.



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Crediton Parish Church

News from Holy Cross, Crediton

We were delighted to hear the announcement that the Right Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, former Bishop of Crediton will be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We have fond memories of her time with us and sent a card with our congratulations. Here she is, with Bishop Moira, the new Bishop of Crediton.



We celebrated harvest at the beginning of October. For many years now, we have supported Ripple Effect (formally Send-a-Cow) from the proceeds and donations at the Harvest Supper. This year we raised £1,022 and received a very grateful letter of thanks from the charity. Apparently, we have raised £12,300 over 13 years.



Although there were no 'Light Quest' events in Crediton this year, we did announce a Pumpkin Challenge for pumpkins to be carved with crosses rather than in the traditional way. Seven pumpkins were delivered to the south porch of the church where they remained on display, lit overnight by battery operated tea lights. We are planning to announce a similar challenge in the run up to Christmas for angels to be made, using any chosen art and craft skill.

Everyone is invited to attend this year's **Christmas Tree Festival** which features 72 trees decorated by local schools and nurseries, children's uniformed organisations, local groups, charities, businesses and individuals. If you've never been before, do come along to this fantastic, popular event. It runs from **Thursday 4th December to Sunday 7th December** and is open from 11am to 6pm on the 4th and 5th, 10am to 6pm on the 6th and finally 11am to 5pm on the 7th. The café in the Boniface Centre is open from 10am to 4.30pm daily apart from the Sunday when it is open from 2pm to 4.30pm. There are two concerts during the Festival. At 7pm on **Thursday 4th December**, you can enjoy a performance the Ad Hoc singers with the Crediton Strummers with donations invited in aid of Hospiscare. On **Saturday 6th December** at 6pm, the concert is given by the Holy Cross choir together Crediton Town Band. The concert is free with any donations made to be shared between the choir and the band.



Details of all our Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services and everything that Crediton Parish Church has to offer can be found in the parish diary on our website – www.creditonparishchurch.org.uk. On the social event front, we take something of a breather during January and February!

Anne Jerman

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025 - Crediton Parish Church

THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER

11am to 6pm : Café 10am to 4.30pm
Concert at 7pm in aid of Hospiscare
by Ad Hoc & the Crediton Strummers

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER

11am to 6pm : Café 10am to 4.30pm

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER

10am to 6pm : Café 10am to 4.30pm
Concert at 6pm – Holy Cross Choir
with Crediton Town Band

SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER

11am to 5pm : Café 2pm to 4.30pm

Free Admission : Disabled Access
Bridge Books, Church Shop, Bric-a-Brac
More information and/or party bookings:
Email – creditontreefestival@gmail.com
Telephone – 01363 772865

Copplestone Church

Every Sunday there is a worship service starting at 10.45am with contemporary Christian music. There is also a more traditional evening service starting at 6.15pm.

Both services include Bible readings, prayer and a Christian message. All are welcome.



You can also find us online @ www.copplestonechurch.org.uk and click 'Online Services' or find 'Copplestone Methodist Church' on YouTube.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Copplestone Church Premises

Available for hire (not Sundays) with fully equipped kitchen.
For more details or to book please contact Eunice Petherick
Tel: (01363) 881029
Email: bookingcopplestonechurch@gmail.com

Defibrillator & CPR Training



A yearly teaching session was recently held in Coplestone Church Community Room, led by a member of the SW Ambulance Service team. Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was demonstrated and we were shown how to use the defibrillator, in a very relaxed but informative way. We were also advised that only CPR cardiac compressions should now be given without mouth to mouth (rescue) breaths. **It is also very important that the 999 Ambulance Service is contacted immediately as they will provide valuable telephone support until the ambulance arrives.**

The defibrillator is located on the front wall of Coplestone Church and is easily accessed by twisting the cover in the directions of the arrows; there is no access code required. This defibrillator is registered with the Ambulance Service who will direct nearby callers to collect it for use in the event of a cardiac arrest.

Our defibrillator is part of a 4 year partnership with South West Ambulance Service. This partnership means that all the defibrillator equipment will be replaced as necessary during that time. This potential life saving equipment is kindly funded through Coplestone Church, the Parish Council and Devon County Council.

John Lunn - Defibrillator Guardian

Beginners' Bridge Lessons



Would you like to learn to play Bridge? I shall be running lessons on a Monday afternoon from 2 - 4pm in Morchard Bishop. If you are interested, phone me on 01363 877096.

John Chater

Your Local Citizens Advice

citizens advice

Torrige, North, Mid & West Devon

We are a local Charity providing free, independent, confidential and impartial advice on all subjects to members of the local community. We aim to ensure that no-one suffers through lack of knowledge of the rights, responsibilities, and services available to them, or through an inability to express their needs effectively. We cover half of Devon, serving a population of over 300,000 people with a workforce of around 35 paid staff and over 70 volunteers through a multi-channel service involving face to face, Webchat, email and Adviceline (telephone) services. There's lots of useful information and advice on our website: <https://www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk> or you can ring our free, local AdviceLine on 0808 27 87 999.

If you would be interested in volunteering with us, our website shows the opportunities we have. Please then contact recruitment@ruraldevoncab.org.uk we would love to hear from you!

Defibrillator



Coplestone's Defibrillator is located on the church wall facing the road.



Always first dial 999 to call the emergency services who will provide advice and support.

The defibrillator is easily accessed by turning the outer case in the direction of the large arrows.

For more information please contact John Lunn Tel: 07527 532498

Debt Advice

CHAT offers Debt and Money Advice providing free, unconditional, fully confidential advice and practical support. The Foodbank is very pleased to have this service based here in CREDITON; a local Community Money Advice Centre.



Our fully trained advisors can offer you advice specific to your needs and our advisors will give time and support in order to help you become debt free and more secure financially. Talking about money is difficult but we are not here to judge - we are here to help. Advice is available in person by appointment, over the phone or by email. For more details, please visit our dedicated website <https://chatmid.org/debt-and-money-advice> or call our freephone number 0800 0590 104.



The CREDITON Heart Project

Christmas Craft Fest

6th & 7th December

at CREDITON Arts Centre
Christmas creative fun for all!

Workshops: age 16+ £5, under 16s £3

Saturday 6th December

Block Printing
Make your own Christmas cards & wrapping paper
10am-1pm

Pottery Tree Decorations
Cut out and decorate shapes to hang on your tree
2-5pm

Sunday 7th December

Yule Log Decorations
Create Yule log decorations
10am-1pm

Wreaths and Mini Trees
Make wreaths for your doors and mini trees for your table
2-5pm

and a **FREE** Christmas film for all ages
A MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL
Saturday 6th December 6pm for a 6.30pm start
A festive evening with Christmas food and drinks before the film

Book tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-crediton-heart-project



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Crediton Foodbank



As the autumn leaves fall and the nights draw in, Crediton Foodbank reflects with gratitude on another season of community kindness and generosity. Harvest is always one of the most important times in our calendar, and this year has been no exception. Once again, the people of Crediton and the surrounding villages have filled our shelves with donations, ensuring we can continue to provide food parcels for those in need. This is especially vital as we move into the colder months, when many of our clients face the difficult choice between heating their homes or putting food on the table. Thanks to your generosity, we can help take away that burden for many local families.

In October, we held our Quiz Night at Crediton Congregational Church. The church was buzzing with laughter, friendly rivalry, and plenty of head-scratching over some tricky questions. Ten enthusiastic teams competed, with questions thoughtfully written by a former Foodbank client. The evening raised an amazing £425! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part or helped on the night.

We're also delighted that Crediton Operatic and Dramatic Society (CODS) have chosen us as their Charity of the Year. This partnership means we're collecting donations alongside CODS at their key events throughout 2025. You may have spotted our collection buckets at their recent *Sound of the 80s* evening, and we'll be back again at their much-anticipated Pantomime, running from **Saturday 20th to Monday 22nd December**. If you're attending, please consider dropping a few coins into the bucket as you leave - it all makes a real difference.

As Christmas approaches, we'd also like to share a small request. Each year we receive a huge number of mince pies, Christmas puddings and festive treats, many of which have very short expiry dates or include ingredients we aren't able to put into food parcels. To make sure every donation reaches the people it's intended for, we kindly ask supporters to consider giving items we can use throughout December and into the New Year instead - things like tinned meals, UHT milk, juice, toiletries and other everyday essentials. These thoughtful donations help us support local families well beyond Christmas Day.



As always, we are deeply thankful for your continued support. Every donation, large or small, helps us ensure that we can support our community and fight hunger this winter. If you need support or would like to donate, visit creditonfoodbank.org.uk or email help@creditonfoodbank.org.uk. The Foodbank is open on Monday evenings 6pm, Tuesday and Friday mornings 10-12pm. It is a registered charity. All monetary donations can now be Gift Aided. Please visit our website to make a donation and/or our Gift Aid Form.

Helen Moores - Crediton Foodbank Coordinator

Get Creative at the Crediton Heart Christmas Craft Fest 6th & 7th December



If you fancy getting creative this Christmas, by making your own cards and decorations, the Crediton Heart Project is offering some inspiration and guidance at their **Christmas Craft Fest**. Following the success of their Summer Arts Festival in August, the Crediton Heart Project has invited back some of their talented tutors to run four Christmas craft workshops on **Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December**.

The workshops will take place at Crediton Arts Centre and are open to anyone aged five and above. Parents and carers are most welcome to join in.

On Saturday the programme includes Block Printing Christmas Cards and Wrapping Paper from 10am to 1pm, followed by Pottery Tree Decorations from 2pm to 5pm. On Sunday there will be Yule Log Decorations at 10am to 1pm, with Wreath Making from 2pm to 5pm.

To add to the fun, on the Saturday evening there will be a free screening of the popular film 'A Muppet Christmas Carol' suitable for all the family. The doors will open at 6pm for festive refreshments and the film will start at 6.30pm.

Workshop tickets are just £3 for under 16s and £5 for anyone over 16 and can be booked online here <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-crediton-heart-project> or please scan this QR code for easy booking.

Although the film is free please do book a ticket so we know how many to cater for. Children aged 11-15 must be accompanied by an adult or a permission form signed at the venue. Those aged 5 to 10 years must be accompanied by an adult who can participate or watch.



The Crediton Heart Project is a volunteer-led charity working to keep the heart in our communities by running and supporting local projects and events. We are grateful for the support of Arts Council England, the National Lottery, Crediton Town Council and Devon County Council.

EAR WAX REMOVAL@COPPLESTONE MICROSUCTION - IRRIGATION - GENERAL EAR HEALTH EAR IMPRESSIONS - CUSTOM FIT EAR PLUGS

Ear wax removal £50, includes consultation fee and follow up appointment if required if all the ear wax cannot be removed at first appointment.

We take pictures to show you before and after photo's.

Visit us directly at Copplestone or arrange a home visit.
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Please call 07969 188529 or email info@surfplugs.co.uk
for all enquires to book your appointment
and all hearing protection needs.

Unite Carers



Unite Carers is a self-funding Charity that offers support to people who provide unpaid care for a friend or relative who can't manage alone because of severe illness, fragility, disability or vulnerability. Their patrons are Angela Rippon CBE and Lady Heathcoat-Amory. The charity has over 60 volunteers who provide a wonderful service to carers and the people they care for. Some of them help to run the Support Groups, help with Befriending, IT Support, Form-filling and Counselling For Carers. All of Unite's services are completely free of charge. Carers need to contact the Unite office, details below, to be registered and then all of Unite's services will become available.

Some of the Support Groups that are available to carers registered with Unite are:

Tiverton Forget Me Not Café

For Dementia Carers and cared-for people

Exe Valley Oasis - For Dementia Carers

Crediton, Tiverton, Cullompton and Bampton Carers' Coffee Groups

For all Carers

Let's Unite

For Parent Carers of children and adults with additional needs

Tiverton, Cullompton and Uffculme Lunch Groups

For all carers and former carers

Unite's offices are based at:

2 Bridge Street, Tiverton EX16 5LY

Telephone: 01884 257511

Email: info@unitemd.org.uk

The offices are usually manned by staff and volunteers between 10am and 4pm; we always welcome anyone who may feel that Unite's services would be beneficial to them.

Jean Thistlewaite

Unite Carers in Mid Devon - Supporting unpaid carers and former carers across Mid Devon since 2003.

(Charity Number: 1099188)

**HEAR
READ ALL
ABOUT IT!**

Crediton Talking News

The Talking News is promoted locally by Crediton Lions and is a weekly production. The Crediton Courier is supplemented with some other recorded magazines. This weekly service plus all equipment is provided free of charge.

If you are interested in receiving this important service for those with little or no sight, or if you know of anyone who could benefit from the service, please call: Eric Parkes Tel: 82878.

Eric Parkes



Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas



At Hospiscare, we know the festive season can be hard for people adjusting to life without a loved one. Everybody grieves differently so, at Christmas-time, we try to make sure we offer a variety of ways to support those who are facing the holidays while missing someone they hold dear.

Light up a Life

'Light up a Life' is an annual celebration each December, where we can come together to honour and remember the people we hold dear through a special service in Exeter Cathedral, a Book of Memories and an online Gallery of Memories. Please visit <https://hospiscare.co.uk/support-our-work/remember-a-loved-one/light-up-a-life> if you would like to find out more or take part in Light up a Life this year.

Remembrance and self-care

We also have some suggestions for ways to try to prepare oneself and look after yourself as best as possible during the holiday period, and to hold space at home for lost loved ones. <https://hospiscare.co.uk/how-we-help/advice-support/information-about-grief/how-to-cope-with-grief-at-christmas>

Support and information

Year-round, we also offer bereavement support for people affected by the loss of a loved one, and a suite of resources for those who are looking for information about coping with grief. To find out about our grief support, please visit <https://hospiscare.co.uk/how-we-help/supporting-friends-and-family/grief-bereavement-support>

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EX2 8TN
07526456644

Crediton Office
2 Station Terrace
Coplestone
Crediton
EX17 5NF
07825630643

poweredupsw@yahoo.com

Copplestone United Football Club

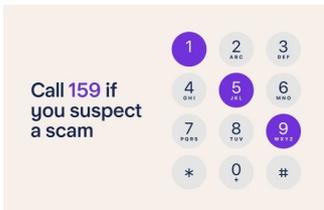


Formed in 2005, and run by a committed group of volunteers, we now have teams from Under 8s - Under 16s with a Saturday morning training group for the Under 7s.

We welcome all abilities as every child should get to play! If you would like more information please get in touch. New players of all abilities are welcome to!

Find us on Facebook, Instagram or email Secretary@cu-fc.co.uk

Beware of Scams



The 159 number is a legitimate, secure **anti-scam hotline** in the UK designed to connect you directly to your bank's fraud prevention team. It is not a scam itself, but rather a tool to help you verify suspicious calls and prevent fraud. It works like other important UK numbers such as 999 or 111. When you dial it, you will hear an automated message asking you to state the name of your bank and you'll be directed through to your bank's official customer service or fraud department. Using 159 is a safe and simple way to ensure you are speaking to your genuine bank and not a fraudster.

Take Five to Stop Fraud



For straight-forward advice to help you protect yourself from financial fraud visit: <https://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/protect-yourself/>
Are you scam savvy? Take the test to find out at: <https://quiz.takefive-stopfraud.co.uk>

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We look after pets big and small from dogs to cats, goats, chickens and hamsters to name a few.

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We use fun reward based training games and play to build a positive relationship, and help teach your dog essential life skills.

To enquire, please contact Kate:
Email: katesmith7mdd@gmail.com
Tel: 07549 691268
www.middevondogs.co.uk

Crediton Trefoil Guild



Crediton Guild continues the year with a busy and varied programme. In September we visited Paint Pots in Crediton and members demonstrated their artistic talents. October saw Suzanne leading us in a keep fit session.

November we welcomed Lisa from Twinkle Little Tarr who taught us how to make a topper for our Christmas cakes.



December we will be having a coffee morning where we will be making Christmas wreaths followed by a Christmas lunch at Homeleigh Garden Centre.

The programme for 2026 is near its completion with a range of activities including felting, a Tudor evening and a Murder Mystery Night to name a few.

We are a friendly group and welcome new members. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Guide Headquarters, Lords Meadow, Crediton. If you would like more information please email Crediton.trefoil@gmail.com or phone Pam Tel: 01363 84092.

Why should the girls have all the fun?

Pam Long

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Mid Devon Motability

We are a local charity making a difference to local people offering a variety of accessible transport solutions. Our services are aimed at connecting communities helping to increase the independence, mobility and peace of mind of older and disabled people and combating the problems of loneliness and isolation. Mid Devon Mobility is run by a voluntary management committee currently funded through various donations and grants including grants from Mid Devon District Council, Devon County Council, Tiverton and CREDITON Town councils.

Our CREDITON and surrounding area services include:
Ring & Ride, Passenger Club, Community Car, Community Hub, Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Hire, Befriending Service, The Hub Kitchen, Hot Food Deliveries, Recycle 2 Mobilise, Hospital Discharge Transport, Mobility Aid Supplier, Transport Advice, Shop & Leisure Mobility plus more!

For more information or if you require assistance our offices are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

Call us at CREDITON on: 01363 773303,
Email: ceo@middevonmobility.org.uk,
Facebook @MidDevonMobility and Twitter.
Or visit our website

<https://www.middevonmobility.org.uk/>

Mental Health Support Service



Shout is a free text messaging mental health support service. It is a charity and is available 24/7. It is confidential and anonymous and is for anyone who finds they are struggling and would like to talk to someone about what is on their mind. We can help with anxiety, stress, depression or sadness, suicidal thoughts, self-harm, panic attacks, loneliness or isolation, abuse, bullying. Volunteers are there to listen without judgement and to support those struggling. Texters are all ages, including children. If you or anyone you know might benefit from contacting *Shout* please text 85258. No one needs to struggle alone. *Shout* is always there for you. For more details visit <https://www.giveusashout.org>

Home-Start



All parents struggle at one time or another and that is why Home-Start is ready to support families through their toughest times. Home-Start volunteers support families with individual one-to-one home-visiting and work alongside families experiencing challenges such as poor mental or physical health, loneliness and isolation, financial worries, lack of confidence and the feeling of being overwhelmed - just two hours a week can make a big difference to a parent and their children. Our service is based around the principal that volunteers offer no judgement, just compassionate, confidential help. If you need our help please Call: 01395 542298 or Email: office@homestartemd.org.uk

Exeter, East & Mid Devon

Recycling at Christmas



Christmas cards: Christmas cards without glitter or embellishments can be placed in your green recycling box along with your cardboard. We're unable to process any cards with glitter or embellishments - please place these in your refuse bin.

Wrapping paper: Only non-glittery and non-metallic wrapping paper can be placed in your green recycling box. Please try to remove as much Sellotape and decorative accessories such as ribbons and bows. We're unable to process foil-lined wrapping paper - please place this in your refuse bin. If you're using brown wrapping paper this can be placed in your green recycling box.

Real Christmas tree collections: This year all residents can have their real Christmas trees collected by our garden waste service (until 31st January 2026). Please put your real tree out next to the blue food caddy on a scheduled garden waste collection day (this is the opposite week to a recycling collection). To ensure a tree is collected the trunk must be no larger than 4 inches (100mm) in diameter and under 6ft tall. If a tree is too large or unsuitable for collection, it can be taken to the nearest recycling centre.

Note: All refuse and recycling should be placed at its normal collection point by **6.00am** on the revised collection days as per your calendar. Alternatively, use our online collection day look-up facility.

Christmas recycling hints:

- If your blue kerbside caddy is full, put excess food waste into a compostable liner or plastic bag and leave on top of your blue caddy for collection.
- Plastic toiletry packaging e.g. shampoo bottles can go in your black recycling box 1
- Tins, cans and plastics can all be mixed together; if you're running out of room in your black box, these can go out for collection in a white pedal bin liner.

Before you put your left over turkey into your blue food caddy...Did you know the average UK family throws away 22% of their weekly shop, worth £730 per year that could be spent on other things! For tips on how to reduce your food waste, recipe ideas and advice on storage and keeping food fresher for longer, see the following helpful links:

<https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>
<https://www.recycledevon.org/love-food-hate-waste>

Are You a Tenant of Mid Devon Housing?



Join housing officers in CREDITON on the first Wednesday of the month at the Elephant on the Green. Officers are on hand to discuss neighbourhood issues, raise complaints or just pop by for a free cuppa. We already have some lovely regulars who attend each month! For more information call 01884 255255 or email tenantinvolvement@middevon.gov.uk



Copplestone Folk Club

Christmas Folk Special is on Tuesday 16th December

from 8pm at the New Inn, Coleford featuring the Crediton Mummers who will be entertaining everyone during the mid evening break with their unique humour and ribaldry! All welcome.

Folk sessions are held on the last Tuesday of the month from 8pm at the New Inn, Coleford. It is a very social occasion with no pressure upon anyone and we welcome all comers, whether experienced or beginners, to step up and perform a song, monologue, poem or a tune on any instrument. For more details contact Dave on mob: 07857 913564 or email djbrass@btinternet.com

Dave Brassington

Free Parking in the Run Up to Christmas

To support local Christmas programmes and to enhance trade Mid Devon District Council is offering 24-hour free parking in three of the Council's long-stay car parks. Free parking at St Saviour's Way (Crediton), Station Road (Cullompton), Multi-Storey (Tiverton) will be available on the following Saturday's:

- 29th November
- 6th December
- 13th December
- 20th December

Normal parking charges apply at the above car parks on all other days of the year.



Jo McDougall

Chartered Physiotherapist, MCSP, HCPC reg.

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- **Rehab** after injury and operations eg Fractures, Knee replacement, Hip Replacement etc
- Help with general **mobility problems**.
- **Pilates** and appropriate exercise programmes.

Contact details : mobile – 07597160558

: home – 01363 877803.

: email - jomcdphysio@gmail.com

: web site - jomcdougallphysio.com

Copplestone Parish Council News



The Council is pleased to announce that a new Parish Clerk was appointed at the end of September. Richard Smith brings over 30 years experience of working in the public sector. He lives in Copplestone and welcomes the opportunity to support the Parish Council in its efforts to improve the quality of life for everybody in the Parish.

The "Lighting Up the Parish" event was a great success this year. It was tribute to the hard work of the Copplestone Recreation Association (Dave Brassington deserves a special mention!) and a force of volunteers. The Parish Council was pleased to fund the fireworks – which we hope you enjoyed!

The Parish Council recently joined Copplestone Primary School and the Methodist Chapel in placing wreaths at the Remembrance Service conducted by The Revd. Martin Greig.

The Parish Council has continued its work maintaining gateways. This includes Sunnymead Park gate which has been adjusted to make sure it is self-closing properly. A review of the local paths is planned. Drainage continues to be a matter of concern and we would encourage people to report instances of blocked drains to Devon Highways where appropriate <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/> and keep us informed so that we chase them (and also Network Rail) up for answers.

Our new clerk can be contacted by email: clerk@copplestoneparishcouncil.gov.uk Please visit our website: www.copplestoneparishcouncil.gov.uk for details of the work of the Parish Council. It's relatively new, but is updated regularly. Contact details for individual Councillors can be found there, along with the Agendas for and Minutes of Council meetings, news of Traffic Orders, Planning proposals and decisions and Tree Preservation Orders. Our Facebook page features news items affecting Copplestone. Please leave a comment on those items if you have something to say.

For us to be effective we need A STRONG, ACTIVE PARISH COUNCIL! If you feel as passionate as us about supporting local residents and giving something back to the community you can join us in the work we do. There is one vacancy for Parish Councillor that is open for co-option and one other vacancy arising soon. If you want to find out more, please contact the Clerk.

You Parish Councillors are:

James Clark (Chair), Claire Glover (Vice Chair), Graham Turner, Stephen Faulkner, Kyle Eastman, Adam Youngs, Steve Dhinsa and Kirsty Sharp.

Your District Councillors are;

Natalia Letch – nletch@middevon.gov.uk
Alex White – awhite@middevon.gov.uk

Your County Council representative is :

Jim Cairney – jim.cairney@devon.gov.uk

Richard Smith - Clerk

North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group News

We held a successful AGM at Umberleigh in October with the following presentations:

- Roger Blake a director of Railfuture who discussed the successful campaign to reopen a line in London and the work he is doing to restore the line to Bideford.
- Councillor Steve Keable (Devon County Council) Housing developments and their relationship to rail transport.
- Richard Burningham Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership – History of the partnership, community rail, and it's impact on the North Devon Line.
- Peter West OBE North Devon line and restoring the Bideford line.

The construction of the second station for Okehampton which is to be called *Okehampton Interchange* is progressing on schedule and will serve the east of the town and be served by most of the buses that serve Okehampton.

The group is continuing with its process of rebranding and is also working on a new logo. It is engaging with local councils and members of the public to obtain feedback on improving services on the line. This information will then be fed to the train operating company, Network Rail and other interested parties.

The two major concerns of the group are train overcrowding on some peak services and the resilience of the line in bad weather particularly as this is the winter period. We are in close contact with Network Rail and the train operating company GWR on these matters. Unfortunately, there is no quick fix solution to either of them. Bad weather affects rail services throughout the country and often affects roads as well. Storms are becoming more intensive due to climate change and drier summers can affect soil moisture and alter its properties.

At the time of writing, the line is currently closed due to high river flows under some of the bridges on the line. Monitors attached to the bridges triggered an alarm on 12th November and replacement road transport had to be organised. Once the river flow has reduced Network Rail divers will inspect the bridges and when satisfied that it is safe to do so the train services will be restored.

Alan Clark

Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Copplestone Parish Footpaths



Those of you who use the network of Public Footpaths in our small Parish will have noticed that the plan to eventually replace stiles with self-closing gates has made great progress, as illustrated in these before and after pictures.



As I write this article there remains one final stile in our Parish on FP No 54 Barehill to Higher Elston which requires replacing.

As already explained, DCC policy is now to only install self-closing gates instead of stiles, the reason being to improve accessibility to the countryside for those with mobility issues, dog walkers, all terrain pushchairs etc. The self-closing gates are fully stock proof, provided of course they are not wedged open! Being galvanised steel, they do not rust or rot, so will last far longer in situ than a stile. Some people will nevertheless mourn the loss of the rural wooden stile, and what it represented, but when all is said and done, they are more of an obstacle than a point of access in my view, and more importantly, this is the view held by DCC's Public Rights of Way dept.

So, do use the Footpaths whenever you can, I can't think of a healthier exercise, both physically and spiritually, than walking in our fantastic countryside - any time of the year! But please remember; the fields and woods which our Parish Footpaths run through are private property, just as your gardens are, so kindly keep to the defined Public Right of Way. Farmers in particular ask that you keep your dog under control, and do not use their fields as exercise yards and toilets for your dog, as this can damage crops and infect livestock. It's simply a matter of being thoughtful and responsible, which thankfully most of us are.

There is a leaflet entitled 'Copplestone Walks' available for free at Central Stores, which contains a map and description of the 10 Public Footpaths in our Parish. If you would be interested in 'adopting' a Footpath, please get in touch and I can explain more about what is involved.

Dave Brassington
Parish Footpaths
P3 Coordinator
djbrass@btinternet.com



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go there in the first place.*



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Exeter Little Theatre Company

Following on from the successful festive productions of *Nativity!* and *Elf The Musical* in recent years Exeter Little Theatre Company are thrilled to invite you to experience the magic of live theatre this festive season as we are returning to the Barnfield Theatre this December with the spectacular pantomime *Cinderella!*

Packed with dazzling costumes, toe-tapping songs, hilarious comedy, and plenty of audience participation, *Cinderella* is the perfect treat for students of all ages. Follow Cinderella's journey from rags to riches with the help of her Fairy Godmother, a pair of sparkling glass slippers, and a sprinkle of pantomime magic. Will she escape her wicked stepmother and make it to the ball before the clock strikes midnight?

Venue:

Barnfield Theatre, Exeter

Performance Dates:

Wednesday 3rd - Saturday 13th December
 Tuesday 9th December - BSL signed performance.

Tickets:

Wednesday 3rd December - all tickets £15.00
 Thursday 4th - Saturday 13th December
 Full price £19.50 - Children U16 £17.50

Booking & Enquiries:

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Barnfield Theatre box office - 01392 726363, or online at www.exeternorthcott.co.uk/events/cinderella

A Christmas Riddle

My first is in CHEDDAR and also in CHEESE,
 My second's in COUGH but also in WHEEZE,
 My third's in CRISPS and also in DIPS,
 My fourth is in ARMS but not in HIPS,
 My fifth is in TEN and also in SEVEN,
 My sixth is in HELL and also in HEAVEN,
 My last is in HURRY and not in CANTER,
 My whole is something that's used by Santa.

What am I?



Christmas Quiz

1. What date is St. Stephen's Day?
2. In Charles Dicken's novel 'A Christmas Carol', who was Scrooge's dead business partner?
3. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country?
4. In the *Twelve Days of Christmas*, what did "my true love bring to me" on the 5th day?
5. Name the original eight reindeer from the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas'
6. Typically, what colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
7. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland?
8. What Christmas item was invented by London baker Tom Smith in 1847?
9. In what year did Band Aid release 'Do They Know It's Christmas'?
10. In which modern country is St Nicholas's birthplace and hometown?
11. Who wrote *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*?
12. How many points does a snowflake have?

Nativity Wordsearch



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

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| ADVENT | INFANT | MYRRH |
| ANGEL | JESUS | NATIVITY |
| BETHLEHEM | JOSEPH | REJOICE |
| BIRTH | MAGI | STABLE |
| BLESSINGS | MANGER | STAR |
| CAMELS | MARY | THREE KINGS |
| FRANKINCENSE | MIRACLE | WISE MEN |



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Fruity Oat Nibbles

These tasty little treats are a healthier version of flapjacks, with more fruit, less fat and less syrup



- 100g Lower Fat Spread
- 4 tbsp Golden Syrup (level tbsp)
- 250g Porridge Oats
- 50g Ready-to-eat Apricots chopped
- 50g Dried Cherries chopped
- 1/2 tsp Ground Mixed Spice
- 1 Egg beaten

1. Preheat oven to 180°C, Fan 160°C, Gas mark 4. Put 12 paper bun cases into bun trays.
2. Melt the spread in a large saucepan, stir in the syrup and add the porridge oats, apricots, cherries and mixed spice. Stir in the beaten egg, mix thoroughly.
3. Share mixture between the bun cases. Bake for 12-15 minutes until firm. Allow to cool. Enjoy!

Tips: Use dried cranberries or sultanas instead of cherries. Keep in an airtight tin for up to 5 days or freeze for up to 3 months.

Kickstart Your Health



Healthy changes start with little changes. Whether you want to lose weight, drink less alcohol, get active or quit smoking, you have access to lots of free tools and support through Better Health. You can also find simple ways to lift your mood with Every Mind Matters. There has never been a better time to kickstart your health. Let's do this!

Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/>

Money Saving Tips for Christmas Gifts



- Set a limit for family/friends and let everyone know.
- Do a Secret Santa - Put everyone's name in a hat and everyone draws out one name to buy a gift for.
- Set a Charity Shop Challenge - Ask family/friends to buy a gift from a charity shop with a limited budget.
- Have an 'only children' get presents rule.
- Give 'Promises' as gifts e.g. a nights babysitting or an afternoon gardening.
- Make your presents e.g. homemade biscuits.

Christmas Quiz:

1. 26th December
2. Jacob Marley,
3. Norway,
4. Five Gold Rings,
5. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen,
6. White,
7. Hogmanay,
8. Christmas cracker,
9. 1984,
10. Turkey,
11. Dr Seuss,
12. Six



Christmas Riddle:
CHIMNEY

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Diary Dates

- 4th: Ad Hoc singers at Crediton Parish Church, 7pm
 4-7th: Christmas Tree Festival, Crediton Parish Church
 5th: School Disco
 " : Mini Youth Club Christmas Party
 6th: Coplestone Choir Concert at Knowle, 7pm
 " : Concert at Crediton Parish Church, 6pm
 6-7th: Christmas Craft Fest, Crediton Arts Centre
 10th: ELF Christmas Meat Bingo, Crediton FC, 6.45pm
 12th: Youth Club Christmas Party
 " : Scouts Christmas Post, last posting day
 13th: Choir singing at Homeleigh Garden Centre, 3pm
 14th: Kidzone Christmas Play at Church, 10.45am & 5pm
 16th: Christmas Folk Special, New Inn Coleford, 8pm
 17th: Carol Service, Down St Mary Church, 6pm
 18th: Choir singing at The Café, 10.30am
 19th: Santa at Coplestone School
 20-22nd: CODS, Robin Hood & Babes in the Wood
 21st: Community Carol Service, Coplestone Church, 6.15pm
 " : Carol Service, Knowle, 6pm
 24th: Crib Service, Down St Mary Church, 4pm
 " : Christmas Eve Eucharist, St Mary's MB, 9.30pm

Christmas Day:

- 10am Holy Communion, Knowle Church
 10.30am Family Service, Coplestone Church
 27-30th: Castle Drogo Open
 28th: Carol Service, Clannaborough, 3pm

Your Village Magazine

With Christmas fast approaching, I hope you've been able to find time to sit down, relax with a cuppa and enjoy reading the latest news from your community. From the diary above, you'll see that there are lots of local seasonal events happening so, if you're able, why not go along to some of them to help get you into the festive spirit!



As always, thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of our FREE village magazine which is published 4 times a year by Coplestone Methodist Church on behalf of the community. All clubs, groups and organisations based in and around the parish can contribute. Over 700 copies are printed and delivered to every home in the parish by a team of volunteers with additional copies available at the School, Church and village shops.

 For more local news and events, please search for 'Coplestone Enlightener' on Facebook. You can also read the magazine online (and in colour!) at www.coplestonechurch.org.uk ... just click on 'Enlightener' on the home page.

The next Enlightener is due out in the Spring in early March 2026. If you have anything to contribute, either as an individual or on behalf of a local organisation, or if you are a local resident and wish to place an advert, please email lunn.family4@gmail.com or Tel: 07814 372828 by **13th February 2026**.

Suzanne Lunn – Enlightener Editor

