Poughill Parish Newsletter



Issue No 78

September 2026 - November 2026

Next Newsletter December 2026

www.middevonparish.co.uk/poughill/parish-council

Note from the Editor

The quarterly Newsletter has been produced by the Parish Council and delivered by hand, in paper format and free of charge to all households in Poughill for almost 20 years. We thought it was about time we asked you what you think of it and were hoping that you wouldn't mind answering a few questions for us please. So, inside this issue of the newsletter you will find a little questionnaire. We would be very grateful if you would spare a couple of minutes to give us your feedback, we really do want to hear it!

Karen Wellerd k.wellerd@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk

Next Issue - Editorial Copy Deadline: Monday 16th November 2026

If you have a Facebook account, and would like to join the group, search for Poughill Village, Mid Devon to find us. Anyone can post questions, news, event details, minutes and notices of interest for the village of Poughill, Mid Devon.

Advertising and Subscriptions

The Poughill Newsletter is produced four times each year:
March, June, September and December.

Advertising rates are £6.00 an issue or £15.00 for the year.

For Annual Postal Subscription service at £8.00, including postage, contact:
Karen Wellerd k.wellerd@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk

Poughill Parish Council Contact Information

Councillors	**Contact**
Karen Wellerd (Chair)	k.wellerd@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk
James Clark	j.clark@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk
Polly Colthorpe	pcolthorpe@middevon.gov.uk
Mel English	m.english@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk
Julian Wild	j.wild@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk
Parish Clerk: Denise Kingdon	clerk@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk
MDDC Way Ward: Polly Colthorpe	pcolthorpe@middevon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Steve Keable	steve.keable@devon.gov.uk
Parish Council email	clerk@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk

Poughill Parish Council

Full minutes are displayed on the Noticeboard and on the website https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/poughill/parish-council/

July 2026

Democratic Period - The appalling state of the road in South Yeo Hill was raised. Despite the potholes having been reported on several occasions, Devon County Council refuse to fix them on the grounds that they are not severe enough to be a health and safety issue.

District Councillor Report - The government's preferred option for the local government reorganisation for Devon would be Greater Exeter (to include Crediton), Greater Plymouth and Greater Torquay and 'the rest', which would be called Devon Countryside and Coastal. A consultation is taking place over a proposal to change the age range at Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School from 2-11 to 4-11.

Planning - **Determined Applications** - Ref No: 26/00535/CLP Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed removal of existing dormer and velux window in sloping roof and replace with larger window 3 The Glebe Poughill Crediton Devon EX17 4LA - Approved.

Next Meeting – 3rd September 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Report it Online

Did you know you that you can report many problems, including the following, online at https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/

Potholes (please report these, they will only get fixed if the Council know about them!)
Overgrown vegetation
Public rights of way
Hazardous or fallen trees
Defective road signs
Trip hazards
Broken manhole covers
Flooding and blocked drains
Street lights
Grit bins



POLICE CONTACT NUMBER
Non-Emergency – 101
Emergency - 999
NPS-MidDevon@devonandcornwall.police.uk

Your Local Officers are;
PC Dan Armitage, PC Emily Ravenscroft and PCSO Lisa McMillan



WOPEC

Witheridge Oil Purchase Energy Cooperative

Would you like to reduce the price you pay for your heating oil?

Then join us and receive your discounted oil through our oil buying co-operative when we order in bulk on behalf of our membership every month of the year

For further information and a membership form either:

e-mail us at: wopecnet@aol.com

go onto our web site at: www.wopec.net

or telephone for a friendly chat: 01884 861186

Village Hall Report - *Julian Wild*

It's not pleasant, is it, when the grass of your lawn crunches when you walk on it. I know it means that we don't have to mow, but it's not much of a trade-off. The only really successful flowers at present are all from Africa originally, and roses - they're doing well. The view from Poughill towards the Moor, Whitestone and Telegraph Hill has turned yellow, with the green of the trees and hedges sharp and vivid against the scorched fields. In the veg plot Runner Bean flowers are struggling to set into fruit; perhaps they'll become a thing of the past as the climate changes, a sort of "has bean". But enough of that, mustn't get side-tracked, this is a Village Hall report, not a Weather or Climate one. Probably by the time you read this all will be lush again.

So, since I last wrote we have had another great night of quizzing in May, with Quizmaster Francis reining back on the difficulty stakes a bit, but dazzling with his themed rounds. A good time had by all.

Pub night in June saw a small gathering (mostly committee to be honest) happily chatting, sampling the Bar, and discovering new things about each other. Seems to me what a social centre should be about really.

In contrast, the turn-out for the Village Fete was terrific; I don't really need to tell you as you were probably there. A lot of work by Anne Wander, Tina Clarke, Helen Morton and The Hall Committee went into what was a highly enjoyable and successful event. It was great to see everyone enter into the spirit of an Old-School event in an old school playground. Who knew Welly hurling would be so popular (and challenging). The sun shone (not *too* hot) and the breeze eventually stopped blowing the gazebos all over the Village. As well as being a delightful afternoon, it raised £315 each for the Hall and St. Michael's Church. Win win.

Between my writing this and you reading it we will have held a Spanish "Tapas" night in Mid-August, featuring a range of Spanish style food created by the Committee and washed down with Sangria. Perhaps you were there.

Plans are afoot for a Pub Night with Fish and Chips on the weekend of 4th September - publicity via the usual methods if it goes ahead.

Then in October, on Saturday 3rd, we are dipping our toes in the waters of dance with a Village Harvest Ceilidh. I've been playing in local ceilidh bands since the late 70s and will bring a fine bunch of players of trad English tunes and an excellent caller from Exeter to guide you through the dances. Fear not, beginners will be very much catered for and no judgements will be made. Just come and enjoy yourselves.

Hopefully October will also see the return of the Big Breakfast on Sunday 18th.

In other business, the Village Hall Committee has been contacted by the family of the late Hilary David Hewlett, a former resident of the Village who lived in St Michael's House and attended the school here; perhaps you knew him. For various reasons, no memorial in the churchyard is possible and they wondered if something could be done at the Hall. We suggested that the ideal spot would be the little garden between the Hall and the church gate, a place where the broken bench is being replaced by a new one bought by The Council. In a game of musical benches the family are buying a new bench with a memorial plaque to go there, the intended Council bought bench will transfer to the community garden across the road, with the bench currently there moving to the Playpark. A very satisfactory conclusion.

St. Michael & All Angels



Visiting bell ringers will be attending Poughill on Saturday 12th September at 9:45am for a two hour ring.

Poughill will also be hosting the Cadbury Deanery Novice Bell Ringing Competition on Saturday 26th September at 2pm until 6pm. Please come along to see bell-rope control and how call changes are made.

Harvest Service is on Sunday 27th September at 9:30am.

Carol Service is on Friday 4th December at 6pm.

Christmas Eve Service will start at 9pm.

All you ever wanted to know about...

Tombs, Headstones and Graveyards

How to 'read' a cemetery. This talk includes headstone and tomb design and symbols, how headstones reflect fashions and status, catacombs and burial vaults and folklore attached to graveyards. This illustrated talk includes examples of graveyards from the towns and villages of Devon and Somerset.

By **Charlotte Coles, MSc MCIFA. Archaeologist and Osteo-Archaeologist**

Hosted by St Michael and All Angels church in Poughill Village Hall on Friday 20th November at 7pm.

Entrance fee £3 p.p.
Refreshments available

16th August 2026

To the Community of Poughill

I am writing to let you know that things have changed a little in terms of how often we hold services at St. Michael and All Angels Church.

Last year we wrote to you and several of you came to a meeting we held in the church, to talk about the future of the church in Poughill. In our letter to the community, we informed you that responsibility for upkeep of the parish church building, and indeed for all of the church's affairs, lies with a small group of volunteers (the PCC) to keep the church open. The PCC currently has just three members. Care and maintenance of the building is funded entirely by donations. The financial situation is precarious with limited reserves for the maintenance of the building.

There is a misconception that the parish church receives funding from the Church of England, but the reality is that as a local church we must be entirely self-funding. Currently the costs of running the church exceed our income (in 2024 we had overall income of £2,939 and expenditure of £5,409), which included roof repairs. We have very limited reserves. Each year we pay a contribution (Common Fund) to the Diocese of Exeter which goes towards the cost of our clergy and the help they give to all the parishes and for 2024 this was £1,174.00. The Common Fund contribution to the Diocese is worked out by the number of people we have at our monthly services. If we become a Festival Church, which means we go down to having 6-8 services a year, then our Common Fund contribution becomes less. It was decided in November 2025 that we would change our status to become a Festival Church. We still have services in the church at Poughill and we would love to see you at them. We will have a list of services for the next year on the church notice board.

I would like to personally thank Simon, who has been incredibly supportive since our public meeting last year and has been working alongside members of the church to fund-raise and raise awareness of the church. I would also like to thank Laura who has been supporting us through her exercise classes. We are so very grateful for the support from them and others in the community. Our gratitude also to the Village Hall Committee, with whom we are working together to raise funds for both the church and the village hall.

Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support of St. Michael and All Angels Church.

With best wishes and God bless

Revd Janet May
Team Vicar
Crediton with Upper Creedy Valley Team Ministry
01363 779363

FURSDON, CADBURY, DEVON, EX5 5JS

www.fursdon.co.uk 01392 860860

admin@fursdon.co.uk

Come and visit Fursdon, one of Devon's oldest family homes. Take a fascinating house tour, enjoy a leisurely stroll in the gardens or simply sample our delicious home-baking, served from the Coach Hall tea room.

GARDENS & TEAS: 2-5pm on bank holidays and every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon until the end of August.

House Tours at 2.30pm & 3.30pm on bank holidays and Wednesday & Thursday afternoons in June, July & August.

Annual garden season ticket £18.00 (5-16yrs £6)
Single visit garden ticket £6 (5-16yrs £2)
House & Garden ticket £12 (5-16yrs £4)
Gardener's World 2 for 1, CPRE & Historic Houses members and Carers

Dogs welcome on leads (garden & tearoom)

We also offer venue hire at the Coach Hall and lovely holiday accommodation at Fursdon Cottage.

bestchimneyclean.co.uk



We sweep all chimneys from top to tail !

01392 254 120

hello@bestchimneyclean.co.uk

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENT CHIMNEY SWEEPS APICS

TRADING STANDARDS APPROVED buywithconfidence.gov.uk

NVQ QUALIFIED FOR CHIMNEY DESIGN AND INSPECTION

Tales from the Old Bill : 13 - *Simon Gibbons*

One of the Old Time bobby's when I arrived at Seaton was Dick Hancock, or Tricky Dicky as he was affectionately known. He had started his policing career with high hopes and at one time promotion had even been on the cards. In the early days he had been stationed at another rural station, possibly in Cornwall or perhaps up on the moors, when he had been sent to some incident about a man robbing a shop (a robbery is where violence is being used). Initially on his arrival the place looked empty so perhaps understandably he had walked through the front door. As he did so some lunatic robber rose up from behind the counter with a shotgun up on his shoulder aiming straight at Dick. I suppose more out of instinct he started to drop to the floor as the man pulled the trigger. The blast tore past his ear and shoulder and he missed having his head literally blown off by about a hundredth of a second. It was so close it took the epaulette off one shoulder. Understandably since then he had been slightly more cautious about approaching events and somehow his enthusiasm for the police had somewhat waned.

Dick continued to sail close to the wind and none closer than his escapade into Dorset. It's a very odd thing with the police that any Force's interest simply stops at its county boundary. Our whole eastern border was formed by the county boundary with Dorset and Lyme Regis and yet we had no formal cross border liaison. This was most odd as clearly your average travelling villain knew no such border and would live in one county and drive across to another (or even several others) to commit crime.

If this wasn't crazy enough the situation with Uplyme was even more bizarre. This place was just a suburb of Lyme Regis and if you were driving you wouldn't know where one place stopped and the other started. However due to some quirk of history the county border ran right between the two and Lyme Regis was in Dorset but Uplyme in Devon. This odd anomaly led to Uplyme being policed by Axminster police station, which was a good nine miles away, whereas some of the town's occupants lived nigh on in sight of the Lyme Regis police station that was just down the road from them.

Somehow, and no one was ever sure just how, in the wee hours of the morning Dick came to be giving a young lady a lift home in the police car. The fact her home was not only in Dorset but many miles inside Dorset and the fact that he would be miles off his patch was clearly of no interest to him. He duly dropped her off and was just about to hightail it out of the place when he heard a disturbance nearby. Massively to his credit he went to investigate and sneaking several gardens along the road, peaked over a hedge.

What he saw was quite worrying. An extremely agitated and furious man had no less than two very unhappy Dorset Police officers backed up against an outbuilding with a garden fork and seemed determined to run them through. No doubt with thoughts of his first near miss with the shotgun going through his head he decided to go to their aid. He managed to work his way behind the man and then started to tiptoe across the lawn towards him. The two Dorset police officers understandably were completely bewildered by this miraculous appearance of a DEVON police officer coming to their aid, uncalled for, so deep inside their own territory, in the dead of night. (At that time Dorset police wore blue shirts and us white, or it might have been the other way around). So stunned were they that poor Dick was terrified they would give the game away with their unwavering stares and gaping mouths and was frantically signalling to them to take no notice of him. Fortunately the man was so intent in running them through with his fork that he failed to anticipate the danger behind him, until Dick, never one to mess about, neatly laid him low with a blow across his noggin with his trusty truncheon.

Immediately the three of them dropped on the chap and got him secured with handcuffs. One might understand at this point Dicks enthusiasm for wanting to quickly and quietly disappear from the scene. One can equally understand the Dorset officers pressing him for details as to just who their saviour was and how on earth he came to be there. No one has any idea of what really went on but I know Dick was a trifle worried about the outcome. Several days later the 'outcome' duly arrived in the form of a profuse thank you letter from the Dorset Police with offers of recognition of gallantry into the bargain. For some days our Force prevaricated between disciplining him for being off his patch or giving him due recognition for his actions in what was really a very dicey situation. I am glad to say they eventually opted for the latter and he got his recognition although he was made to understand the matter had been finely contested.

He never spoke a word about the young lady in question!

City & Guilds NPTC

FOUR SEASONS

PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICES

All aspects of Tree Surgery, Stump Removal, Crown Lifting, Crown Reduction, Grounds Maintenance, Grass Cutting, Turfing, Hedge Cutting, All types of Fencing, Wood Chip, Seasoned Logs, General Garden Maintenance,
Fully Insured, Private & Commercial Customers
Free quotations call Oliver Vernon

info@fourseasons-treeservices.com www.fourseasons-treeservices.com

01884 563021 **07766 168162**

DRIVERS

Direct

Driver Hire

01363 866725

Shaun: 07921 916666 Tony: 07836 745069

Western Venture Group Ltd

The Bowen Technique

Do you suffer from sciatic pain, whiplash, back pain, knee pain, frozen shoulder, jaw problems, anxiety, chronic fatigue, MS, fibromyalgia, sleep, digestive problems, infant colic, sleep disorders…?

Bowen Therapy is a gentle, hands-on therapy. It stimulates the nervous system and encourages change in many systems of the body such as the lymphatic, hormonal and autonomic nervous systems, as well as correcting structural misalignment due to muscular imbalance; all enabling the body to heal itself.

Bowen also promotes relaxation and a feeling of balance and well-being.

Bowen is so gentle that it is suitable for the frail, the elderly, newborns, babies and children; those suffering from chronic fatigue or fibromyalgia; and during and after pregnancy.

Jemma Jones, Mobile 07748 987 109
Raymond Penny House, Phoenix Lane,
Tiverton EX16 6LU
www.jemmajonesbowen.co.uk info@jemmajonesbowen.co.uk

Jemma Jones Bowen





"With support, encouragement, and the space to be yourself, it is amazing what you can achieve"

Janet Akins www.openworldtherapy.com Online & in-person appointments available
Contact details: openworldtherapy@gmail.com/07763639780

Walking the Walk (6) - …and Whoops - *Polly Colthorpe*

Every year the agency did a small and very exclusive show for a fur company in Cheltenham. It was a fixture in the calendar before I joined the agency and, as Madame always used the same few girls for it, I never did the Cheltenham show itself but I did model one of the company's coats at an autumn show for one of the more upmarket department stores. At the very last minute, someone decided that a chic classic suit I was to wear should be accompanied by a floor-length ranch mink coat and it was brought out of its locked display cabinet only moments before I was due on the catwalk. I hadn't even seen it until my dresser appeared in the chute, holding it up for me to put on.

Usually, when you take a coat off to display the outfit beneath, you hang the coat on your arm or swing it over your shoulder but, at the time, it was the catwalk's latest fancy to 'trail' the coat instead and, as there was such a lot of this one, trailing it was really the only option: it was too bulky to carry on one arm and, fur being both heavy and slippery, I wasn't at all sure that it would ***stay*** on my shoulder if I put it there and, even if it did, it would obscure much of the suit. Thinking all this out as I went, I swept down the catwalk, turning hand on hip once or twice to show off the coat; then I slipped it off and went down again, trailing half an acre or so of mink behind me.

All went well until I turned at the end of the catwalk. I felt the coat swing out like a bullfighter's cape and then it snagged, caught on something - the corner maybe, or a splinter or, oh murder, a protruding nail left by a carpenter in a hurry! I checked my stride, tugging gently, but the coat remained firmly anchored and, rather than risk damaging it, I let it drop and left it on the catwalk.

'Where's the coat?' shrieked my dresser as I came back through the curtains into the dressing room and, without waiting for an answer, she fled out into the audience, running the length of the catwalk to gather the coat into her arms like a beloved lost dog. She gave me a proper scold later but the main thing was that the coat had come to no harm so I was forgiven!

Thoroughly ***out*** as a fashion accessory for well over a century, the wig made an unexpected comeback in the 1960s. Whether the revival was driven by the popular 'beehive' as worn by Dusty Springfield or by '50s 'Teddy boys' updating their look with a Beatles 'moptop', wigs were an absolute godsend to a model afflicted with baby fine hair which, even with the muscular assistance of '60s hair lacquers, couldn't hold a set for more than five minutes. In Bristol, a shop on Blackboy Hill began to sell traditionally-made wigs of real hair but it wasn't long before synthetic, machine-made wigs made their appearance and, when Lewis's in Broadmead decided to stock a range of cheap and cheerful synthetics, Madame sent me to do the promotion. Not for the first or last time I spent most of my fee on buying the products I was promoting - this time it was a short, curly strawberry blonde wig with highlights and a similar style in a bright auburn red, both of which thoroughly earned their place in my make-up case.

And so to the Incident of the Wig in the Lunch-hour! I had been booked to do a job for a firm making loose covers and, to demonstrate the properties of their new, stretchy fabric* they had made me a catsuit out of it to wear for the promotion. Heraldically quartered in orange and brown, it showed off their tailoring skills and the ability of the new material to stretch and adapt and, just in case the bold colour scheme should fail to make sufficient impact, the designer had added a long, pointy pixie hat, also quartered in orange and brown and finished with a bobble at the end. With this pulled on over my red wig, the ensemble gave me a more than passing resemblance to a garden gnome.

**The active ingredient of this may have been 'Spandex', invented in 1958 for DuPont by U.S. chemist, Joseph C. Shivers, and better known to us as 'elastane' or by its brand name, 'Lycra'. Given the dates, it seems likely but I can't remember seeing any of these names in the company's literature.*

My brief was to talk to people and to hand out leaflets about the new, stretchy furniture covers but the furniture department was deserted so I toured the floors looking for people. As lunch time approached, the ground floor was busiest, thronged with people heading up the escalators in search of food, so there I took up my position, cross-legged, with my pile of leaflets instead of a fishing rod. The parti-coloured gnome perched between the escalators made people smile and there was just time for me to press a leaflet into their hands before the moving staircase bore them up and away.

Needless to say, this was too good to last! Before the lunch hour was over, someone succumbed to temptation, grabbed my pointy hat by the bobble and gave it a sharp tug! The escalator went inexorably upward and the would-be joker went with it, the pointy hat and my red wig dangling from his hand! I don't know who was the more embarrassed: me, all too aware of looking like a skinned rabbit without my false red curls; the young man himself, halfway up the escalator and caught, as it were, red-handed, or the other customers, struggling between a natural instinct to laugh out loud and a mannerly instinct not to! As soon as he got to the top, the young man bravely came straight back down again, made a little bow and presented me with the hat and the wig. I had to laugh and he got a round of applause!

In the theatre they say never work with children or animals and, in seven years with the agency, I never did a job with children and only two with animals. Both were television commercials: the first, made at the H.T.V. studios with several very well-behaved dogs, went like clockwork; the second...didn't.

The scenario took its inspiration from the name of the commissioning company, a firm of shirtmakers called 'Mr.Knightley's'. It was to open with a medieval knight and his lady sharing a ride on his noble steed and then the couple (but not the noble steed) would morph into a pair of'60s swingers wearing the company's shirts. Our set was a large flat field in Gloucestershire and, when I arrived, the actor who was to play my knight in shining armour was already fully accoutred in tabard and chainmail - and not looking very happy about it. My costume was a middle fairyland period gown with long, tight sleeves and a fishtail hem but I was allowed to keep my own shoes ('Nobody will see them anyway.')

The field party included a man with a white horse, just the right stamp for an off-duty knight taking his lady for a night out, but the actor hadn't expected a horse and said that jousting and the Knightly Arts hadn't figured on the curriculum at his drama school (well, that was the general gist of what he said!). After some considerable discussion, it was agreed to proceed, Sir Galahad was hoisted aboard and I was legged up to sit sideways behind him on the broad white back.

We started cautiously, the owner leading the horse and doing his best to keep out of shot, while the cameraman peered into his viewfinder. He reported that the horse now had four front feet and two of them were wearing desert boots. The owner said that if he went to the gate opposite, Snowball would follow by himself and there would be no need for anyone to lead him. They all went to look and, after more discussion, they all came back again. Sir Galahad, more disgruntled than ever, got back into the saddle, the cameraman took up station off the port bow and the owner set off back towards the gate.

Before the director had time to say 'Action', Snowball, evidently feeling that his master was already too far away for comfort, set off at a determined walk to rejoin him. With Galahad in front of me, I couldn't reach the reins and Snowball was soon trotting. Pleased to find that neither of his odd passengers was actually in control, he bucked a sedate little buck, lengthened his stride and cantered joyfully in his master's footsteps. It was when the faithful steed carried straight on ***past*** the trudging figure that I decided it was time to abandon ship, landing tidily enough on my feet while naughty Snowball, with a whisk of his white tail, carried Sir Galahad away through the gateway and out of sight!

You will, perhaps, not be surprised to learn that, if Mr.Knightley's television commercial ever made it to the screen, it did so with a completely different cast which didn't include your author!

YOGA CLASS

Poughill Village Hall



With Yoga Teacher
Laura Galvin

Wednesdays 7.15pm-8.30pm
Bring your own mat and wear comfy clothes
£7 per session
£60 for 10 sessions
Proceeds to the Village Hall and Church

More Info:

satyayogatruth@gmail.com

Pyncombe Poughill Educational Foundation

The objects of the Foundation are to promote the education (including social and physical training) of people resident in Poughill parish under the age of twenty-five years, and in need of financial assistance.

Applications are dealt with sympathetically and in the strictest confidence. The charity is run by seven trustees who meet three times a year. The date of the meeting is advertised on the village noticeboard and on the village website. Grant applications are welcomed from anyone meeting the criteria of the charity. The amount awarded is decided by the Trustees – so please supply as much information as possible. It is possible to apply for more than one grant.

Application forms are available at the back of the Church. The next deadline for receipt of applications is **14th September 2026**.

If you have any queries please contact Helen Morton (Secretary) 866038.

Weekly Village Hall Events

Tai Chi/Qigong

Please note the last session for 2026 was held on 1st September. Sessions will resume next Spring/Summer, watch this space for details.

Yoga - Wednesdays, 7.15pm - 8.45pm

Yoga with Yoga Teacher Laura Galvin. Bring your own mat and wear comfy clothes. £7 per session or £60 for 10 sessions. Proceeds to the Village Hall and Church. For more information email satyayogatruth@gmail.com.

Hire Poughill Village Hall

Are you organising a

* Children's birthday party
* Disco
* Meeting/large event
* Wedding
* Exercise/hobby course?

Then why not book Poughill Village Hall?



We can offer a large hall, tables and chairs, fully equipped kitchen, bar and outside space all for only **£8** an hour or **£50** a day

For more information please contact
Paul Rogers paul@rogers.org or 07785 114272

Moths - *Derryck Morton*

One of the most exciting experiences for me is to see a moth I haven't seen before. What?! I hear you cry; how can you get excited about those brown triangles? Open any book on insects that contains butterflies and moths and you will soon realise that it is a veritable jewel box of colours and variety. Those 'brown triangles' are all too familiar, being as the name suggests, a 'Brown House moth'. In fact, they are not even British, being an Asian species that was introduced to Europe and the UK during the 1840s. By the late 19th century, it had become abundant and widespread in British homes and warehouses due to the caterpillars, which can live for two years, feeding on detritus and other material that accumulates indoors behind skirting boards and other similar places. But enough of the brown triangles. There are around 2,500 recorded species of moths in the UK. Experts split them into two main categories: larger macro-moths and smaller micro-moths (macro means large enough to see clearly without the need for magnification whilst micro means very small).

There are many difficult to identify due to similar patterning. The Crambid grass moths you see flitting around your feet during a summer walk through a meadow are well known to entomologists as 'difficult'. Also, some of the grey mottled ones can cause a problem, as microscope use is essential to differentiate the close matches. The close inspection often involves dissection, which is a bit of a problem if one is trying to ascertain the progress of an endangered species! Knowing where the 'ears' are and what shape they are can also be a key to identity as helpfully, the ears (or tympanum) often differ even though the wing colours and patterns may be similar. The tympanum, by the way, are on the front of the abdomen!

Some moths are known as 'day flying moths'. Burnets, clearwings, tigers and some geometers are often seen out and about in sunshine. The Silver Y and the Hummingbird Hawkmoth are two that often visit flower heads of patio pot plants for nectar whilst you sip your Pimms. The Hummingbird Hawkmoth isn't a UK resident but found from Portugal to Japan, and breeds mainly in warmer climates; for instance, three generations are produced in a year in Spain. There is evidence though, that overwintering in the UK is taking place due to our increasingly milder winter climate and so breeding is expected. Keep your eyes open and report any mating activities of these moths you might observe in the years ahead. Also flying the English Channel is the wedge-shaped Jersey Tiger moth with its Zebra-like striping and bright red underwings; often seen on mid-summer days.

The most splendid are the moths that rest with their wings open and so display their full colourful richness. For instance, the Carpet moths and others of the Geometer family. With such intricacy in the patterning and colours, it is easy to see why tapestries come to mind. Often settled on a window or wall during the day, you might spot the Garden Carpet or Common Carpet. Once you have seen one, the next time you see a slightly different pattern, you might doubt yourself and have to check a book, only to find it was a Flame Carpet or a Silver-ground Carpet instead. Then you are hooked! You will have a moth book and a pair of specks at hand just in case. Dozens of

similar moths, most with common names so you don't have to worry about the Latin. Pugs, Thorns, Shells and Waves; each with their retinue of multi-coloured variations. Some so delicate, a breeze might damage them, like the Magpie (a great watercolour subject).

Then there are the fluffy ones that settle with their wings like a roof. The Eggars, Kittens, Prominents, Tussocks and those of the Noctuid family. Often difficult to spot due to their precise camouflage and more often seen when disturbed and have taken flight. Follow them and have a look when they settle. The robust Hawkmoths are not often seen but their caterpillars are unforgettable. As big as a finger, with a tail spike!

Getting an ultraviolet lamp and egg cartons as a moth trap attracting the passing moths at night means your mornings will be routine with a visit before the sun warms everything up. With book in hand, careful examination of the egg cartons will excite with the possibility of a moth you haven't seen before. Google Lens is a help but is often incorrect in its identification, so use it as a tool to narrow down the search rather than as a definite name machine. If you fall for this subject and begin on the micro-moths, then there is no hope for you!



THE SANDFORD GATE MILK Co



For all your Fresh Local Milk and Milkshakes

Available from our Self-service Vending Machines at

Mole Avon Stores in

Crediton and Okehampton

24 hours a day – 365 days a year

Re-usable Glass Bottles



Western Garage Services

Highfield
Stockleigh English
Cheriton Fitzpaine
EX17 4DD

www.westernventuregroup.co.uk

Repairs & Recoveries 01363 866725

Western Venture Group Ltd

Pennymoor Singaround

Song and Music Sessions

Song Session:
1st Thursday 12 noon The London Inn, Morchard Bishop,
Contact: Jon 07840 524318

Music Session:
Last Sunday 12 noon Puddington Village Hall, Puddington,
Contact: Claire 01884 860023

Visit Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround
To confirm updated venues or contact:
Biddy: 01271 373305 biddy.mallabone@outlook.com
Jon: 07840 524318 jon_shapley@hotmail.com

Also run by Pennymoor members:

1st Sunday 8.00pm The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath
Contact: Derek 01837 840316

1st Tuesday 8.00pm The Lamb, Sandford, Nr. Crediton
Contact: Hazel or Paul 01363 776275

Last Tuesday 8.00pm The New Inn, Coleford
Contact: Dave 01363 84914

4th Wednesday 8.00pm Stoke Canon Inn, Nr. Exeter
Contact: Paul and Alison 07709 324836

WELCOME TO THE POUGHILL VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB!

The Poughill Village Hall 100 Club is a great way for you to support the Village Hall with the added bonus of the chance of winning a cash prize every month! Here's how it works…

Simply complete and sign a membership form and return it with your payment to the address at the bottom of the form.

This buys you one or more membership numbers which will be entered into the monthly prize draw. Each number costs just £1 per month. Please note all participants must be age 16 or over.

The monthly draw will take place at the Poughill Village Hall Committee meeting (usually the first Tuesday of the month).

The total prize money will be 50% of the membership fee taken that month. The remaining 50% goes to the Village Hall. The more numbers we sell, the higher the cash prizes.

If you are interested, please email poughillvillagehall100club@gmail.com for an application form and a copy of the full rules.

JOIN OUR 100 CLUB TODAY AND YOU COULD BE OUR NEXT WINNER!



LATEST DRAW WINNERS!

June – H Rundle (£30.60), P Colthorpe (£15.30), L Pursey (£5.10)

July – Kate Bulled (£30.60), D Hussell (£15.30), J & L Wild (£5.10)

August – E Hilton (£30.60), S Benyon (£15.30), V Ridley-Rundle (£5.10)