Poughill Parish Newsletter



Issue No 77

June 2026 - August 2026

Next Newsletter September 2026

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

Note from the Editor

The Poughill Village Fete will be making a return in July, however the organisers won't be able to make it happen without your help! You should all have received a flyer through your letterboxes setting out the sort of help required. Don't worry, if you've accidentally thrown it away you will find a copy in this newsletter.

Here's hoping the weather will be kind!

Karen Wellerd k.wellerd@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk

Next Issue - Editorial Copy Deadline: Monday 17th August 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

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Poughill Parish Council

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

March 2026

Finance – The Current Account balance at 01/03/2026 was £2,727.83, plus £1,685.93 in the Instant Access Savings Account. A grant of £400 for the Village Hall was approved. **Streetlight No. 6 Consultation** - DCC responded that they cannot make exceptions to the time at which streetlights are turned off. No further action.

May 2026 (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

Election of Officers - Cllr Wellerd was elected as Chair and Cllr Wild was elected as Vice Chair.

Finance – Registration with the Information Commissioners Office, the Annual Governance and Accounting Returns, the purchase of a bench for the community garden, a grant to Poughill Recreation Ground Trust Park of £114.00 (RoSPA Report) and a 3-year insurance renewal with Community first (£247.39 a year) were all approved. The Current Account balance at 30/04/2026 was £4330.34, plus ££2,687.30 in the Instant Access Savings Account.

Governance - Membership of the various working groups and Planning Committee were confirmed (details are displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard. Cllr Wild was confirmed as the Parish Council's nominated representative on the Village Hall Committee for a period of 12 months.

Planning - New application Ref: 26/00605/FULL Proposal: Variation of Condition (1) of planning permission 24/00331/FULL (Retention of a caravan as a temporary agricultural worker dwelling) to extend temporary planning permission for an additional 2 years. Location: North Edbury. Opposed - We would like to see evidence this is a viable agricultural business. The fumes and the noise from the diesel generator running 24/7 are very upsetting to neighbours. We believe the information regarding the availability of alternate properties within a 1-mile area were inaccurate at the time of reporting.

Next Meeting – 2nd July 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



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



Poughill Village Fete
Sunday 12th July (12 - 4pm)

We're reviving the popular Village Fete to get the people of Poughill together for a bit of fun and family entertainment. Any funds raised will benefit the Village Hall and St Michael & All Angels Church

Entrance will be free and there will be a few stalls and some silly games (Welly Wanging, Hook-a-Duck, Coconut Shy to name a few - there are prizes to be won!), a BBQ, strawberries and cream and, of course, the bar will be open.

We really need your help to make this event a success and we are seeking the following contributions

* A shoe box full of items for the White Elephant stall (could be an excellent opportunity for a mini de-clutter)
* A jam jar filled with sweets/treats/jam/buttons or anything else you can think of for a Jam Jar tombola
* Any Plants or surplus Produce that you may be able to spare (veg from your garden, houseplants, surplus garden plants etc)
* Cakes/traybakes/biscuits etc for the cake stall

Any contributions can be left in the porch of the Church running up to the event, or let us know if you'd like us to collect from you.

If anyone would like to run their own stall or help on the day - all suggestions and offers are very welcome. Please get in touch, in person, with Anne Wander, Tina Clarke or Helen Morton or, alternatively, drop an email to poughillfete@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you on the day!

Village Hall Report - *Julian Wild*

After a pleasant Springtime, and with Summer stretching out ahead of us, the Village and its surroundings are looking at their very best. A good time to be a country dweller (potholes not withstanding). At the Village Hall we've had some good events since I last wrote and the committee continues to beaver away at plans for future events and Hall improvements. Poughill Village Hall also flag-shipped Radio Devon's Village Hall Week coverage in March with Mel Osbourne interviewing me at the top of her show.

In February we held our annual Curry Night with all dishes made by the Committee- we each seem to have a speciality now. It was lovely to see so many people there and for our efforts to be so appreciated. A fixed point in our annual planning!

March was quieter with a Pub Night with Fish and Chips, enjoyed by those who came and keeping things ticking over.

April was the return of The Buffet Breakfast, as fine a full English as you'll find, with Adam Clarke in his element over the kitchen stove. Another much appreciated event.

In the background, ticking away were Laura Galvin's weekly Yoga sessions and the monthly Coffee Mornings run by Sharon Collingwood. Just recently Diana Rossiter's Tai Chi classes have returned and the Coffee Mornings will be run by the Church for the Summer.

By the time you read this, assuming you do, we'll have had yet another of Francis Wellerd's Quiz nights at the end of May. Hopefully another triumph for brain cells and Red Wine!

On Saturday June 13th The Hall Bar will be open for the evening for anyone who wishes to sit and socialise over a drink, hopefully in a lovely Midsummer's evening at the benches and tables outdoors.

And then the big one, The Village Fete. In combination with The Church and suggested and driven by Anne Wander, we're going Old School for the Afternoon of Sunday 12th July. The playground and field will be given over to such things as, coconut shies, welly hurling, plant stall, A White Elephant Stall, Tombola, Cake Stall, Hook-a-Duck. There will be a Bouncy Castle, Strawberries and Cream, a Barbecue, and The Bar will be open. We hope this could be a real Village event for all ages and really bring us together. If you're interested in helping, or have a bright idea, you could perhaps drop an email to poughillfete@gmail.com. One for your Calendar.

Also in the mix are a possible Tapas Night in August and A Harvest Ceilidh in October.

On the Committee front, slow and steady action is being taken on the decorating and Kitchen re-vamping front. James Gordon is booked to come and advise on plumbing matters in the kitchen, and the final bits of panelling are shortly to be put in place, and painted, in the Hall. We can then start on the walls- quite a task.

Plans are underway to replace several worn out windows in the kitchen, and possibly the lobby, to bring everything up to scratch.

The playground will need a damn good weeding before the Fete!

So that brings things up to date. I do hope that you'll get involved in something at The Hall over the Summer and beyond. Support from the village helps us pay our way to keep The Hall viable and gives a reason to our activities.

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Tales from the Old Bill : 12 - *Simon Gibbons*

At some point we were all issued with a set of standard handcuffs. These we carried on our belts in a small leather pouch. At the same time an order was issued that all prisoners should be routinely handcuffed and, when transported in a car, have a second officer sitting in the back with them. The fact that most rural officers worked entirely solo was never mentioned or addressed. It was the first of a whole series of changes that indicated that the world was becoming a more violent place and the unwritten rules between villains and the Old Bill were being inexorably eroded away. Interestingly there was quite a groundswell from officers on the ground that it was partly our own fault that we were heading down this road. As soon as you stopped treating people like people, even if they were villainous, you shouldn't be surprised if they returned the favour with interest. I can vividly recall everyone at constable level vehemently arguing against the police routinely carrying firearms. It was common sense that if we carried them, the gloves would be off and every twopenny shoplifter would be 'tooling' up.

I had good reason to recall the handcuff issue. It must have been around 1983 or 84 as Adam would have been about two or three years old. I had gone round to a house only a few doors down from ours to arrest a young lad called Danny. I can't recall now what exactly it was for but he had just started his 'career' with petty pilfering and very sadly, as was to be the fate of so many young men, it was all to end in extremely sad circumstances. But then he was just a youth, perhaps fifteen or sixteen and we were still on speaking terms. I duly arrested him and then told him that due to a change of policy from HQ I was going to have to handcuff him. We had the inevitable discussion with him saying it wasn't necessary and that he would give me his word he wouldn't run off. He never had in the past, which was true, and so wasn't likely to start now. I told him the decision wasn't mine and unclipped my handcuff pouch. Greatly to my surprise, instead of the pair of shiny chrome handcuffs I was expecting to see, I was greeted by a pouch of very brightly coloured Leggo.

"There's been a slight change of plan here." I said

"What's the problem?"

I showed him. "It seems I've only brought my Leggo with me today. If you held your wrists really still we could try and Leggo them together."

Danny looked at me like I had completely lost my marbles and then the two of us just collapsed into completely uncontrollable laughter. We were still in fits as I drove him down to the station, sitting un-handcuffed in his usual place in the front of the car.

Back home I quizzed Adam, who was just up on his feet, on the matter. Very obligingly he recovered the handcuffs from deep within his Leggo chest, and I did a swap with him.

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Poughill Parish Council Annual Chair's Report - *Karen Wellerd*

We would like to thank those residents who have attended our council meetings and contacted us with their concerns, which have been very few again this year. In response to a concern raised about the speed at which vehicles pass through the village, Devon County Council Highways department carried out a speed watch on our behalf. As you can imagine only a handful of vehicles passed through the village during the observation period. The maximum speed recorded was about 23mph, with most travelling at about 17 mph. We have placed 'Slow, Children and Animals' signs at the key entry points to the village, in the hope that this will encourage all drivers to drive with care through our village.

We liaised with Devon County Council Streetlighting Team on behalf of a resident to minimise the impact of a new LED streetlight installed at Poughill Cross. This involved consulting with residents due to the light being located close to the junction and the village hall car park.

Towards the end of the year, we awarded a grant to the Village Hall of £400 to help with the purchase of much needed new kitchen equipment. We would like to remind our community organisations that there will be a small amount of grant funding available again this year to help with the valuable work they do for the village. Our Grant Giving Policy can be found on our website, together with a short application form.

We continue to produce the quarterly newsletter, which is delivered free of charge to all households in the Parish and will continue to do so over the coming year. Our thanks go to all those who provide articles, we couldn't produce the newsletter without them. We will be asking residents for their views on whether we should move to a digital format in future. Please keep an eye out for this, your opinions matter to us.

As ever, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and our Clerk for their continued commitment to the Parish Council, it is much appreciated.

And finally, the next Parish Council elections are due to take place in May 2027. This is when all registered electors in the Parish have the opportunity to stand for election, including the incumbent officers. I would encourage all residents to consider standing for election. I know it's still 12 months away, but time flies when you're having fun!

St Michael and all Angels
Hymns and Pimms
July 5th 4pm



Sing those poignant hymns with summer refreshment. Is there a song you haven't sung for a long time, or a favourite that conjures memories?

Contact stmichaelandaa@gmail.com with your request. Come along and our organist will do her best to regale! If there are many hymn suggestions, a few verses of each will be sung.



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Diary date: Sept 27th Harvest 9:30am

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Great British Rainforests - *Derryck Morton*

We talk about the weather so much because it is so varied; that's what makes us British! So I wonder if the populations along the western seaboard would appear unusually friendly because they have more varied weather to open casual conversations? The Atlantic is responsible for bringing more warm humid air onto our land than is seen at similar latitudes around the globe – we are at the same angular location as Moscow and Hudson Bay, but our weather is damp and less cold due to the influence of the sea. It follows that the growing conditions on the west coast would be different to those of the central or eastern areas. This map shows that about 20% of the country is of what is called Oceanic Climate. Within this area, the growing conditions exist to form a 'temperate rainforest'. It is humid all year round, less susceptible to frosts, has high rainfall and when abundant in tree-cover, does not dry out as much as moorland. The second picture shows the scattered remnants of what was once continuous tree cover with profuse epiphytic growth (non-parasitic plants that grow on other plants). Our temperate rainforests are not what they were.





Great Britain is ideally placed and holds roughly 40% of Europe's temperate rainforest habitat. Dartmoor has some fine examples of these verdant landscapes. Scotland especially retains a good number of sites but the problem facing them is that due to separation from each other and the nature of their surrounding pastureland, grazing not only denudes the edges of the woodland through bark stripping and sapling removal but also allows a drying wind

into the open edges of what should be a humid environment and outward-regeneration is therefore stunted. An understory of bushy plants around the edges would aid regrowth and a healthy ecology; however, grazing prevents this understory from forming. Surviving fragments are also threatened by invasive species such as rhododendron and also climate change. Attempts are being made, not only to protect the grazing of the edges of these rare habitats but also to encourage regrowth between pockets of disassociated patches, to form corridors along which resident animals can travel whilst performing their important roles in the ecology of the woodlands.

This will share gene pools and increase floral diversity which bolsters the stability of the rainforest habitats.

These unique biospheres are where the growing conditions are right for a select variety of plants. There are over 700 species of moss in the UK, part of a wider group of over 1,000 bryophyte species, which includes liverworts, lungworts and hornworts. Over 58% of European bryophytes are found here.

Do you know your Tree Lungwort from your Crescent-cup Liverwort? Look up a Temperate Rainforest fragment the next time you are out and about, pay a visit and come away having had an unforgettable experience.



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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 **1st June 2026**.

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

Weekly Village Hall Events

Tai Chi/Qigong - Tuesdays, 6.00pm - 6.45pm

In the village hall field or if raining in the hall. The cost is a donation of £5 to the village hall per session. No equipment needed just turn up in comfortable clothing for a relaxing session of gentle stretching and breathing exercises with Diana Rossiter.

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

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* Disco
* Meeting/large event
* Wedding
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Walking the Walk (5) - …and What Else - *Polly Colthorpe*

Catwalk and photographic modelling may be the high profile elements of the job but, unless you are lucky enough to be one of those models inelegantly described in the trade's jargon as 'huge girls' ('huge' as in 'huge reputation'), you are likely to spend at least as much of your time and probably more doing 'promotions' as a 'demonstrator'. This doesn't mean you will be wearing a duffle coat and waving a placard - though I did once do exactly that as an extra in the film 'A Day in the Death of Joe Egg'* - but it does mean work, often at a time of year when the catwalk is quiet. Promotions can be anything from perfume to parlour wear (that's *milking* parlour) and, yes, I did perfume and parlour wear and many others besides - the spectrum was wide.

In 1960s Bristol, there were two tall warehouses down on the quay which, among other dutiable goods, held tons of imported tobacco 'in bond' until the duty was paid. W.D & H.O. Wills' family business (now part of Imperial Tobacco) was based in Bristol and, between their 'Embassy' and Nottingham-based Players' top brand, No.6, competition was keen. Players, with a depot on the Wills' doorstep, used my agent and I did a lot of work for them - first as part of a team, then with Panda, another girl from the agency. We spent the whole of one summer free-range in the West Country: Polly and Panda from Players, promoting a different brand every month in matching uniforms and a liveried car. We made our own hotel bookings and, when we found an hotel with a private beach, the manager proved only too happy for us to work on it so we bought matching bikinis and (top '60s beach accessory) Ambre Solaire. When we were invited to an event which required evening dress, we rang our supervisor and she sent us long frocks in (the year's new brand) Carlton's smart mulberry. When the company was the main sponsor or management wanted to field a big team, we did official Players' fixtures; we went to all the county shows; we went to cricket matches from Moreton-in-Marsh to Taunton; horse racing at Larkhill and motor racing at Silverstone, all the 'Players girls' in Gold Leaf's red, white and gold for Team Lotus.

Only once did we have any trouble. We had ordered a dozen cases of Panama cigars which the Bristol depot sent by train for us to collect. Only eleven of them arrived and, at £72 a case, that was going to be a serious discrepancy in our accounts at the end of the month. We reported our missing box to the transport police and everyone else we could think of and nothing happened. We made a row and all that happened was that someone rather senior in the Players' hierarchy explained to us, gently, that somewhere along the way the twelfth box would have been seen as - shall we call it 'the angels' share'? He said that of course he understood our point of view but it 'wasn't worth upsetting people' about. Panda and I were somewhat less relaxed about it but, on a wholly different scale, a similar story had been going the rounds about the Cunarder QE2. Launched by the Queen on 20th September 1967, QE2 was the last word in '60s luxury, with a television set in every cabin. It was said, however, that for every set which actually made it to fit-up, another had gone awol en route. The Swinging '60s had their darker side.

Each spring and autumn I spent a fortnight modelling for a rep. from a firm which had originally made rainwear and had long since expanded to include coats and jackets, suits, skirts, dresses and trousers. Peter the Rep. had been booking the same room at the Royal Hotel for years; he had a long list of clients in and around Bristol and he arranged appointments at specific times on specific days. So, on Monday he would say, 'We've got Mrs. Thorne from the Clothes House this morning and she's coming with Mrs. Simpson from Jane's in Bath so please can you make sure there's fresh coffee and biscuits for four at 10.30? Mrs. Green - you know, The Boutique by the Bridge - she'll

be coming in about midday; they all get on well so they'll be happy looking at the rails together and I've ordered sandwiches for five at 1.00.'

Mesdames Thorne, Simpson and Green run what are known in the trade as 'Madam' shops; the owner will be the buyer as well as the head of sales (and, if the truth be told, is often the cleaner as well). She is always a great advertisement for her shop, beautifully turned out, coiffured and made up. She will know most of her customers by name and, because they are her friends and neighbours, she will know what is going on in their lives. Thus, while she and her colleagues are browsing the rails in the Royal Hotel's big front room, she will be telling them 'Maddie's daughter is getting married in August - the bridesmaids' dresses are peach-coloured so I'm looking for something special for Maddie that'll stand out and blend in at the same time!' Her colleagues will know exactly what she means because they too are buying with people they know in mind.

Sometimes one of them will take something from the rail, hold it at arm's length and say 'I love this material but I'm not sure about the style. Could you slip it on for me, love?' You take the hanger and disappear behind the curtains-on-rails which form your changing room, put on the cream frock she wants to see, and dress it up with a scarf at the neck. 'I wonder - do they do it in red? One of my ladies loves a good winter frock in red.' You find the swatch book for her - it contains line drawings and/or descriptions of each garment with reference numbers and small pieces (swatches) of the material in each of the available colours. Later, when she sits down with a sandwich and Peter the Rep., she will make her careful selections with this book to hand and perhaps jot down a private 'note to self' to remind her which item she intended for whom.

Unfortunately, some of these hopefully chosen garments will never be made if sufficient orders are not forthcoming nationwide. You can be certain that anything in turquoise, navy, camel or black will be manufactured in dozens; reds, browns and maroon are pretty safe too but green - any shade of green - is peculiarly sensitive to this form of selection so Mrs. Jones at Mitzi's, with a decade of experience under her belt, will be disappointed but not surprised when the striking emerald green suit which she ordered for one of her best customers fails to make the final cut.

On Thursday afternoon Peter the Rep. has booked in three buyers and a floor manager from an upmarket department store and they're bringing a couple of trainees with them. He has ordered tea and cake and cleared the diary for the whole afternoon - department stores should not, in his view, be expected to share the space with other buyers. You have a busy afternoon showing clothes. These are samples, probably made at speed, and the fit varies across the range. A safety pin here, rolling a waistband there or donning your highest heels instead of 'flatties' can make all the difference. By now, a lot of your own wardrobe has migrated to the Royal Hotel's front room because the company Peter represents does not make blouses, shirts or jumpers. You, on the other hand, need things to wear with the trousers, the skirts, the suits and the ever- popular pinafore dress. As a model, some of the cost of your shoes, clothes, make up and hairdressing will be tax deductible but - a word of warning - be careful what you wear to work.

One day, one of the Madam shop ladies remarked that she loved the sweater I was wearing. 'Jaegar, isn't it? I bought a jumper there this winter but it wasn't one of the expensive ones like yours.' It was kindly meant but Peter the Rep. never employed me again.

**A Day in the Death of Joe Egg - black comedy stage play by Peter Nichols (first staged Glasgow, 1967). Filmed 1969/70 with the author's own screenplay, it starred Alan Bates & Janet Suzman; was directed by Peter Medak and, released in 1972, won several awards. Multiple stage revivals.*

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



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or telephone for a friendly chat: 01884 861186

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!

March – A & L Barker (£30.60), A & L Barker (£15.30), H Jones McVey (£5.10)

April – S Marshall (£30.60), A & L Barker (£15.30), S Benyon (£5.10)

May – J & L Wild (£30.60), D Pursey (£15.30), D Rossiter (£5.10)