Poughill Parish Newsletter



Issue No 68

March 2024 - May 2024

Next Newsletter June 2024

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

Note from the Editor

Eagle-eyed readers will notice that the Newsletter is slightly thinner than usual! I have my regular contributors, and the occasional one-off, but I am always on the lookout for more. I'm sure there must be some budding writers out there who want to share their favourite recipes, gardening tips, local history, walking routes, poems, short stories, wildlife facts, or in fact anything that you think would be of interest to our readers. Whether you are young, old or somewhere in the middle, please contact me by whatever method you prefer - all contributions will be most gratefully received!

Karen Wellerd k.wellerd@gmail.com

Next Issue - Editorial Copy Deadline: Monday 13th May 2024

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 £6.00, including postage, contact:
Karen Wellerd k.wellerd@gmail.com

Poughill Parish Council Contact Information

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County Councillor	Margaret Squires
Parish Council email	poughillparishclerk@gmail.com

Poughill Parish Council

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

November 2023

Finance – Payments of £571.61 were made and £3.06 was received since the last meeting. An increase in the clerk's salary from SCP5 to SCP7 with effect from 1st Dec 2023 was approved.

Update on Actions - *Poor state of roads* - Clerk to write to the DCC Highways Stakeholder Liaison Team to enquire whether there are any plans to re-surface or patch any of the roads in Poughill.

Planning – *New applications* - None. *Determined* - None.

January 2024

Finance – Payments of £545.55 were made and £18.70 was received since the last meeting. The budget and precept for 2024/25 were approved.

Update on Actions - *Poor state of roads* - Response from DCC Highways - "Following the period of extended wet weather that we have experienced over the festive period the Highways and Traffic Management Service has experienced a significant increase in the number of potholes reported by the public and recorded through the Highway Safety Inspection process. This increase in numbers highlights the fragile nature of our carriageways due to the long term lack of capital funding, leading to under investment. This situation is undoubtably going to get worse over the next couple of weeks as the current cold spell leads to further deteriorations due to freeze thaw effects. If you receive direct contact by members of the public regarding potholes it would help if they are encouraged to use the 'report a problem' webpages www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/". *Naming an unnamed street* - Given the potential cost, the resident has decided not to proceed.

Planning – *New applications* - None. *Determined* - None.

Next Meeting – Thursday 11th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



POLICE CONTACT NUMBER
General Enquiries – 101
Crediton@dc_police.uk

Your Local Officers are;
PCSO Nikki Payne, PCSO Lisa McMillan, PC Neil Minehan and PC Dan Armitage

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

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Village Hall Report - *Julian Wild*

The end of January saw The Village Hall Trust Annual General Meeting and a rounding off of a very busy and constructive year- an exciting one for my first as Secretary. It seemed only fitting that it coincided with the conclusion of the two major projects undertaken in 2023; the re-roofing of the back of The Hall, and the re-building of the playground wall to the east. Both tasks uncovered surprises which had to be improvised round by our excellent contractors, John and Glen. Costs were, unsurprisingly, higher than expected, but not as much as feared at one point! New slates were used on the roof, as the old ones were badly damaged, and 79 of the new tiles were inscribed with sponsors names prior to attachment. £900 was raised from this sponsorship. Thanks to all concerned. We also have a fine new double glazed kitchen window, replacing the decayed and broken one, courtesy of Hannah and Ivan Johnson- a window removed from their house being a perfect fit. All of this was project-managed by Paul Mapp, to whom we are very grateful.

There is a lot of clearing up to be done from the playground, so it is best avoided for now! The committee plan to refurbish the outside space ready for Spring and Summer events. We also hope to re-decorate inside the Hall.

Activities since the last report:

17th November saw the return of the Quiz night with Quizmaster Francis, and pasties from Adam Clarke. A really good night.

15th December, after the Carol Service in the Church, mulled cider and mince-pies were consumed in the Hall while the Christmas Hamper draws took place. £285 was raised from ticket sales for the hampers.

Throughout the Christmas period the Living Advent Calendar organised by the committee amused and delighted the Village with its displays.

Looking ahead:

Saturday 24th February is Curry Night! Doors open at 6.30 for food at 7.00. A selection of curries, dhal, rice, sides and sweets will be available at £10 for adults, £5 for children. Plus, of course, a Bar.

Sunday 24th March - 9am - 10.30am - Buffet Style Breakfast. £6 adults/£5 children.

Sunday 21st April - St. George's Day Sunday Roast.

In May/June a music/performance event is under consideration. More info as available.

Hope to see lots of you at the forthcoming events; your support makes all the things we do as a committee possible. The more you support us, the more we can do!

Are you awesome?

We are looking for a Chef de Partie to work in our fresh food restaurant.

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We are also looking for Kitchen Porters.

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Cheriton Fitzpaine Community Shop News

As you may be aware, the Methodist Chapel has unfortunately decided to close its doors for the very last time at Easter this year. The Chapel will be offered for sale towards the end of 2024. The Community Shop Management Committee are keen to ensure the future of the village shop and would love to purchase the property and maintain it as a community asset.

We believe that we could be successful in achieving grants to purchase the property which would give an opportunity to create an exciting new venue in the village. It could provide space for many options but, for it to be a success, it would need to provide what the community wants, without competing with the excellent facilities at the Parish Hall.

We would like to remind you that we are a not-for-profit community organization, which means that any profits that are made can only be used to benefit the community.

In larger premises we could stock a larger range of products. Where possible, we would prefer some of the additional products to be locally produced and sourced to support local businesses.

Did you know that you can support the shop by being a shareholder? Buying a share for £20 will give the opportunity for the shop to attract grants turning into £100.

Finally, the shop needs a few more volunteers to maintain the current opening hours. New volunteers always work alongside an existing volunteer and you do not necessarily have to use the till. There are other roles available within the shop. If you are interested in joining an enthusiastic team of volunteers, then please call into the shop and speak to the shop manager. Alternatively call 866308 or email cfcommunityshop@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.

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

Pennymoor Singaround

Song and Music Sessions

Song Sessions: 1st Thursday – 12 noon The London Inn, Morchard Bishop, Nr. Crediton
Contact: Jon 07840 524318
3rd Wednesday 7.30pm The Lamb, Sandford, Nr. Crediton
Contact: Jon 07840 524318
Music Session: Last Sunday 12 noon Half Moon Inn, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Contact Claire 01884860023

Visit Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround
To confirm updated venues or contact:
Biddy: 01271 373305 biddy.mallabone@outlook.com
Jon: 01363 83740 – jon_shapley@hotmail.com

Also run by Pennymoor members:

1st Sunday 8.00pm The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath
Contact: Derek 01837840316

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 – 8.30pm Stoke Canon Inn, Nr. Exeter
Contact: Paul and Alison 07709324836

Pennymoor Folk - *Alison Bloomer*

Pennymoor Folk is an organisation that originated in Pennymoor, 40 years ago, but now meet up in various locations in and around mid-Devon. For example, stretching from North to South we have Morchard Bishop to Stoke Canon and East to West we have Cheriton Fitzpaine to Coleford.

We meet up in pubs and enjoy an informal evening of mostly traditional music and song where people can sing songs or play tunes and some people just listen or sing along in the choruses for example. It is a thing that would have happened in many, many pubs in the past. Lots of people are aware of the music tradition in Ireland of course, but not so many are aware that we have a living tradition of music and song here in the UK... and we are trying to keep it going! We also support/organise special events too, such as the annual Jan Stewer Evening in Puddington and a Song and Ale weekend in Morchard Bishop.

People travel several miles, quite happily, to join in the various sessions and we would love to see more new faces – to join in or just to enjoy listening. There is no charge; just support the pubs by having a drink! The sessions always have a half-time break in proceedings so its very friendly and sociable – so a chance to meet some new people perhaps.

You can see exactly where and when the regular sessions take place in the advert opposite – come and help keep English music alive and enjoy yourself at the same time!

St. Michael & All Angels

Poughill church services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 9:30am.

Due to the shortage of priests after the death of Revd Robert Gordon (Team Vicar for North Creedy West) in November, Poughill's **Easter service** will be held in St. Mathew's church, Cheriton Fitzpaine at 11:15am.

The Cross Country Magazine has now gone digital. It gives information, support and advertisements to members of the local group of parishes and is to be called "Crediton Rural Ministry Hub Post". It is available by email from our Team Vicar, Janet May. If you would like a copy emailed to you, please contact her and ask to be included in the email list.

Revd Janet May
Team Vicar Designate
North Creedy and Crediton Ministry Hub
Tel: 01363 779363
Email: janetmay69@gmail.com

Tales from the Old Bill : 5 : Violence and Birdsong - *Simon Gibbons*

True to form little incidents continued to happen down 'the strip' all of which I guess were inexorably moulding me into your ubiquitous British Bobby. One night I was standing out of the way in a dark recessed doorway. Although similar to a thousand other doorways it was carefully chosen as it missed the glare of the street lights and you could stand there out of the rain and not only watch the world go by but more importantly hear it. At night, after the traffic calmed down, you could hear a shop or car window being put in over several hundred yards.

I'd been there some time when a man walked past with one arm circling a very willing girl. They stopped immediately in front of my doorway and whilst engaged in a very passionate snogging match, the man undid his flies and proceeded to urinate into the doorway and actually over my boots. I leaned forward till my mouth was literally about half an inch from his ear and very quietly whispered " Don't piss on my boots, son." It was like a bomb had gone off! He screamed and jumped about a foot in the air. She, taken completely aback, screamed and followed suit and then the two of them ran down the road doing little twirls and circles and screaming the place down like it was "Night of the living dead" or something. Funniest damn thing I ever saw.

Another night, another lunatic trying to kill us all. I was riding 'shotgun' in the old Commer wagon ferrying some drunk psychopath back to the nick. Technically I was supposed to be in the back steel cage with him. Defying orders for the day and fearing for my life I opted for the front passenger seat trying to avoid the worst of his spit that he keeps gobbing through the heavy grill whilst telling me he will remember me. I'm dead, my children are dead, he's going **** my wife, my mother, me, endlessly on and on whilst smashing his fists and head against the inside of the van with blood flicking everywhere. Half way to the station there's a terrific crash and looking round I see the back doors are swinging wide open and he's gone. We slide to a stop and I jump out scanning the road fully expecting to see a running figure but there nothing, just the empty road. Then I see him crumpled up in the road, hard up against the kerb about forty yards behind the van. He's out cold with an impressive head wound with thick blood slowly snaking its way down the gutter. Inspecting the rear doors of the van he has bent the steel restraining bar that's about two inched wide and half an inch thick like a bit of putty. All the welded hasps are snapped clean off and lie scattered over the road. Having got him to hospital we're obliged to guard him all night whilst he snores the place down waiting to have his head stitched up.

It seems it's never going to stop and we all just crash around in it night after night, shift after shift. Then suddenly at about four in the morning I was down the very far end of Union Street when, in a black leafless tree, about fifteen feet above my head, a nightingale started singing. I knew it was a nightingale because I've never heard such ecstatic singing before or since. An endless liquid trill, never repeating itself, just going on and on whilst I stood there completely transfixed and that crazy damn city finally went to sleep.



Bag It and Bin It!

I have noticed an increasing number of dog poo deposits when on my daily dog walk along the roads heading out of the village.

Please bag the poo and take it home to put in your black bin or place it the public bin in the village hall car park, it's not difficult and makes such a difference.

Thank you!

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The Eyes Have It - *Derryck Morton*

Eyes are ubiquitous in the animal kingdom. From ants to apes, shrimps to whelks, turtles to caterpillars. There are species that don't presently possess eyes but that is a product of evolutionary reduction, as their ancestors certainly did have eyes. Eyes can be found in a variety of designs and yet the gene that initiates eye growth, regardless of type, is common to all animals, which indicates eyes follow a genetic plan that is very old. Although eyes come in a variety of forms, there is a common ancestor with a 'make eyes' gene for all the animal kingdom, regardless of what eye design is grown. This early ancestor can be found 750 to 1250 million years ago in the later Precambrian, which rapidly diversified in the Cambrian that followed. It has been found that the squid Loligo opalescens, carries a gene very similar in its nucleotide sequence to a mouse gene called Pax-6. In squid embryos, it is active in the brain, olfactory organs, and the iris and lens of the eye; all places where the protein Pax-6 is needed in mice to grow an eye as well. Similarly, when Drosophila fruit flies were forced to activate Pax-6 genes in locations other than the head, the fly sprouted eyes where the researcher had predicted.

The earliest eyes must have been simple cells that responded to light in a similar way that your skin can detect warmth; after all, light and infrared radiation are just different wavelengths on the same spectrum. The evolving eyes in different branches of animal lineage pursued the most satisfactory design for the environment in which the animals lived. Once a novel type had been started, it was a matter of improvement upon improvement until more complex eyes of differing constructs existed. There are ten types of eye presently in the animal kingdom.

Striking similarities between the eyes of jawed vertebrates are far too numerous to have arisen independently; so it follows that an eye with essential similarities in function to our own must have been present in the common ancestor of the jawed vertebrates 500 million years ago. In other creatures, similarities of type show common ancestry in those branches too. The further back in time, the simpler the eye, until, as stated above, we find the common ancestor of all with the first tentative ability to perceive light and dark, in the Precambrian.

Beginning during the early Cambrian, an arthropod of multifarious species filled all oceans of the early Earth. It is one of my favourites; the Trilobite. Looking somewhat like a woodlouse or a sea slater (though not related), they can be found within a 300 million year period in the fossil record, from the size of a 1p piece to that of a skateboard, and sporting the first sophisticated visual systems of the animal kingdom. The compound eyes of trilobites are a striking feature; different in shapes, positions and density of lenses. They are based on the same chemistry as their carapaces, calcium carbonate, but in the case of the eyes themselves, calcite. As most school children know, a clear calcite crystal when placed on a page of script, will double the image seen through it. This is called birefringence and is due

to the orientation-dependent differences in the refractive indices of the molecular structure. The light is refracted internally creating two images in axis a and axis b, whereas axis c does not show this effect and the trilobite makes use of this abundant material for its eye lenses with axis c as its optical axis. The animals can be divided by their eyes into two groups, holochroal and schizochroal. The first having a simple prism of calcite through which light travels rather like through a fibre optic cable, down to the individual light receptor at the base of the structure. The eyes of the second group are more complex as the calcite crystal is formed into a lens and the base of the eye has many receptors per lens which create the image. The structure becomes even more wonderful to comprehend when it is realised that a simple lens can cause a poor image due to what is called spherical and chromatic aberration. That is, the outer portion of the image may be out of focus and split into the colours of the rainbow due to wavelengths refracting through the lens at differing angles. The cure is to over-focus the image, then use a second lens of a different refractive index in reverse to 'bend back' the spherical and chromatic error and so correct the image. This the trilobites of the schizochroal group have done by building a lens of calcite with the addition of magnesium below, thus creating what we term an optical doublet. Amazing!

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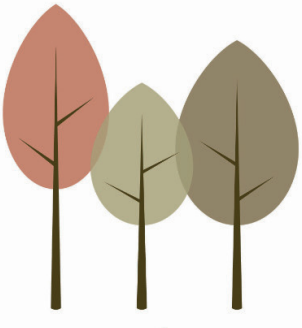
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WELCOME TO THE POUGHILL VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB!

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 Monday 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!

December – S Burnand (£33.30), Kate Bulled (£16.65), R Taylor (£5.55)

January – S Burnand (£33.30), K Willcocks (£16.65), Kevin Bulled (£5.55)

February – J & L Wild (£33.30), Kevin Bulled (£16.65), N Moon (£5.55)