Poughill Parish Newsletter



Issue No 70

September 2024 - November 2024

Next Newsletter December 2024

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

Note from the Editor

Many thanks to Janet Akins for volunteering to write a new regular article on 'good mental health', starting with rural mental health. Janet would welcome your suggestions for any specific mental health issues you would like her to cover in future editions.

I had a little chuckle to myself when I read about Polly's experiences with letter boxes - I know exactly what she means!

Simon and Debbie give us an update on their Churchyard rewilding trial, which seems to be having beneficial results so far.

Karen Wellerd k.wellerd@gmail.com

Next Issue - Editorial Copy Deadline: Monday 18th November 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 £8.00, including postage, contact:
Karen Wellerd k.wellerd@gmail.com

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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/

July 2024

Finance – The Current Account balance at 27/06/2024 was £4,398.78, plus £1,662.07 in the Instant Access Savings Account. Financial Regulations V1.2 was approved.

Governance - Statement of Internal Control V1.1 was approved.

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

Next Meeting – 5th Sep 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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Liz Taylor family@rogers.org or 07770 345845



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

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
Iusic Session: Last Sunday 12 noon Half Moon Inn, Cheritor 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

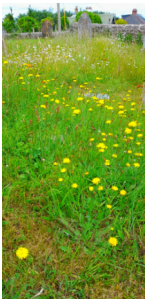
4th Wednesday – 8.30pm Stoke Canon Inn, Nr. Exeter
Contact: Paul and Alison 07709324836

Rewilding Poughill Churchyard Update - *Simon Gibbons*



This is the first year that we have tried to re-wild and all the signs have been encouraging. Both sides of the entrance path were left uncut resulting first of all in a substantial line of Tete-a-tete daffodils which were followed by self seeding ox eye daisies and a myriad of long grass' that provided endless movement in the breeze. This autumn plans are in hand to plant more short stems daffodils (the tall ones have a tendency to fall in the wind) extending the existing line. Plans are also in hand to plant the long mound to the left of the entrance porch with spring bulbs including more daffodils, snowdrops, crocuses and other bulbs that would suit the location. The mound itself is also a little bit interesting in that, although it holds several impressive head stones there is no explanation as to why, out of the entire grave yard this particular bit should have been raised by several feet. On the plus side it is not somewhere that people walk so the new bulbs should be free to come up 'unmolested' so to speak.





Ashley Cheriton who is the man doing all the hard work of actually mowing the surrounds, a tricky job as you may imagine with all the grave markers to go around, has left several 'Test areas' uncut and these, like the pieces each side of the path have produced some starting results. Not least once again big white daisies up to 2ft tall have appeared in their droves forming swaying white masses between the old stones. Self heal, birdsfoot trefoils, buttercups, orange hawk-weed and purple toadflax. We are hoping to introduce some foxgloves that, being biennials we have already started this year to flower next. Hopefully after that they should self seed.



Although no hedgehogs have been seen, their droppings have so we do know that come night time they are definitely trundling round. On the day of the barbecue (10th August) a barn owl was seen flying across from the churchyard despite it being the middle of the day! A hawk of unknown type was also seen flying off from the top of the tall trees behind the church and landing on the top of the church tower. It may have been responsible for the jackdaw lying in the church yard as clearly a bird of prey had stripped all the feathers from its breast and eaten one side. Interestingly the exposed area was attracting numerous wasps that were landing on the exposed carcass which is something I have never seen before.

If anyone has any other ideas, comments or would like to help in anyway please feel free to contact Simon and Deborah at 3 The Glebe, phone 866765 or email simon.beekeeper@gmail.com.

FURSDON, CADBURY, DEVON, EX5 5JS

www.fursdon.co.uk 01392 860860

admin@fursdon.co.uk

Come and enjoy a September stroll in the garden or simply sample our delicious home baking in the Coach Hall tea room.

GARDENS & TEAS: 2-5pm every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon until the end of September.
We are very happy to welcome dogs on leads.

FURSDON COTTAGE

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VENUE HIRE - COACH HALL

Our Coach Hall tearoom is a lovely atmospheric venue for all sorts of occasions, from birthdays and tea-parties to dinners, coffee mornings, lunches and more!
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Village Hall Report - *Julian Wild*

I think the drift of my piece this Issue is that Committees, like everyone else, need to take their foot off the pedal from time to time. So it has proved over the last couple of months as holidays and commitments to friends and family have meant things have temporarily been put on the shelf. Nonetheless, plans have still been plotted and successful events have taken place.

The plans for re-decorating the hall have been held up by the need for some work to be done on the front of the hall, and builders appearing and then disappearing without trace. Very frustrating! Plans for the new Kitchen have also had to be put on hold till the damage to the kitchen roof is sorted and it is made stronger. Asbestos may be involved so we are hunting the right builder for the job. All this to be driven forward in the Autumn.

On the Events front we have re-visited two old favourites, and introduced a new one.

Saturday 18th May saw a Coffee Morning with more of the famed Committee Cakes. It was less well attended than most due to clashing with Cheriton's big event and The Devon County Show! We live and learn. However, much enjoyed by those who attended and a financial success.

Saturday 22nd June was the new thing - Pub Night. The Hall was transformed into "The Leaky Roof", complete with its own sign and beer mats. As well as the well-stocked bar and some of Adam's delicious bar snacks, there were loads of table games as well as darts, pool, and table football. There was a great deal of laughter, and fun was had. Now we have the gear, we shall definitely re-visit this.

It was found impossible to find a date in July when enough organisers were available, so the BBQ was moved into August. Saturday 10th to be precise. It was a warm day and the rain stayed away! The Committee beavered away with marquees, tables, benches and bunting in the, now cleared and tidied playground, through Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Adam charged up the coals, the bar opened, and 50 adults and 14 children got stuck in. The Bouncy Castle was kept busy. One of those lovely occasions that make it all worthwhile; a good contribution to the Hall's running costs, too.

What's next? Well, September 28th will be a Spanish themed night - expect paella, tapas etc. Late October (date to be confirmed) sees the return of the ever-popular Quiz Night with quizmaster Francis. November looks like being some kind of Cider and food taster session. We're still looking at some sort of music event - possibly in December.

Hope to see you there!

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Rural Life and Good Mental Health - *Janet Akins*



A rose-tinted view of rural living made its way into the national psyche over many years, possibly helped along by representations of an idyllic country life in film and television. While we are lucky to have great local pubs, social events in our vibrant village hall, a strong community spirit, and some beautifully tinted roses around local doors, rural living brings a different set of challenges to those of our urban counterparts.

Living in the heart of Devon can mean a lack of local services, employment opportunities and leisure activities. Rural living can be isolating, and whilst this fosters community spirit and self-reliance, it can leave individuals and families, struggling with mental health, reluctant to speak out. They may feel stigmatised because they are not able to 'push through' the bad times, or fear becoming a source of local gossip. Our farming families have numerous challenges to navigate, including price fluctuations, changing agricultural policies, TB testing, and mountains of red tape. DEFRA has said that rural communities may often be missing out on an effective, well targeted, mental health plan. This leaves our families, friends and neighbours vulnerable when things go wrong. So, what can we do to support ourselves and our local community?

One resource we have in abundance is our green space and evidence suggests that the greater our active engagement with it, the greater the positive impact on our mental health. While out on a walk, taking photographs, sketching impressive views, identifying bird song, or looking for today's crazy cloud shapes are all small ways to increase an active interest in the natural world. This is not a miracle cure for serious mental health issues, but small behavioural changes can impact our everyday wellbeing, building resilience for the tough times.

The world of social media is available to many of our residents, and can be a source for good. Online friendships, connections, and support groups can be just as rewarding as those in the real world, and may be preferred by some. Helplines such as RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution on 0800 188 4444) and YANA (You Are Not Alone on 0300 323 0400) are free to call and provide help for rural businesses and their families. The local doctor's surgery can also be a useful place for information on local and national support groups, or perhaps consider starting your own! Whatever you are dealing with, the one certainty is that you are not the only one, and finding your tribe means you never struggle alone.

Building an everyday life that works for you, energises and inspires you, along with seeking those who share your interests and values, mean when the curve balls come, you start from a place of strength.

If there are any specific mental health issues you would like to see me write about in future editions, please contact me on openworldtherapy@gmail.com. Thank you 😊

Campaign Tales from the (Devon) Hills - *Polly Colthorpe*

It is no accident that the language of the election **campaign** is borrowed from the military because it really is a battleground out there. If you're **fighting** an election, you will be **in the front line**; **operating** in the **target area** and gathering intel while your **campaign H.Q**. will be **calling the shots**, providing the **ammunition** and, you hope, providing at least some of the **boots on the ground** as well. The **enemy**, broadly speaking, encompasses all the other candidates and their parties but it is just possible that, as the campaign progresses, you may begin to wonder about your own party, and, particularly, about campaign H.Q. For you, the humble **foot soldier** though, it's less about the **tactics** and **strategy** and more about leaflets, letter boxes and dogs.

The leaflet is your primary weapon; you have probably written some of it yourself and most likely you will deliver it yourself, as it turns out that yours, after all, are the only boots on your particular bit of the ground. Reinforcements come in the shape of more leaflets and the calling card which carries your name and telephone number and invites your prospective residents to contact you. Some residents will take you up on this so, for the duration, the sound of your 'phone becomes a call to arms, immediately followed by an apprehensive lurch of the stomach and the mad dash to get to (or find) your 'phone before it stops ringing. You have no idea what will follow: the caller may be friendly or hostile, you never know – whatever it is will come out of the blue.

Letter boxes now. Useful things, letter boxes, inoffensive and – well, useful. Sometimes the first challenge is to find the thing; it can be anywhere from immediately outside the gate inwards and can be anything from a re-purposed recycling box to designer cast iron. If you're lucky and the receptacle is in plain sight, it may save you a walk so should be seriously considered. If you can't see the house from the road it may be a long trek but when you get there you still have to find – and negotiate – the letter box. In the door it can be horizontal or vertical, somewhere between eye level and ground level or cunningly disguised as part of a polished brass finger plate. Older types are often highly ornate but were designed for single-sheet letters, folded small, and politely resist your A3 leaflet. More modern versions may have strong springs which can snap the flap while you attempt to introduce your leaflet and some have a piece of carpet hanging inside to keep the draughts out: they will keep your leaflet out too, returning it to you with accordion pleats which were not part of the original concept. Some front doors have no letter box at all.

In the countryside most farming households habitually use the back door, rather than the front, so it might be worth making a recce 'round the back' to see if you can find any obvious delivery site. 'Round the back', though, presents its own risks. Free-range poultry often guard the approaches and the flock may include geese. Juno's sacred geese guarded the Capitoline and were said to have saved Rome from invasion by the Gauls: Devon's geese uphold the tradition nobly. Unemployed sheep dogs waiting patiently to be needed will round up anything that offers, including stray election candidates. The

children's pet lamb from last year, still hopefully haunting the buildings, will welcome you warmly but may also head-butt the back of your knees if you can't produce the expected treat.Once you've found the letter box (or equivalent), you can of course put your leaflet through it but this needs careful consideration. If the postman has already delivered, there is a risk that the householder, when he or she finds a leaflet lying on top of the day's post, will naturally assume that the leaflet – your leaflet, delivered by you, yourself, in person, with your own (printer's ink-stained) hands – came with the post and away goes any hope you may have had of a brownie point or two for going there yourself. If the daily post is catered for with a separate box (see above), you might like to consider an alternative delivery via the front door if it has its own letter box or, better still, directly into the householder's own hands if he/she is at home. Your choice.

I'm very fond of dogs; as a general rule I get on pretty well with dogs but, when a campaign is under way I put a first aid kit in my car. It contains a small bottle of iodine, some cotton wool, a packet of plasters and some aspirin. The most somnolent dog can move with astonishing speed at the sound of the letter box and the ancestors of the beloved resident canine drowsing peacefully within pioneered vertical take-off and landing long before the Harrier jump-jet was conceived or even imagined. The beloved resident canine, leaping for the letter box through which you are in the act of inserting your leaflet, may not intend his/her/its teeth to occupy the same space as your fingers but sometimes they coincidentally do so it's best to be prepared. Similarly, the beloved resident canine, blissfully sun-bathing in its own garden until disturbed by you opening the gate which is clearly marked 'Beware of the Dog', may well feel moved to give you a friendly warning round about the ankles. Such minor misunderstandings can usually be amicably resolved but, should your patch contain premises under the supervision of professional guard dogs, don't go there. Wheedle ye never so wisely, they are immune.

If you and your leaflet survive the letter box and its approaches unscathed, after delivery the leaflet – now without your protection – may still face further hazard. Any gundog breeding, however distant, in the beloved resident canine and the abandoned leaflet will be retrieved, joyfully transported to the b.r.c's bed in the kitchen and proudly presented – albeit in less than pristine condition – to the master and mistress of the house on their return. Sadly for you and the b.r.c, your leaflet's reception may well be a disgusted 'Take it a-way, Bingo' (or Bathsheba or Buzz). Any other variety of beloved resident canine and the chances are that the sound of your leaflet being torn to shreds will reach your ears before you are halfway back down the garden path. Neither is the outcome hoped for by you or the party.

Are you getting the idea? The election campaign is a series of battles on several fronts and it is your duty as the candidate to do your best to overcome the obstacle course which lies in wait for you. Now you've had a taste of it – anyone for Lympstone?



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 **18th September 2024**.

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

Cheriton Fitzpaine Community Shop News

We are still selling locally grown plants. Proceeds are being shared between the community shop and St Matthews Church.

Some shop volunteers entered the village carnival as a walking entry and came second. A big congratulations to them all.

The shop is holding a Beetle Drive on Saturday 28th September at 3pm at Cheriton Fitzpaine Parish Hall. Adult entry is £3, under 14's £2. The event will be cash only and all proceeds will go to the community shop.

Folklore Library and Archive

The Folklore Library & Archive is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a generous grant from GWR's Customer & Community Improvement initiative, which seeks to support rail-related community engagement projects.

The money will fund a heritage project focused on collecting and preserving people's memories of Devon branch lines, with particular focus on the Exeter – Okehampton line, which is the first to be reinstated after falling victim to the Beeching cuts of the 60s and 70s.

The Folklore Library & Archive, which is a registered charity, is hoping to record people's recollections about the line, and to digitise and preserve old cine film and photos. The charity is also happy to receive donations or loans of artefacts.

Project manager Tracey Norman said, "The Okehampton line is unique, as it's the only branch line which has been reinstated so far, and there will still be people living who travelled on it prior to its closure, experienced its loss in 1972, and can now travel on it once again. We want to capture those special memories, preserve them and make them available to future generations of train enthusiasts, researchers and historians."

The charity is inviting anyone with memories to share about Devon's branch lines, especially Okehampton, to get in touch – passengers, staff, volunteers, drivers, and those who campaigned for the line's reinstatement.

"We'd also love to hear from any rail-related groups," Tracey said. "As well as a wealth of fascinating memories, they are also likely to have extensive collections of photos and video footage, which we can assist with preserving, digitising and safely archiving for the future."

A short video presentation explaining the project can be found on the Folklore Library & Archive website at www.folklorelibrary.com, and anyone interested in sharing memories or artefacts with the project can contact Tracey Norman at devonrailwayheritage@gmail.com.

Tales from the Old Bill : 6 : Jolly Japes at Night - *Simon Gibbons*

Another night in Plymouth and just another routine eight hour foot patrol. The good news was I was paired up with the section clown for this particular wander around the town. Sadly his name escapes me but he was an older bobby with a natural sense of humour and timing, which was a godsend to get you through the job's traumas. We wandered down the main shopping street, idling away the hours by looking in the shop windows and shaking endless door handles, when we heard a loud metallic clanging noise coming from behind a block of shops. We made our way down a small service road to find ourselves in a black box cannon festooned with graffiti covered up and over huge metal doors, fire escape ladders and hundreds of waste pipes criss-crossing the shadowed walls. These forgotten areas of the empire are universal to every shopping street and only inhabited by constables and homeless people after dark and giant articulated trucks during the day. It was like something out of the Apocalypse itself and always gave me that 'end of the world' feeling with its overflowing garbage bins and piles of cardboard, which occasionally shifted and moaned. We stood and listened with our mouths open. It was a trick you learnt as in the silence your own breathing sung through your head like surf on a beach. By opening your mouth wide you got rid of this interference. Somewhere high up on the top of the building we could hear the occasional muffled banging noise but it was getting fainter and fainter even as we listened. After a few minutes it petered out all together. Even with the fire escapes there was no way to the roof so after waiting another ten minutes or so in which the tension built rather than subsided, we turned to make our way out of this eerie silent backwater. As we did so I was slightly in front by a few paces but my partner caught me up and strolled nonchalantly beside me keeping step for step. Suddenly, from just a few feet behind us came an almighty crash which reverberated and echoed round and round those black walls. I swung round in a half crouch like some Western gunslinger whilst simultaneously jumping a foot or two in the air. I can assure you the manoeuvre is possible if you're sufficiently motivated. I actually thought my heart had stopped. Meanwhile my colleague was still casually strolling along, but staggering sideways in laughter.

Unbeknownst to me he had picked up an empty tin of commercial proportions and when behind me had slung it as high up into the air as he could. He had then taken his place beside me as we left the place, whilst the tin made its upward and then downward passage through the void. More by luck than judgement it had landed just behind us giving the desired effect of a cannon being detonated in that strained silence. It took him a good five minutes to compose himself as he endlessly mimicked my twirling jump collapsing every time at the impossibility of it.

In fiction the story would of course end there but as this is true life the tale continued to twist and turn for a while longer. I don't recall anything else much happening that night but it was a different tale when we paraded for the next night duty. It seemed the day shift had been employed in winkling out a failed burglar who had climbed up onto the roof of the shops and prising of one of the big air grills had climbed in with a view to gaining an entrance by unknown means, after all it always worked for James Bond. Apparently he had fallen straight down the shaft some considerable distance before becoming well and truly wedged at the first turn. There he spent the night and his presence was only detected when the shop staff came on duty and could hear an unexplained banging coming from within the pipes. The fire brigade had spent all day dismantling half the building to get him out. Understandably I was itching to spill the beans on our previous night's occurrences as I was sure it must have been him disappearing down the shaft that we had heard. Luckily for me my comedian colleague shut me up with a swift boot in the shins before I could breathe a word of it and suggested it was perhaps better if we keep it just between ourselves.

St. Michael & All Angels

There will be a **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** on Sunday 22nd September at 6pm. Poughill church services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 9:45am.

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.

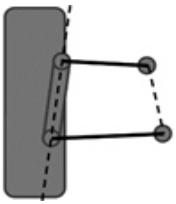
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Rubber on the Road - *Derryck Morton*

The subtle geometry of vehicle wheel alignment goes unnoticed to the majority of drivers but is essential to tyre life, road holding and steering wheel 'feel'. Suspension on a car performs two functions; to smooth out the road bumps and undulations for a pleasant journey and, less appreciated, to keep all wheels in contact with the ground. As the wheels rise and fall in their travel, the geometric alignment with vehicle direction must be maintained and this leads to many a complex and interesting engineering solution. The terminology in suspension parts and alignment is commonplace to the enthusiast but mysterious to the uninformed so I hope if this is new to you, the principles as I describe them, will make some sort of sense.

Rear wheel attachment, as on many a cart, is simplest when a solid beam axle is mounted directly to the vehicle, consequentially having no suspension, or at least, limited compliance through the use of pneumatic tyres. Think of farm machinery for a few examples. Springs, by their very nature, generally have movement in more than one axis and so need mechanical constraint to resist any unwanted movements of the assemblage. When semi-elliptical leaf springs are used on beam axles, they worked adequately for the passive trailing wheels of carts and front wheel drive cars and vans. However, when the rear-wheel-drive design was coupled with an increase in engine power during the 1960s and 70s, the undesirable 'wind-up', of which leaf-springs suffer, caused terrible 'axle tramp' or 'wheel hop', as the rising stress in the spring was released through the slip of tyre grip with corresponding relaxation of the leaf spring, in quick succession. This is often seen in car-chase films of that era, where the rear wheels are seen to bounce up and down. Anti-tramp linkages were added to help prevent this to a certain degree. Transverse link arms were also added to prevent lateral displacement during hard cornering.

Two designs became predominant through the use of a coil spring in place of the semi-elliptical leaf; the double wishbone arrangement and the MacPherson strut. A coil spring is a torsion spring wrapped around itself which saves space and allows for easy mounting. The wishbone support structure is lightweight and strong, being a triangle free to rotate about one side like a hinge; this naturally forms an ideal mounting point at the opposite vertex. The coil spring and damper is attached to either the upper or lower wishbone arm. Wishbones can be one-piece constructions from sheet steel or cast steel or aluminium, or made up from straight rods with ball joints at each end. The double wishbone design has a smaller radiused upper arm. This four-bar-linkage produces a convenient change in the camber angle which keeps the footprint of the tyre in stationary contact with the road. This allows a wheel to move through its entire suspension travel without the tyre scuffing the road surface in a lateral direction. Having a ball joint at the two vertices

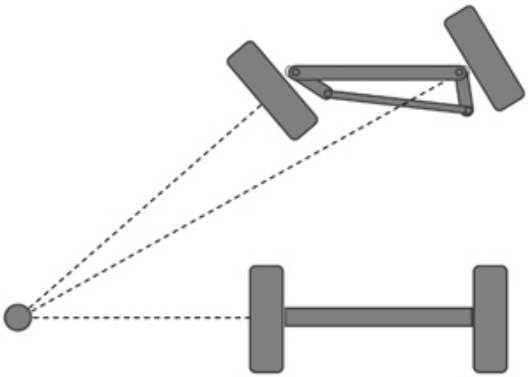


means the design can also be employed as front suspension, facilitating the steering. The MacPherson strut design is similar to the double wishbone but the upper arm is replaced by a strut containing the damper and coil spring which is attached at the top end high up in the wheel arch. The lower joint attaches to the lower arm vertex. It is an elegantly simple design and because it is constructed about an axis, can be utilised for the steering rotation. A rear suspension which uses a trailing arm is simply a wishbone with the swing axis turned through an angle, anything up to 90 degrees.



To produce a superior vehicle, manufacturers use refined geometric techniques to improve wheel control. The caster angle of the front wheel steering axis is there to give the vehicle stability in the 'feel' of the steering wheel. The axis is inclined to meet the road ahead of the wheel in the same way a bicycle head-tube axis does, and has the effect that the car feels like it wants to go straight. It follows that the opposite is felt when reversing quickly and this can be dangerous if not expected. There is also a lateral tilt in the steering axis. The axis is made to meet the road close to the centre of the tyre footprint, so the tyre swivels on its centre instead of tracing an arc. This is important when the vehicle is stationary in order to avoid the steering effort fighting the braking resistance.

When a vehicle travels in a curved path, the axis of each wheel must pass through the centre of the curve. This is often difficult to imagine but actually very simple. The challenge is constructing the steering linkage arrangement so that the front wheels perform this action. The rear wheels naturally align and require no correction. Creating a four-bar linkage with a tie rod constrains the wheels to swivel according to the rotation of the two short bars. 'Ackermann steering' was first invented by Georg Lankensperger and adopted by Rudolph Ackermann for his horse-drawn carriages. You will notice the tie rod is of a different length to the fixed distance between swivels. This imposes a dissimilar angular rotation of the wheels which closely approximates the desired axial alignment.



There are far too many linkage arrangements which control wheel dynamics to mention here and the subject of suspension kinematics is an absorbing one. For further reading, explore the endless images on the internet of four-bar-linkages and suspension geometry. Engineering is fun.

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