Poughill Parish Newsletter



Issue No 74

September 2025 - November 2025

Next Newsletter December 2025

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

Note from the Editor

As I write this we are getting some much needed rain after a long hot summer. The weather certainly seems to have suited the fruit trees as I've never seen so many damsons, apples, crab apples and blackberries in our garden before. I've also noticed a lot more butterflies around this year.

Don't forget I'm always on the lookout for articles for the newsletter. So don't be shy, put 'pen to paper' and let me have your contributions!

Karen Wellerd k.wellerd@poughillparishcouncil.org.uk

Next Issue - Editorial Copy Deadline: Monday 17th November 2025

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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County Councillor	Steve Keable
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 2025

Finance – The Current Account balance at 28/06/2025 was £4,611.40, plus £1,678.83 in the Instant Access Savings Account.

Actions from May Meeting - Poughill speed limits and signs – a Speed Watch survey was carried out. The report is awaited. A 'SLOW Children and Animals' sign has been installed underneath the 'Poughill' sign to the South of the village. Further signs to be placed to the West and North.

Footpath Issues – The Public Rights of Way warden has trimmed the path back and repaired the gate.

Planning – *New applications* - Ref: 25/00633/FULL & Ref: 25/00582/FULL Proposal: Change of use of 2 holiday lets to residential dwellings. Location: The Barton, Poughill. Response - Neutral. Ref: 25/00904/LBC Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the installation of a Tesla battery and gateway to the rear elevation of the house and connection to existing fuse box. Location: Mill Farm House, Poughill. Response - Neutral. Ref: 25/00903/HOUSE Proposal: Installation of ground mounted 14 solar panels. Location: Mill Farm House, Poughill. Response - Neutral.

Planning Committee Meeting July 2025

25/00906/HOUSE - 3 The Glebe, Erection of first floor extension. Response - Neutral.

25/00765/FULL - Land and buildings at Bulland Lane, Conversion of agricultural buildings to a dwelling with associated access and landscaping works. Response - Object on the grounds that the proposal does not outline (1) sufficient ecological safeguards to meet the needs of the resident bat population; (2) environmental measures to manage spring water and surface water run-off which will affect the new development and the existing four properties at a site with a well-documented history of flooding.

Next Meeting – 4th September 2025 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

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

Delightful Fursdon Cottage is nestled on the rise behind Fursdon House and is brilliantly well-equipped with a wood burner, cosy snug and large utility room for dogs, wellies and coats.
It comfortably sleeps up to six, with wonderful walks and spectacular valley views. A real gem!

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*

Summertime. and the living is easy; not, however, for the Village Hall Committee who are squeezing their Hall commitments in amongst holidays, family, and home improvements!



Since the last Newsletter we've offered up a couple of events; firstly, in June, a Pub Night which was very convivial, then, in July, a Cider Tasting Session with Mike from Rull Orchard. The latter was very satisfying in many ways; informative about the making of Cider in an "artisan" way, and delicious in the range of different types and flavours of Cider on offer. With pulled pork baps provided by Adam Clarke, the night was a great success.

Due to a busy August for the organisers, the planned Caribbean BBQ for Bank Holiday has been shelved; however, it will reappear on Saturday September 27th as a Caribbean Night with a range of West Indian dishes, fruits and a Rum Punch. Decor and music will be themed as usual for our international food nights. Then in October we will have our Annual Quiz Night with Francis Wellerd asking the questions and Adam providing the Pasties. Details via the usual social media.

In the Autumn we will resume our decorating of the Hall and work on the kitchen.

As this is a somewhat brief report in a relatively quiet time, I shall, as an occasional banjo player and stand-up comic, tell you my favourite banjo joke. Banjo players tell banjo jokes as a kind of self-defence! Once they were just about banjos, for instance: What's the definition of perfect pitch? The ability to throw a banjo in a skip without hitting the sides.

Then, in what I call "the Deliverance effect", after the film and its duelling banjos section, came banjo player jokes which imply that we are swimming in the shallow end of the gene pool! So;

A young man walks into a pub and orders a pint. He keeps giggling and eventually says to the landlord "sorry, but I've really got to tell you this great new banjo player joke I've just heard." The landlord gives him a hard stare and says "you see that karate black belt behind the bar? Well, it's mine, and I also play banjo in a bluegrass band. That heavy looking character by the door is Sean, our bouncer, and he plays tenor banjo in an Irish Folk group. Finally, that mean looking Hell's Angel, nursing a bottle of Jim Beam's Whiskey, is the Professor, and he teaches classical banjo at the Conservatoire. Now, are you sure you really want to tell that banjo player joke?"

The young man says, "good grief no, I don't want to have to explain it three times!"

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Charity Head Shave - *Mel English*

Sunday 6th July saw Kt complete her challenge to cut off her hair and shave her head for both The Little Princess Trust and The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

There was a good turnout of family and friends at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall to cheer her on.

Following an appeal for a hairdresser on Radio Exe, Jeanette Brown, founder of More Positive Me, very kindly agreed to come and cut Kt's hair. She put her hair into banded ponytails then family and friends were invited to donate to cut off a lock of hair. After the ponytails were cut off, she then shaved her head to complete the challenge.

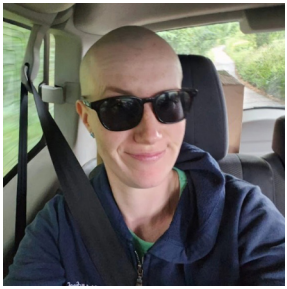
Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation





The day was a great success and raised an additional £500 through the sale of food and drinks and a bake sale.

We measured her hair at just over 26 inches which has been sent off to make a wig for a child in need and in total she raised just over £4,000.



We are all very proud of Kt for doing this, I know I wouldn't be prepared to shave my head, I have at least had very short hair in the past but Kt has never even had short hair. In fact the last time she visited a hairdresser was just before she got married 3 years ago. So we are pleased that this was such a success.

The 2 charities both do valuable work so if you want to make a last-minute donation you can still use this link

https://www.justgiving.com/team/kt-english-baillie

The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or to other conditions such as Alopecia. The charity is also one of the largest funders of childhood cancer research in the UK. The Trust relies solely on the generosity of its wonderful supporters who help the charity give Hair and Hope to so many children and young people with cancer each year.

The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation is the only UK lung cancer charity dedicated to helping everyone affected by the disease. They fund essential research and provide much needed support, information and advice. They also raise awareness and challenge the misconceptions of lung cancer.

Walking the Walk (2) - First Steps - *Polly Colthorpe*

We were lucky – the agency had been asked to provide a number of girls for an afternoon's work and most of us on my modeling course were going. A new club was about to open and photographs were wanted for the advance publicity material. Today I'd call it 'dressing the set' but I was so new I didn't know the language. Anyway, it was a fun afternoon out and all we had to do was sit around on the smart new furniture and enjoy it. There was only orange juice or lemonade in our glasses but all the same it made a nice change from walking round the upstairs front room of the agency with Madame saying 'One foot directly in front of the other, girls, and slide the ball of the foot. Toe, heel; to-oe, heel, to-oe, heel. Don't look down, Claudia. And to-oe, heel; to-oe, heel. Let the arms swing naturally, Anthea – that's right. And for goodness sake, smile, all of you.' You'd never think there was so much to learn about walking – and that was just walking in a straight line; it gets more complicated when you have to do a turn as well.

Fortunately there wasn't room for a runway in the agency's training room or someone would have fallen off it when Madame introduced us to the 'model turn'. Walking on the floor, we just bumped into each other a lot and fell over our own and each other's feet. The model turn requires you to put one foot at right angles across the path of the other, the arch of the first opposing the toe of the second; then you swivel on the ball of the second foot and, hey presto, you're facing the other way with your weight on the (now) back foot, ready to strike off with the front one. It can be done to the left or the right, through 90, 180 or, if you're feeling ambitious, 360 degrees and you will use it all the time. You will use it on the runway because you are catching up with the girl in front who is trying to spot her mother in the audience; you will use it because something or someone is causing a hold up in the dressing room; you will use it because the commère (or, unusually, compère) is still describing the blue suit two in front of you, rather than your tweed jacket and camel hair slacks and, most particularly, you will use it on a T-end runway where you will have to do at least 2 x 90 and 2 x 180 degree turns and can add a purely ornamental 360 or two if you're sure you can stay upright. Oh yes, and you'll use it to show off the clothes you're wearing too.

My first real live catwalk show was at a department store (much like Banbury's) in Wiltshire and they wanted to use some of their own staff as well as half a dozen girls from the agency. It was a lovely idea and, since two of the other agency girls had been on the training course with me and we were almost as new to the catwalk as the staff members were, for us it was a perfect first show – nice clothes, nice people and a warm and welcoming audience. My first outfit was a skin-tight ribbed sweater with a mini-kilt in a tartan of lime greens, orange and tan and I bought it afterwards to remind me of that memorable evening. A final cherry came from my dresser who said goodbye with 'Easy to see who the professionals are, dear'.

Although the agency's upstairs front room may not have had room for a catwalk, there was space enough for the short, double flight of steps which was Madame's next introduction. The fashion for making a grand entrance down an impressive staircase is probably as old as the grand staircase itself* but was given a new lease of life in the early decades of the 20th century by Florenz 'Ziggy'

'Ziegfeld, an American producer of revue who spent fortunes on staging his hugely successful 'Follies' between 1907 and 1931. These in turn influenced film directors of the 40s and 50s and Madame, who had been an in-house Harrod's model in her younger days, may well have been called upon to walk down a grand staircase in Norman Hartnell and a billow of taffeta and net.At any rate, she still thought it worthwhile for us to learn the technique, even if – living in rather more utilitarian times – we never used it. The trick lies in knowing how many stairs there are so that you can ***walk*** down without ***looking*** down; you just need to remember to count!

I never made a spectacular entrance ***down*** a flight of stairs but I did once make a (thankfully) unspectacular exit ***up*** one. HTV (Harlech Television, then somewhat controversially covering the West Country as well as Wales) was making a pilot for a show to be called 'Taylor Made' (after its presenter, Alan Taylor) and I was – temporarily, at least – the inevitable 'glamorous assistant'.

The day was nearly over; the 'star guest' comedian, a lugubrious melancholic in the Tony Hancock tradition, had long gone; the supporting act (a knife thrower and his wife) had gone too; even the dancers had gone. Only I and a group of shop window mannequins remained, all of us dressed in identical silver-spangled leotards. The crew was setting up for the finale and, having fixed a wide flight of steps in position, arranged the mannequins at the bottom in random order, three or four on either side. The director came out from behind the stairs where he had been engaged in protracted discussion with the floor manager, Alan Taylor came back from his dressing room and the director told us what he wanted us to do.

I was to stand among the mannequins, looking as much like one of them as I could manage – all spikey fingers and exaggerated angles. Alan was to approach the staircase looking at the mannequins, put a foot on a step, do a double-take, dodge back, grab me by the hand and run with me up the stairs, exiting through the fly curtain at the top. Before we did a take, the director explained carefully, he thought we should go up the steps and have a look. Quite. Behind the fly curtain there was a ledge perhaps 6-8'' wide. Then there was a ten foot drop to the studio floor. Some mattresses and gym mats had been spread there in case we fell.

'Okay' said the director. 'Finale: Take 1.' The clapperboard clacked, Alan did his bit and the director cut. 'Take a moment or two longer looking at the mannequins, can you, Alan?' We did it again. 'You, the model, whatever your name is – do *try* to find a position you can hold without wobbling.' We did it again. 'Finale: Take 5.' And finally up we went, through the fly curtain and stop. We teetered on the brink … and didn't fall. 'Cut and print' said the director. 'It's a wrap, ladies and gents. Thanks for your patience.'

**Not as old as you might think. Near constant warfare at home made defensible buildings desirable as late as C15th and even C16th; narrow or spiral staircases were easier to defend so the grand 'linear' staircase built straight up the middle of the house had to wait for peace to become more or less normal under the Tudors and even then took a while to catch on.*

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Joanne Harris is Coming to Crediton!

The Folklore Library & Archive, a small registered charity based in Crediton, is delighted to announce that it is hosting bestselling author Joanne Harris MBE at The Boniface Centre, Crediton, on Saturday 6 September at 7pm. (Doors open 6.30pm). Joanne will be talking about her latest book Vianne, the prequel to her 1999 novel Chocolat. To make the event a true celebration of chocolate, we're inviting Devon's independent chocolatiers to sell their wares at the event, and The Bookery will be handling book sales for us. Tickets are £10 from Crediton Library, or via bit.ly/joanneharriscrediton.

We're really excited to be bringing someone of Joanne's status to Crediton!

Tai Chi/QiGong - Mondays, 6.30pm, Village Hall Field/Hall

The last of Diana Rossiter's TaiChi/QiGong sessions will take place on Monday 8th September at 6.30pm for 45 minutes 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. For more information call Diana on 07480 254210. Classes will resume in the Spring if there is sufficient interest.

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The OS Benchmarks - *Derryck Morton*

The Ordnance Survey (OS) use 'benchmarks' as fixed points to establish and maintain a national height reference system, primarily for mapping and surveying purposes. Beginning in 1840, the process of mapping a national elevation topography took off after the 1841 Act of Parliament, which authorised and facilitated the completion of a survey of Great Britain. These benchmarks were established through a process called spirit levelling, where the height difference between a known point (a benchmark) and another point is measured. The new point is then known in relation to the previous benchmark and its height listed. This process continues forming a net of data across the land, cross-referencing with other previously established benchmarks to prove validity. Benchmarks are fixed points on the ground, typically marked on structures like buildings or walls. There are ten benchmarks in the immediate area of Poughill. Do you know where they are? Besides the use for which they were originally created, they serve as reference points for determining the height of other points in the area, as they are available for anyone to use.

The OS started by establishing a network of fundamental benchmarks (FBMs), which are fixed points with a known elevation above sea level. Being an island, this made the British FBM loggings easier to establish than if we were a land-locked nation, such as Switzerland. These FBMs were then used to establish the network of lower-order benchmarks, with the height difference between them measured using spirit levelling, a process that measures the height difference between two points.

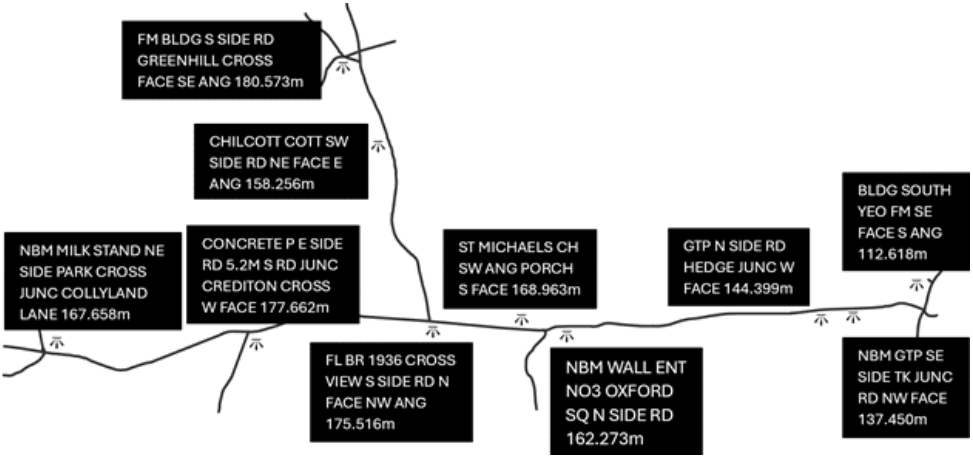


Surveyors use theodolites in a similar way, though a theodolite is primarily used to measure vertical and horizontal angles. Their similarity is in the use of a spirit level bubble to allow for the levelling of the instrument. Once levelled, theodolites can give altazimuth readings in degrees or can be used horizontally to read off a height difference on a distant graduated rod or staff. The latter is the sole purpose of a

spirit levelling instrument. The placement of the levelling staff is determined by the lay of the land. The surveyor looks through the levelled scope and reads off the graduation on the levelling staff held by the rodman. Successive readings along a route will log the undulating surface and when many readings are taken over a given area, a map of contour lines can be drawn in to indicate lines of equal elevation above sea level. They connect points that have the same height, allowing you to visualize the terrain's shape and slope.

Satellites have now done away with this method of large-scale surveying but the work and accuracy in these early years gave us maps that were the envy of the world. This achievement was the result of meticulous surveying practices and a commitment to accuracy that was groundbreaking for the time. There were over 500,000 benchmarks created, but this number is reducing as roads change and buildings are demolished. They are largely concentrated in urban areas and mostly along roads or on the side of buildings and walls. There aren't as many in the Scottish Highlands, mid-Wales or Northern England due to the hilly terrain.

So where are those benchmarks in Poughill?



Key:

FL BR	Flush Bracket
ANG	Angle
NBM	New Benchmark
ENT	Entrance
GTP	Gate Post
TK	Track
JUNC	Junction
P	Pillar, Pole or Post

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Cheriton Fitzpaine Community Shop - Chapel Project

As many of you will be aware the Shop launched a Share Offer in May with the purpose of raising a minimum of £100,000 to help us in our goal of purchasing the old Methodist Church and converting it into a larger shop, art/craft space, café, heritage centre and, hopefully, a bakery.

The Share Offer was due to close on 31st July and on that date, we are delighted to announce that we achieved the minimum target and raised over £102,000.

Reaching this target has enabled us to apply to the Co-Operatve Booster Fund for an additional £50,000 of equity grant. The Share Offer has been left open to enable this.

We will no longer be promoting the Offer so much going forward, leaving it open enables anyone who is excited by our dream becoming realty to invest in the Project.

Our main website https://www.cheritonfitzpaineshop.co.uk/ is regularly updated and all the details regarding shares can be found on our Project website https://cheritonshopchapelproject.info/

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 **15th September 2025**.

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

St. Michael & All Angels

Poughill church services are usually held on the third Sunday of the month at 9:30am. There will be a **Harvest Festival Service** at 9.30am on Sunday 21st September, to be followed by refreshments.

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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The Future of St. Michael and All Angels - *Derryck Morton, Church Warden on behalf of the PCC*

St Michael and all Angels PCC thank everybody who has helped, in whatever way, following the church plea for support. For those who have set up monetary donations on a regular giving scheme, **thank you**; more is needed but the cash flow deficit is now less severe. For supporting the Wednesday coffee morning, **thank you**. A special thank you to Simon Gibbons, whose tireless effort in spreading the plea for help involved house to house visits (reminding him, no doubt, of pounding the beat), printing off fliers for letterbox delivery and for painting and erecting the sign in the church yard reminding us of the urgent ongoing request. With parish help and support, the church will remain functional, whereas the alternative is closure. If you were thinking of giving a pound or two but haven't, please do so. The smallest amount will help and you probably won't notice it.

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Pennymoor Singaround

Song and Music Sessions

Song Sessions:
1st Thursday – noon The London Inn, Morchard Bishop,
Contact: Jon 07840 524318
3rd Thursday 7.30pm The London Inn, Morchard Bishop, Contact: Jon 07840 524318

Music Session:
Last Sunday 12 noon Half Moon Inn, Cheriton Fitzpaine,
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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THE RING OF BELLS

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 – V Ridley-Rundle (£32.40), S Burnand (£16.20), K Willcocks (£5.40)

July – D Mannion (£32.40), N Lancelles (£16.20), G Mott (£5.40)

August – P Colthorpe (£32.40), J Trenaman (£16.20), S Burnand (£5.40)