



LAPFORD LOOKOUT



YOUR LOCAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

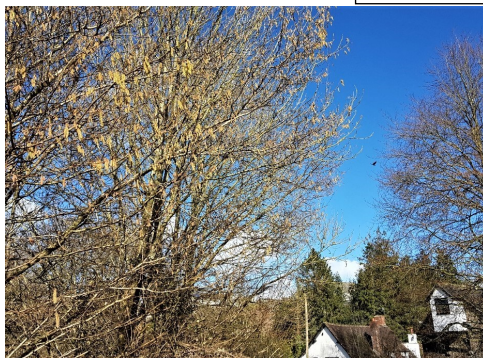
Year 24 Issue 3

March 2021

SPRING IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER

Just walking around Lapford, you can't help but notice that we are finally coming out of winter and, with the lighter evenings, that wonderful feeling of anticipation of things to come. The dazzling snowdrops in full flower, the catkins glowing in the sunshine and the daffodils just beginning to open up. The birds are starting to gather nesting material and the dawn chorus is beginning to build. One of the loveliest sounds at this time of year is the newborn lambs calling for their mothers, a real sign that spring is finally here and better things are finally coming. Let us hope that, as we gradually ease out of winter and in to spring this year, we can also look forward to easing out of lockdown and, like nature, start afresh with renewed vigour and a feeling of hope.

Photos by Hazel Morgan and Liz White



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Due to the current lockdown restrictions we have had to cancel our plans to resume normal services. To make up for no 'live' service, Rev. Caroline will continue to broadcast a message each Sunday morning, at 11.00a.m, on the church Facebook page 'Lapford Congregational Church'. Communion will be celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays. All are welcome to tune in.



LAPFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Please visit our website, www.lapfordcc.org.uk for information about the Foodbank and ARK. You will also find lots of information about Church activities and on-line services.

1ST LAPFORD SCOUT GROUP

It is with my regret that as from 9th February 2021 1st Lapford Scouting will close.



This decision has not been taken lightly.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers that have committed their time and hard work to 1st Lapford over the last four years (present and past). Without them we would not have been able to deliver such a great youth service.

Your young people have achieved so many awards and strengths throughout this time, and I know it has been a pleasure for all of us to have been part of that.

Thank you again.

Hayley Hardy

1st Lapford Group Scout Leader

News from St Thomas of Canterbury

As at the copy deadline we have returned to being open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday mornings but have not resumed our 'socially distanced' services.



Looking forward, and given indications there will be some relaxation of restrictions from early March, we are hoping and planning to re-open for services from **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Sunday 14th March at 9.30 - Mothering Sunday

- Lay Led service

Sunday 21st March at 9.30 - Passion Sunday

- Lay Led service

Sunday 28th March at 9.30 - Palm Sunday

- Common Worship Eucharist

Friday 2nd April at 2.00 pm - Good Friday

- Stations of the Cross - a modern service of reflections on the last day in the life of Jesus Christ.

Sunday 4th April at 9.30 - Easter Sunday

- Common Worship Eucharist

LAPFORD LOOKOUT

Contributions
welcome

lapfordlookout@gmail.com

Deadline for inclusion in the next issue:
6 pm on the 14th March for inclusion in April issue



Public Notice

**Lapford Youth Club
Management Committee**

**Annual General Meeting
Thursday 25th March 2021**

7.00pm The Orchard Centre

**Covid Permitting or by Zoom
(see posters week prior)**



**DATES TO LOOKOUT FOR
March 2021**

14th	Copy deadline for April Lapford Lookout
16th	Lapford Parish Council meeting
25th	Lapford Youth Club Management Committee AGM 7pm

TO CONTACT THE EDITOR

Write to:

Mrs. Beccy Fletcher, 36 Orchard Way, Lapford, Crediton, EX17 6PR

Tel: (01363) 884211 or 07791 989142

E-mail: lapfordlookout@gmail.com

By hand: Use the box in The Orchard Centre or the Editor's letterbox

Deadline for inclusion in the next issue:

6 pm on the 14th March for inclusion in April issue

Contributions are welcome, to be used at the Editor's discretion.

Flyers and Inserts must be approved by the Editor prior to publication and shall only be included at the discretion of the Editor and editorial policy.

The views in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the editorial team.

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LOCKDOWN STORIES WANTED

2020 was a very hard year due to Covid-19 and it is nearing a year since it had its effect on the world.

We would love to hear and share your stories of what you managed to achieve whether it is related to gardening, decorating, making art, learning new skills or anything else that has been important to you.

The Lapford Lookout Team

If you are concerned about:

**Potholes! Drains blocked! Floods!
Streetlights not working! Fallen trees!
Debris on roads! Road signs obscured!
Defective road markings!**

REPORT IT!

Not to the Parish Council but
straight to Devon Highways.

www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem

or by phone 0345 155 1004

Message from Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you all for your contributions this month, another bumper packed issue. All your contributions are gratefully received.



Let's hope, with so many vaccinations taking place, that it won't be long until we can all begin to get back to some form of normality.

Beccy Fletcher



Lapford Voluntary Car Aid 2011

**NEED TRANSPORT
TO YOUR
MEDICAL APPOINTMENT?**

Lapford Voluntary Car Aid provides the residents of the village (including friends and family staying with you) with courteous, reliable, fully insured drivers to get you to your appointment safely and on time. Bookings can be made by telephoning Grace Hill on 83178. Current fares for the services covered are as follows:

- Bow Medical Centre - £5
- Chiddenbrook Health Centre - £5
- Chulmleigh Dental Practice - £5
- Chulmleigh Health Centre - £5
- Crediton (Breast Screening) - £6
- Crediton (Covid jab) - £6
- Crediton Community Hospital - £5
- Morcharde Bishop Surgery - £3
- New Valley Health Centre - £6
- Winkleigh Surgery - £5

We have LVCA drivers available to take anyone to have their Covid vaccination. Please contact Grace as above.



Lapford Weather Review

LAPFORD WEATHER JANUARY 2021

Colder and wetter than average. Coldest January since 2011.

The mildest day was the 28th with a maximum of 11.9°C and the coolest was the 9th with a maximum just above zero, at 0.1°C. The coldest night was on the 7th with a minimum of -4.3°C.

Total rainfall was 135.5 mm, with the wettest day on the 29th which saw 22.0 mm.

The windiest day was the 28th with a gust of 42 m.p.h.



Andy Epstein

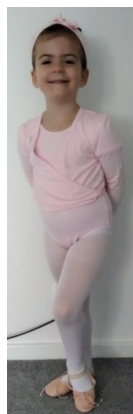
JOY ABBOTT CELEBRATES HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

A very Happy 90th Birthday to a wonderful Mum, Nan and Great Nan.

Lots of love
from Jim, Cheryl and all your family.

Hugs and kisses from Harrison, Amelia and baby Tristan.

Big woof from Frankie Dog. xxxxx



**ATTENTION ALL SEAMSTRESSES AND/OR TAILORS!
URGENT CALL FOR HEALTHCARE STAFF SCRUBS**



Hospiscare will be well known to most Lapfordians as the Devon charity which supports people with life-limiting illnesses. They have put out an urgent call for scrubs for their nurses and doctors.

Hospiscare is asking anyone with sewing skills to consider making scrubs for their clinical team.

It comes at a time when charities are unable to fundraise in their usual ways. Anyone wishing to help can find instructions, links to patterns and associated Facebook groups on the Hospiscare website at:

www.hospiscare.co.uk/how-to-make-scrubs-for-hospiscare-staff/

If you don't feel your sewing skills are quite up to the task, you can still help by making a financial donation by visiting: www.hospiscare.co.uk/donate/

LAPFORD HANDBELL RINGING GROUP



At a time when there is not much going on in our village social lives, let me take this opportunity to write a little about the Lapford Handbell Ringers and what we do.

We first met around Christmas 2018 when a few of us got together to 'play' a few carols on handbells just for a bit of fun. Tune ringing on handbells is often initiated and organised by people who are actively involved in church bellringing although it requires no knowledge of church 'change' ringing or, indeed, any musical knowledge. The Lapford group therefore started with a few of the village church ringers but, after a talk given to the Ladies of Lapford and its subsequent reporting in the Lookout, has grown to be a much more diverse group of up to fifteen people at any one session.

I deliberately use the phrase 'up to' because, unlike many other team activities, it is a reasonably flexible and adaptable hobby that can, within limits, occupy as many people as may or may not turn up to any given session (subject to a minimum of three). This flexibility arises because an individual can physically ring between one and four bells at any one time, and the music we use is generally written for twelve or more bells, hence three people, each ringing four bells could produce a tune, or if more people turn up we can each ring less bells and/or ring tunes that require more than twelve bells. But.....

This is not quite as simple as I am making it sound. We can teach newcomers to ring one bell very quickly and easily even if they have no previous musical knowledge or experience. Very quickly thereafter, they can move onto ringing two bells, i.e. one in each hand. Thereafter, ringing three or four is significantly more complex albeit perfectly feasible for anyone to learn, regardless of musical background. It might just take a few weeks of practice.

At this point I should perhaps emphasise that this group exists solely for fun and social getting-together. Whenever we meet and pick up a new piece of music, the first few attempts might be unrecognisably poor performances. But we just stop, laugh at our own ineptitude for a few seconds, then try again. Invariably, by the fourth or fifth attempt, the music becomes recognisable and pleasurable to listen to. Some of us might aspire to perfection for our own self-satisfaction but there is no current ambition to perform in public or to reach the level of competence that would allow us to do so. This ringing is purely fun and sociable and, as such, we would welcome new members to come and give it a go, with no commitment.

Of course, the group is currently unable to meet due to Coronavirus restrictions but it was probably one of the last village social groups to have to stop last summer and could equally be one of the first to re-start, depending on how and when restrictions are eventually lifted. As I said above, in normal times some sessions might have as many as fifteen people attending. It can equally be done with a lot less. So when groups of six were allowed to meet outdoors, with appropriate social distancing, we were able to continue by meeting, just six at a time, and ringing outdoors with appropriated distance between each of us. Hence, if outdoor group meeting becomes permissible again during the summer then it is highly likely that we will re-start. Anyone who is potentially interested in trying this hobby should therefore get in touch now so that we can, at least, put you on our mailing list and keep you informed about when we re-start. Remember, you don't need any previous musical experience or ability to read music. All you need is the ability to count to four and a willingness to laugh at your own mistakes as we jointly have some good sociable fun producing (sometimes recognisable) 'music'.



Steve Munday

steve@lowerfieldhouse.co.uk 07798 684225

LAUGHTER IS GOOD FOR YOU!



If my body was a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull..

But that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My bodywork is stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed.

My fuel rate burns inefficiently.



But here's the worst of it.

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.

STILTON, CELERY AND WALNUT RISOTTO



A tasty way of using cheese and celery for lunch or supper.

www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk

For four portions you'll need:

- 8 oz (250g) Arborio risotto rice
- 1 oz (25g) butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 finely chopped shallot
- 1 ½ pints (800 ml) vegetable or chicken stock
- 4 oz (100g) finely chopped celery
- 3 oz (75g) stilton cheese
- 2 oz (50g) walnuts, roughly chopped and toasted seasoning

Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the oil, chopped celery and shallot and cook gently for a few minutes. Stir in the rice and make sure it is coated with the butter and oil mixture. Gradually add the stock, a cup at a time, and simmer gently until the rice is soft, and the risotto creamy. Stir in the crumbled cheese, season with a little salt, and freshly ground black pepper. Sprinkle with the warm, toasted walnuts and garnish with celery leaves.

Paul Cleave

THOUGHTS FROM THE ARK

Thank you so much to those who continue to support the Foodbank with donations of food and money. We are still giving out parcels and trying to keep our shelves well stocked, but that is proving more difficult as the needs across communities are increasing. Please remember if you know of any one who needs food, we will always try and provide for them. Leave a message at the ARK, on 83877, and we will get back as quickly as possible.



I read a little article and it talks about living for what matters. I wonder if these times of lockdowns have made you re-evaluate your life? Some of us have certainly had plenty of time to think.

You can work harder and earn more money but you can't earn more time. To coin a popular song, "Time may be money, but your money won't buy time"

There's a story about a man who worked the late shift at a factory, he walked home in the early hours. One night he took a short cut through a cemetery. Failing to notice the new grave that had just been dug in the centre of his path, he fell into it. After several unsuccessful attempts to get out, he decided to relax until morning when someone was around to help him get out. As he sat in the corner of the grave, half asleep, a fellow traveller who had overindulged in the local bar tumbled in beside him. Desperate to get out, the drunk started yelling and clawing at the sides. At this point our hero reached out and touched him gently on the side of the leg, and said, "It's no use, friend. I've tried. You'll never get out of here." Not surprisingly - he did! He jumped out!

King Solomon had an "aha moment": "For though I do my work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, I must leave everything I gain to people who haven't worked for it." (paraphrased) Don't just make a living, make a difference.

For some though, differences are being thrust upon them, more working at home, managing home schooling, being together for longer periods of time. You perhaps haven't had the time to stop and think because everything has changed so quickly. There doesn't seem to be a "normal".

I want to encourage you, no-one issued a "go to book" to help us through these times. Each of us is doing the best we can do, while trying to stick to the guidelines. No matter how you feel, be encouraged, you are truly amazing and doing a good job. Please give yourselves time and laugh together when you can, it's so good for you. All we have is today and that time is precious. Make the most of each day, your children, family and friends, in spite of lockdowns and the virus.

Roll on the time when we can open again. It's strange going into the ARK to do food parcels and not hear the chatter and laughter that usually fills the space. We are looking forward to renewing friendships and meeting new people soon. In the meantime stay safe and well.

Ladies at the ARK

ST THOMAS' CHURCHYARD

The PCC regrets, that in light of complaints received about ecological issues from villagers, we are unable to undertake any further maintenance of the churchyard other than grass-cutting until we have obtained professional advice. That will not be possible until after lockdown ends.



We sincerely apologise to anyone experiencing difficulty in accessing or maintaining graves.

Many thanks

Bill Graham



CAT Preschools is a director-led organisation incorporating Chulmleigh, East Worlington and Lapford Preschools.

Lapford Preschool

Care for 2 - 5 year olds

Monday - Friday, 9.00am – 3.30pm

Wrap around care is available through the school

Please call Lorraine Kigongo on 01363 83162

or email lkigongo@catpreschools.co.uk

for further information and to arrange a visit.

We are registered to take 2yr old and 3 / 4 year old funded children at all of our settings.

We are registered for 30 hours funding.

- We are open term time only -

'WHAT COMES ROUND GOES ROUND' MEMORIES OF A LAPFORDIAN IN HIS LIFETIME

All my life I've lived in Lapford, now 70 years, and recently been reminiscing on Lapford's people heritage. I am sure there are many of us long time Lapfordians with memories to share that today's Lapfordians may find interesting and stimulating.

I'll start with the Youth Club scene and how that started and evolved.

Around 1962 a group of younger people [my father included] from what is now known as Lapford Community Church [Lapford Gospel Hall back then] decided to start working with young people from Lapford and the surrounding area. They hired the Ambrosia Social Club Hall which was sited on the Kelland Hill corner opposite Lapford SPAR and Garage [now two detached houses and Kelland Court]. Lapford Ambrosia Social Club Hall could sit 150 plus people, had a permanent stage and kitchen, and enough off road parking for everyone attending to park. At the time and still, to date, much better facilities than we currently have in the Victory Hall. It was a great place to hold youth activities and when, at the age of 13 [1963] I was allowed to attend, was a great place to meet and greet friends and make new ones. Every Friday was Youth Club night.

This Youth Club ran and was supported by the church for several years until the Ambrosia factory was bought out for its 'milk field' and milk manufacturing moved to North Tawton Cheese factory. The Hall was no longer available for hire so Youth work moved to the Victory Hall in its pre 1980's state. At this time [early 1970's] a village initiative to buy the Old School and turn it into a Youth Centre emerged. Public meeting discussions, some opposition (nothing new there), ended with a commitment to purchase. The community initiative went ahead. We as a church group joined in and once purchased and refurbished by local young people, parents and youth leaders, Youth work moved to the Youth Centre in Pope's Lane. All the funds were raised by local people. Sponsored walks, sponsored knits [yes I learnt to knit to raise funds]. We scrounged carpet samples and stuck them together to make a carpet for the coffee bar. The walls were decorated with all colours. Psychedelic was in then so the carpet led the way in carpet fashion and the walls likewise! We opened on two nights a week. Noel Mears was the overall Youth Leader in the early days. Roy Rice managed the coffee bar and continued to do so for many years. For me Wednesday became youth night, as a leader now, not a user. Lapford Youth Centre became the place for Youth in the surrounding area not just Lapfordians. Bikers from Chulmleigh included! Bikers in Pope's Lane didn't always go down well with local residents so mediation and appeasement became very much part of the leader role.

I served on the Youth Club Management Committee until well into the 1980's. There was always an ongoing need to raise funds for maintenance but so many young people benefitted. Keeping the property maintained remained a funding challenge all through and eventually, and possibly inevitably, storm damage caused the building to be closed for health and safety reasons.

A decision was therefore taken to sell and reinvest elsewhere in the community for Youth activities. The decision to purchase taken 60 years ago became a Youth fund grant available today towards the purchase of Lower Town Place of £222,500. All that hard work and community involvement from previous generations has become an investment opportunity for our generation to enjoy. The combination of LTP open space intrinsically linked to the Victory Hall creates renewed opportunities for Youth activities in the very heart of our village. Not only youth but renewed opportunities for us all, all ages, to benefit from.

There must be many Lapfordians out there with other lifetime memories to share.

- Did you work at the Ambrosia Factory?
- Can you add your memories of the Ambrosia Social Club Hall? Do you have photographs stored away?
- Do you have early and later day memories of the Youth Centre? Did you help with the fundraising? Tell us about what it was like as a young person using it.
- Can anyone remember how the village came together to purchase the Playing Field?
- Can you add your memories of the pre 1980's Victory Hall and how the Village pulled together to raise funds for the refurbishment?
- Do you have other memories of life in our lifetime that help shape today's Lapford?

David Bragg

WILD LAPFORD: WHAT WILDLIFE TO LOOK OUT FOR DURING MARCH

It's the beginning of Spring and all sorts of wildlife activity is starting to happen. What can be seen and heard?

Birds are collecting nesting material and looking for suitable sites. If you have nest boxes you may be lucky enough to see birds such as blue tits or sparrows coming and going. The dawn chorus will be in full voice with thrushes, blackbirds, robins and dunnocks. Migrating birds such as chiffchaffs return from Africa.

If you are near a pond you may see a frog, they hibernate at the bottom of the pond during winter. Newts and toads hibernate away from the pond and make their way to it in spring. Frog spawn is laid in a clump, toad spawn is a string of eggs and newts lay their eggs individually.

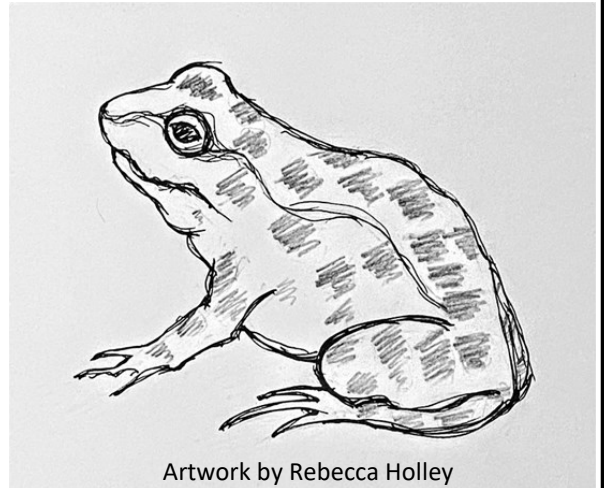
Hedgehogs will appear out of hibernation, you can encourage and watch them at night by putting out cat biscuits and a shallow tray of water. These little creatures really need our help as they are becoming close to extinction.

The first bumblebees can be seen flying about, these are the queens who have survived winter and are hunting for nectar from spring flowers. Drone flies are amongst the first hoverflies in spring, these are females that have hibernated over winter.

Blackthorn flowers are the first hedgerow flower to appear, clouds of small starry white flowers burst open next to their vicious thorns. Primroses are in full flower their Latin name prima rosa means first rose of the year.

We have a Facebook page 'Wild Lapford' and it would be lovely to see your Spring photographs. For any further information about Wild Lapford please contact Helen Greensmith on helengreensmith@hotmail.com.

Rebecca Holley



Mother's Day Cream Tea in a Box

Sunday 14th March

Make someone's day special
Treat your Mum, Grandma or yourself
Or sponsor a cream tea for
someone else to show that you care



Pre-order by 10th March

Individual boxes will be specially made up with two freshly baked scones, clotted cream and jam.

(Deliveries will be made local to Lapford and Nymet Rowland between 2.00pm – 4.00pm)

Please complete the order form and post it into the Ark together with your payment, suggested donation £6 per box (cash only please)

All proceeds to the Lapford Foodbank

ORDER FORM

Name of person ordering _____

Telephone number in case of problem

Number of Cream Teas required _____

Amount enclosed _____

Name of person the tea is for

Address for delivery

If this is a gift would you like a message to be included?

Any enquiries please telephone
Sue on 07561 556442

LAPFORD GARDENING CLUB



It is with regret that I have found it necessary to tender my resignation as Chairman of the club.

Hilary and I have sold our house and are moving to East Budleigh in order to live nearer to the sea. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will have a date when we are set to move which we are hoping will be before the end of March.

It has been a year since the last meeting of the Gardening Club with exception of the August meeting at Tricia & James' garden and there is still no sign of the club reconvening, but hopefully this can happen before the end of the year, and the club will be able to restart bigger and better than ever.

There are many gardeners in the village, so why not join the club when the pandemic allows, I know you will receive a welcome from the existing members, and while the club has a number of speakers ready to impart their knowledge, with more members the club can attract even more great speakers and evenings.

So good luck to the club, we are going to miss the friends we've made and the monthly meetings.

Richard Hassett
Chairman

Fed up with POT HOLES in our roads?
Overgrowth hindering public highways?
Want to do something about it?
Now, it seems, WE CAN!

Call For Lapford Volunteers Now!

Devon County Council has just announced £100,000 roll out for a **NEW Community Road Warden Scheme**

What is it?

Essentially, it is an agreement with funding between Devon County Council and local councils, which enables them to **deliver minor works in or around the public highway**.

The **Road Warden Scheme** allows communities to:

- Access free training and appoint our own Road Wardens
- Carry out minor works including live carriageways
- Work under council insurance
- Access community tools at various locations, including; cones, road signs, saws, loppers and more.



- ✓ Repair Potholes
- ✓ Clear weeds
- ✓ Clean signs
- ✓ Maintain drainage grates
- ✓ Mow grass

- ✓ Repair finger posts.
- ✓ Trim hedges.
- ✓ Set up road closures for special events.
- ✓ Manage verges for wildlife
- And more!*

What could WE do?

All works initially discussed with the local highway neighbourhood officer. Works are undertaken in line with guidance and require method statements provided by Devon County Council. *NB Road Wardens would not be responsible for carrying out safety repairs as this remains the responsibility of the Council.*

What Next?

Lapford needs volunteers for the Road Warden scheme. ***And it's not just about big chaps with their own hard hat!*** Once we have a few volunteers, Lapford will be able to apply to the scheme, so please contact us now and, hey, it could be fun! The scheme will be managed by **Lapford Emergency Action Planning** under the Parish Council.

If you are interested, please contact:

Alex Gater, Secretary to LEAP,
Lapford Mill House,
Credon, EX17 6PU

- Or -

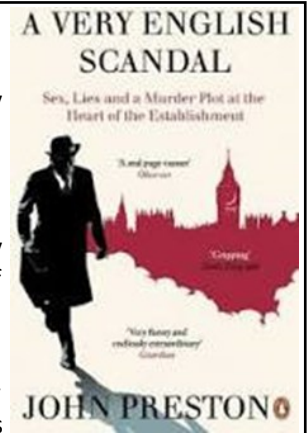
email to: alex@lapfordmill.uk

Further Reading, see Devon County Council Website
detail at:

www.devon.gov.uk/communities/opportunities/road-warden-scheme

Thank You!

LAPFORD BOOK CLUB BOOK REVIEW



When I collected the book for January my first thought was “I shall not be reading this”. I had recently watched the three-part drama on TV and did not feel the need to reacquaint myself with the story. Jill called for the books to be returned and so I had a change of heart and read the book over two nights.

The book, written by John Preston, was only published in 2016, when all but one of the participants had died. As you will know it tells the story about the Jeremy Thorpe affair of the 60's and 70's. Jeremy Thorpe was leader of the Liberal party, a popular and enigmatic man, seemingly liked by politicians of all parties as well as the public. I do wonder what he had in common with his constituents in North Devon!

He was a gay man with a string of affairs behind him and he knew that if word of his homosexuality ever got out he would be ruined, so he did everything in his power to ensure that it didn't. His downfall was a young, troubled man called Norman Scott. Thorpe rented a flat for him close to parliament so that he could see him whenever he wanted. Eventually Scott grew tired of this arrangement and lack of freedom. He wanted to be independent and get a job but he didn't have his National Insurance Card. It was his endeavour to obtain this that sparked off a series of shocking events.

Over the years Scott had made many allegations about Thorpe and wasn't believed. As he made these allegations to more and more people it became clear to Thorpe that Scott needed to be silenced, for good. Then followed a catalogue of meetings in the House of Commons where it became apparent that murder was the only way to silence Scott. We are then told of a chase, shootings, cover ups (at the highest level in both Parliament and the Metropolitan Police Force). Finally, a court case ends Thorpe's career but he does get away with conspiring to murder.

I think that if we were able to have our pre Covid book club meetings we would have had a great old natter about this book. Indeed, one of our members did know a couple of players in the book. That might have been an interesting conversation!

Sue Harle

LAPFORD YOUTH AND PLAYING FIELD TRUST - NEWS AND A PLEA FOR HELP

Here is the first of what will hopefully become a semi-regular update from the LYPFT in the Lapford Lookout.

In order to improve our communication with the village and especially the youth, the LYPFT are in the process of developing our own website lapfordplayingfield.org.uk, (the costs associated with this have been kindly donated by a local business). In the spirit of openness and transparency, we intend to publish all our plans and relevant documents here as well as advertising any news and events.

We have also set up a Facebook page that will provide an interactive forum for your suggestions. Search for “Lapford Youth & Playing Field Trust” on Facebook and follow us. If you have any suggestions for things to include on either platform, please get in touch.

Like most organisations, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit us hard meaning that we have not been able to hold any formal fund-raising events in the village for over a year.

We find ourselves in a tricky position with ongoing maintenance costs and also a residual debt that was inherited from previous committees that was originally taken out to fund the play equipment currently in use on the playing field. These loans are from private individuals who have kindly waived some of the loan, but they now need repaying the outstanding amount before we can start fund-raising for other things.

LADS have made a very generous donation for which we are very grateful – thank you.

We have also approached other organisations in the village who are unfortunately unable to make a donation at this time.

This is why we are appealing to you, the village residents, to help. If you could spare anything from a few pence to a few pounds, it would be gratefully appreciated.

We have set up a PayPal account so you can make credit or debit card donations online using the email address lapfordplayingfield@gmail.com (please use the friends and family option so there are no fees charged). Alternatively, you can post a cheque (payable to the Lapford Youth and Playing Field Trust) through the letterbox at Ebenezer Cottage (located behind the Ark) in Lapford or at the Ark where (when lockdown restrictions ease) cash donations can also be made.

Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can hold some fun fund-raising events again. Until then, stay safe and enjoy the playing field.

The LYPFT Committee



Lower Town Place Events Group



Any Excuse for a

Party

Time to look forward to summer and social normality

We have a wonderful new space to explore.
OUR Victory Hall is now surrounded by OUR space.
Together they create opportunities to be exploited,
come rain or shine!

Do YOU have any ideas?

Community and family fun, outdoor theatre,
music, dance, competition???

Can you help organise events for this summer?

If so join The Events Group

[We can meet virtually, until allowed to meet face to face]

Not an organiser but happy to help? If so let The Events Group know.

Contact: Darren Crump [Victory Hall] Darrencrump99@hotmail.co.uk

David Bragg [HOLD] 07970033515 david.bragg62@gmail.com

Ron Harle [H4L] heart4lapford@aol.com

Steve Keable [Lapstock] 07967655045 steve.keable@btinternet.com

Alex Gater [Revel] 07815795918 alex@lapfordmill.uk

LAPFORD REVEL



Hey Lapford! Revel here with an update on plans for the summer!!

Well, we are all waiting to see what we will be allowed to do this summer and, with a bit of luck, we might be able to do something. That said however, it is pretty much a certainty that we will be under social restrictions of some kind or other. At the moment, it is just a waiting game.

What do you think??

Revel Saturday this year falls on July 10th. If by then we are able to have a restricted Revel, what do you think are the MOST important elements to focus efforts on, if we can? The parade? The Crowning ceremony? The games? Art and competitions? Dog show? Morris? Giants? Or something else altogether??

Let us know by

Email to alex@lapfordmill.uk

Or on our Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/NewLapfordRevel

Meanwhile stay safe and we will keep you posted!



MORE MOBILE PHONE NONSENSE

A text they say is just the trick
Nice and easy, very quick.
But just be warned, don't try to hurry
Some texts can cause a lot of worry!
I'd thought my married life was bliss
Until a text disputed this
I came upon it by mistake
While just preparing our tea break.
My hubby's phone pinged in a text
I'd little guessed what might come next.
I didn't mean to look at it
But when I did, I had a fit!
"You looked so good there on my bed
I see you still inside my head.
I love you more than I can say
Come round again and make my day!"
And I'd thought he was out with mates
Not slipping out for secret dates!
The words were really such a shock
I'd always thought he was my rock.
And now it seemed he had another
How would I break it to my mother?
She'd probably come with a kitchen knife,
Threatening that she'd take his life.
He'd soon be in to get his tea.
I wondered wildly, should I flee?
He'd surely wish he hadn't strayed
If he thought I'd run away?
But no, I'd tackle him and do it now
Demand to know the when and how
He potted in with his usual smile,
(I'd wipe that off in just a while)
He stopped abruptly, seeing my frown
"What's happened, love, you look quite down?"
"This," I said, with grave demeanour
"How long," I asked, "have you been seein' her?"
He took the phone, didn't seem troubled
Read the text looking very puzzled.
Then suddenly with his face all beams,
Cried, "Ah, it's not as bad as what it seems
In fact, it isn't bad, it's very funny.
S'not meant for me. It's for our Honey.
She pinched my phone to text her chap
And quick as a flash, Fred texted back,
In such a hurry, he didn't see
The phone she'd used belonged me.
Look, you see, it's from her Fred
An' he's not seen meself in bed!"
And so it was; I'd got it wrong
I felt like breaking into song,
My hubby hadn't played around
Our love was still on solid ground.
And so you see, you need to pause
Be sure that text, won't trouble cause!

*Loosely based on when my husband actually did get a text a bit like this after our daughter had borrowed his phone to text her chap. His face was a picture when the text came in before he realised what had happened!

Sue Raffill

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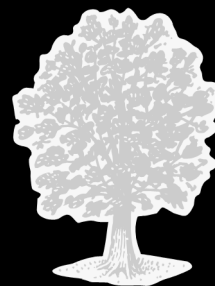
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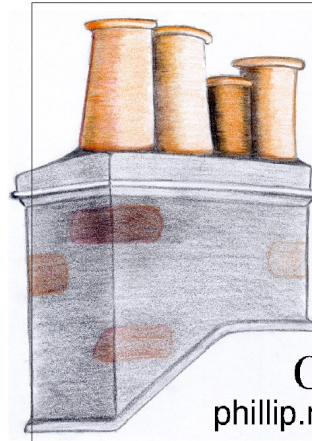
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Heart for Lapford Strategy Group

Roadmap for 2021-2023 Defining Priorities, Aims and Objectives



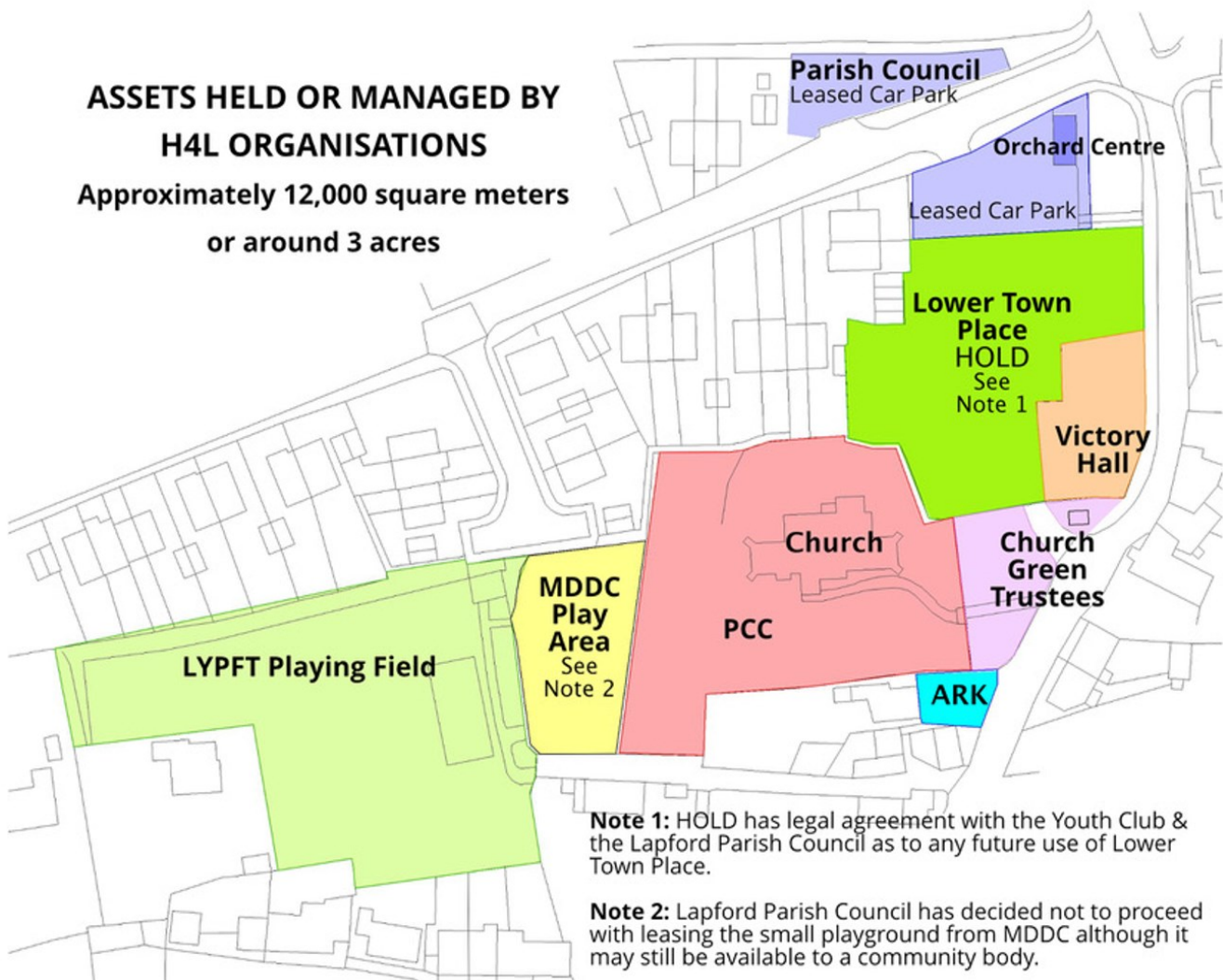
Background

The Heart For Lapford Strategy Group, (H4L SG), came into being early in 2019. The group brought together representatives of eight existing organisations which hold physical assets in the centre of the village or have made financial contributions to the purchase of Lower Town Place for the benefit of the community.

The Strategy Group members are the Parochial Church Council (PCC), The ARK/Lapford Community Church (LCC), Victory Hall Management Committee (VHMC), the Youth Club Management Committee (YCMC), Lapford Youth and Playing Field Trust (LYPFT), The Church Green Trustees (CGT), Lapford Parish Council (LPC) and Heart of Lapford Development (HOLD).

The point of the H4L Strategy Group is to help the constituent organisations work effectively together in common purpose to enhance the centre of Lapford, through understanding the views and needs of parishioners and consideration of new or improved facilities.

**ASSETS HELD OR MANAGED BY
H4L ORGANISATIONS**
Approximately 12,000 square meters
or around 3 acres



Rationale

This paper, called **Roadmap for 2021-2023**, has been prepared through a process of evolution and consultation with the constituent members of The Heart For Lapford Strategy Group. The paper is intended to be dynamic with the capacity to add to, or refine, existing aims and objectives. Our purpose is to communicate with and engage parishioners, so that together our village can move forward.

The Roadmap sets out the aspirations of the Heart For Lapford Strategy Group and the processes which will be implemented to achieve them. It is a specific response to those who have called for further information about the “plans” for the future and to inform the whole village about work of this group. It is very much about work in progress, and is one more step along the journey.

Next Steps:

- We have agreed a limited number of key aims for the next two/three years, with the actual target timescales being implemented from the end of the Covid-19 restrictions.
- We have identified key objectives, timescales and responsibilities to achieve these aims.
- We have consolidated these into a simple unambiguous format to be communicated to parishioners i.e. The Roadmap.
- We will ensure that The Roadmap is promoted through appropriate social media channels such as the village website, www.lapfordvillage.co.uk, Lapford Lookout, and laminated poster displays sited at key public locations.

Aims and Objectives in Detail

Aim 1: Complete clearance and turfing of Lower Town Place (LTP) and turn it over to the village as an open village amenity. (Proposed target to complete: April 2021)

Objectives: 1a) Agree and advertise a date for an official opening ceremony.
1b) Encourage the organisation of an opening event in due course (after ongoing Covid-19 restrictions have ended).
1c) Establish a steering group to oversee the use of Lower Town Place which requires the direct cooperation of the VHMC and HOLD as joint owners.
1d) Review the structure of ownership by establishing clear governance and management strategies facilitated by 1c) above.
1e) Continue to explore options for future use.

Aim 2: Prioritise the creation of a facility for village teenagers. (Target 2021/22)

Objectives: 2a) Explore the need and potential for a “teen hang out” through active engagement with youth.
2b) Consequent to 2a) above, consider with them, the relative merits of (i) a shipping container, (ii) a log cabin, (iii) a gazebo shelter, or similar small building.
2c) Identify cost implications, draw up budgets and determine how costs can be covered.
2d) Engage the teenagers in a project group to take charge of their facility and fundraise for equipment.
2e) Agree oversight governance and young person inclusiveness in day-to-day management of any facility built.
2f) Promote the participation of young people in future village surveys (aim 3), the preparation of proposals derived from the survey findings (aim 4), and in any future development decisions.

Aim 3: Conduct a village wide survey to obtain clear information about the wishes of parishioners, ensuring that the voices of the majority are captured. (Target 2021/22)

- Objectives:** 3a) Design and validate a questionnaire to ensure transparency and full involvement, reaching out to everyone in the village and creating an inclusive and representative group to analyse the results.
3b) Ascertain through questions, what parishioners' thoughts are on the existing Victory Hall (VH) in its current form. Identify benefits and limitations.
3c) Ascertain how current limitations, if any, affect usage.
3d) Explore through questions what VH facilities are a priority for improvement in the medium and long term. Note: This will clearly direct any professional services in the design of any extension or new build consideration should this become an option.
3e) Determine through similar questions views about the playing field and siting of play equipment.
3f) Establish through reflective thoughts i) reaction to the new vista created by the clearance of the old farm yard and ii) ideas on how to optimise the new landscape whilst providing appropriate and sustainable facilities for public use.
3g) Identify through appropriate questions any innovative suggestions for income generation that makes the facility viable in the future.

Aim 4: Prepare a set of proposals derived from the survey results and other data to form the basis of visual concepts and organise a process of voting for preferred concepts. (Target 2022/23)

- Objectives:** 4a) Work towards a two-year timescale in analysing results from survey and modified feedback to prepare a brief to engage professional services to develop conceptual ideas for any further development.
4b) Prepare a set of proposals, derived from the survey results and other relevant data including economic viability, to form the basis of visual concepts.
4c) Establish an open and transparent mechanism of further consultation and voting for preferred concepts.
4d) Ensure that any defined process has integrity, scope for anonymity and security of method to ensure against manipulation.

Aim 5: Re-establish fundraising group and a programme of activities and events. (Target 2021/ongoing)

- Objectives:** 5a) Agree structure of fundraising group and understand the importance of linking public fundraising and institutional fundraising in a combined strategy.
5b) Be mindful of the knock-on implications of COVID-19 to charitable bodies and their resources, recognising that grants may be severely reduced or restricted.
5c) Agree between the members of H4L SG the priorities for fundraising and task the fundraising group to establish appropriate activities to satisfy these needs.
5d) Agree and source any funding required to engage professional services.
5e) Create and share an integrated business plan.



Aim 6: Identify specific priorities from the member organisations and bring these into a summary plan. (Target: late 2021/ongoing)

Objectives: 6a) Victory Hall:

- i) Make significant progress with the renewal and refurbishment of toilets and remodel side entrance porch.
- ii) Explore how the VH can develop the existing facilities already provided including acoustics, lighting, and stage.

6b) Lapford Community Church (formerly YVCF)/The ARK:

- i) Develop the use of the new website <http://www.lapfordcc.org.uk>
- ii) Actively engage with Church Green Trustees to explore the potential for a pathway to connect The ARK to other facilities in the centre of the village.
- iii) Consequent to ii) above, to re-profile the ground surface outside The ARK to create a safer entrance.
- iv) Continue supporting the work of The ARK and the Foodbank for the benefit of the community.

6c) Church Green:

- i) Revise the Church Green constitution and agree this with the Charity Commission.
- ii) Continue to work with HOLD and the community, regarding the neglected bank between Lower Town Place and Church Green.
- iii) Work with Lapford Community Church/The ARK to explore the potential to create access from The ARK on to Church Green.

6d) Lapford Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Seek Faculty consent from the Diocese, Planning consent from MDDC and Listed Building consent from English Heritage for:

- i) A new extension in the north west corner to provide a disabled toilet and storage space accessible for the church interior.
- ii) Creating a mezzanine platform in the bell tower to facilitate safe ringing, also as a consequence creating ground floor storage for churchyard maintenance equipment.
- iii) Clearing the south west corner of the churchyard and prune overgrown hedges (Target 2022) to create more ground for burials. This will take account of wildlife and guidance will be sought on relocation where required.

6e) LYPFT:

The Youth and Playing Field Trust (LYPFT) is committed to providing safe sporting and recreational facilities on the existing playing field for the physical, mental and spiritual health of the whole community. We will work to maintain and improve the facility to the best of our ability. There will always be consultation with the community before any significant changes are made to the playing field. LYPFT will work in co-operation with statutory and voluntary groups within the village who have an interest in the facility.

What happens now?

Heart For Lapford Strategy Group wishes to stimulate wider discussion and exchange of views within Lapford and hopes that now the initial work to prepare Lower Town Place for community use has been completed, creative ideas will emerge about possible future uses of the space and connected areas.

It is through such exchanges that the community will embrace the ownership and potential that the acquisition of the redundant farm has brought to Lapford and develop a vision for generations to come.

H4L Strategy Group welcomes responses to this Roadmap, either through the Lapford Lookout or to heartforlapford@aol.com. All contributions will be carefully considered and in due course a summary document will be prepared for publication.

H4L Strategy Group Roadmap for 2021-2023 discussed and developed through 2020 and finalised in this form in February 2021

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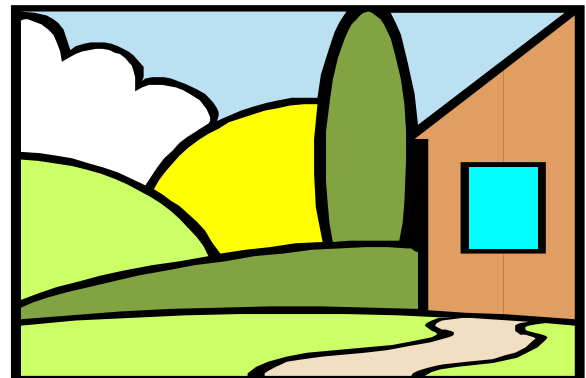
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Lapford Village Talent Initiative will lead to an exhibition at the end of Lockdown.

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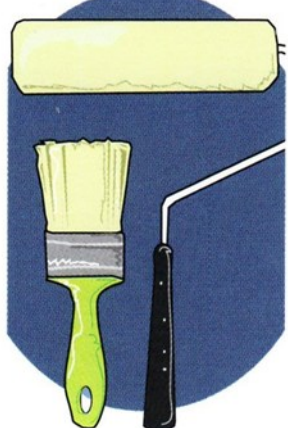
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DECIMALISATION

On 15th February 1971 Britain went decimal. All the banks were shut on the 11th and 12th to prepare for the change over. Three million pounds was spent converting the country's phone boxes to take the new two pence pieces. Every cash register in the country had to be changed.

For those not old enough to remember, the old British system used the abbreviations £ for pound, 's' for shilling and 'd' for pence. They are abbreviations for the Latin words libra, solidus and denarius, or LSD. Libra meant pound, solidus meant shilling and denarius meant penny. The origins of pounds, shillings and pence go back to ancient times.

There were 12 pence in a shilling and 20 shillings in a pound. So that made: $12 \times 20 = 240$ pence in a pound. If that all sounds very confusing, the advantage of this system over decimalisation was that it was easy to divide. You could divide a pound into half, thirds, quarters, fifths and sixths which was very useful for trading in the days before calculators.

The other common abbreviation was the '/' symbol to divide amounts in shillings and pence. So 15 shillings and 6 pence was 15s 6d or 15/6. If there were no pence you could use /- for a quantity in shillings, so 5/- for 5 shillings.

There's an interesting saying which cropped up after decimalisation. When the money changed, people often weren't sure what the price of something meant as they weren't thinking in the new money yet, so they would ask "What's that in old money?" However, people used the same expression when talking about metric units. So "That's two kilos." - "What's that in old money?" Presumably this expression will vanish when all of us who remember the confusion in the early 1970's are no more.

		£	s	d
1	A stone			
2	50% panties			
3	A bicycle			
4	A man's name			
5	Sun, Moon, Pluto			
6	A kind of pig			
7	Royal headdress			
8	A leather worker			
9	Hit repeatedly			
10	Unwell sea creature			
11	Part of a monkey's leg			
12	A singer			
13	A kangaroo			
14	Ruler			
15	A girl's name			
16	Film starring Tommy Steele			
17	Gorilla Patella			
18	A goat			
19	Jack broke it			
20	Steamed once a year			
21	0-0			
	TOTAL			

PUZZLE CORNER

Codeword Answer from February Issue

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	S	2	L	3	N	4	T	5	W	6	Q	7	M	8	I	9	Y	10	A	11	V	12	U	13	G
14	X	15	D	16	E	17	C	18	R	19	K	20	J	21	H	22	F	23	O	24	Z	25	P	26	B



Dear Editor,

Thank you for being Editor to the Lapford Lookout. You are doing a great job.

February must be the month for letter writing. Obviously with the continued lockdown lots of people have put pen to paper!

When I read the letter from Mr. Ivan Hall, I was disappointed by his griumbles. Being a HOLD shareholder, I really don't feel the need for him to gripe on my behalf, especially after reading the letters from HOLD, Lapford Youth Club Management Committee and the Victory Hall Committee.

I can see that Lapford has not been sitting on its laurels! A lot has been done to raise money in grants, etc. Also, they have a plan which looks impressive, so won't be needing one from Google!

Pat West



Dear Editor,

THE FUTURE OF LTP: SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Since the last issue of the Lapford Lookout, most of my questions have been answered and I am very pleased to show how. In my last letter, I mentioned that the village owes a debt of gratitude to those who personally gave substantial sums to enable the purchase of LTP. As a charity, HOLD can claim back the tax paid on the gifted money. Donors' generosity, I'm pleased to discover, will thus also cover maintenance costs for the next few years.

I was much saddened by the reports of "unpleasant actions and personal attacks" in the last Lapford Lookout. It was even more disturbing, to find out recently that much of this was anonymous Facebook vitriol, from persons hiding in the shadows. A most cowardly and distasteful method of expressing ones views, which not only affects the recipient, but the family too. At the age of 76, Facebook, or indeed a smart phone, does not appeal to me at all.

In making a case to charities for project funding, a Bid can be prepared in either of two ways, and of course it pays to choose the best one. You may either submit the current paper value of the assets (like LTP), or, what you have paid to buy them. The current valuation of LTP is therefore irrelevant, and so basically the project indeed has access to at least £400,000, being the sum of the purchase price and the money spent tidying up the site. The project can indeed say "Mr/Madam Villager, we now have access to at least £400,000, for the village, to boost our village facilities, We need your help to see how it might best be spent". I hope this stimulates more than casual curiosity!

There is a plan, a rose by any other name, called a Roadmap; hopefully included in this issue. Further, I was pleased to learn that funding charities view actual cash raised more generously than assets. Thus, the cash collected from the abseiling, or other future events, will bring in more than just a £ for £ match. Also, in view of asset match funding, more grants could be available if other village assets are included. There is indeed a lot more that could happen, if there is a will. Wow!

Ivan Hall

Dear Editor,

I don't normally write letters but thanks must go to Ivan Hall for highlighting how nice it is at Lower Town Place. I agree that the centre of our lovely village has been significantly improved - the open views toward the church are wonderful.

It doesn't matter how much the land is now worth because it belongs to the village; it has been 'saved' for us all and will never be over developed with cramped housing. As LTP is now a village asset, it doesn't matter if it stays as it is for fifty years, at least we have it!

Lapfordians should be grateful that so many people are willing to put their personal time and effort into improving village life for the rest of us. Hindsight is a truly magnificent thing and there will always be matters that could have been dealt with differently. If mistakes have been made along the way, it would be well to remember that unpaid volunteers can only do what they think best at the time. There have been considerable other improvements in the village since the millennium - the new school hall, new Preschool building, the Orchard Centre and The Ark - surely no one would rather these were all removed. Since it is not possible to go back in time, please can we now move forward?

I am sure the relevant parties are more than capable of producing a complete business plan without reference to Mr. Google BUT they appear to be damned if they do and damned if they don't. Not so long ago there were vociferous comments along the lines of "we want a say", "we want to be involved", "don't make decisions without consultation" etc, etc. In order to produce a business plan there has to be just that, a plan. A considered decision therefore needs to be made about the way forward before a plan can be produced. And how can a business plan be costed if there is no agreed way forward? So 'they' seem to be in a no win situation!

If what we have so far is only "a pair of socks" then I for one will remain an extremely grateful villager!

Given the negativity and nastiness seen previously on social media, I would be grateful if you would withhold my name, thank you.

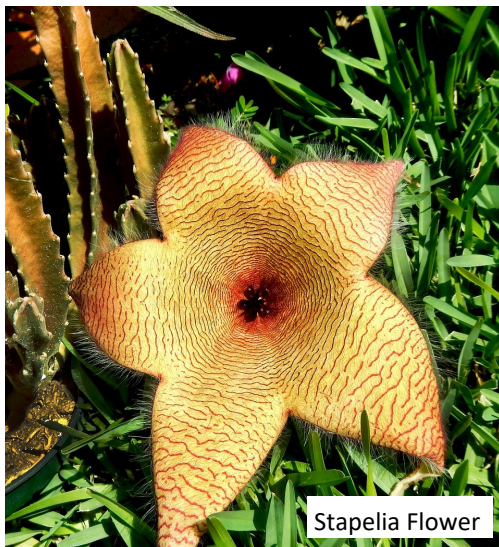
Name and address supplied

SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO DO DURING A LOCKDOWN

Many people grow plants from seed as a cheap and fun way to either fill their gardens with colour or their vegetable patch with a variety of vegetables, but I would guess that when it comes to house plants, most people buy them ready made from a garden centre or supermarket.

While most garden plants require seeds to be planted at a specific time of year, house plants are not so fussy. I grow them at any time of the year, even in the depths of winter, usually growing different plants each year. Some house plants do well outside during the summer so having more plants than you can cope with indoors need not be a problem as it is always good to have unusual plants growing in the garden.

I obtain seeds from a variety of sellers. Spending many evenings looking for unusual or exotic seeds on eBay is entertaining, especially when I see the impossible flowers which are being sold. For example, bright colours, especially bright blue, or multi-coloured roses which are either Photoshopped or white flowers or plants left standing in dyed water. Some have their stems split with each part of the stem standing in a different colour which will change the colour of a previously white flower. Have you ever seen the blue moth orchids in supermarkets? When they flower a second time the blue has disappeared and you have disappointingly white flowers, the flowers were blue because the plant was watered using blue dyed water. Nevertheless, if you are sensible there are some fantastic flowers and plants available to grow from seed which you would never see in the shops, or at a prohibitive price.



Stapelia Flower

Specialist seed catalogues contain plants you would not find in the standard seed catalogues, and many of these are online now. I have been buying from Jungle Seeds for years. Once again you will have to be careful as there is little to be gained by buying large tree seeds to grow in your conservatory or living room unless you want to grow them as bonsai in which case there is no better place from which to buy.

Five years ago I bought some seeds from a specialist grower of stapelias in South Africa. Some seeds grew others didn't, but overall I was pleased with the results, especially when they started to flower even if the flowers smelt like rotting flesh, but I was expecting that.

Gloxinias are a great way to start. Although they form a corm and return every year, they can be grown from

seed and will flower in just 7 months from sowing.

Another fun plant to grow from seed which can live either in a pot or be planted out in the garden after the last frost is celosia. Celosia comes in many different forms including brightly coloured plumes of flowers, but my favourite is Celosia Cristata which is great for the children to grow. This was the first house plant I ever owned and what 8 year old child wouldn't want a brightly coloured flower that looks like a brain? Cape Primrose (Streptocarpus), cacti, succulents and a host of plants are available in seed form, and they are not



Celosia Cristata

difficult to find although some, but by no means all, can be difficult to grow. For example you will not grow an orchid without specialist equipment.

I have plants in my garden which I have grown from winter sown seeds, Mimosa Dealbata which are as tall as my house and flower from January to April with their bright yellow flowers, I only planted them outside 8 years ago when they were 4 feet tall, these can make great bonsai if they grown correctly.

So have a look and see what interesting houseplant seeds you can find. Surely it is better to look at a plant on your shelf and be able to say "I grew that" rather than just buying the plant from a shop and sticking it on a shelf.



Mimosa

Richard Hassett
(January 2021)

HALDENE (NOW BECKETT HOUSE)

Many thanks to Ann Cann for this lovely picture of Beckett House taken circa 1960. She tells us that they moved into the house on the right of the lane in early 1947 and her brother still lives there, having gone there as a baby born on 29th December 1946.



PERSPECTIVE

My name is Janet May and I live in Chawleigh. I am in my third and final year of curacy, having been ordained Deacon in the Church of England in 2018 and as priest in 2019. I am serving my curacy in the Little Dart Mission Community, which is made up of 12 churches on the border of Mid and North Devon. As part of my training, I am required to do a placement and so I recently carried that out at Crediton Parish Church. As part of that placement, I was asked to write an article for their magazine and I have been asked to send it to the Lapford Lookout too. I am married to Alfred and we have three children who are aged 16, 18 and 22. They all went to Lapford Primary School, so Lapford was a big part of our lives for many years.

I grew up in apartheid South Africa and through my many different experiences there, grew to understand the issues of poverty and injustice. Since moving to Devon in 2003, I have worked as a Veterinary Nurse, medical secretary and as Church Relationship Manager for Tearfund, among others.

I felt the call to ordained ministry when I was 19. God took me on a journey of refining and deepening of my faith, through the many ups and downs of life. Part of me wondered why it had taken me so long to finally get to where God had called me so many years ago, but I realised that God's timing is always perfect and that He had to grow my character before that could happen. Growing character is not always pleasant, but God is with us throughout and helps us to find our way out and makes us stronger in the process.

The last year has been difficult for so many people here in the UK with the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people have lost their jobs, lost loved ones and some still not sure if they will have a job at the end of it all. However, we are so very blessed here. We have the NHS, which offers free treatment for our ailments. We have a benefits system, that while flawed, is there to help people, and we have a government, who while they have made mistakes during this pandemic, have tried hard to help people with the furlough scheme and other financial aid for businesses and individuals. We now also have one of the fastest roll out of vaccinations in the world. Yes, there are things that have gone wrong, but when you compare us with other countries in the world, we are so very fortunate to be here.

We have family and friends in South Africa. Medical care is not free there, so people stay at home when they should be in hospital, because they can't afford the treatment in private care and the government hospitals are bursting at the seams and in a terrible state. People who arrive at hospital and are considered not likely to survive through Covid, are turned around and sent home without treatment. When people have lost their jobs through this pandemic, there is no benefits system to help them – they literally have nothing and some are starving. The government has squandered money that was supposed to have paid for vaccines and now there are only one million vaccines booked from India, in a population of tens of millions. Food parcels that were destined for the poor, have been stolen by government officials.

Why do I tell you this? I see so much negativity and criticism on social media and in the mainstream media. It is so easy to be negative during this current time of crisis and loss of so many things we are used to, not least human touch. It is good to keep things in perspective and appreciate that we live in a country where we have so much to be thankful for. Next time you hear someone speaking negatively about things, remind them that there are places where things are so much worse – and do say a prayer for those who are suffering, both in the UK and around the world. May you know God's peace and joy as we move towards Spring and have renewed hope of being able to hug loved ones again in the near future. May you know God's absolute love for you.

Revd Janet May

RAISING FUNDS FOR SEND A COW

In support of



We (Ron Harle and David Bragg) have been getting out on e-bikes for regular exercise this autumn and winter, complying with the lockdown rules of course and maintaining social distance when riding together. We are both getting fitter although it has not had much effect on our waistlines yet.

We decided we could use our efforts to support **Relay for Hope**, a current initiative for the Send a Cow charity working to provide basic life sustaining and sanitation facilities in east Africa.

As you may know David was one of the founding farmers of Send a Cow [SAC], working directly for them for many years and receiving national recognition for his work.

So we have been riding our beautiful, but often muddy, Mid Devon lanes as the Lapford Ancient Rogues Cycling Syndicate (LARCS) since the New Year in all weathers and have been very encouraged by friends and family sponsors who have generously wanted to support the work of SAC.

To find out more and/or donate please go to:

<https://relayforhope.sendacow.org/fundraisers/RonHarle>

or

<https://relayforhope.sendacow.org/fundraisers/DavidBragg>

**Our target:
1,000 miles and
£1,000 raised
by the end of March**

With **YOUR** support we could help SAC improve the health, livelihood and resilience against diseases [like Covid-19], of even more impoverished African families across the SAC programmes.

If you would prefer to give a cash donation please put your donation in an envelope marked SAC and drop it through the ARK letterbox.

THANK YOU. Your support is very much appreciated. David and Ron

RAIL NEWS

As predicted in the December Lapford Lookout, the December timetable changes included introducing a Lapford stop to the first Exeter train in the morning, departing Lapford at 06.56 and arriving in St David's at 07.31, allowing connections out to the business areas of Digby and Sowton before 08.00 as well as much improved connectivity to stations further afield. We were less successful in gaining improvements to the Saturday services and so continue to strive for further improvements in the future.



Despite daily media reports of train services being reduced due to Coronavirus, we are fortunate in having absolutely no reduction of service on the Barnstaple Branch. It is always sensible to check www.nationalrail.co.uk for latest service information but generally the full service continues to run. There are two issues underpinning these daily announcements. Mainline services have indeed been reduced to about 80% of the previous levels as train operators and Government struggle to balance the fact that very few passengers are travelling anywhere, while still needing to maintain a base service for 'essential' journeys. GWR have therefore reduced some services due to Department of Transport instructions and others occasionally get cancelled due to a simple lack of staff arising from the numbers off sick or being sent home after being in contact with someone infected with Coronavirus. In the longer term, railway staffing issues may become more of an issue as there is no training able to take place to replace retiring staff. Cancellations, as time goes on, 'due to staff shortages' may therefore become more prevalent, hence the need to check before every journey.

Like so many other things at the moment, the previously reported proposals to improve access to the station are delayed due to the temporary unavailability of Network Rail staff to progress the matter. The feasibility study originally planned for December was postponed until January and, at the time of writing (mid-February), has still not taken place. Until this initial study takes place there can clearly be no plan of exactly what they propose to do, or any consideration given to funding or grant applications. These processes are very long-winded at the best of times but more so now. It might realistically therefore be two to three years before we see any new station access. In the meantime, we can simply keep the village informed about the progress, or lack of it, via The Lapford Lookout.

One other piece of Rail News that may be of local interest although not directly related to Lapford is the impending re-opening of the Okehampton line. Network Rail have recently re-acquired this length of track following many years in private ownership since 1994, when British Rail (as was) ceased using Meldon Quarry as its main source of ballast for the Western Region. The present expectation is that a 2-hourly weekday service may be re-introduced as early as May 2021, increasing to an hourly service at some future date when sufficient track improvements have taken place to enable the trains to run faster. Watch this space for further news as it emerges!

Lapford Parish Council Regeneration Committee

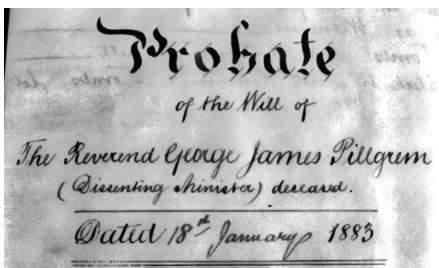
LAPFORD VILLAGE ARCHIVE

Readers may like to know that we are still actively looking for and acquiring items of local interest, most recently the Probate of the Will of one Rev. Pillgrem dated 18th January 1883. Rev. Pillgrem's Will was dated 15th November 1871 and he died on 10th December 1881. This original document is now part of Lapford Village Archive.

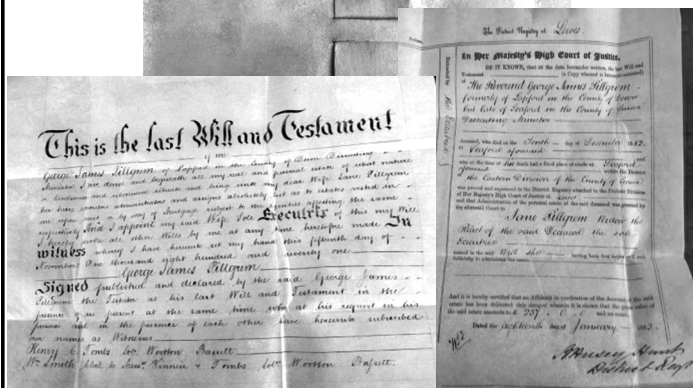


This purchase led to wanting to know a little more about Rev. Pillgrem, especially given that this was around 150 years ago, hence the contribution from Peter Lacey below.

Other recent acquisitions include a matchbox of The Old Malt Scoop Inn, a colour slide of Lapford Railway Station, Contracts for Corn at Higher Eastington (1898), Contracts for Grass at Town Farm (1904), and posters for the sale of local trees and timber (1882-1877). All these are absolutely fascinating.



Photos by
Jeanne
Whittaker



LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH REVEREND GEORGE PILLGREM

The Village Archive has obtained the 'Last Will & Testament' of Rev. George Pillgrem who was the minister of the Congregational Church from 1868 to 1872. The following is taken from Noel Parry's book 'The light on the Hill' The Story of Lapford Congregational Church.

"A list of church ministers follows at the end of this booklet, and one of considerable curiosity is that the Rev. George Pillgrem, who became minister in July 1868, had to leave the church in September 1872, having been given notice to quit the Manse (Mr Croote's house), and therefore the pulpit. There is no indication what can have happened to cause this, but deep regret and sorrow are expressed on behalf of the church and its members, and Rev. Pillgrem speaks with 'many sobbings and tears' about his enforced ejection. Mr Croote can not have been popular!"

Our thanks go to the Archive for obtaining this piece of history about one of the village characters.

Peter Lacey



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AROMATIC CRISPY DUCK PANCAKES

Serves: 6
Prep: 15 minutes
Cook: 2 hours 35 minutes



Ingredients

- 4 – 6 duck legs
(depending on how generous you want the portions)
- 2 handfuls of salt
- 3 tablespoons Chinese five spice
- 1 knob of root ginger
- 1 orange, zested
- 2 sticks of cinnamon
- 1 star anise
- 2 red chillies
- 600g duck fat
- 1 cucumber
- 1 bunch of spring onions
- 1/2 jar hoisin sauce
- 18 soft Chinese pancakes
(there are at least three Chinese grocers in Exeter)

Method

1. Sprinkle the duck with the salt and leave for 15 to 30 minutes. This will bring all the moisture out of the skin and will make it extra crispy at the end.
2. Preheat your oven to 150 C / Gas 2.
3. Using some **paper** towel pat the moisture off the duck.
4. In a large ovenproof casserole dish, add the duck, five spice, ginger, orange, cinnamon, star anise, chillies and duck fat.
5. Cover and cook for 2 1/2 hours in the preheated oven.

N.B. Instead of following instruction 7, I put the duck breasts in the deep fat fryer for 5 – 10 minutes. This means you can prepare the day before and just heat in the fryer on the day if preferred.

6. Cut the cucumber and spring onions into strips to fit in your pancakes.
7. Take the duck out of the fat, and place on a baking tray, turn your oven up to as high as you can, and 'fry' skin side down for about 5 minutes, to crisp the skin.
8. Shred the duck with a fork. Serve with your pancakes, cucumber, spring onions and hoisin sauce.

Hilary Hassett

COLOUR ME IN



Image by Beccy Fletcher

CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION!

SHOW US WHY YOU LOVE DEVON... IN A PICTURE!

Prizes for 4-11 & 12-16 age groups!

WIN GoApe gift card, Pennywell Farm tickets, Tarka Pottery workshop, Coastal Craft Collective workshop.

Help us celebrate our 60th anniversary and create the cover art for our next LOVE Devon magazine!

Devon Communities Together is a community charity for Devon and as part of our 60th anniversary celebrations we'd like children in Devon to create a picture that shows us their favourite part of Devon and why they love it!

Is it building sandcastles at the beach? Maybe it's scrambling over rocks on Dartmoor? Perhaps it's playing in their own back garden? It could be a local park or even a special street or landmark... we want to see what children love about living in Devon and view their favourite Devon spots through their eyes.

The competition is open to any school aged children (aged 4-16), with categories for primary (4-11) and secondary (12-16) and one overall winner. Plus prizes for category winners and runners up! The winning entry will be featured on the cover of the magazine and also on our website.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO ENTER ONLINE, VISIT:

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/childrens-artwork-competition
why-do-you-love-devon

CLOSING DATE: 1ST APRIL 2021





LOCKDOWN

Lockdown has turned us all into dogs.

We roam the house all day searching for food.

We are told "No" if we get too close to strangers and we get very excited about car rides!

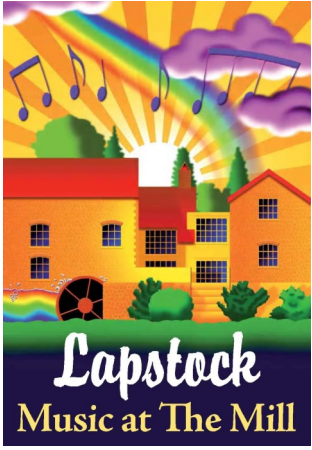


LAPSTOCK 2021

Due to Covid-19

Lapstock 2021 is cancelled for a 2nd year

Please support live music where you can.



LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

FEBRUARY 2021

Please note this is a summary of the main points of interest. A copy of the draft minutes will be made available on the Lapford village website, and on the notice boards in the Orchard Centre and the Ark.

The Council met on Tuesday 9th 2021 via Zoom. Three members of the public attended.

- Cllr Squires, DCC, reported that the DCC budget would probably be increased by the maximum amount allowed due to the increase in the number of children in care and increased spending by Social Services.
- Cllr Eginton, MDDC, advised that a new Local Plan for Mid Devon was in the development stage. Suggestions from landowners and Parish Councils re plots of land suitable for development were welcomed. Any suggestions to be sent to MDDC by 22nd March. Local elections will go ahead on 6th May 2021. There are vacancies to be filled by election on Lapford Parish Council.
- The Church Green Trustees awaited final costings for repairs to the bank between the Church Green and Lower Town Place, and news of fundraising efforts. The donated oak trees for fence repairs had been felled. It was agreed in principle to allow the Community Church to make an entrance way from the ARK to the Church Green. The annual Charity Commission return has been completed and charity details updated.
- The Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee met via Zoom. The Emergency Plan is currently being revised and updated. The Devon Air Ambulance Trust is unable to take the extension of winter gritting services to the school forward. The Parish Council has asked the Committee to explore the possibility of the Parish joining the Devon County Road Warden Scheme. Volunteers from the community will be needed to make this a viable proposition.
- Regeneration Committee news includes the continuing dialogue with GWR & NR re various issues around station access and a safe pedestrian way to the station. Good news is that the rail fares from Lapford Station will not increase when the annual 2.6% increase is applied nationally. The Committee will look into the question of possible development sites in the village and report back to the Parish Council.
- The Planning application ref 20/02109/LBC re Challice Gate and Honey Cottage was supported.
- The Council agreed to pay insurance for the Playing Field for this year at a cost of £186.20.
- Cllr Alex Shapland was confirmed as the new Parish Footpaths Co-ordinator in place of former Councillor Briony Clinch. She was thanked for all her hard work for the parish paths network. Issues regarding the paths including difficulty of access for some people because of stiles instead of gates in certain places to be addressed.
- An interim Parish Clerk has been appointed.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY IN LAPFORD




**KEEP CALM
AND FOLLOW THE
EMERGENCY PLAN**

Parish Council Contact:
Ian Hemsworth - 01363 884460

Village Contact:
Roy Trevaskis - 01363 83742

South of Taw/A377 Contact:
Sue Briant-Evans - 01363 83763

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency numbers ~ 999 or 112
- Childline ~ 0800 1111
- Churches House Action Team ~ 01884 255606
- Citizens Advice Bureau ~ 03444 111 444
CAB Crediton ~ 01363 776210 (M, W, Th, 9-3)
- Crediton Ring and Ride ~ 01363 773303
- Crimestoppers ~ 0800 555 111
- Dog Fouling/Fly Tipping 01884 255255
- Environment Agency Floodline ~ 0845 9881188
- Farming Community Network ~ 03000 111 999
- Gas Emergency ~ 0800 111999
- Highways (roads/lights/potholes) ~ 0345 155 1004
- Mental Health Support Out of Hours ~ The Moorings
@Devon ~ Exeter: 07990 790 920 or
Barnstaple: 07850 927 064
- NHS for non urgent medical needs ~ 111
- Patient Participation Group ~ Bill Graham ~ 01363 83047
- Police Non-emergency ~ 101
- Power cut ~ 105 or 0800 6783 105
- RSPCA ~ 0300 1234 999
- Safeguarding concerns and Social Services ~ 0845 6000388
- Samaritans ~ 116 123, 01271 374343, 01392 411711
- SHOUT ~ Text 85258 for help from crisis volunteers
- Water leaks or burst mains ~ 0800 230 0561



LAPFORD OUTREACH POST OFFICE



OPENING HOURS:

Monday 9.00 - 12.30
Wednesday 9.00 - 12.30
Friday 9.00 - 12.30

LAST POSTING TIMES AROUND THE VILLAGE

	<u>Mon-Fri</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Eastington Cross	4.30p.m.	11.00 a.m.
Woodland Cottage	3.00 p.m.	7.30 a.m.
Industrial Estate	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Highfield	4.45 p.m.	10.15 a.m.
Orchard Way	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Saxtons	4.30 p.m.	10.15 a.m.
Morchar Road	5.00 p.m.	11.15 a.m.

In addition, items left at the Post Office during opening hours will be posted that day via North Tawton.

LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL, ETC

Cllr Ian Hemsworth (Chair)	Argosy, Lapford, EX17 6PX	01363 884460 / i.hemsworth@btinternet.com
Cllr Sue Briant-Evans (Vice Chair)	Edgerley Cottage, Lapford, EX17 6AH	01363 83763 / susanbriantevans@gmail.com
Cllr David Davenport	Pleasant Cottage, Lapford, EX17 6PZ	01363 884236 / daviddport@gmail.com
Cllr Julie Down	Rafters, Lapford, EX17 6QP	01363 83356 / julielpc@hotmail.com
Cllr Donna Egan	Primrose Cottage, Lapford, EX17 6PZ	01363 83732 / donnaegan84@gmail.com
Cllr Hilary Hassett	School House, Eastington Lane, Lapford, EX17 6QE	01363 83858 / hilary.hassett66@gmail.com
Cllr Peter Heal	Ashlands, Lapford, EX17 6AE	Home - 01363 884277 / Office - 01363 775467 peter.heal@btconnect.com
Cllr Alex Shapland	13 Highfield, Lapford, EX17 6PY	alex1990shappers@hotmail.com
Vacancy	~	~
Vacancy	~	~
Parish Clerk - vacancy	~	lapfordpc@live.co.uk
District Cllr Clive Eginton	6 Moortown, Chawleigh, Chulmleigh, EX18 7EU	01769 580830 / ceginton@middevon.gov.uk
County Cllr Margaret Squires	Frostland Farm, Copplestone, EX17 5NY	01363 84337 / margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk
Mel Stride MP	House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA	02072 197037 / mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk

NAME OF SOCIETY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE / EMAIL
<p>LAPFORD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM - CORONAVIRUS LOCAL HELP</p> <p>Adventure Gaming Beginners Ballroom Dancing Banyu Hatten Aikido Books on Wheels Friends of Langannerie (twinning) Friends of Lapford Mill Friends of Lapford School Heart for Lapford Strategy Group (H4L) HOLD Ladies of Lapford (LOL) Lapford Allotment Society Lapford Amateur Dramatic Society Lapford and District Pre-school Playgroup Lapford ARK Lapford Association Football Club Lapford Book Club Lapford Choir Lapford Dog Club Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee Lapford Emergency Response Team Lapford Foodbank Lapford Handbell Ringers Lapford High 5 (ages 7-12) Lapford Gardening Club Lapford Gardening Club (Shows) Lapford Lookout Lapford Meat Bingo Lapford Pilates Lapford Over 60 Club Lapford Poppy Appeal Organiser Lapford Project 2000 Lapford Regeneration Committee Lapford Revel Lapford Revel Volunteers Lapford School Lapford Scouts Lapford Short Mat Bowls Lapford Victory Hall Booking Secy (Temporary) Lapford Village Archive Lapford Voluntary Car Aid Lapford Youth and Playing Field Trust Lapstock Nymet Rowland Village Pump Save Our Heritage Lapford Springers 4's and under The Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury</p>	<p>Mr Warren Clayburn Mr Steve Munday Mr Geoff Flather Mr Peter Westcott Mr Peter Henshaw Mr Alex Gater Mrs Kirsty Wensley Secretary Mr Bill Graham Mrs Joy Quickenden Mr Raymond Waldron Mr Ian Wilkie Mrs Lorraine Kigongo Mrs Briony Clinch Mr Niall McAreavey Mrs Jill Doe Mrs Cat Seymour Mrs Sara Thurgood Mrs Sue Briant-Evans Mr Alex Gater Mrs. Briony Clinch Mr Steve Munday Mrs Cat Seymour Mr Richard Hassett Mrs Jeanne Whittaker Mrs Beccy Fletcher Mrs Jayne Grover Steph Heard Mr Ron Kercher Mrs Caroline Noon Mrs Sue Briant-Evans Mr Ian Hemsworth Mr Alex Gater - Mrs Clare Wilmott Mrs Hayley Hardy Mr Jon Tucker Joanne Mrs Jeanne Whittaker Mrs Grace Hill Miss Helen Greensmith Mr Steve Keable Liz and Roland Smith Mrs Donna Egan Mrs Caroline Gilpin Mrs Prue Lambert</p>	<p>07966 144772 / help@lapfordvillage.co.uk Facebook: Help the Vulnerable in our Community (Lapford)</p> <p>01363 83095 / wmclayburn@gmail.com 07798 684225 / steve@lowerfieldhouse.co.uk 01363 83355 / bhaikido@googlemail.com 01363 83525 / pj.westcott@btinternet.com 01837 89070 / petehenshaw@yahoo.co.uk 07815 795918 / alex@lapfordmill.uk 07977 825814 heart4lapford@aol.com 01363 83047 / bg4847@aol.com 01363 83245 / joyquickenden@gmail.com 01363 83894 / ednawaldron@btinternet.com 01363 83437 / i.wilkie45@btinternet.com 01363 83162 / lapfordpreschool@gmail.com 01363 83788 01363 83733 / lapfordafc@gmail.com 01363 83410 / sunnyside@jilldoe45.plus.com 01363 884432 / cathryn_seymour@outlook.com 01363 83081 / info@lapforddogclub.co.uk 01363 83763 / susanbriantevans@gmail.com 07815 795918 / alex@lapfordmill.uk 01363 83788 07798 684225 / steve@lowerfieldhouse.co.uk 01363 884432 / cathryn_seymour@outlook.com 01363 83858 / rich.hassett@btinternet.com 01363 83068 / jeanne.whittaker@btinternet.com 01363 884211 / lapfordlookout@gmail.com 07900 477247 07773 010512 / steph.instructor@talktalk.net 01363 83810 / lapfordover60@yahoo.com 01363 83863 / lapford.pao@gmail.com 01363 83763 / susanbriantevans@gmail.com 01363 884460 / i.hemsworth@btinternet.com 07815 795818 / alex@lapfordmill.uk revelvolunteers@gmail.com 01363 83292 / admin@lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk 07730 368636 / Hayley.Hardy@middevonscouts.org.uk 07814 568846 / 07803 002910 01363 83068 / jeanne.whittaker@btinternet.com 01363 83178 / lvca2011.19@gmail.com helengreensmith@hotmail.com 07967 655045 / steve.keable@btinternet.com 01363 884446 / pump@incywincyweb.com 01363 83732 / donnaegan84@gmail.com 01363 83674 / caroline@gilpin.eclipse.co.uk 01363 83150 / pruelambert@yahoo.co.uk</p>

Albert is a friendly and helpful Lapford resident with a range of qualified and certified services that are available to meet our communities' needs



Mob: 07495 468045

Tel: 01363 83491

Experienced | Certified | Insured



OIL SERVICES (Pressure Jet)

Annual boiler servicing | Landlords certificates | Boiler repairs
Boiler installs | Boiler replacement | Tank replacement
Tank water removal | Cookers | Fire valve testing



PEST & VERMIN CONTROL

Rats | Mice | Ants | Bedbugs | Carpet Beetle | Wasps
Cockroaches | Flies | Insects | Moles | Moths | Squirrels | Bees
Bird Control | Soil pipe camera surveys



GENERAL MAINTENANCE & BUILDING (Examples)

General repairs | Fencing | Painting & Decorating
Gardening | Patios | Paths | Brick & blockwork | Glazing
Shed & Oil tank concrete bases | Slabs | Boarding
Flooring | kitchen units | Gates | Guttering | Etc



PLUMBING & HEATING

Leaks | Taps | Valves | Bathroom suites | Showers | WC's
TRV's | HW Vented & Unvented cylinders | G3 certified
Roof tanks | Blocked soil pipes | Soil waste camera surveys
Blocked drains



LOCKSMITH

Lock replacements | Lock fitting | Window security locks
Cylinders | Euro Locks | Mortice locks | UPVC & Wooden door
locks | Break in's | Full house re locks | Garages
Vending machines | Key safes | Cash boxes



CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Carpets | Rugs | Stairs | Hallways | Sofas | Suites | Chairs
Mattresses | Offices | Cars | Vans
*Minimum charge applies

Email: info@devonpropertyservices.uk
Website: <http://devonpropertyservices.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/PPMpropertyservices>

