



LAPFORD REVEL

Breakfast Fundraiser

**Saturday 28th
February 2026
9am-12noon
Lapford Victory Hall**

**Small breakfast: £8
Large breakfast £10**

**Call Stacey on
07891556884 to book in
Booking not essential but preferred**



**Help us raise further funds for our Revel weekend
10-12th July, it's set to be a wild weekend**



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, LAPFORD

On Friday 9th January 2026, the school community gathered to celebrate an important milestone as Lapford Primary School officially became St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School, marking its place within the Diocese of Exeter family of schools.

The day began with a special celebration at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Lapford, led by Rev. Jeremy Putnam, where pupils, staff, families, and members of the local community came together to reflect on the significance of this new chapter. The atmosphere was joyful and inclusive, with pupils playing a central role throughout the celebrations.



A small-scale effigy of Thomas Becket led the procession back to the school. For many years, the local Lapford Revel festival has begun with a procession featuring a giant model of Thomas Becket, carried from the school to the church. Our small effigy was a heartfelt tribute to this cherished village tradition, connecting the past with the future.



After returning to the school, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Crediton, the Rt. Revd. Moira Astin, who officially marked the occasion by blessing our school and its new name. The Bishop's address was a warm reminder of the community's value within the Church family, with her prayers for the school's future.

Following the ribbon cutting, all guests were invited into the school hall to thaw out with hot chocolate! Here, the children performed a new school song, composed collaboratively by Herons class, to reflect the school's new vision and core values—love, bravery, community, curiosity, and resilience. The song was performed with great energy and pride, a true testament to the creativity and spirit of the pupils.



In the afternoon, we welcomed guests from the local community, as well as directors from the Trust and previous Head Teachers of the school, to a special presentation about the significance of the school's name change. Mrs Healey shared the inspiring journey that led the school to become a Church of England school, reflecting on the values and commitments that guided the transformation. Mr Payne expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in the process, acknowledging the hard work and collaboration that made the day possible.

A special historical display was curated by the Lapford Village Archive group, showcasing the rich history of the school and its connection to the community over the years. Refreshments were kindly provided by The ARK, ensuring that guests were well looked after throughout the afternoon.

Children from both Herons and Kingfishers also spoke confidently about why the school was special to them, sharing personal reflections on their experiences. Some of the children demonstrated their newly created prayer pebbles, placing them into a special bowl crafted by Rev. Caroline Ralph.

The children looked incredibly smart in their new school uniforms, and their pride in the occasion was evident. The day was filled with joy, reflection, and excitement as the school community came together to celebrate this new chapter.

Mrs J. Wright, Head of School



THANK YOU

I would like to give a heartfelt “thank you” to all our good friends and neighbours (you know who you all are!) for all their help and support during my Dad’s two year dementia journey and, more recently, after he sadly passed away. It has been much appreciated by Grace and me and it helped to get us through a very difficult time, knowing you were thinking of us and keeping a “beady eye out” for Bill when he went on one of his strolls!

Many thanks.

Trevor Hill



WINTER HAZARDS

As the recent stormy weather has shown it always pays to be prepared for winter weather. Here are some thoughts from the Met Office:



We are so reliant on the internet, but if a storm meant power and mobile phone networks were affected, what would you do? Consider a separate battery charger, and you could store key information such as the power cut helpline number (105) on your phone.

Cold weather can be a risk to your health, particularly if you are over 65 or have health conditions. Ideally your home (and those of elderly relatives and neighbours) should be heated to at least 18°C. During cold spells, keep your windows closed at night as this can cause a real drop in the temperature indoors.

In windy weather surprising things can become dangerous. Trees or branches can come down; cast iron guttering could be lethal and so can roof slates. Garden furniture and even children’s toys and trampolines can fly around causing damage and potential harm and fences can become problems too. Check and secure is the way forward.

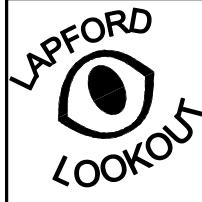
Insulating pipes has two benefits – you’ll keep the heat in, saving you money, but it also means reduced risk of frozen pipes which can burst. It’s also important to know where your stop tap (also called stopcock or stop valve) is and to check it regularly to make sure it is working.

Make sure you have basic supplies in stock in case your power and water are disrupted. It’s worth putting together a ‘grab bag’ with bottled water, medicines, a torch, radio and batteries, copies of important documents and a change of clothes in case you have to leave home quickly.

Checking your car is ready for winter is important. Take a quick check of your tyres. It’s dangerous and illegal to drive in winter conditions with low levels of tread on your vehicle’s tyres. Have an emergency kit with you if driving far, water, blanket, emergency food, torch.

Winter weather coincides with the flu season and flu can affect people in different ways. The annual flu vaccination is offered free to people who are most at risk from the effects of flu.

Lapford Emergency Action Plan Team, Lapford Parish Council



DATES TO LOOKOUT FOR

February 2026

- 10th Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 14th Men’s Breakfast, The ARK, from 9am
- 14th Copy deadline for March Lapford Lookout, 6pm
- 19th Ladies of Lapford joint meeting with Gardening Club, The ARK, 7.30pm
- 21st Quiz & Cheese Evening, Victory Hall, 7pm
- 22nd Sheila Stoneman memorial plaque dedication.
- 28th Lapford Revel fundraiser Breakfast, Victory Hall, 9am

March 2026

- 9th Lent Course, The ARK, 2pm
- 10th Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 10th Gardening Club talk on composting, The ARK, 7.30pm
- 14th Copy deadline for April Lapford Lookout, 6pm
- 28th Lapford Litter Pick

Future Dates

- 14th Apr Copy deadline for May Lapford Lookout, 6pm
- 14th Apr Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 14th Apr Gardening Club talk on Swifts, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
- 9th May Curry & Quiz Night for Lapford Revel.
- 12th May Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 10-12th July Lapford Revel 2026
- 5th Sept Gardening Club Annual Village Show 2026
- 23rd Nov Lapford Project 2000 AGM, Orchard Centre.

Please send your Dates to Lookout For to
lapfordlookout@gmail.com

SHEILA STONEMAN

Many in Lapford will have fond memories of Sheila, from Postmistress at Lapford Mill to Churchwarden at St Thomas’ over a local life of eighty years.

A memorial plaque has been installed in the Parish Church and will be dedicated during the service on Sunday February 22nd at 10.00 a.m.

The Rev Lindsey Starrs will deliver a tribute. All who remember Sheila and her selfless contribution to village life are welcome.

“
FEBRUARY IS THE SHORTEST MONTH, SO IF YOU'RE HAVING A MISERABLE MONTH, TRY TO SCHEDULE IT FOR FEBRUARY.

– LEMONY SNICKET



Chulmleigh & District
Garden Society
QUIZ

Monday 9th February 7.00pm for 7.30 start.

£4.00 each inc. bread & cheese. Wine available.

Max 6 per team. Register by 4th Feb.

Diana:- dianaM@farmline.com

New members very welcome



LADIES OF LAPFORD MEETINGS (LOL)



Please come and join us in The ARK at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 19th February

Sue and Jaine will be talking about

A Year Beginning with a B

(this will be a joint meeting with the Gardening Club)

We always welcome new members.

Come and join us!

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN LAPFORD WELCOME YOU

All the Churches welcome everyone to any of their services and social events.

We look forward to fellowship with you.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

All are welcome—Refreshments served after services

Contacts: Churchwarden: Joan Graham - (e) jemg47@aol.com (t) 01363 83047

Services:

February 1st – CANDLEMAS
February 8th – Second before Lent
February 11th (Wednesday)
February 15th – Last before Lent
February 18th – Ash Wednesday
February 22nd – Lent 1

9.30 a.m. – Lay Led Morning Prayer
9.30 a.m. – Lay Led Morning Prayer
10.30 a.m. – BCP Holy Communion
9.30 a.m. – Lay Led Morning Prayer
7.30 p.m.— Mission Community Service at Morthard Bishop
10.00 a.m. – Common Worship Eucharist



LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Contacts:

Cat Seymour 884432 Helen Wyatt 07964 855677 Carol Worsdell 07368 860835

email: lapfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com

www. [facebook.com/lapfordcongregationalchurch](https://www.facebook.com/lapfordcongregationalchurch)

Services:

Services Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

Communion will be held on the second and fourth Sundays

Preachers for this month:

February 1st - Cat Seymour
February 8th - All age service - Deacon led Communion
February 15th - Merril Archer (No Communion)
February 22nd - No service



LAPFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Contacts:

Briony Clinch - Tel: 83666

Email: admin@lapfordcc.org.uk

www.lapfordcc.org.uk

Services:

The Church meets every Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m. in the Victory Hall with refreshments served from 10.00 a.m.

Connect Groups meet during the week at either 7.00 p.m. or 7.30 p.m.

Please visit our website for information about the Foodbank and The ARK. Our website will also give you more information about other Church activities.



Join Team FORCE at **GREAT WEST RUN**

10km & Half Marathon, Sunday 24th May 2026

£20 ENTRY | **£90** FUNDRAISING



Join Team FORCE so
that your miles can
make a meaningful
difference.



forcecancercharity.co.uk/great-west-run-2026

LENT COURSE

There will be a four week LENT COURSE - open to all - in The ARK at 2.00 p.m. on Mondays, beginning Monday 9th March.



"Though, February is short, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises"

— Charmaine J Forde

LAPFORD PENSIONERS' LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who supported the Lapford Pensioners' Lunch 2025. We are delighted to confirm that funds have been successfully raised to support next year's event, ensuring this much-valued occasion can continue for our community.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Exe Valley Farm Shop, Bickleigh Mill, Four Seasons Greengrocers, Thornes Farm Shop, Morrisons, and Lapford Parish Council for their generous support. We are also extremely grateful to all those who donated prizes to our raffle and to everyone who took part.

Your kindness and generosity are truly appreciated and make a meaningful difference. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Kindest regards,

Stacey, John & Rachel



Lapford Weather Review

Lapford Weather December 2025

Milder than average, rainfall about the normal amount for December.

The mildest day was the 7th with a maximum of 14.3°C and the coolest was the 26th with 3.6°C. The coldest night was on the 31st with a minimum of -4.9°C and a severe grass frost of -10.2°C.

The first 3 weeks of the month were predominantly mild and wet, the final 10 days cold and dry.

The wettest day was the 15th with 16.4 mm rain. Total rainfall for the month was 115.1 mm.

The windiest day was the 9th with a gust of 41 mph.

The year 2025 was milder than the average (compared with the 30 year period 1991-2020), by just under one degree. It was also a slightly wetter than average year. Here at least, it was not the warmest year on record – that was 2023.

The warmest day of the year was the 11th July with a maximum of 31.2°C. The coldest night was the 31st December with a minimum of -4.9°C.

The wettest day was the 12th June with 58.1 mm rain, the wettest day I have recorded.

Andy Epstein



LAPFORD BOOK CLUB - BOOK REVIEW THE SEAGULL BY ANN CLEEVES

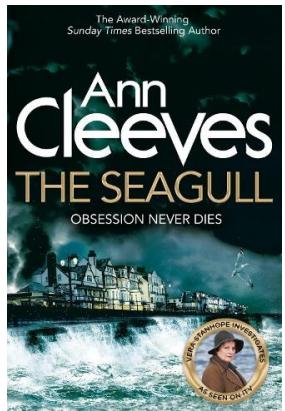
When prison inmate and former police officer John Brace says he's willing to give up information about a long-dead wheeler dealer in return for protection for his family, Vera knows that she has to look into his claims.

But opening up this cold case strikes much closer to home than Vera anticipates as her investigation takes her back in time to The Seagull, a once decadent and now derelict nightclub where her deceased father and his friends used to congregate.

As Vera's past collides dangerously with the present, she will have to confront her unwanted memories and face the possibility that her father was involved in what happened. The truth is about to come out but is Vera ready for what it will reveal?

Another excellent novel by this very good author. We all enjoyed reading it. One of those books that when you start, you can't put down. I think we probably have all seen the 'Vera' series on TV. One comment was made at our meeting that you could almost hear the actor Brenda Blethyn's voice.

Jane Epstein



LAPFORD GARDENING CLUB



The Gardening Club's first meeting in 2025 started with a presentation of the accounts. The account showed an increased balance after payments had been made. Much of this is down to the generosity of members during the year. This was especially true for the Village Show where many members had made cakes, and the takings for teas enabled us to break even after hire of hall and Judges were deducted. It was decided that the membership fee should remain at £20/year, the fee now being due.

The Schedule for 2026 was circulated to members. A copy of which is elsewhere in this Lapford Lookout. Changes to the Classes reflect discussions in the Club after the last Show. The Club hopes that it will receive the support of the village again, and reminders will appear in the Lapford Lookout regularly.

The meeting concluded with a picture gardening quiz, after which three people took home a prize pot of daffodils.

The next meeting is a joint one with Ladies of Lapford on

**Thursday 19th February at 7.30pm in
The ARK - 'Bees'**

Please check for details of future meetings in the diary section of the Lapford Lookout

Potential new members are always welcome.

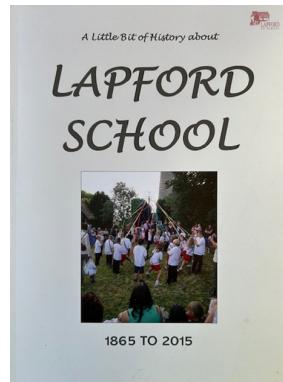
NEW DISPLAY IN THE ARK

Following the celebration of our school's new name and status the School History Display has been moved to The ARK. Pop in to read about how and where our school began, how we know about its history and some of the amazing people and stories who associated with it.

Lapford Village Archive



Illustrated copies of
a History of Lapford School
based on the School Logbooks
and other documents are for sale
from the School office
and from The ARK
during opening hours.



Price £5-00 each
Any profits to support the work of
Lapford Village Archive.



Lapford Village Show 5th September 2026 Classes

Section 1 – Photography & Art

1. Un-mounted photograph of a tree
2. Un-mounted photograph of an animal
3. A drawing or a painting of a flower

Section 2 – Home made (items 6-8 to be covered for showing)

4. A knitted hat to be donated to charity
5. A garden item made from wood
6. 3 fruit scones
7. A loaf of bread - hand made or machine
8. 4 flapjacks
9. Fruit drink alcoholic (labelled & presented in a glass bottle)
10. Fruit drink non-alcoholic (labelled & presented in a glass bottle)
11. 1 jar lemon curd (labelled, any metal cap is to be a new one)
12. 1 jar honey (labelled, any metal cap is to be a new one)
13. A jar of jam or marmalade (labelled, any metal cap is to be a new one)

Section 3 – Floral Art

14. A flower arrangement in an unusual container
15. A woodland arrangement to include berries
16. A bouquet of vegetables

Section 4 – Flowers

17. 1 specimen rose bloom
18. 1 stem floribunda rose
19. 3 stems any variety of lily
20. 3 similar dahlia blooms
21. 1 specimen bloom dahlia
22. A vase of dahlias (minimum 5 blooms)
23. 3 stems mixed sweet peas
24. 3 stems of any other flowers (not included in the schedule)
25. 1 vase mixed flowers (minimum 3 types)
26. 1 vase mixed foliage (minimum 3 types)
27. A flowering pot plant in flower (maximum pot size 16cm)
28. 1 foliage pot plant (maximum pot size 16cm)

Section 5 – Vegetables (items 29-41, 43 to be of the same variety)

29. 3 potatoes

Section 6 – Fruit (all exhibits to be of the same variety)

30. 3 onions (either from seed or set)
31. 3 chillies or peppers
32. 2 beetrots
33. 2 courgettes
34. 2 squashes
35. 3 French beans
36. 3 runner beans
37. 3 tomatoes
38. 3 tomatoes (grown outdoors)
39. 3 tomatoes (small, fruited cherry type)
40. 2 cucumbers
41. 5 sprigs of mixed herbs in a jar
42. 2 items of any other vegetable (not included in the schedule)
43. 3 pears
44. 3 dessert apples
45. 3 culinary apples
46. 6 cane fruit
47. 3 items of any other fruit (not included in the schedule)

Section 7 – Children's Section

Under 5 years

48. A dressed carrot – like Kevin
49. A painted pebble

6-12 years

50. A photograph of my family
51. A Halloween mask

Section 8 – Fun Section

52. Longest runner bean
53. Heaviest marrow
54. Heaviest onion
55. An odd shaped vegetable

Section 9 - Members Only.

56. Club plant. Potato as distributed earlier in the year & grown in pot provided

HOW TO IDENTIFY A FARRIER

He watches the way people walk and thinks to himself, 'With the right shoes I could compensate for that'.

He thinks it's normal to come home to messages on the answering machine from women he doesn't know, saying they need him desperately.

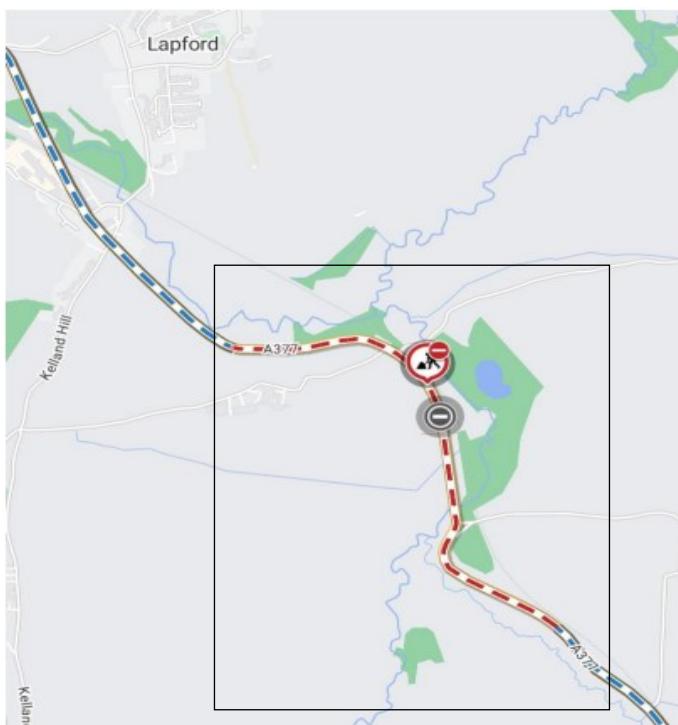
He can spend twelve hours a day bent over, but his back aches after standing upright for ten minutes.

If someone is hammering nails on a building site, he will stop and listen carefully.

He's not a lap dancer, but his customers still spend more time looking at his backside than at his face.

He looks ten years younger but feels ten years older than his real age.

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE— 13TH FEBRUARY TO 3RD MARCH



Devon County Council, will be carrying out resurfacing works on the A377 Road from Nymet Bridge Cross to Bury Bridge, Lapford, under a road closure between Friday 13th February – Tuesday 3rd March 2026 (weeknights only); our working hours will be between 19.00 – 06.00.

They will maintain access for residents and businesses but delays should be expected. Access for emergency vehicles will always be maintained. For safety reasons the road will be closed to all through traffic during our working hours.

Access queries should be directed to their Contractor or an operative on site who will be glad to assist. Any changes to the start date or duration will be shown on advisory signs on site. They will do our best to complete the work quickly and minimise disruption. Your co-operation and understanding are greatly appreciated. Information on current and planned roadworks in your area can be found on the Causeway one.network: <https://one.network>

How do you help your female sibling?
A sister.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Winners of an annual competition to supply alternate meanings for common words.

1. **Coffee**, n. The person upon whom one coughs.
2. **Flaubergasted**, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
3. **Abdicate**, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. **Esplanade**, v. To attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. **Willy-nilly**, adj. Impotent.
6. **Negligent**, adj. Absentmindedly answering the door when wearing only a nightgown.
7. **Lymph**, v. To walk with a lisp.
8. **Gargoyle**, n. Olive-flavoured mouthwash.
9. **Flatulence**, n. Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller.
10. **Balderdash**, n. A rapidly receding hairline.
11. **Testicle**, n. A humorous question on an exam.
12. **Rectitude**, n. The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. **Pokemon**, n. A Rastafarian proctologist.
14. **Oyster**, n. A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.
15. **Frisbeetarianism**, n. The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
16. **Circumvent**, n. An opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.



Get Involved!

Come together at someone's home and host a breakfast!



Plan a breakfast at a local venue



Donate your coffee spends for a month



forcecancercharity.co.uk/greatdevonbreakfast

Get in contact with our fundraising team to find out more...

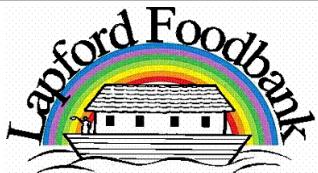
forcefr@forcecancercharity.co.uk
01392 406153



Building Cancer Support Around You

LAPFORD FOODBANK

Lapford Foodbank remains open and thankfully we were able to ensure a post Christmas delivery despite the icy weather.



As always, we are extremely grateful for all the lovely donations that we receive. We are particularly grateful for the festive hampers provided by Chulmleigh Parish Church prior to Christmas, which included some tasty seasonal treats. It remains a privilege to be able to provide some support when times are hard and especially at such a pressurised time like Christmas.

As we all know the start of the year can be really difficult for many people. So if you are struggling please do not hesitate to contact us (in confidence) so that we can support you with a food parcel. Everyone needs help sometimes.

Equally, if you are able to contribute to the Foodbank with clean carrier bags, a single tin of something, or even a bag of sugar it would be most welcome.

Huge thanks for the ongoing generosity, and God bless in the year ahead.

Sue

NEW OWNERS AT LAPFORD LODGE BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERRY

Hello, we're Sarah and Steve, the new owners of Lapford Lodge Boarding Kennels & Cattery. We've recently moved to the area and are proud to now call Lapford Lodge our home, along with our two dogs.

Since moving in, we've been investing time, care, and resources into restoring the property, upgrading the kennels and cattery, and rebuilding confidence within the local community. We're a small team, along with Soph, we provide personalised care, enrichment, and attention to every dog and cat, treating them as if they were our own. We are fully licensed, insured and first-aid trained, ensuring high standards of care and welfare. As live-in owners, we're always close by to ensure pets feel safe, settled, and well cared for throughout their stay.

Thank you for welcoming us into the community. We're excited about the future of Lapford Lodge and look forward to caring for your dogs and cats.



FROM THE ARK

After a relaxing Christmas break and a deep clean of The ARK, we're really looking forward to welcoming you back after the New Year - whether you're meeting old friends or making new ones.



The ARK is a warm, welcoming space where you can enjoy something delicious to eat, including paninis, toasties, soup, or cake.

We're open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. with the kitchen closing at 1.30 p.m.

Upstairs, you'll find our library, which holds a wide selection of books you're welcome to borrow and take home to read.

While you're here, do pop in and see the amazing school history display too.

We hope to see you soon.

The ARK Team

LADIES GATHER AT THE OLD MALT SCOOP



A group of us gathered on a chilly December night for our usual Christmas meal. There was a slight delay at the start as one place had not been filled. We chatted and waited briefly for the last member to appear; no-one did and we had heard nothing so I went off in search of our missing person. I found her in the middle of painting her kitchen and, having confused some dates, planning to attend the Ladies' meal the following night. Sadly, we had to continue without her as she had already eaten and needed to finish her painting. I say sadly because her company always enlivens our meetings.

Apart from that small blip, the night went smoothly. Careful planning and pre-ordering goes into the evening yet, despite this, we sometimes manage to meet a hitch. Not this time. We had all the orders down correctly and everyone enjoyed their food.

Once plates had been cleared, we played a miming game. As always, everyone entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the thing. I am always impressed by their imagination and ingenuity. There was much hilarity as people tried to convey to the rest of us, using mime, the thing described on their card. The mime that had us stumped for a while involved a lot of hand movements as if handling and working with something on a table. We tried wrapping a present, preparing food and a few other things. Eventually it was the facial expressions that gave it away. The mime was someone changing a nappy. The imaginary baby was being entertained with lots of smiles and chat and at one point, there was a very definite grimace of distaste over part of the task!

We were, as always, very well looked after by the staff at The Scoop and it was a very enjoyable evening. Hopefully, with only a short walk home for most people, everyone was soon safely back by their own fireside.

Sue Raffill

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Ricky : 07712177710



Ashridge Great Barn

Follow us for more details of events in 2026 including

Saturday 2 May - Guided walks in Bluebell Woods

Saturday 16 May - Deliciously Devon Food Fair

Saturday 27 June - Ashridge Wood Fair

Ashridge Court Farm, EX20 2DH www.ashridgegreatbarn.co.uk

info@ashridge-court.co.uk 01837 352025

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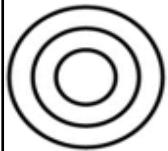
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ABIGAIL'S Beauty Retreat

Massage & Beauty Therapist in Lapford.

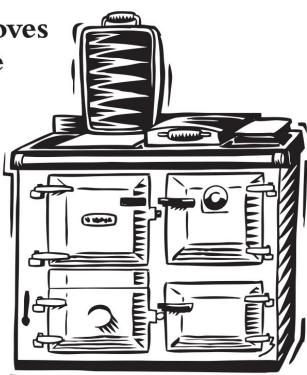
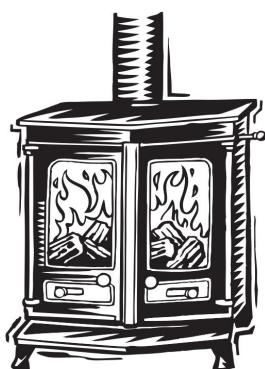
Massage - Manicures - Pedicures - Waxing
Hot stone massage - Eyelash & Brow tinting
Eyebrow Shaping - Gel Nails - Facials

Lapford Village Hall
Lapford
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07565 768386
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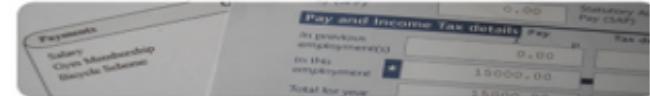
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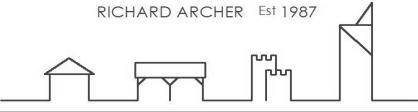
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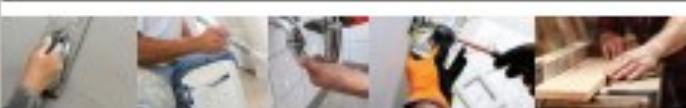
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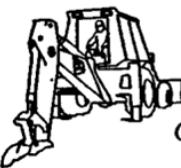
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ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING WELCOMED

Devon County Council welcomed confirmation of over £13 million in funding from Active Travel England to support walking and cycling schemes, with delivery linked to the new Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority from April 2026.

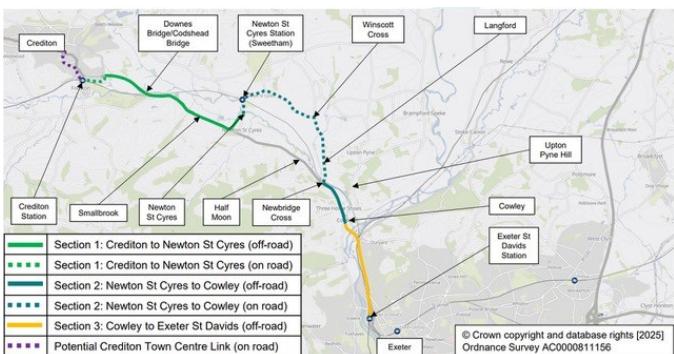
This is great news for the Boniface Trail (Crediton Exeter) which was given a green light go ahead at the January Cabinet meeting of Devon County Council. The route largely follows the A377, except for the section of trail between Newton St Cyres and Langford, where it follows a 'Quiet Lanes' route for a short section, before rejoining the A377 and then onto Exeter St David's. The Council was encouraged to make an early start on sections of the trail.

In 2024, public consultation was made on two different route - A377 or Quiet Lanes. While there was overwhelming support for the trail there was no majority support given to either option with a balanced split between both. This outcome has led to this proposal which now costed circa £15.5m (2025 prices) without any land purchase, ecology or inflation.

In April 2026 responsibility for the transport capital programme will transfer to the newly formed Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCD). Upcoming active travel plans, such as the Boniface Trail, will make use of these funds and will form part of a capital programme report planned for the DTCCA Board meeting in March.

The purpose of the Devon Cabinet report is to endorse the preferred route and approve the start of negotiation on land acquisition. As the local Councillor I have ensured consultation with the Boniface Trail Association and Newton St Cyres Parish Council, where there is enthusiastic support.

Cllr Steve Keable



SAVE THE DATE!



LAPFORD VILLAGE

LITTER PICK

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

- MY PERSONAL VIEW

Now government has received proposals from all local councils in historic Devon, it will examine these submissions. Government will then decide which proposal/s will go to statutory stakeholders for consultation during the first half of 2026.

A final decision is expected by government next summer and shadow elections are due to be held in May 2027. The chosen new authority/authorities will take on its new powers and responsibilities from April 2028.

a) Devon County Council is proposing that it continues by absorbing the existing (9) district councils and Exeter into a **single Devon** unitary authority serving around 840,000 residents, and the existing authorities of **Plymouth** (1) and **Torbay** (1) also continue. (Aka 9:1:1).

Councillor Julian Brazil, Devon County Council Leader, said: "At the end of this process we all have to come together. Our duty is to deliver the services that our residents deserve. Within that is proper funding for local government. The fact children in Devon get less than nearly every other area in the country is grossly unfair and affects their life chances". I totally agree with this point.

There's a sense of frustration that councillors are not making the decision, I have witnessed this in both DCC and MDDC council debates. The consensus is that we are all being pushed and pulled, and forced to do this by government.

b) Seven District Councils are proposing a 5:4:1 model a bold plan for 'Reimagining Devon' with reorganisation by three unitary councils: the **north** East Devon, Mid Devon, Exeter, Torridge & North Devon (5), the **south**, South Hams, West Devon, Teignbridge and Torbay (4), and **Plymouth** (1).

My view is that there is no point in dying on the hill of Local Government Reorganisation when a government minister will decide what happens. We will be told late spring when the government formally goes to consultation. Shadow elections will be held in May 2027. This is the point when we must come together to deliver the service our residents deserve.

My view: on balance 'Reimagining Devon' is my preferred option but I recognise the Devon case for children and vulnerable people. As we wait for the Minister's decision there is work to be done.

Links for details of both proposals a) & b):-

Devon County Council -

a) <https://www.devon.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr/>

Devon District Councils -

b) <https://www.reimaginingdevon.org>

Steve Keable



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**LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL NOTES
MEETING HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER 2025**

Please note this is a summary of the main points of interest. Six Parish Councillors attended, plus two members of the public and the County/District Councillor.

- The dialogue with Southwest Water concerning the state of the village sewerage system and the number of raw sewage discharges into the River Yeo continued.
- Two outstanding planning enforcement matters in the parish were being pursued by MDDC.
- Problems with unruly/out of control dogs can be reported via the MDDC website.
- The Parish Council lease of the Toddlers' Play Area to be formalised and signed.
- The possibility of introducing a 20-mph speed limit in the village was felt to be impractical.
- Two new gateposts had been installed at the entrance to the footpath in Park Meadow Close. A footpath maintenance grant of £160 would be paid via DCC.
- Sadly, there had been more vandalism to the public toilet at the Orchard Centre. A padlock to be fitted to the toilet roll holder to deter theft.
- The Parish Council precept for 2026/27 was set at £33000, representing an extra cost of 69p per month for a Band D property. The amount to reflect the expected increase in the financial burden on the Council following Local Government reorganisation.

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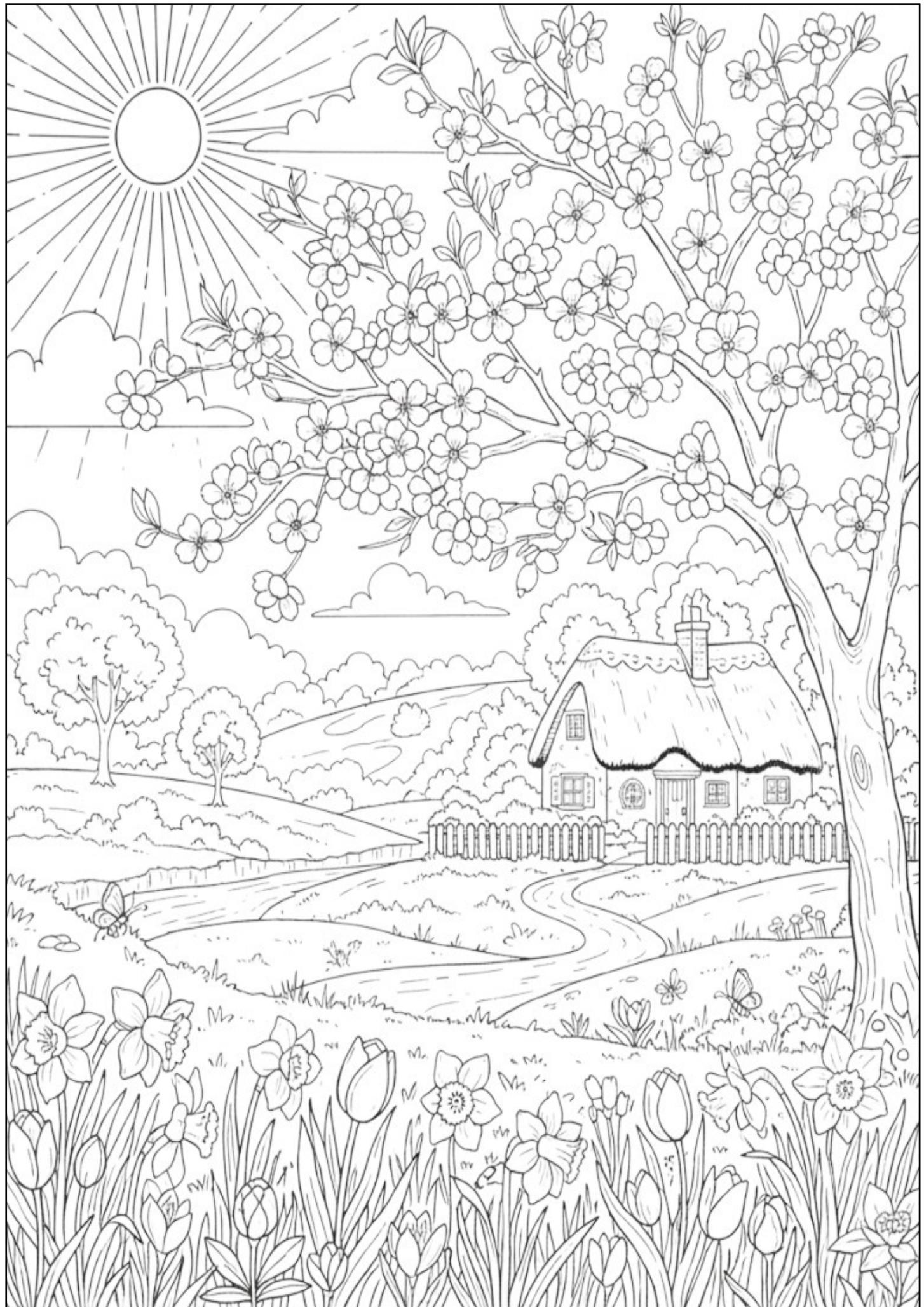
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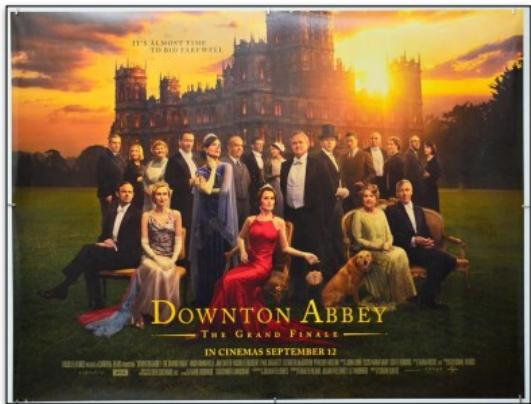
**LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL NOTES
MEETING HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2026**

Please note this is a summary of the main points of interest. Six Parish Councillors attended, plus two members of the public, the County/District Councillor and the Chair and a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

- The meeting was held in the Victory Hall.
- The Toddlers' Play Area lease was ready for signing. All paying Field equipment to be visually inspected by a volunteer weekly and to be subject to an annual ROSPA inspection via MDDC.
- The dialogue with Southwest Water was ongoing, further information was expected.
- The Emergency Plan team had ensured that all grit bins were filled. Volunteers had come forward to grit Eastington Lane to make the approach to the school safer. A mechanical spreader to be purchased to make the work easier.
- The provider of the Parish Council website to be asked to ensure that the Parish Council's digital and information governance complies with the latest legislation.
- Parish Councillors and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group to be offered a training session to update them on the recent changes to the planning system.
- The Council was very pleased to welcome a most interesting and informative presentation from the Neighbourhood Plan Group as to progress so far and the next steps in the process.
- The renaming of the School celebrations had been wonderful. A display relating to the history of the school would be moved from the school to The ARK.
- A Village Litter-Pick Day was arranged for Saturday 28th March.
- The next Parish Council meeting to be held on February Tuesday 9th at 7-30 p.m. in the Orchard Centre.



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Winter '26 All participatory events, free unless mentioned

Every Tues 7.15 - 8.45pm Crediton Strummers, Crediton Arts Centre. £2.50 Any instrument, at any level. Music/words provided. Ed Finch 07810 861917

1st Tues of month 8pm Sandford folk session, The Lamb Inn, main bar. Mainly song.

Last Tues 8pm Folk session, New Inn, Coleford. Mainly song.

Every Wed 7.30pm CODS Crediton Operatic Society, Old Town Hall. Put on regular plays, musicals and concerts. www.codsonline.com

2nd Wed 7.30pm Open mic, The White Hart, North Tawton

Every Thurs 8-9pm Crediton Community Samba Band Old Town Hall (entrance in Searle St) New members welcome £2

1st Thurs 12 - 3pm Folk session, Pennymoor Singaround. London Inn, Morthard Bishop. Mainly song.

3rd Thurs 7.30pm Jazz Club Three Pigs £5 House band but anyone can play/sing/jam

2nd Friday 7pm Night Train open mic. Elephant on the Green cafe. Bar and nice vibe.

Red Deer pub, by big Tesco. 2nd Sun 7-10pm Blues Jam. 3rd Sun Jazz night 7-10pm Last Sun 7-10pm The Great Crediton Music Night. Jam with house band or solo spots.

Last Sun 12-3pm Folk music Puddington Village Hall EX16 8LW Musicians/listeners welcome.

Contact Hazel with updates sagalout1@gmail.com

Choirs in the Crediton area.

Winter '26

Mon 7 - 9pm Crediton Sings Choir. Elephant on the Green Cafe. Variety of music, occasionally perform. Philip Lancaster 01363 84600

Mon 7.30pm North Creedy Choral Society, Parish Church or Boniface Centre. Sing mainly classical pieces for concerts with piano. www.northcreedychoral.co.uk

Mon 1-3pm Good Afternoon Choir. Crediton Congregational Church. www.goodafternoonchoir.org Jon Rawles 07957 789923

Tues 7-9pm Mellow D choir. Wesley room, Methodist Church. Informal group who sing what they like, members often suggest material. Dave Powis 07896 685393

Wed 7.15 - 9.15pm Sandford Sings, community choir. Sandford Parish Hall. Folk, pop and world music. Perform regularly. ceanstee@hotmail.com

Thurs 7-9pm Tedburn Community Choir. Varied material occasionally perform. Jem 07812 103399

Thurs 7-8.45pm Community Choir Copplestone Methodist Church. All age choir with a wide selection of music, occasionally perform. lunn.family4@gmail.com

Thurs 7.30-9.30pm Ad Hoc choir. Upton Pyne Village Hall. Range of material and performances. Jo Ward 07977 101843

Fri 7 - 8.45pm Crediton Parish Church Choir. They also have a junior choir for children. www.creditonparishchurch.org.uk

West Gallery Quire. St Lawrences chapel, Threshers, Crediton. Sacred music by West Country composers. bonnygreengarden@gmail.com

St Boniface Concert Society. Mostly classical music. 5 / 6 concerts a year April - Sept. luke.taylor.net@gmail.com

Contact Hazel with updates sagalout1@gmail.com



Lapford Voluntary Car Aid 2011

NEED TRANSPORT TO YOUR MEDICAL APPOINTMENT OR A PRESCRIPTION COLLECTED?

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 01363 83178. Current fares are as follows:

Bow Medical Centre - £6
 Chulmleigh Dental Practice - £6
 Chulmleigh Health Centre - £6
 Crediton (Breast Screening) - £7
 Crediton Community Hospital - £6
 M orchard Bishop Surgery - £4
 Redlands Health Centre - £7
 Witheridge Surgery - £6

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

LIVE IN MID DEVON AND NEED DEBT OR ENERGY ADVICE?

The Citizens Advice's Mid Devon team will be attending The ARK from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on the last Friday of each month to allow people to chat with them about any issues they would like help with, particularly around Energy or Debt issues. There is access to private spaces if necessary.

**Libraries
Unlimited**

LIBRARIES UNLIMITED HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Do you have difficulty in getting to Crediton Library and carrying heavy books home to read? Would you like us to collect and deliver talking books, or large and normal printed ones of the kind that you enjoy, directly to your home free of charge? If so, I will be happy to help.

Crediton Library - Telephone: 01363 772578



LAPFORD'S DEFIBRILLATORS

One is on the outside of The Orchard Centre in Orchard Way

What 3 Words app location:
emperor.stated.stapled



Another defibrillator is at Rose Removals.

It can be found in the red telephone box
in front of the building.

Access through the front car park and up the stairs, about 200 yards from the main gate.
(Pedestrian access around the side out of hours).

What 3 Words app location:
inert.depend.smart



A third defibrillator has now been installed at the Spar Shop at Lapford Cross. It is round the side to the left as you look at the shop.

What 3 Words app location:
that.snowstorm.speaks

LAPFORD WEBSITES

www.lapfordhistory.co.uk
www.lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
www.lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk
www.lapfordvictoryhall.co.uk
www.lapfordvillage.co.uk
www.facebook.com/lapfordparishcouncil



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE FOODBANK

foodbank@lapfordcc.org.uk

We would be grateful for the following donations:

Coffee, Tea, Long-life milk, Drinking Chocolate, Rice Pudding, Sugar, Custard, Tinned Fruit, Rice, Pasta, Pasta Sauces, Tuna, Baked Beans, Tinned Meats, Tinned Tomatoes, Vegetables, Carrots, Peas, Sweetcorn, Soups, Breakfast Cereals, Toilet Rolls and Hygiene products.



NATIONAL BLOOD SERVICE



Donations can be made at Boniface Centre, Crediton, or at Chulmleigh Community College



Call the donor helpline on 0300 123 23 23
for more information or to check dates

Do something amazing - Give Blood!

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
- RABI 24/7 Support Line ~ 0800 188 4444
- 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



Cllr Roy Andrews	Old Bakery, Park Road, Lapford, EX17 6QJ	07969 823256 / roy.andrews@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Sue Briant-Evans (Vice-Chair)	Edgerley Cottage, Lapford, EX17 6AH	01363 83763 / sue.briantevans@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Julie Down (Chair)	Rafters, Lapford, EX17 6QP	07756 363678 / julie.down@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Steven Fletcher	Larkrise, Eastington Lane, Lapford. EX17 6QE	07891 142436 / steven.fletcher@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Bill Graham	Pear Tree House, Lapford, EX17 6PZ	01363 83047 / bill.graham@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Peter Heal	Ashlands, Lapford EX17 6AE	01363 884277 (home)/01363 775467 (office)/ peter.heal@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Alex Shapland	Homelands, Eastington Lane, Lapford. EX17 6QE	07738 690937 / alex.shapland@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Vacancy	~	~
Vacancy	~	~
Vacancy	~	~
Parish Clerk - Rob Martin	~	07768 829511 / clerk@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
District Cllr Steve Keable	~	07967 655045 / skeable@middevon.gov.uk
County Cllr Steve Keable	~	07967 655045 / steve.keable@devon.gov.uk
Mel Stride MP	House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA	02072 197037 / mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk



LAPFORD LOOKOUT

Contributions welcome

lapfordlookout@gmail.com

Deadline for inclusion in the next issue:
6.00 p.m. on the 14th Feb for inclusion in the March issue

TO CONTACT THE EDITOR

Write to:

Mrs. Beccy Fletcher, Larkrise, Eastington Lane, Lapford, Crediton, EX17 6QE

Tel: 07791 989142

E-mail: lapfordlookout@gmail.com

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

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

Our Editorial Policy:

Published monthly, the magazine welcomes contributions on any topic of interest. The editorial policy is to exclude anything of a political or personal nature and to avoid unnecessary controversy or ill feeling.

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

Any requests for placement of articles on particular pages in the Lapford Lookout should be submitted via email to the address above.

The views in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Team.

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ADVERTISING RATES AND POLICY

Lapford Lookout has a circulation of 600 copies and the advertising of village events is free of charge. There is a charge for all other advertisements and current advertising rates, payable in advance, are:

One eighth page:	£7 per month.
One quarter page:	£14 per month.
One half page:	£28 per month.
Whole page:	£56 per month.

Pay for twelve months and you get **one extra month, FREE!** Please send all advertising requests to the Editor in time to make the deadline of the 14th of each month for inclusion in the next issue. Please allow sufficient time to make your advance payment which may be by BACS or cheque. Payment details will be on your invoice.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE COPY DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LAPFORD LOOKOUT IS THE 14TH OF EACH MONTH (except December)



LAPFORD OUTREACH

POST OFFICE

OPENING HOURS:

Monday 9.30 - 12.00

Friday 9.30 - 12.00

Sending gifts or goods abroad?

If you're using Royal Mail or Parcelforce, fill in your customs form online while you wait.

Scan here to get started.



A gentle reminder of the services we offer at the Lapford Post Office. These include Car Tax, postage, home shopping returns, bill payments and cash deposits and withdrawals from all the major banks. We also have a great selection of hardware, stationery, confectionery, and greeting cards for that special occasion. Every transaction keeps us in the heart of the community. Why not pop in, say "Hello", and receive a warm welcome?

LAST POSTING TIMES AROUND THE VILLAGE



Mon-Fri Saturday

Eastington Cross	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Woodland Cottage	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Industrial Estate	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Highfield	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Orchard Way	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Saxtons	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Morchard Road	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Copplesstone	4.30 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.

NAME OF SOCIETY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE / EMAIL
Adventure Gaming	Mr Warren Clayburn	01363 83095 / wmclayburn@gmail.com
Community Equipment	Mr Darren Crump Mr Steve Keable	07960 715553 / darrenocrump99@hotmail.co.uk 07967 655045 / steve.keable@btinternet.com
Friends of Langannerie (twinning)	Marion Pratt	01837 82285 / marion174@btinternet.com
Friends of Lapford Mill	Mr Alex Gater	07815 795918 / alex@lapfordmill.uk
Friends of Lapford School	Mrs Stacey Lumsdon	07891 556884 / friendsoflapfordschool@gmail.com
HOLD	Mr Bill Graham	01363 83047 / bg4847@aol.com
Home Library Service	Crediton Library	01363 772578
Ladies of Lapford (LOL)	LOL Team	ladiesoflapford@gmail.com
Lapford Allotment Society	Mr Raymond Waldron	01363 83894 / ednawaldron@btinternet.com
Lapford Amateur Dramatic Society	Mr Ian Wilkie	01363 83437 / i.wilkie45@btinternet.com
Lapford Association Football Club	~	lapfordafc@gmail.com
Lapford Book Club	Mrs Jane Epstein	07779 926342 / jane.epstein@hotmail.com
Lapford Celebrations Working Group	Mrs Sue Briant-Evans	01363 83763 / susanbriantevans@gmail.com
Lapford Church Green Trust	Mr Steven Fletcher	07891 142436 / steven.fletcher@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Lapford Community Church	Miss Briony Clinch	01363 83666 / admin@lapfordcc.org.uk
Lapford CP School and Nursery	~	01363 83292 / admin@lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk
Lapford Congregational Church	Cat Seymour	01363 884432 / lapfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com
Lapford Dog Club	Mrs Sara Thurgood	01363 83081 / info@lapforddogclub.co.uk
Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee	Mr Ian Wilkie	01363 83437 / i.wilkie45@btinternet.com
Lapford Foodbank	Mrs Sue Yendell	07925 410172 / foodbank@lapfordcc.org.uk
Lapford Handbell Ringers	Mr Steve Munday	07798 684225 / steve@themundays.org
Lapford High 5 (ages 7-11)	Mrs Cat Seymour	01363 884432 / cathryn_seymour@outlook.com
Lapford Gardening Club	Mrs Trish Mumford	01363 83911 / james@mumfordj.plus.com
Lapford Lookout	Mrs Beccy Fletcher	07791 989142 / lapfordlookout@gmail.com
Lapford Over 60 Club	Mrs Jeanne Whittaker	01363 83068 / jeanne.whittaker@btinternet.com
Lapford Parish Church	Mrs Joan Graham	01363 83047 / jemg47@aol.com
Lapford Poppy Appeal Organiser	Mrs Caroline Noon	01363 83863 / lapford.pao@gmail.com
Lapford Project 2000 (LP2K)	Mrs Sue Briant-Evans	01363 83763 / susanbriantevans@gmail.com
Lapford Revel	Mrs Stacey Lumsdon	07891 556884 / staceyannlumsdon@gmail.com
Lapford Victory Hall & Lower Town Place	Mr Darren Crump	07960 715553 / darrenocrump99@hotmail.co.uk
Lapford Village Archive	Ms Audrey McCormack	01363 779462 / archivelapford2022@gmail.com
Lapford Village Market	Mrs Stacey Lumsdon	07891 556884 / lapfordvillagemarket@gmail.com
Lapford Voluntary Car Aid	Mrs Grace Hill	01363 83178 / lvca2011.19@gmail.com
Lapford Youth Club Management Committee	Mr Steve Keable	07967 655045 / lapfordyouthclub@gmail.com
Lapford Youth and Playing Field Trust	Mr Roy Andrews	07969 823256 / roy.andrews1950@icloud.com
Lower Town Place Gardening Group	Mr Andy Epstein	amestein55@gmail.com
North Creedy Choral Society	Mrs Patricia Robottom	01363 884495 / patricia@serafim.eclipse.co.uk
Nymet Rowland Village Pump	Liz and Roland Smith	01363 884446 / pump@incywincyweb.com
The ARK	Ms Lorraine Kigongo	07543 695258 / theark@lapfordcc.org.uk
The Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury	Mrs Prue Lambert	01363 83150 / pruelambert@yahoo.co.uk

LAPFORD VOLUNTARY CAR AID

- 30 YEARS OLD

Lapford Voluntary Car Aid celebrated their 30th anniversary in October with an afternoon tea at the Congregational Chapel (courtesy of Carol Worsdell).

Mrs Rowan Peto told everyone how it all started 30 years ago, as she is the founder of LVCA. This was followed by a few words from John Burrows, the current Chairman, saying how proud he was to take over from the previous Chairman, John Copus, who was there with his wife, Edna. If anyone would like to become a volunteer driver, please contact Grace on 01363 83178 for more details.

Grace Hill



Photo courtesy of Grace Hill



Photo courtesy of Alan Quick



Photo courtesy of Grace Hill



Photo courtesy of Grace Hill

WE WANT YOU!

Volunteer

Website Manager

wanted to
develop a new
website to host the
Lapford Village Archive
and the
Lapford Lookout

Ask or apply:
lapfordlookout@gmail.com

Could this be you?

Lapford Community Church

invites you to join them for a

MEN'S BREAKFAST

at The ARK

FEBRUARY

14TH

SATURDAY

9AM - 10.30AM



CONTACT RICH ON: 07747 401262

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE LAPFORD FOOD BANK

KNIT & NATTER AT THE ARK

11TH FEBRUARY AND
EVERY OTHER
WEDNESDAY

UPSTAIRS AT THE ARK
2.00PM - 4.00PM

DO YOU
WANT TO
LEARN TO
KNIT OR ARE
YOU AN
EXPERIENCED
KNITTER

ALL
WELCOME



Needles and wool can be provided
Tea and Coffee available
(Adults only)

?? ?? ?? ?? ??
QUIZ
?? ?? ?? ?? ??

**TWINNING
GROUP
QUIZ &
CHEESE
EVENING**



Lapford Victory Hall

Sat 21st February, 7.00

£5 per person – Teams of up to 6

BAR AVAILABLE

PLUS !!

**RAFFLE FOR A
“BUCKET OF
BOOZE”**



In aid of

“Friends of Grainville Langannerie”

To book your place contact

Marion174@btinternet.com or 07484 794290