LAPFORD LOOKOUT

YOUR LOCAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Year 30 Issue 3 **March 2026**

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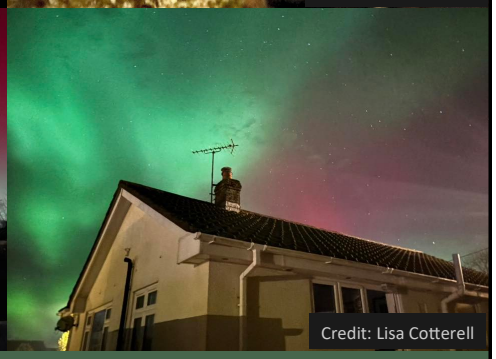
Credit: Emma Lyall

Credit: David Garton

Credit: Lisa Cotterell

Credit: Paul Henderson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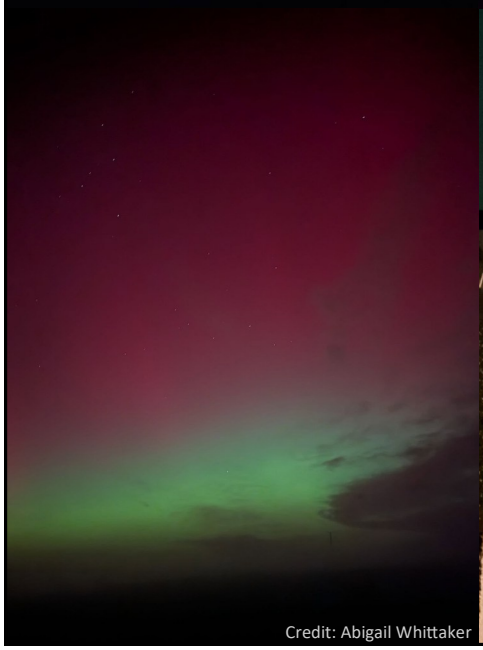
NORTHERN LIGHTS IN LAPFORD JANUARY 2026

Credit: Unknown

Credit: Sue Harle

Credit: Sue Harle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creditonarts centre

Theatre, Film, Music, Classes

Spring Awakening Music Festival March 2026

Thursday 19 **Moon Jazz**
Top-notch jazz stylings from the Moon Jazz House Band and jammers

Friday 20 **And 'Other' Stories**
Turning Tides Project with live music, spoken word and a splendid exhibition

Sunday 22 **Share in the Square**
Sunday afternoon sounds from the best of Crediton's musical talent

Sunday 22 **Drumming Workshop**
Devon Drummers return with an energetic participatory workshop

Monday 23 **Spinal Tap II: The End Continues**
The long-awaited sequel, a fitting tribute to the late Rob Reiner

Tuesday 24 **Crediton Strummers Workshop**
Popular songs given the treatment by Ed Finch and his musical renegades

Wednesday 25 **Acoustic by Candlelight**
The lovely St Lawrence Chapel is the setting for more acoustic delights

Thursday 26 **Wild Rose**
Tom Harper's award-winning film starring Jessie Buckley

Friday 27 **Filkin's Drift**
Rising Stars of the folk circuit with dazzling instrumental fireworks

Saturday 28 **Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman**
Legendary multi award-winning duo, proper folk royalty, in the serene setting of the Congregational Church.

Tickets for all events from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/creditonartscentre

LAPFORD GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting is on

Tuesday 10th March.
Composting
It's all about recycling

7.30p.m. at The ARK - all welcome

Lapford Gardening Club

Lapford Weather Review

Lapford Weather January 2025

Wetter and slightly cooler than average.

The mildest day was the 11th with a maximum of 12.4°C and the coolest was the 5th which saw the temperature rising to just 2.8°C. The coldest night was on the 6th with a minimum of -3.0°C and a sharp frost on the grass of -8.8°C.

Rainfall was not far off twice the average with a total of 185.9 mm. This was just a few mm. short of the wettest January I recorded back in 1995. Not surprisingly, the fields are waterlogged and the river Yeo has been up and over the flood plain now and then. The wettest day was the 26th with a fall of 25.9 mm. There was another day of 25.3 mm., that was on the 8th.

The windiest day was the 23rd with a gust of 53 mph.

Andy Epstein

LAPFORD LOOKOUT — DATES TO LOOKOUT FOR

March

7th Easter Workshop, The ARK, 10am-1pm
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
21st Easter Workshop, The ARK, 10am-1pm
23rd Victory Hall AGM, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
28th Coffee Morning at Congregational Church, 10am
28th Lapford Litter Pick, meet at the Orchard Centre 9.30am

April

11th Sing Sankey and Supper at Lapford Congregational Church, 7pm
14th Copy deadline for May Lapford Lookout, 6pm
14th Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
14th Gardening Club talk on Swifts, Victory Hall, 7.30pm
17th Lapford Youth & Playing Field Trust AGM, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm

May

9th Curry & Quiz Night for Lapford Revel.
12th Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
14th Copy deadline for June Lapford Lookout, 6pm
23rd LYPFT Car Boot & Fun Day, Lapford Playing Field, 1-5pm

Future Dates

10-12th July Lapford Revel 2026
18th July LYPFT Vintage Rally & Fun Day, Lapford Playing Field, 2.00-5.00pm.
22nd Aug LVCA Indoor Fete & Afternoon Tea, Victory Hall, 2-5pm
5th Sept Gardening Club Annual Village Show 2026
13th Sept Quiz in aid of Victory Hall.
11th Nov LVCA AGM, Orchard Centre, 3pm
21st Nov LYPFT Indoor Car Boot, Victory Hall, 10am-1pm
23rd Nov Lapford Project 2000 AGM, Orchard Centre.
5th Dec LVCA Welcomes Christmas, Victory Hall, time tbc.

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

LENT COURSE

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

'If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.'

Dalai Lama

VICTORY HALL UPDATE

The Victory Hall Management Committee has been working hard behind the scenes with a number of fund raising events with the aim of improving the safe use of the hall as soon as possible, particularly for the children and Youth Club, by installing new doors that open directly onto Lower Town Place, rather than straight onto the village road. Another priority is to upgrade the heating boiler to hopefully run on biofuel so long as we can obtain the necessary grants.

The Hire Charges are being increased from 1st April this year to help cover the increasing costs of electricity, insurance and waste collection.

Chulmleigh & District Garden Society

The Remarkable Kingdom of Fungi

9th March
7.30
Chulmleigh Town Hall

Guests £3
New Members Very Welcome
'Grow with us'

With Karl Ritz

Info dianaM@farmline.com

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

Services:

March 1st – Lent 2	9.30 a.m. – Service of Penitence and Faith
March 8th – Lent 3	9.30 a.m. – Service of Penitence and Faith
March 11th (Wednesday)	10.30 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
March 15th – **Mothering Sunday**	10.00 a.m. – Churches Together Service with traditional posies, gifts & cake
March 22nd — Lent 5	9.30 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

Services:
Services Sunday at 11.00 a.m.
Communion will be held on the second and fourth Sundays

Preachers for this month:
1st March- Dave Taylor?
8th March- Cafe Church- Merril Archer
15th March- Mothering Sunday- Joint service at Parish Church
22nd March- No service

Messy Church - 12th March

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.

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07747 334455

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CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

Reserve Volunteers required to deliver the Lapford Lookout.

If you can help, please contact Ian Wilkie on 01363 83437 or 07484 844899.

Thank you.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, LAPFORD

A Busy and Positive Start to the Year at St Thomas of Canterbury
Despite some truly stormy and rain-soaked days, it has been a vibrant and productive few weeks at St Thomas of Canterbury, with children across the school embracing learning opportunities, new experiences and plenty of community spirit.

A Strong Sense of Community
One of the most heart-warming moments this month came when we welcomed pupils and staff from East Worlington School for the day after an unexpected building issue meant they were unable to remain open. Our school was suddenly fuller and busier, but what stood out most was the way the children came together so naturally — playing side by side at break times, sharing equipment thoughtfully and joining in collective worship as one united school community. Staff from East Worlington were full of praise for the kindness, manners and welcoming attitude shown by our pupils. We were incredibly proud of how they represented our school.

Learning Across the School
Classrooms have been full of curiosity and creativity this month.

Robins have been exploring their topic, *How Things Work*, asking brilliant questions about toys from the past, how houses are built, volcanoes, floating and sinking, and even how stars are made. Their investigations have been hands-on and imaginative — from clay house-building to exciting science experiments that test predictions and spark further curiosity.

Kingfishers have shown fantastic focus and enthusiasm in their learning. In geography, they have developed their map-reading skills, confidently planning routes around the local area using compass directions. In RE, they have impressed visitors with their knowledge of Judaism, confidently explaining the significance of important symbols and places of worship with maturity and respect.

The class enjoyed their first forest school session of the year — embracing the wet weather in waterproofs and wellies, building dens and working together with resilience and teamwork. Their positive attitude perfectly reflected our school values.

Herons have explored settlements in geography, focusing particularly on our local village and community. In science, they enjoyed designing and making periscopes while learning about light. Creativity has flourished too, with pupils writing David Attenborough-style reports — including some very amusing pieces about "the life of teachers"! In PE, they have worked hard to develop their throwing and catching skills, vaulting techniques and even rhythmic gymnastics routines.

Supporting Every Child to Thrive
Although the weather has certainly tested us — with more than a few soggy playtimes — the children's enthusiasm has not been dampened. We continue to prioritise outdoor play whenever it is safe to do so, recognising its importance for wellbeing and resilience.

It has been a month full of learning, laughter, creativity and community spirit at St Thomas of Canterbury. We look forward to building on this positive start as the term continues.

Mrs J. Wright, Head of School

LAPFORD FOODBANK

The Foodbank continues to be well supported by local GP surgeries, the WI, local churches and some wonderfully generous individuals.

We have fabulous volunteers who help to put the parcels together and also deliver them in the locality. Many thanks to everyone who helps and supports.

If you feel you are able to contribute, please do! You can pick any items from our list or even any clean shopping bags would be most appreciated.

Let's continue to put our arms around our community and ensure no one ever goes hungry.

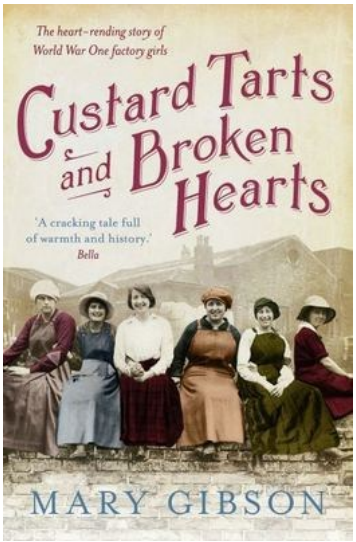
Equally, if you or someone you know needs support, please do not hesitate to get in touch - all requests are kept private and confidential.

You can text or call Sue on 07925 410172
or email foodbank@lapfordcc.org.uk

Have a blessed month!

LAPFORD BOOK CLUB - BOOK REVIEW

Custard Tarts and Broken Hearts by Mary Gibson



This book follows the story of Nellie Clark who, on her mother's death, was obliged to go and work in the Pearce Duff custard factory to help with the housing and feeding of her younger siblings. She was 16 years old. The book is set in Bermondsey in 1911. The women decide to go on strike for better wages, which makes it even harder to make ends meet for the Clark family. Apparently in 1907 a branch of The National Federation of Women Workers was formed in Taunton, where there were also strikes in the fight for fair pay, so there was obviously a well-organised network to co-ordinate this action.

Essentially a love story, taking us up to, and including, World War 1, there is a happy ending, though it did seem to take a long time to get there. It was interesting historically, and the hardships and poverty of the period are well portrayed; one of our club looked up the street names and places mentioned in the book, and they were as the author described them at the time. Apparently this is the first of three books covering a similar theme, though I don't think there was much enthusiasm from any of us to rush out and read the rest.

Suzy Mann

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Log Roll, two rolls. Must collect.

(33 Orchard Way Lapford - 07496 528660)

"In March the soft rains continued, and each storm waited courteously until its predecessor sunk beneath the ground."

JOHN STEINBECK

LADIES HAVE TO CURB THEIR LANGUAGE!

Our January meeting was one in which great restraint was needed. Our members were unable to speak freely which cramped their style a little. Fortunately, nothing dreadful had happened and they were not hampered by some necessity to suppress their feelings.

It was our regular January games night and most of the usual group turned up ready for friendly combat. The reason they were having to choose their words carefully was because the first game involved one member of the team trying to convey a word to their team mates. There were the usual restrictions, no gestures, 'sounds like' or 'rhymes with' etc. but the additional restriction was that you could only use words of one syllable. It sounded simple but proved more challenging as so often the words you wanted were barred. There was a time limit and it was entertaining watching as people struggled urgently to find an alternative way of expressing what they wanted to say while batting away the wrong answers that their team mates enthusiastically offered. Quite often, we were caught out when a longer word slipped out by mistake and our turn abruptly ended.

The second game was that old favourite Pictionary. This was where those with artistic skills flourished as well as those with the imagination to invent an unusual way to express the word they wanted to convey. As usual, I was impressed with how artistic and skillful the members are particularly as they had to think and draw quickly because of the time limit. Some of the pictures gave rise to dubious suggestions from our more mischievous members!

Once the games were over, our members were able to relax and speak freely again. Conversation flowed, refreshments were served and another enjoyable evening came to an end.

Sue Raffill

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

There have been recent reports of young people riding electric scooters on public roads in the village, particularly in the Mill Hill area, and in the dark! Since most of these people were wearing dark clothing and had no lights, they were putting themselves and members of the public in great danger.

Please note:
It is illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (also known as an 'e-scooter') in public, for example on pavements, on roads or in parks. You could be fined and get penalty points on your driving licence *(if you are old enough to have one).* **The scooter could also be seized by the police.**
You can only ride a privately owned electric scooter on private land with the permission of the landowner.
Source www.gov.uk/electric-scooter-rules

Parents please note that any further instances reported will be notified to the Police.

Lapford Parish Council

MET OFFICE AND WEATHER RECORDING

The Met Office first emerged in 1854 under the leadership of Captain Robert Fitzroy for the Board of Trade. We have constantly evolved over the years to our current position and one of the most technologically advanced organisations in the U.K.

We first started doing short range forecasts for the shipping fraternity, this was instigated by the now Admiral Fitzroy who made ships record the weather, and noticed there were short range patterns that could be predicted.

Modern day forecasts are carried out by large supercomputers that run extremely complex models and can work on a local or global scale. Humans still have an important input, and there are many forecasters working around the U.K. covering many industries from oil and gas to aviation.

Detailed weather records have been kept for centuries, although mainly since the 1700's. The first reliable records were made by members of the church who usually were the only members of a parish who could write. In 1859 things became more organised with the start of the British Rainfall Organization set up by George Symons. As it's name suggests it was a dedicated network of rainfall recording stations throughout the U.K.

Nowadays the Met Office and Environment Agency manages these networks and collates the data for the people of the U.K. We manage four networks of recording stations, and all the data is collated in our Archive in Exeter. As we are a publicly funded body, the data is freely available to public. If you are in Exeter and have a free afternoon, may I recommend you visit; there are some extremely interesting records.

The four networks are:
Rainfall – These sites only record rainfall and are usually read once a day. There are around 1700 of these sites in the U.K. managed by the EA, NRW, SEPA, Met. Office and other bodies.
Climate – These sites manually record data including temperatures, rainfall, weather, sunshine, wind and cloud on a daily basis and report once a day. There are over 150 of these.
Automatic Weather stations – These record data continually, but log the data and report occasionally. There are around 74 of these.
Synoptic stations – Fully automated sites that record everything from pressure to rainfall and report in real-time. There are about 156 of these.
These numbers are currently correct but we are always making efforts to increase these numbers.

The data has countless uses ranging from forecasting to scientific studies into flora and fauna. Many of our observers are volunteers and range from the farming community to people just interested in the weather as a hobby. We owe these observers a huge debt as we have an extensive and accurate archive that is the envy of many of our international counterparts.

Just as a matter of interest, below is a list of the extremes we have experienced in the U.K.

Highest Temperature - 40.3^{o}C - Conningsby 2022.
Lowest Temperature - -27.2^{o}C - Braemar in 1982.
Highest wind speed - 142m.p.h. - Fraserburgh in 1989.
Highest Rainfall in 24 hours - 279mm in Dorset in 1955
(In 2009 there were devastating floods in Cumbria, whilst this didn't break the 24 hour record it received 495mm in 4 days. This is a record and the prolonged nature of the rain was damaging).
Crib Goch (Snowdonia) - A monthly rainfall total of 1396mm was recorded in the calendar month (gauge read at 1010 UTC on 1 December 2015 and again at 1346 UTC on 1 January 2016). This is a record for a monthly total in the U.K.

If you are interested there is much more useful information on our website: www.metoffice.gov.uk

Submitted by Andy Epstein

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

Lapford Victory Hall AGM

Monday 23rd March 2026
7:30pm

Small Room, Lapford Victory Hall
EX17 6PZ

Come along and be part of it!
What we've achieved together
What exciting plans are ahead
How you can have your say and get involved

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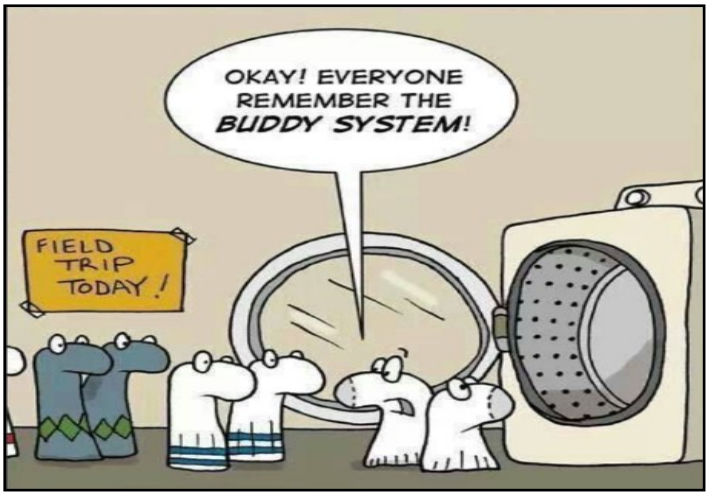

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Ashridge Great Barn

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 ww.ashridgegreatbarn.co.uk
info@ashridge-court.co.uk 01837 352025

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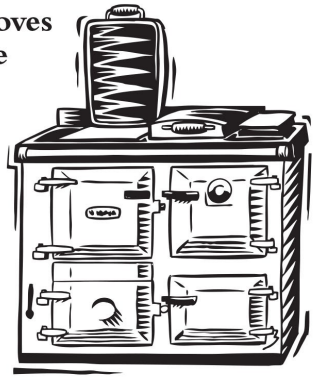

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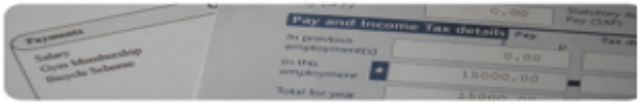

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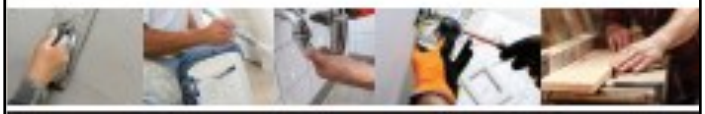

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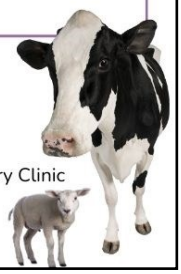

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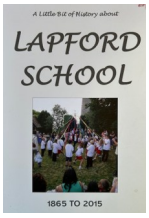

Price £5-00 each
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of Lapford Village Archive.

There is interest in bringing the Story of Our School more up to date. Any reminiscences (in spoken, electronic, or written form), documents or photographs gratefully received via The ARK or the Village Archive. If enough material emerges it can be edited into another book.

Lapford Village Archive Team

LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL NOTES
MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2026

Please note this is a summary of the main points of interest. Four Parish Councillors attended plus one member of the public.

- A Councillor to attend the Annual convention of the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance.
- Written reports re Mid Devon and Devon County Council issues were received from Cllr Steve Keable.
- Cllr Keable had met with Steve Tucker, Highways Officer. Blocked drains in Mill Hill and Edgerley Lane to be jetted.
- The Toddler Play Area lease has been signed.
- Planned remedial work to footpaths has been completed, and the annual maintenance grant has been received.
- The bus company to provide taxis into the village in future when the bus service is be re-routed along the A377.
- A Heart of Lapford meeting report stated that the legal/ charitable position of the Victory Hall land holdings had been settled. The Hall was underused at present resulting in a drop in income. The Friday Youth Club was attracting around twenty young people.
- Hopefully tidying up jobs on Lower Town Place could be part of the Village Tidy-up Day in March.
- The Church Green Trustees had met: a slate memorial plaque for Derek Pleace to be installed on the CG/LTP bank; the MDDC Conservation Officer to be consulted re the possibility of permanently removing the gates to the Green; permission has been given to remove the old faded P sign by the Melissa Lake shelter; permission given for the Revel Committee to use the Green in July.
- The grass cutting contract to be extended for another year.
- A Neighbourhood Plan Group meeting had highlighted that Government targets would probably mean that Lapford will have to find room for up to 150 new houses in the next twenty years. The Group will be joining Parish Councillors for training sessions on Planning and Community Land Trusts.
- Up to £350 was granted for the repair of the muddy walkway at the end of Park Meadow Close.
- Reports re youngsters riding electric scooters on public roads and in the dark were received. The Police to be involved if any further incidents reported.

LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Could YOU help manage YOUR community and guide it forward? If so…..

Parish Councils are the bedrock of democracy in our country, giving local people the chance to participate at the grass roots through making a difference to the places where they live, and influencing and informing decisions made higher up the chain. Parish Councils are non-political.

Your Parish Council is responsible for scrutinising local planning applications, maintaining the parish footpaths, the car park, the Orchard Centre, the parish clock, seats in public locations, etc. etc. It organises response to national events and carries out emergency planning. Its members also sit as a separate body in order to look after the Church Green. All this is financed through the Parish Precept set each year by the Council. There are only two employees – the Parish Clerk and the cleaner who looks after the Orchard Centre.

The Parish Council is also working with a community group on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. This will set out how, over the next twenty years, the parish will meet new demands imposed by national housing policies. These will inevitably mean increased development in the parish and the Plan will set out how that can be structured to preserve the character of the village and its environment.

Councillors' work is not just about turning up to a meeting once a month. There are documents to read, committees to run and attend and training sessions to keep on top of new legislation. Above all we work as a team, combining and using individual strengths and abilities to the best advantage. Not everyone can do minor repairs or write minutes or scrutinise accounts or draft policies, but someone in the team can and does.

Yes, it is a significant commitment. Councillors do their best to keep costs down by using their own time and resources to do odd jobs like repairing the vandalised public toilet, putting up the village Christmas tree, filling grit bins, following up highway issues etc. The Government's planned reorganisation of local government will soon result in parish councils being required to take on even more services and responsibilities in their localities. Already MDDC no longer provides a parish weed clearing service, DCC no longer maintains local road signs and the Parish Council will shortly take over responsibility for the toddlers' playground.

For some time now your Parish Council has been under strength by three members. If you have views about the management of the parish, and feel willing and able to take up this challenge why not apply to be a Parish Councillor? Training for the role is available, as is support from the other councillors. The Council really does need people with a willingness to contribute and work as part of the team for the good of the whole community.

Application forms are available from the Parish Clerk
07768 829511, email: clerk@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk

For more information about the Parish Council see the website www.lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk or speak to a Councillor.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Please ensure all contributions are sent directly to lapfordlookout@gmail.com, rather than to individual Editorial Team members. Thank you.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: CONSULTATION NOW LIVE

Consultation on the five proposals put forward as part of the Government's reorganisation of local authorities in Devon has now begun.

In November 2025 Mid Devon District Council submitted a joint proposal to the Government about how it would like to see services delivered at a local level.

This submission was a requirement set by the Government, which is committed to restructuring the current make up of councils, in particular moving away from two-tier authorities like the one currently operating in Devon, which operates under a county council and district council system.

Last year, councils across the county developed proposals for new single tier, or unitary authorities. Mid Devon District Council was part of a group of seven district councils in Devon to jointly submit the proposal Reimagining Devon, also known as the 4-5-1 option, which would result in three unitary authorities:

- Exeter and Northern Devon – a unitary authority with East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge
- Torbay and Southern Devon – a unitary authority with South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon
- Plymouth City Council remaining a standalone unitary authority.

The Reimagining Devon (4-5-1) submission is one of five proposals submitted by councils across Devon. A modified version of the proposal from the districts, known as 4-5-1+, has also been submitted and includes a modest expansion of Plymouth into four parishes within South Hams.

Leader of Mid Devon District Council, Luke Taylor, said: "At Mid Devon we have taken a collaborative approach to create a bold new way of delivering local services in Mid Devon. There are now five clear options for the Government to consult on, including the 4-5-1 proposal supported by most of the districts. This option provides a structure that would keep services local and accessible for our communities, while being financially robust and reflecting our unique geography. What is important now is that the Government look at each proposal in detail and reflect the needs of our local community when considering the future of local services across the county. If you want your voice heard I would encourage you to take the time to access the consultation and share your views."

Businesses, residents and local organisations can view and respond to all the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon on a dedicated website by midnight 26 March, 2026.

Visit: www.devonlgr.co.uk/

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1. Nan's bird
2. Rodent home
3. A number of insects
4. The Big Apple
5. Parsley and sage at the fete here?
6. Home of Greene's pier
7. Marmalade orange
8. Pale horse's home
9. Dark pond
10. Eric's resort
11. One's French friend
12. Royal Citrus
13. Famous for crab
14. Cricketer's peninsular
15. Wide steps
16. Bard's birthplace
17. Spend a penny here
18. Pale insect
19. Fleece in one valley
20. White bird's years
21. Seaside sweet
22. 1066 Battle
23. Mums go there
24. The Angels
25. Ale

(Answers next month)

THE ARK

The volunteers do an amazing job of giving, serving and caring. Thank you to you all.

I want to give a special mention to Sue Hemsworth (still likes to help out now and again) and Mary Chappell for their hard work over the many years of The ARK being open. Thank you from us all at The ARK.

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'It's very friendly, it's welcoming, food is nice, cakes are particularly nice' - Sue Hemsworth

'Always a warm welcome, wonderful homemade food' - Stacey

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Acting blackbelts Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch put a wicked British spin on this remake of the 1989 movie The War of the Roses about a spectacularly toxic marriage, combining a mix of broad comedy and dark satire. (15)

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The Life of Chuck (15) Friday 10th April

CHULMLEIGH SOCIETY

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'There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another theory which states that this has already happened.'

Douglas Adams

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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

LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL — www.lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk

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 March for inclusion in the April 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.
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.
Copplestone	4.30 p.m.	11.15 a.m.

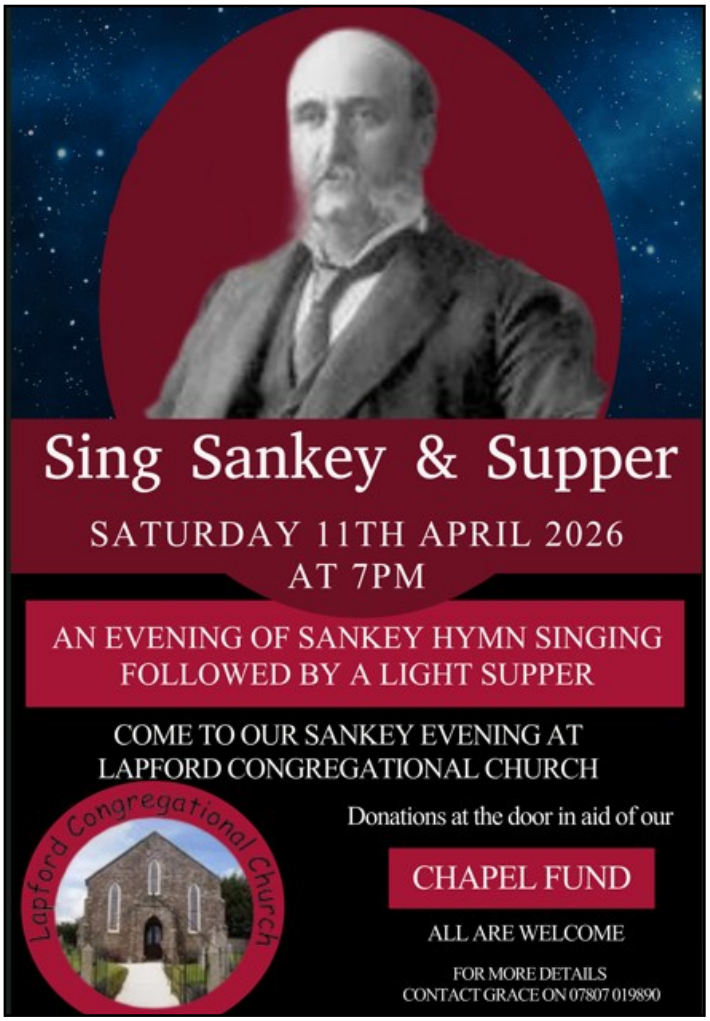
In addition, items left at the Post Office during opening hours will be posted that day via North Tawton.

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 / darrencrump99@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	Mrs 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 / darrencrump99@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	amepstein55@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

KNIT & NATTER
AT THE ARK
11TH MARCH AND EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY
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)

Lapford Community Church
invites you to join them for a
MEN'S BREAKFAST
at The ARK
MARCH
14TH
SATURDAY
9AM-10.30AM
CONTACT RICH ON: 07747 401262
ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE LAPFORD FOOD BANK

LAPFORD REVEL
Quiz & Curry
Fundraiser
Saturday 9th May 2026
6pm doors open, quiz starts at 7pm.
Lapford Victory Hall
£12.50 per person
Teams of 4-6
Call Stacey on
07891 556884
Help us raise further funds for our Revel weekend
10-12th July, it's set to be a wild weekend
Buffet curry
• Licensed bar • • Raffle


Sing Sankey & Supper
SATURDAY 11TH APRIL 2026
AT 7PM
AN EVENING OF SANKEY HYMN SINGING
FOLLOWED BY A LIGHT SUPPER
COME TO OUR SANKEY EVENING AT
LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Lapford Congregational Church
Donations at the door in aid of our
CHAPEL FUND
ALL ARE WELCOME
FOR MORE DETAILS
CONTACT GRACE ON 07807 019890

Messy CHURCH
EASTER SPECIAL!
Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of creativity, celebration, and community!
Thursday 12th March 2026
3:30pm – 5:30pm
Lapford Congregational Church
What to Expect:
Easter Crafts
Games & Activities
Stories & Celebration Time
Music & Fun
Food to Enjoy Together
Perfect for children and families – come and explore the Easter story in a hands-on, creative way!
All welcome – no need to book!
Just come along and join the mess, fun and friendship!

BRITISH SUMMER TIME
COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026
10am – 12 noon
AT LAPFORD VICTORY HALL
COFFEE, TEA, CAKES, BACON ROLLS, STALLS AND A RAFFLE
TO BOOK A STALL, CONTACT GRACE ON 07807 019890
£5 PER TABLE
COME ALONG – WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!!

LAMBING BINGO!
Starting Mid March
£5 PER BINGO SHEET
Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury Lapford School
1 Buy your bingo sheet
2 You will be added to the WhatsApp / Facebook update group
3 Each time a lamb is born, a number will be posted
4 Mark the number off your bingo sheet
5 First to 1 line wins a hamper
6 First to 2 lines wins a hamper
7 Full house wins the CASH prize
Bingo sheets are available from the school office or by calling Claire on
07875 823755

EASTER WORKSHOPS IN THE ARK
Following the Twelve Days of Christmas art workshops
March 7 and March 21
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
To design and create a twelve panel Easter Display for The ARK
Come alone, bring a friend or come as a group
Children to be accompanied by an adult
Materials provided
Hot drinks and cake on tap