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THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR SHOBROOKE

Autumn 2025





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Cover photo : Alison Ayres

View from the Church Tower

Welcome to the Autumn issue.

The summer we've had (and hopefully continuing to have) has on the whole, for people like me, been a good one. I've enjoyed the days of warmth and sunshine, and the chance to spend much more time outside, not just working the garden but also taking the chance to live a little bit *more al fresco*.

There have been challenges: keeping my greenhouses watered and also lowering the temperatures inside.

I suspect that for farmers, the summer has been even more of a mixed bag, with the lack of rain, and the high temperatures making it difficult for livestock farmers in particular.

As usual, at this time of year, you will see that the Harvest Festival is prominent in The Brooke. It is an important community event in the village calendar, which brings everyone together.

An opportunity for us all to celebrate this time of the year, and enjoy being in a village like Shobrooke.

Malcolm



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- Sort code. 52-30-06

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**For enquiries and bookings, please contact Alison Ayres:
01363 775103 or alisonjpayres@gmail.com**



HARVEST FESTIVAL NEWS

SHOBROOKE HARVEST FESTIVAL - DONATIONS WELCOME...

We're delighted to inform you that planning is now in full swing for this year's harvest festival, to be held on **Saturday 13th September at St Swithun's Church, Shobrooke.**



It promises to be another wonderful day for the whole community to come together and celebrate!

To help make the event a success, we are asking for contributions towards some of our much-loved stalls and activities. If you are able, we would be most grateful for donations of any of the following:

- **Dried rose petals**
- **Bottles** – for the ever-popular bottle stall
- **Raffle prizes** – big or small, all are welcome
- **Homemade cakes and quiches**
- **Auction prizes**

All donations can be left at The Old Post Office, in the centre of the village. Every single contribution, large or small, helps to make the Harvest Festival the success it is – and is truly appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE DAY!

Sally Foot : no 13 The Village | 01363 775388 | 07882 786648

I shall once again run a **2nd hand bookstall**, 50% profit going to MIND mental health charity.

Please leave any books with the library in front of the church kitchen, no earlier than the Monday before please.

Scarves again in clean condition, can give to me or bring on the day please.

I am also running again a **2nd hand toy stall**. Please look through your toys for any that have been outgrown or unwanted. In decent condition.

Either bring to me at no 13, give me on the day, or leave in Church not before the Monday 8th.

Competitions:

Cooking: A cheesecake of your choice, judged by taste and presentation, bring by 11am on the morning.

Children: 3 super doopa decorated cupcakes on a plate, don't forget to put your name underneath. Adult supervision permitted for safety but children involvement as appropriate. ***Bring by 11am please.***

And / or, The most identifiable items to fit into a small size matchbox, no matches please!!!

ALL

Don't forget your dried Rose petals, put in basket in church anytime now.

'Remember to bring small change, I will have a fun game'

Have a wonderful day!!!

Sally Foot

Cafe and Cake Stall Team

Our Shobrooke Harvest Festival is almost upon us and as usual we will have the cafe in the church offering refreshments and light lunches in the church run by the Hampson family, and the fantastic cake stall which this year will be run by Jane and Jan.

We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes, muffins, flapjacks, cookies, biscuits & scones, jams & preserves.

In particular we would be especially grateful for any larger cakes for the cafe that we could cut into slices, decorated in any way you wish!

We had a lot less larger cakes last year and whilst larger cakes also look good, they also go further so we'd really appreciate them!

If you're able to make something for the cafe or the cake stall we'd be extremely grateful, donations can be delivered to Vivien on the Friday evening before (Clergy Cottage, 8 Shobrooke Village), or brought to the church first thing on Saturday morning. ***Any queries please call Vivien on 01363 775468.***

Thank you very much for your help.

Cafe & Cake Stall Team



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ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH

SHOBROOKE



**HARVEST
FESTIVAL**



**LIVE
MUSIC**

10AM - 4PM

**CAKE
STALL**

**BAR & POP
UP CAFE**

**RAFFLE &
AUCTION**

**BRIC-A-BRAC
STALL**

**DOG
SHOW**

**PRE LOVED
STALL**

**PLANTS &
FRESH PRODUCE**

**FAMILY
FUN**

SAT 13TH SEPTEMBER

ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH SHOBROOKE, CREDITON, EX17 1AP

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

ON THE DAY

10-15AM BLESSING OF THE HOLY WELL

10-30AM - 2-30PM **DOG SHOW** £2 per dog, per class

- 🐾 Child Handler
- 🐾 Most Appealing Eyes
- 🐾 Golden Oldie - Over 10 Years
- 🐾 Musical Sit



- 🐾 Best Condition
- 🐾 Biscuit Coach
- 🐾 Best In Show



2-30PM **RAFFLE** 

3-00PM **TEDDIES ZOOM DOWN THE CHURCH TOWER**

Don't forget to bring your teddy

3-30PM **PIE COMPETITION JUDGING** 

Adult & Kids "Autumn Pie" competition - Bring your entry on the day

4-00PM **AUCTION** 

**CASH ONLY
EVENT**



SCAN TO DONATE

Email: shobrookevillage@outlook.com

EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE 

Account: 85085781
Sort Code: 08-90-27

The Swift Project

Sally Foot

I have spent many a peaceful hour or two monitoring the swifts in the church tower over the last 3 months, hoping to see swifts entering the tower to nest in the swift boxes that were provided there by the Devon Swift Project.

None were seen entering or exiting, but I saw several circling the tower, probably attracted by the swift caller.

The swift caller was on from 7am - 8:30 am and 7 pm - 8:30 pm. They may have been 'prospectors' - 1 year old, looking for nesting sites for next year.

Swifts arrive in 3 waves

- Early May returning swifts to previous nest sites.
- End of May 2-3 year old nesting for the 1st time
- End of June the prospectors who tend to zip about noisily looking for sites for next season.
- Swifts eat, drink, mate and sleep in the air and only land to nest, so they may have been air bound for 3 years before landing anywhere.

If they ever land on the ground by mistake, they often cannot take flight and need to be picked up and thrown up in the air.

Their numbers are in decline, with fewer nesting sites available, so hopefully this Swift Project will help to increase the numbers of these remarkable birds.

I was thrilled that a nest was used in my swift nestbox on my house, sparrows being turfed out.

More news next year!

ATTENTION !! SHOBRUNCH IS COMING

Saturday 1st Nov, 9am to 12.30pm

Just think - bacon rolls, veggie sausage, teas coffee & cakes, plus lovely craft stalls for those of you wanting to buy an early Christmas present!

All proceeds in aid of our lovely village hall.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Photo Gallery



Alison Ayres : Thistle



Sally Foot : Wallflower



Beauty and the Beast near my pond : Mandy Jones

A newly emerged dragonfly clings to its nymph exoskeleton, waiting for its wings to inflate, while the aptly named Beautiful Demoiselle rests atop a leaf.

Photo Gallery 2



Seeing eye to eye: It's not often you get the chance to gaze into the compound eye of a Hummingbird Hawk Moth. This one was recovering after being trapped in the garage. It was relocated to a centranthus flower. Mandy Jones



Mother Shrew : 2 babies were playing nearby



*Dan Ziillwood :
Parasol mushroom*

HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE



ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH, SHOBROOKE
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 6PM
ALL WELCOME

Remembering Eve Dennis by Martin Palmer

(Eve was a resident of Shobrooke and early editor of The Brooke who funded the building of the kitchen in St Swithun's Church. She died in July this year)

I met Eve in 1985 just before Prince Philip and I launched at Assisi in 1986 the first ever meeting between the major faiths and the environmental/conservation movements from around the world. It was Eve who had come up with the idea of creating a movement or organisation to help churches turn their churchyards into mini-ecosystems through careful management of the land. This included not cutting the grass every Saturday and letting lawn areas be, plus providing bird and bat boxes.

I was delighted to support her and for some time was the Chair of her Living Churchyards initiative which she steered through a very sceptical English Nature. Her simple assumption that the churches would want to do this with 'God's Acre' as churchyards have been called and that the formal, rather dull environmental movement would be supportive meant, it just happened! Her remarkable ability to be very humble and to get exactly what she wanted was fascinating to watch.

Almost single handed she brought over 7000 church yards into ecological management, often linked with the church school. Not only has this lasted to this day - unlike the vast majority of environmental schemes - but it has been copied in many other countries around the world.

She was a pioneer, an inspiration and her achievements will live on for centuries. Not something one can usually say with real confidence but Eve saw that working with faith as a motivation means you are building for generations to come.

Summer 2025



Our BIG GREEN FAIR IN THE SQUARE 2025

Saturday September 27th

Save the date!

Planning is now underway... Let us know if you'd like to help or hold a stall.

It's always a great event!

Write to us at : info@sustainablecreditor.org.uk

Or contact us to get involved with our Pollinator Group, with our campaigns, or with our events (first Saturday of the month) at the Sustainabubble in the Town Square

And don't forget – 4th Saturday of the month – come and try out our Repair Café, 10am to 12noon at the Elephant on the Green



Sustainable
Creditor



St Swithun's Church

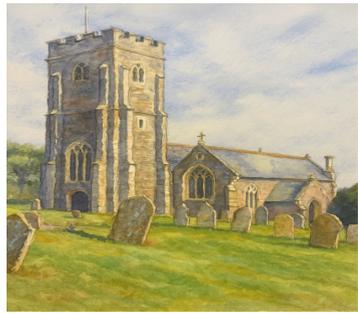
News

Firstly, I think you will agree that there is nothing better than hearing the church bells ring out for special occasions and over the years Shobrooke has produced some very fine ringers. Currently there are no ringers who actually live in the Village. It would be wonderful if that could change. You don't have to be a churchgoer, just available and willing to learn. If you are interested please contact, Joanna on 776821 or Geoff & Sue 776681. Practises are sometimes held at Shobrooke on Saturday mornings.

The Summer was busy, starting with the farming festival of Rogation, meeting at the allotments there was an opportunity to ask God's blessing on crops after which we walked through the wheat fields to the Holy Well before finishing our worship in church.

It was wonderful to join worshippers from the Congregational Church at Shobrooke Park on the 8th June, there were a dozen or so regular members of our St Swithun's congregation in attendance, the backdrop with the lake was amazing, the weather kind and the singing tremendous. We look forward to next time, with special thanks to Jack & Clare Shelley for their hospitality.

The following Saturday the wedding of Christopher & Claire took place, we wish them well in their married life. This was followed with the wedding of Oliver & Bethan, Chris Spencer's granddaughter, were on



the 9th August, our good wishes go to them too.

July was a very special time...our Songs of Praise evening, held jointly with St Swithun's Church, Sandford, was a moving service of worship, unity and support for the Ukraine Emergency Appeal. The church was filled with hymns of hope and peace, highlighted by a touching performance from a Ukrainian Choir. A special highlight of the evening was the dedication of an Icon, painted and gifted by Ukrainian artist Anna Mazur, which will remain in our church as a lasting symbol of prayer and solidarity.

In August we celebrated Lammas, otherwise known in the ancient farming calendar as the Festival of the First Fruits. Jack Shelley gave an interesting account of the history whilst we were in the churchyard overlooking the fields on a beautiful sunny morning, 'all was safely gathered in...' Home-made loaves were then blessed which we shared with cheese and jam at the end of the service.

Our next farming celebration will be Harvest which you can read all about separately, we kick off proceedings with the blessing at the Holy Well at 10.15am on the Saturday, culminating with the Songs of Praise at 6pm on the

Sunday, where there will be a visiting speaker and a collection for RABI(Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution). *RABI* is the charity at the heart of farming, providing expert mental health and well-being support, as well as financial, emotional and practical help. Do contact me if there is a favourite Harvest hymn you would like to sing at this service.

Sadly there have been 2 deaths in the Village during the Summer months, Les Veal and Rosa Hasler. We offer our heartfelt condolences to their families.

November is a time of remembrance, there will be an All Soul's service on or near All Soul's Day, 2nd November, watch out for further details.

On the 9th November there will be the usual traditional Remembrance gathering at the War Memorial followed by a service in church.

At church every Tuesday 4pm, there is a time of prayer for anyone who would like to join me. The prayer Tree is available to leave prayers on and there is also a confidential prayer box.

It has been brilliant to see folks out and about in the Village and so pleasing to see the love and care that is afforded to each other.

Many will know that since my visit in 2022 I have connections in East Jerusalem, which is occupied Palestinian land. Steve and I continue to support, St George's College, and the Princess Basma Centre in Jerusalem as well as the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza. I have links to much information,

please contact me if you would like to know more. Go to www.basma-centre.org for the latest Basma newsletter, where you can see exactly what money you have donated is spent on.

With the above in mind, Steve and I will be holding another Open House on Thursday 11th December. Look out for more details nearer the time.

Finally I leave you with these poignant words, written by Mosab Abu Toha, a Palestinian poet.

For a moment

*Her small body rides in my arms
as I run to the hospital.*

*There is no electricity
and the inner hallways are
a forest lined with cots.*

*The girl I carry
is dead,*

I know that.

*The pressure of the explosion
tore apart her thin veins.*

*I know she is dead,
but everyone who sees us
runs after us.*

*You are alive
for a moment,
when living people
run after you.*

Blessings to everyone, do be in touch if I can be of help.

Sandra 777013,
sandracollier57@gmail.com

Telephone Digital Switch-over. What it means for you.

The existing phone network based on copper wires is getting old and difficult / expensive to maintain, so BT have taken the decision to retire the network by January 2027, which by implication also means that companies that rely on the BT network will also have to make changes.

The net result of this is that existing landline telephones need to move to a new digital technology called VOIP where the telephone calls are delivered digitally. This is sometimes called 'Digital Phone' or 'Digital Voice'. Effectively using the internet backbone to make and receive calls.

Many people no longer use the landline phone, making full use of their mobile phones. For these people they may decide that they no longer need a landline phone at all.

However in places like Shobrooke where there is not good mobile coverage then a replacement landline is probably desirable.

It is not just the existing phones that are effected by this move away from the old network there are a number of services which rely on it. Examples are telecare devices, personal alarms and burglar alarm systems. For people using these devices they should contact their supplier to understand what their plans are for the upcoming changes.

If you decide that you need a landline then you will need to have a router installed that provides the internal adapter to convert between the network digital signal and the old voltage based system used on your existing phone. So effectively your phone will plug into the back of the router rather than the existing phone socket. Your current phone line provider should be able to offer you the appropriate equipment and also advise you on keeping your existing number etc. If you have a base station and a number of internal wireless phones, then it is the base station that would be plugged into your router.

*One key fact that people may overlook is that our existing phones continue to operate even when there is a power cut. The new digital service will cease working in a power cut. This is less of an issue if you have mobile phone network coverage and so are still able to make emergency calls etc. Where there is no alternative option (as for many in Shobrooke) then your retailer **must** offer a solution to allow to you to make emergency calls in a power cut - this may well be a battery back up solution.*

Your existing phone supplier may already be talking to you about the options available to you, let them know what your needs are.

Questions to ask your provider

- What do I need to do for my new landline to work as soon as possible?
- Will my new landline work in a power cut?
- What can you provide if I only have my landline to call emergency services during a power cut?
- How do I check whether other devices (like care alarms) that use my telephone line will be compatible?
- Will my current handset work on the new system, or do you need to send me a new handset or some other equipment?

See the following website for more information:

<https://digitalphoneswitchover.com/>

My one-year pilgrimage: walking 12,000+ steps a day in aid of Devon Historic Churches

The UK is seeing a resurgence of interest in pilgrimage, with many historic routes and sites experiencing renewed popularity. This revival is driven by a desire for spiritual growth, connection with nature and a sense of community. Pilgrims are drawn to the UK's beautiful landscapes and sacred sites, as well as historic churches and cathedrals.

Since 1st December 2024 I am walking at least 12,000 steps (9+ kilometres) a day to raise funds for the Devon Historic Churches Trust. I hope to continue reaching my daily target of 12,000+ steps until the Feast of Epiphany on 6th January 2026 (that's a full year of hard walking). I am passionate about conservation and preservation of Devon's beautiful historic churches.

Too often we take our priceless heritage for granted, not realising all the many benefits historic churches and chapels bring to local communities and the UK economy.

In a way, historic churches can be considered more accessible than traditional museums and art galleries, in the sense that they are both living monuments and useful spaces, acting as bridges between the past and present - inspiring us to look into the past and immerse ourselves in the present moment; helping us build a better, more sustainable future.

Volunteers throughout Devon are giving their time and talents every day to deliver the services that every community needs; but the considerable costs of repairs are almost always beyond their resources.

This is why supporting the Devon Historic Churches Trust is so important, so that we can preserve our historic churches – for everyone, and for ever. You can support my fundraiser by donating online through JustGiving:

www.justgiving.com/page/devonhct



Robert Middleton

Easy (but delicious) tomato chutney

Ingredients :

- 1kg ripe tomato : peeled and chopped
- 750g cooking apple : peeled, cored and chopped
- 375g light muscovado sugar
- 250g onion : chopped
- 250g raisins
- 1 green pepper : deseeded and chopped
- 2 tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- 350ml cider vinegar



Method :

First

- Put all the ingredients into a large pan and bring to the boil over a medium heat.
- Stir occasionally until the sugar has dissolved.
- Boil the mixture, uncovered, for about 45-50 minutes until the fruit is tender and thickened.
- Cool, then transfer the mixture to sterilised jars and seal.
- You can use it straight after it has cooled, or let it mature in the fridge.

Second

Enjoy with some lovely cheeses - especially those from Devon!



News from Uppincott Farm

by Nick Lee

A few days ago, we had the pleasure of welcoming about thirty members of the Tiverton University of the Third Age, or U3A, to the farm.

Our good friends, David and Heather Meredith from Bickleigh, who are very involved with the group, asked if they could all come along to our top field, Higher Beacon Down, for me to present another episode of “History on the Hill.”

It was a few years ago that we welcomed members of the Shobrooke History Group, one summer evening, to the top of the hill, followed by a few weeks later with members of the Newton St Cyres History Group, to listen to me chattering on about the farm, some local history, a little geology and then a description of landmarks in the wider landscape, with fun facts.

Now this was a few years ago, so I have had to spend a bit of time “brushing up” on much of the content, and one thing that I have wanted to do for many years is to spread out various copies of Ordnance Survey maps that would cover the land that can be seen from “Raddon Top,” and to research quirky bits of information from well known points on the map.

We all know the distinctive shape of Sidmouth Gap away to the east on the horizon, but not many people know that there is a memorial bench on the western side of “the Gap” on Peak Hill, dedicated to the Reverend Keble Martin.



Tiverton U3A group enjoying the view

He was well known in his day, for being a Church of England priest, and also a botanist, and brilliant artist, but his real legacy was for the publication of his Concise British Flora in Colour, on the bookshop shelves in 1965 when the Reverend



"If you can see Dartmoor it's going to rain, if you can't see Dartmoor it's already raining!"

Keble Martin was 88. It was the result of sixty years of fieldwork and botanical painting, featuring 1486 colour paintings of both garden and wild flowers, and attached names in Latin!

Another point of interest on the horizon is Haldon Belvedere, or more correctly, Lawrence

Castle. This triangular tower was built in 1788 by Sir Robert Palk in honour of his friend General Stringer Lawrence who was involved in many battles in Southern India during the 1700's. I have several friends who I greatly admire but I hope they are not too disappointed if I can't build a tower to honour them! There must have been quite a tower competition at the time as it is thought that Lawrence Castle was influenced by the triangular tower built at nearby Powderham Castle, but lost out in height by only three feet at eighty five feet, or for those metrically minded 26 meters. What I find most interesting is that it is said that King George the third paid a visit to Lawrence Castle, as he wanted to see as much of Devon as he could, without travelling around too much.

Listening to the comments made by some of the members of the Tiverton U3A, he should have been brought to Shobrooke and taken to the highest point in the parish, for a truly spectacular view of Devon!

Wellness Page

By 'Dr Feelgood'



As I write this the Summer has been glorious here in Devon, some may even say too warm and dry! We haven't needed to go to the Mediterranean to experience a Mediterranean climate this year. Of course when we think of the Mediterranean we not only think of the climate, we think of the diet too. We have all heard that a Mediterranean diet is meant to be a brilliant way to improve our health and encourage longevity. It sounds great, but what do we actually mean by a Mediterranean diet?

When we talk about a Mediterranean diet we are referring to a style of eating commonly followed by

people countries such as Italy, Spain, Portugal, France and Greece. A typical Mediterranean diet has a number of common elements, lots of vegetables, lots of fruits, beans, cereals and cereal products (for example wholegrain bread, pasta and brown rice). It also contains moderate amounts of fish, white meat and some dairy produce. Sometimes it includes nuts, as well as smaller amounts of red meat and sweet desserts. In particular, the types of fats in a Mediterranean diet are unsaturated fats, frequently olive oil, and these replace saturated fats such as butter, lard or ghee. These unsaturated fats are so much better for your heart and we know heart disease is a very serious problem for many people, so building these alternative fats into your diet is very helpful. Whilst it's useful to have information that helps us eat well, it can sometimes feel like a lot of effort and not a lot of fun trying to eat healthily! The great thing about a Mediterranean diet is it's not really a diet at all - it's more of a lifestyle choice. It's also simple to follow, you can easily tweak your existing diet to become more 'Mediterranean', and you can include lots of foods you really like provided you follow a few basic principles. If you feel like giving it a go here's a few tips to embrace a bit more of the Mediterranean in your diet:

Eat more vegetables and fruit – you can't have too much really! We know our bodies need it, and they respond well to it. Get fruit and/or vegetables into every meal if you can, snacks too. We've all heard of 5 a day, but in recent years research actually suggests 7 a day so you don't need to hold back. Don't forget it can be what you drink as well as eat.

Have several meat free days a week – we don't need as much as we think, especially red meat, and plenty of protein can come from eggs, lentils and beans and dairy too.

Keep that olive oil to hand, ideally extra virgin and cold pressed if you can afford it. Sometimes referred to as 'liquid gold', olive oil so much better for you than

saturated fats. Try rapeseed oil too, it's also a brilliant, affordable unsaturated fat, and replace butter with plant based alternatives when you can. Drink alcohol in moderation, you don't want to undo all the good work you're doing with the Mediterranean style food you're eating! Don't overdo the carbohydrate, we often eat a lot more carbohydrate than we need to. We do need some carbohydrates in our diet, but too much really isn't good for us. Try eating more healthy protein instead, you may notice it helps you feel more full for longer.

When it comes to what you are eating, the best evidence is that you should follow a Mediterranean-style diet while adding in some fermented foods. It is widely accepted as one of the healthiest diets on the planet. Dr Michael Mosely At the end of the day food should be something we look forward to and enjoy, it shouldn't make us feel guilty and it shouldn't feel like hard work to enjoy what we eat and still be healthy. A Mediterranean diet offers us so many options and you can explore what you enjoy, whilst eating foods that are so much better for your heart and your digestive system. So if you haven't done it already, bring a bit more of the Mediterranean into your kitchen, you know it makes sense. I'm now off to stock up on my olive oil!

Wishing you well.

Dr Feelgood

You can watch the British Heart Foundation's video for more information on the benefits of a Mediterranean diet:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/heart-matters-magazine/nutrition/mediterranean-diet>

Libraries
Unlimited

StoryFest

LIBRARIES UNLIMITED are collaborating with Aardman to bring an exciting week long festival of reading across Devon during October half term.

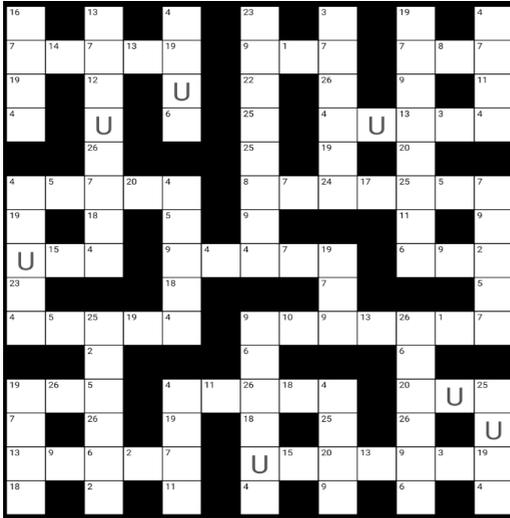
StoryFest kicks off at Exeter Library on 25th October for a full day of exciting live events including the Vegetable Orchestra, Shaun Dares Ewe, and special guest appearances from Shaun the Sheep himself!

It's set to be a Grand Day Out!

This is followed by model making and animation workshops at Exeter Library. Aardman's expert model makers will be leading three days of hands-on workshops where children can learn clay modelling and animation techniques. A fantastic opportunity for young creators!

There will also be other activities at a variety of libraries, with further details announced nearer the time. This includes libraries screening classic Aardman films, along with Aardman's brand-new interactive AR trail, Wallace & Gromit: All Systems Go available in Exeter, Barnstaple, and Paignton.

Codeword Puzzle



1		14	
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13		26	

Answer page 30

YOUR LOCAL LEGAL EXPERTS

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Picking Mulberries

Malcolm Cooke

The first year we were too late,
I guess we were ignorant,
or maybe the crop was slight.
Blackbirds with keener eyes
for small clusters of black orbs
must have visited constantly.
The little fruit left, unripe or
out of reach, we surrendered
to the circling wasps.
We vowed - next year...

and the year after that...

This year we were lucky.
The fruit was early,
blackbirds had passed the tree by,
a feast not yet on their schedule.
A troupe of sparrows chattering
in the branches like children
discovering a fun fair on a day trip,
were keen to try their luck.
Berries hidden beneath leaves
were left untouched in their haste
and their naivete.

I picked a ripe berry to eat.
My first ever and what a taste.

Before long my fingers and hands
were crimson, my shirt spattered
like some B movie murder scene,
as I collected my evidence
from brittle branches and drying leaves.
Reaching up and through
trying to decipher the meaning
obscured by leaves. Only the bloodiest
would do.

Today I saw a blackbird on a mission,
it flew to branches out of my reach,
branches ignored by sparrows.
With a deft flick it gave me two fingers
as it lifted its prize,
as if to say 'Mine as well'

Shobrooke Parish Councillors 2023

Cllr Allan Jones (Chair)	19 School Close, Shobrooke, Crediton, EX17 1AX 01363 777444 Cllr.Jones@shobrookeparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr. Chris Furse (Vice Chair)	14 Silver Way, Shobrooke, Crediton, EX17 1HP 01363 774495 Cllr.Furse@shobrookeparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Lynsay Balkwill	14 The Village, Shobrooke, Crediton, EX17 1AU 01363 775296 Cllr.Balkwill@shobrookeparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr (Rev) Sandra Collier	37 Mill Street, Crediton, EX17 1EZ Cllr.Collier@shobrookeparishcouncil.co.uk

DEVON County Councillor

Cllr Steve Kebble	Bromstone Cottage, Lapford, Crediton EX17 6PZ 07967 655045 steve.keable@devon.gov.uk
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Mid Devon District Councillors

Cllr Mark Jenkins	6 St Swithins Gardens, Sandford, Crediton, EX17 4LY 01363 773900 07580 319314 mjenkins@middevon.gov.uk
Cllr Helen Tuffin	Buller Road, Crediton, EX17 2AX htuffin@middevon.gov.uk
Website	www.shobrookeparishcouncil.co.uk
Parish footpath officers	Bethan Ditchfield and Victoria Leeming
Playing fields liason officer	Ben Jacobs
Neighbourhood Watch Officer	Lesley Browne
Website officer - clerk	Mrs. Clarke, Rosefield, Northlew, Okehampton, Devon EX20 3BN 07886004919 shobrookepc@gmail.com,

Shobrooke Parish Council

A full copy of the most recent agreed minutes is posted on the Parish Council noticeboard in the bus shelter each month, and the minutes for all recent meetings can be found on the parish council website:

<https://www.shobrookeparishcouncil.co.uk>

A public participation session is held at the start of each meeting.

Village Meeting Highlights: Keeping Our Community Safe and Sound!

We recently had a productive meeting where we discussed some important topics concerning our lovely villages. Here's a friendly summary of what we covered:

Making Our Roads Safer for Everyone

We heard some heartfelt concerns about the increasing traffic issues in Shute and Efford, especially the speed of agricultural and commuter vehicles. It seems things have become a bit more challenging since COVID, with reports of dangerous driving, close calls, and even a vehicle collision involving a drink-driver. Our community's safety is paramount!

Remember those "20 is Plenty" signs? They mysteriously disappeared, and we understand there were some questions about unofficial signage due to Highways restrictions. Good news! The Council is planning to install brand new wooden posts with fresh "20 is Plenty" signs wherever possible, making sure they're not attached to Highways-owned fixtures.

Devon County Cllr Keable is on the case and will be following up with Steve Tucker to explore options for traffic monitoring and the SCARF (Speed Concern Action Request Form) processes. We also learned that nearby Sandford and Cridton already have speed watch programs in place, and that Highways typically only gets involved after accidents occur. We are still working hard to be proactive!

Exciting Updates for Our Playing Field

Great news for our younger residents, we're eagerly awaiting an installation date for the new playground additions. To make sure everything looks perfect, our dedicated gardener / Handyman will be doing some extra clearance and for your peace of mind, the new Sovereign equipment will undergo biannual inspections under a new agreement, ensuring it remains safe and fun for years to come!

A Big Thank You to Hi-line! Our Vice Chair will be reaching out to Hi-line to express our sincere appreciation for their excellent work in our local area recently with the electric lines. We're so grateful for their efforts and for keeping everyone in the loop with their updates. It's wonderful to see such great collaboration!

Stay tuned for more updates, and thank you for being such an engaged and caring community and if you would like to come and join the parish council, were we are determined to “get things done” come along to our next meeting on the 10th September.

We are always after new councillors, if you would like to join us contact the clerk on **shobrookepc@gmail.com**, we're a friendly group trying to serve our community as best we can.

Thursday 11th September 7.30pm

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Hedgehog Support contact details

John Groves, Hedgehog Rescue at East Village	07966 435147
Francisco Van Holthoon at Coleford	01363 85394 079296 60112
Elm Wildlife and HH Rescue, Newton Abbot	07971 276658
Boniface Vets Crediton	01363 772 860
Mid Devon Hedgehog Highway Scheme	Facebook group - very active and supportive
Marion from Cheriton Fitzpaine (rescue)	01363 866112

Codeword
Answers

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



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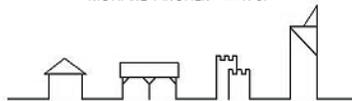


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arriving in Shobrooke at 14:16

Service 679 to Exeter via Raddon Cross and Shute operated by Dartline

Wednesdays only, departs from the Red Lion at 09:58 arriving in Exeter Bus Station at 10:30

(This service starts in the morning at Black Dog at 09:15 & arrives in Shobrooke via Kennerleigh, Sandford and Crediton Lloyd's Bank at 09:45 and returns via that route in the afternoon and so can be used for people coming to Shobrooke in the morning or going into Crediton or beyond in the afternoon)

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Bus arrives back in Shobrooke at 13:57.

Service 870 to Tiverton via Cheriton Fitzpaine, Poughill, Pennymoor, Cadeleigh & Bickleigh and operated by Country Bus.

Tuesdays only, departing Shobrooke Red Lion at 09:30 arriving Tiverton Bus Station 10:50.

Returning to Shobrooke from Tiverton Bus Station 13:50, *(We haven't been able to confirm the stand number in Tiverton - it used to be stand 6)*

Bus arrives back in Shobrooke at 15:00.

(In the morning this service starts at Crediton Green at 09:10 and arrives back there in the afternoon at 15:20, so can also be used by people coming to Shobrooke or going into Crediton on Tuesday afternoon: if returning from Shobrooke in the afternoon it would be best to tell the driver on the morning journey!)

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Phone numbers: Dartline : 01392 872900 Country Bus : 01626 833664

If you need travel information for other bus and train services in Devon or the South West of England you can contact Traveline on **0871 200 22 33**, but be aware that calls cost 12p per minute.

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS:

Parish Council:	Anna Clark	see page 26
Village Hall:	Alison Ayres	01363 775103
Churchwardens:	Victoria Leeming	01363 775765
John Lee		
Red Lion Inn:	Jane Johnson	01363 772340
Playing Fields:	Ben Jacobs	
Yoga Group:	Vivien Hampson	01363 775468
History Group:	Rosemary Barber	01363 773419
Parish Mag. Distr. :	Sally Foot	01363 775388
Allotments:	Lesley Browne	01363 772343
Crafts Group:	Jan Miller	01363 899215
Neighbourhood watch	Lesley Browne	01363 772343

YOUR LOCAL POLICE OFFICER: PCSO 30030 NICOLA PAYNE

NON EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER: 101 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER: 999

Crediton Neighbourhood Policing Team (Rural South) Telephone: 101

Email: nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Police, Fire, Ambulance dial 999
 Police non-emergency/enquiries...dial 101
 Crimestoppers.....0800 555 111

HEALTH:

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 NHS Direct Helpline 0845 46 47
 Dental Access Service 01392 207544
 Comm. Mental Health Team 01363 778600

Redlands Primary care 01363 727111

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Citizens' Advice Bureau 01363 778410
 Ring & Ride Comm.Transport 01363 773303

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LOCAL COUNCIL SERVICES:

Devon County Council 01392 382000
 Mid Devon Dist.Council 01884 255255
 Crediton Office: 01363 773755
 Punchbowl Tip: 01363 84520
 County Councillor:
 Margaret Squires... .01363 84337

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Buffet Menu-option 1	Light savoury buffet Sandwich selection Egg mayonnaise, cheddar and tomato, tuna mayonnaise (if hot and mustard mayonnaise) Selection of quiches (3) Chicken salad Mixed Leaf Salad Mango rolls Chips £10.50 per head
Buffet Menu-option 2	Savoury buffet Sandwich selection (Hot) chicken & red onion chutney, roast beef (if tomato, tuna mayonnaise and Hamster and grilled pepper) Selection of quiches (3) Selection of roast chicken drumsticks (if high) Chicken salad Mixed leaf salad Vegetable crudités with a selection of dips French fries Homemade chocolate Homemade potato salad Pesto pasta salad Mediterranean criss salad £14.00 per head
Buffet Menu-option 3	Savoury afternoon tea buffet Open sandwich selection (Hot) chicken and onion (if rocket, beef (if tomato, egg mayonnaise and tuna mayonnaise) Selection of quiches Roast chicken drumsticks Hot and mustard sticky cocktail sausage Mango rolls Followed by Warm scones with clotted cream and jam Includes tea and coffee £15.00 per head
Buffet Menu-option 4	<p>If you wish to include items from the different buffet options for example: Buffet option 1 Then warm scones with clotted cream and jam from Buffet option 3 we are happy to do this however there will be an additional cost.</p> <p>Please could you inform us prior to the date if you have anyone with allergies and we will endeavour to cater for them! Although we have a mixture of vegetarian and meat options, the vegetarian options are not necessarily vegan. Again, if you have any vegate in your party, we can make substitutions.</p>