

# Yeoford Village Voice

Distributed free to homes in Yeoford and District, Devon

August 2024

Issue 400



**This month:** Cartoon! Road Surfacing Controversy! Missing Cat! Folklore Library! Joke of the Month! And much, much more...

# Contact Details

## LOCAL ORGANISATIONS/CLUBS ETC.

### YEOFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chair: Carl Wholey 07872 640302  
Bookings: yeoford.hall@gmail.com

### YEOFORD RECREATION GROUND

Warden: David Lucking 01363 84988

### YEOFORD HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Contact: Carol Price 01647 24468

### YEOFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Contact: School Administrator 01363 84234

### YEOFORD FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT

Contact: Administrator 01363 84234

### YEOFORD YARNS

Contact: Edna Beasley: 01363 84750

### YEOFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

Contact: David Lucking 01363 84988

### YEOFORD CRICKET CLUB

Captain: Paul Coren 01363 84238

### YEOFORD 200 C£UB

Contact: club200yeoford@outlook.com

### CREDITON HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: John Stevens 01363 773918  
Clerk: Rachel Hodder 01363 85523  
clerk@creditonhamlets-pc.gov.uk

## THE YEOFORD VILLAGE VOICE TEAM

### Editor:

Jonathan Rogers 01363 84501  
yvveditor@yahoo.co.uk

### Advertising:

Di Parsons 01363 84155  
diparsons9876@gmail.com

### Everything else:

David Lucking 01363 84988

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### POLICE

101 in a non-Emergency  
999 in an Emergency  
0800 555111 Crimestoppers  
0800 405040 Transport Police

### EMERGENCIES

105 Electricity Failure  
0845 9881188 EA Floodline  
0800 807060 Environment Hotline  
0800 111999 Gas Emergency  
0800 1691144 Water Leaks/Burst Mains  
0845 1551004 Roads/Street Lights  
0310 1234999 RSPCA  
0845 6000388 Social Services

### MEDICAL

01363 772227 Redlands Primary Carey  
01647 24272 Cheriton Bishop Surgery  
111 NHS Choices (non-Emergency)  
01363 775588 Crediton Hospital  
01363 772062 Boots Pharmacy  
01363 773030 Crediton Pharmacy  
01363 772841 Lloyds Pharmacy  
C159X Yeoford Defibrillator Code  
No Code Required Duck Defibrillator

### SCHOOLS

01363 84234 Yeoford Primary  
01363 773401 QE Academy Trust

### OTHERS

01363 778410 Citizens Advice  
0845 7484950 National Rail Enquiries  
01363 85273 The Duck at Yeoford  
01363 773303 Crediton Ring and Ride

### COUNCILS/MP

0345 155 1015 Devon County Council  
01363 775739 Frank Letch  
frank.leitch@devon.gov.uk  
01884 255255 Mid Devon District Council  
0207 2197037 Mel Stride MP  
mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk

## The Village Voice Really Needs You...

The Yeoford Village Voice relies on advertising and donations to ensure that it goes to press each month. To advertise in the Village Voice and reach over 600 people locally:

### Monthly Charges

Full Page...£20 Half Page...£15

Quarter...£8 Eighth...£4

Please contact Di on

01363 84155 [diparsons9876@gmail.com] to discuss your requirements.



# Editorial

## Obligatory Weather Introduction...

Ok, so while most things in July were pretty darn positive (look, getting to the final was amazing for a team that only played well for about 20mins in the whole blimmin' tournament!), the weather really was found quite wanting (or is it wonting?), so as I sit here eyeing up the forecast for the next few weeks, it actually looks pretty good... fingers firmly crossed and all that!

Not an awful lot out of the ordinary happened here last month, but looking forward there's a few things going on...in September, the Will Blake Band return for another night of happy covers up at the hall, ticket details inside. Moving onto October, Yeo!Cider is on Saturday 19th. Wider afield there's the Crediton Arts Festival running throughout August and Sandford Summer Show at the end of the month, so there's a few things not that far away to keep adults and children occupied if you're at a loose end.

Road news! The long awaited resurfacing between here and Crediton is finally here, so either take the crazy diversion, or nip up by Punchbowl to get into town. There's also imminent resurfacing between the chapel and North Down, so expect more diversions. At least things are getting done now!

As before, we need to do another SHOUT FOR ADVERTS...we're still on a bit of a knife-edge. And finally, we did get one entry for the Joke of the Month Competition, but that was a bit prompted, so come on, make me smile...oh and it's issue 400! How about that then?!

Cheers...

The Editor

## The Village Voice Is YOUR Village Magazine

We want to hear from you and want you to use it to convey anything you feel of interest to your fellow villagers.

Please leave any items for the YVV at Torridon, Station Road before the **20th of each month**, anything after that date may not be considered until the following month. **You must provide a name and address**, even if this is not for publication.

You can also email: **yvveditor@yahoo.co.uk**  
or call **01363 84501** to speak to the editor,  
**Jonathan.**

Publishing date: **the first week of each month.**

*The Village Voice accepts no responsibility for any of the information or contributions contained herein.*



# Local Information

## YEOFORD COMMUNITY HALL

### COMMUNITY HALL CHARGES (hourly rate)

	Trustee User Groups	Local Community Groups	Private Bookings (Local)	Private Bookings (Non Local)
<b>Main Hall (includes kitchen)</b>	£3.00	£5.00	£8.00	£10.00
<b>Meeting Room (includes kitchen)</b>	£2.00	£3.00	£3.50	£5.50
<b>Party/Wedding 24hr hire</b>	—	—	£150	£250
<b>Party/Wedding 48hr hire</b>	—	—	£400	£500

Exclusive field use, BBQ, Stage, Disco Equipment also available.

For bookings, please ring **01363 84501**  
or e-mail [yeoford.hall@gmail.com](mailto:yeoford.hall@gmail.com)

The latest hall calendar can be found at  
[www.yeoford.org.uk/communityhall](http://www.yeoford.org.uk/communityhall)

### SARAH'S BARBER SHOP

85 High Street, Crediton

Tel: 01363 899269 07772 336489

Walk-Ins:

Monday 9:00-17:00, Tuesday 9:00-16:30

Appointments:

Thursday 9:00-18:30, Friday 9:00-17:00,

Saturday 8:00-14:00

Wednesday CLOSED

Booking App: Nearcut

### Yeoford Community Garden

Yeoford Community Hall now has an area dedicated to providing a small community garden. Any villagers are welcome to get involved in running and maintaining the garden.

Please speak to **Dee Hawkins** or email [yeoford.hall@gmail.com](mailto:yeoford.hall@gmail.com) for further information.

### Top Tip!

Is your partner a messy eater? Simply put a dog cone of shame over their head. Hey presto, no more grubby table and they get a tasty snack for later!

### PUNCHBOWL RECYCLING CENTRE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MON-FRI: 09:00 - 17:00

SAT & SUN: 10:00 - 18:00



## TRAINTIMES FROM YEOFORD

**NB: Yeoford is a Request Stop**

### TO BARNSTAPLE

**Mon Sat Sun**  
**-Fri**

0540  
0630 0633  
0725 0730  
0834 0837 0842  
\*  
0937 0937 0938  
1037 1037 1039  
1137 1137 1138  
1237 1238 1238  
1337 1337 1335  
1437 1438 1435  
1537 1537 1536  
1637 1637 1637  
1738 1739 1736  
1841 1844 1836  
1943 1947 1938  
2041 2043 2037  
2147 2145

2313  
Fo

### TO EXETER

**Mon Sat Sun**  
**-Fri**

0708 0713  
0813 0816  
0918 0921  
1019 1018 1017  
1117 1117 1117  
1216 1216 1221  
1319 1319 1317  
1417 1417 1417  
1516 1516 1519  
1617 1617 1614  
1719 1720 1718  
1822 1825 1818  
1924 1930 1917  
2023 2026 2017  
2124 2123 2119  
2227 2224 2226  
2320 2320

Fx  
2352  
Fo

Fx – Monday-Thursday

Fo – Friday only

\* - until 8 September

For more details, go to

**GWR.com/timetables**



## Bus Timetables

### 677 (Fridays only)

**Dartline Coaches**

Zeal Monachorum Church	0912
Coleford Gospel Hall	0927
Colebrooke Church	0932
<b>THE DUCK AT YEOFORD</b>	<b>0940</b>
Raddon Down Cross	0945
Crediton TIC High Street	0955
Exeter Bus Station	1020

Exeter Bus Station	1320
Crediton TIC High Street	1345
Raddon Down Cross	1350
<b>THE DUCK AT YEOFORD</b>	<b>1355</b>
Colebrooke Church	1403
Coleford Gospel Hall	1408
Zeal Monachorum Church	1423

### 669 (Tuesdays only)

**MD Buses**

South Zeal Oxenham Arms	0915
Whiddon Down Shelter	0922
Hittisleigh Cross	0930
Crockernwell	0945
Cheriton Bishop School	0947
<b>YEO VIEW</b>	<b>1002</b>
Colebrooke Church	1010
Coleford Gospel Hall	1013
Crediton St Saviour's Way	1022
Crediton Morrisons	1027

Crediton Morrisons	1115
Crediton St Saviour's Way	1235
Coleford Gospel Hall	1244
Colebrooke Church	1247
<b>YEO VIEW</b>	<b>1255</b>
Cheriton Bishop School	1310
Crockernwell	1313
Hittisleigh Cross	R
Whiddon Down Shelter	1328
South Zeal Oxenham Arms	1335

## YEOFORD POST OFFICE

**Friday 3:15-4:15pm in the Community Hall**

Free Banking available for most Banks, Personal & Business. All Post Office Services. Post Office One4All Gift Cards. Currency. Mobile, Electric & Gas Top-Ups. Dry cleaning. Cards & Stationery items.

Contact: CHUDLEIGH POST OFFICE; TEL: 01626 852149



# YEOFORD VILLAGE VOICE FUN QUIZ

No prizes, no pressure...this month...Cartoons and Animation...

1. First shown in 1975, which children's cartoon was narrated by John Le Mesurier and featured a boy who lives in a town with Aunt Flo, PC Copper, Frank the Postman and Farmer Barleymow?
2. In Jamie and the Magic Torch, the title device was shone on the floor to open up a hole into which fun dimension?
3. In The Simpsons, who sang the immortal line "I hate every chimp I see from chimpan-A to chimpanzee" in a musical version of Planet of the Apes?
4. Who wields the legendary Sword of Omens?
5. Created by Justin Roiland and Dan Harmon, which Adult Swim cartoon is about the crazed sco-fi shenanigans of an alcoholic, amoral scientific genius and his 14 year-old grandson?
6. Which character in Futurama is named after a 1949 symphonic masterwork by Olivier Messiaen?
7. Which F/X animated series's season five saw its characters become cocaine dealers instead of international spies?
8. "Yahoos and Triangles" by the Refreshments was the opening theme to which 1997-2010 animated sitcom?
9. In Family Guy, who is the Griffin family's youngest member?
10. "Frog Baseball", a 1992 short film by Mike Judge that first aired on Liquid Television was the pilot of which series?

Answers below...

## Quiz Answers:

1. Bod; 2. Cuckoo Land; 3. Troy McClure; 4. Lion-O—leader and Lord of the Thundercats; 5. Rick and Morty; 6. Leela or Turanga Leela, named after the ten-movement Turangala-Symphonie; 7. Archer; 8. King of the Hill; 9. Stewie—the villainous one-year old prodigy; 10. Beavis and Butt-head



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Jamie Brighton

**2nd prize (£20):**  
Sue Harrod

**3rd prize (£10):**  
David Lucking

**4th prize (£10):**  
Joss Ticehurst

Thank you for your ongoing support and  
any queries, please contact -  
**club200yeoford@outlook.com**

Thanks Lynsey



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## FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

### REPORTING A PROBLEM WITH ROADS TO DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

All drivers will be aware that state of repair of roads in Crediton Hamlets Parish is appalling, with more and more potholes (or are they craters?) appearing. The lack of action by Devon County Council is exceedingly frustrating but please report potholes in the hope this makes a difference.

Problems with roads can be reported on the Devon County Council website:  
**[www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/](http://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/)**

There is a link to this page under "Useful Information" on the Parish Council website **[www.creditonhamlets.org.uk](http://www.creditonhamlets.org.uk)**.

If the pothole has already been reported please add yourself to the existing report so that Devon County Council is aware that another person has reported the problem.



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### Crediton Arts Centre News

#### Crediton Heart Project Summer Arts Festival

Mon 5 – Sun 18 August

[www.creditoninandaround.co.uk](http://www.creditoninandaround.co.uk) for details.

#### Crediton Youth Theatre present

#### Community Spirit

Fri 23 & Sat 24 August 7.30pm  
(plus 4pm Saturday matinee)

An original musical play, suitable for all ages.

Check the web site for more details

**[www.creditonartscentre.org](http://www.creditonartscentre.org)**

## COUNTRYSIDE TREE SERVICES

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Telephone 01647 24340 Mobile 07989 072453

**[countrysidetreeservices@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:countrysidetreeservices@hotmail.co.uk)**



## Parish Voluntary Wildlife Warden

It is a dry warm day in mid July and I'm heading to the Ford Brook Valley between Woodland Head and Posbury. As I walk up the lane from Binneford past Shortacombe Farm the extra tall growth of grasses and bracken triggered by our extremely wet winter is collapsing, filling and narrowing the lanes. Hedge bedstraw, honeysuckle and meadow sweet scent the air and at last the air hums with insects.

It's very quiet. The territorial birdcalls have all but ceased and it's a little early in the day for the swallows and housemartins to be on the wing. I cross straight over at three gate, past barley fields and into the cool dark of the trees below. I turn up the bridleway to the left and I can see new fields of winter vegetables and old kale fields now down to pasture. The soil here may be the Dun but it is bountiful if treated well. At Rock cross I stay to the right and go into Woodland Head, past the ancient oak and thatched cottages. On one, 2 nests of housemartins are visible.

At the junction I turn right. Honesty has set seed here so as I walk I pick some and scatter it further down the lane. The tall hedges give way to oaks as I walk down the steep hill. High banks pocked with animal holes and tracks, round twisted roots and rocks. A swarm of wild bees hover above old shrubby pasture.

Down and down, the banks higher, the woods darker and deeper. The silence broken by the sound of a jay screaming in the thicket. I'm lost in this cool dark world.

Reality breaks my reverie. By the bridge there's a lot of Himalayan balsam. A prolific alien plant introduced by Victorian plant hunters it is smothering our native riverside plants. It's illegal to allow it to grow or spread but here it is. I pull out all I can get to and I can see I'm not the first. Whilst it is in flower but not yet set seed, it's easy to pull out and can be put back on the ground. I can see more all along the valley on private land. Left alone this will become a major problem in years to come and send seed downstream far and wide. Land owners should be more responsible.

This is timber country and the ash dieback here is severe. Many trees have been felled which lets light in and the hazel seems to be the tree benefiting the most. Could we see more dormice as a result of more hazel trees? It's really sad to see so many ash trees lost but good to think there may also be positive outcomes.

As a walk from Winstone Cross right up the valley the trees turn from oak, ash and beech to conifer, where a goshawk has been seen nesting. Conifers provide thick and dry nesting sites. As the valley opens out I see more woodland, young and old, conifer and broadleaf, to the east side of the valley. A young buzzard calls from the tree cover.

I see a few butterflies but they are so fast and flappy that I cannot ID them but it's good to see any at all so far this year. It's been a terrible year so far for bees and butterflies.

I pause at the bottom of the next turning right, it's a very steep climb up. Here the field is down to pasture dotted with the bright tall blue flowers of chicory. It's not just a pretty flower but high in protein and minerals, a great fodder plant for grazing stock.

Up and up and up(!) until I'm finally at the top. As I rest on a gate a 2 large yellow dragonflies zoom over, hunting for insects.

All the land here is organic or out of cultivation. Bordered with woodland and blessed with few houses it really is one of my favourite places. It just feels and smells good. It smells of life and not chemicals. The air is clean and cool. I'm back at the top of the bridleway that leads to Woodland Head. I say goodbye to the ancient oaks and walk straight on towards Binneford and home.

Anna ([artonmove@hotmail.com](mailto:artonmove@hotmail.com))

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# CREDITON HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL

At the July Crediton Hamlets Parish Council meeting the Clerk reported that she had received an update from the Council's solicitor regarding the planned acquisition of the Chapel cemetery and car park. The Clerk will report to Councillors over the summer and it is hoped that the documentation will be ready for signature at the September meeting.

Cllr Yarnold explained that he had been contacted by residents wanting to know why Devon County Council had resurfaced all of The Oaks when repairs were only needed to part. Cllr Yarnold also wanted to know the cost of the works. Cllr Letch (DCC) offered to investigate and report back.

Cllr Yarnold reported that the BBQ area of the Community Garden has been improved and asked whether the Parish Council would contribute towards the cost of a few hedging plants. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Unless there are urgent issues, the Council does not meet in August. The next full Council meeting will be on Monday 2nd September at Yeoford Community Hall. If you would like to read the full minutes of the July Parish Council meeting, they are on the Parish Council website. Please contact one of your councillors or Rachel Hodder, the Parish Clerk ([clerk@creditonhamlets.org.uk](mailto:clerk@creditonhamlets.org.uk) or 01363 85523), if there is something you would like to have discussed at the next Council meeting. Members of public are very welcome to attend any meeting and speak during the public session. Meeting details and contact information for Councillors are on the Parish Council website ([www.creditonhamlets.org.uk](http://www.creditonhamlets.org.uk))

The Parish Council is in the process of moving to a gov.uk domain. If you are unable to make contact with the Clerk on the above address please try: **[clerk@creditonhamlets-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@creditonhamlets-pc.gov.uk)**. If you are unable to access the website please try: **[www.creditonhamlets-pc.gov.uk](http://www.creditonhamlets-pc.gov.uk)**



**The Folklore Library & Archive** is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a generous grant from GWR's Customer & Community Improvement initiative, which seeks to support rail-related community engagement projects.

The money will fund a heritage project focused on collecting and preserving people's memories of Devon branch lines, with particular focus on the Exeter – Okehampton line, which is the first to be reinstated after falling victim to the Beeching cuts of the 60s and 70s.

The Folklore Library & Archive, which is a registered charity, is hoping to record people's recollections about the line, and to digitise and preserve old cine film and photos. The charity is also happy to receive donations or loans of artefacts.

Project manager Tracey Norman said, "The Okehampton line is unique, as it's the only branch line which has been reinstated so far, and there will still be people living who travelled on it prior to its closure, experienced its loss in 1972, and can now travel on it once again. We want to capture those special memories, preserve them and make them available to future generations of train enthusiasts, researchers and historians."

The charity is inviting anyone with memories to share about Devon's branch lines, especially Okehampton, to get in touch – passengers, staff, volunteers, drivers, and those who campaigned for the line's reinstatement.

"We'd also love to hear from any rail-related groups," Tracey said. "As well as a wealth of fascinating memories, they are also likely to have extensive collections of photos and video footage, which we can assist with preserving, digitising and safely archiving for the future."

A short video presentation explaining the project can be found on the Folklore Library & Archive website at **[www.folklorelibrary.com](http://www.folklorelibrary.com)**, and anyone interested in sharing memories or artefacts with the project can contact Tracey Norman at **[devonrailwayheritage@gmail.com](mailto:devonrailwayheritage@gmail.com)**





**CREDTON BONIFACE ROTARY**

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**SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER**  
**YEOFORD COMMUNITY HALL**  
**7.00PM - 11.15PM**

Bar and Food Available Cash & Card  
Reader

**Tickets £15.00**  
From Nick Yarnold:  
01363 84536 / 07833 091500

## RESURFACING OF THE OAKS

After its July meeting the Cllr Yarnold asked DCC for information about the decision to re-surface the whole of The Oaks. Here is the reply received:

*The road was surface dressed at an approximate cost of £12,000.*

*It is important for Councils to optimise the use of allocated highway maintenance funding, delivering value for road users and tax payers. To that end we adopt different maintenance strategies.*

*Surface dressing is an example of a preventative long term strategy which works alongside a more reactive strategy, for example pothole repair, and a planned structural strategy that treats larger areas.*

*In an ideal situation we would not be undertaking any disruptive and expensive reactive maintenance, however it is unfortunately an inevitable outcome of years of underfunding, climate change and the fragile rural nature of a large proportion of Devon's road network. More information can be found here: Funding and priorities - Roads and transport ([devon.gov.uk](http://devon.gov.uk)).*

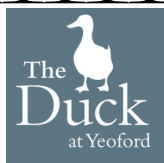
*Surface dressing is a very cost-effective maintenance treatment, both financially and environmentally, to improve skid resistance and seal the road surface, which will stop the ingress of water and help prevent potholes and wider structural deterioration appearing in the first place.*

*The development and introduction of proprietary finishes, while providing all the benefits described above, has also further improved the aggregate retention and provides a 'new road' look for a fraction of the cost. Due to the urban nature of The Oaks, Yeoford this type of additional finish was deployed on top of the surface dressing at this location.*

*In summary The Oaks was selected as part of a wider programme of preventative maintenance, ensuring that a cost effective planned intervention continues to take place across Devon's road network alongside more expensive structural treatments such as resurfacing.*

*Outside of safety defects (which will be corrected in line with our policy) and in terms of larger planned maintenance, by just treating the visually most deteriorated roads and not also taking steps to arrest the deterioration of other roads before they require very expensive interventions then a unsustainable backlog will simply continue.*

# THE DUCK AT YEOFORD



## Pub and Pub up Shop Opening Times

Monday and Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 4.00pm - 11.00pm

Thursday 11.30am - 11.00pm

Friday 11.30am - 11.00pm

Saturday 11.30am - 11.00pm

Sunday 11.30am - 5.30pm

Please refer to the website for the shop prices, although due to constant increases from suppliers and the changing of stock the price list is not always up to date.

**James, Sarah, Zachary, Lydia and Martha**

**01363 85273**

**[www.theduckatyeoford.co.uk](http://www.theduckatyeoford.co.uk)**



**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
at 2pm**

**The Show is back at Sandford Village Hall!**

**Whatever your age, join in the competition and show off your gardening, cooking and artistic talents – entry details below.**

**Bring all the family and friends and enjoy the prize giving, plant stall, raffle draw and lots of lovely refreshments!**

Competition entry forms available at Sandford Stores or via email  
[sandfordsummershow@yahoo.com](mailto:sandfordsummershow@yahoo.com)

Return form to Sandford Stores. Deadline for entries midday on Friday 23 August

# Holy Trinity Church Yeoford

We are very grateful to Dee Hawkins for clearing the Millenium Garden of weeds and brambles and restoring it to its former beauty. Our peaceful garden is there for everyone to use and the church open during the day for private prayer and to change books.

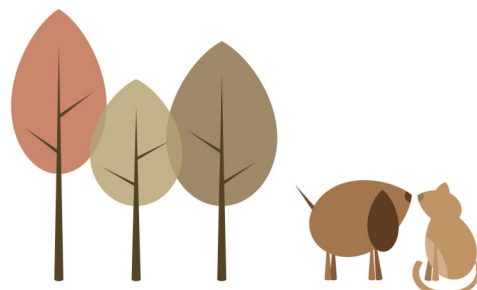
The only service this month is Holy Communion on 11th August. It will be our chance to say goodbye to Lewis and wish him well in his new parishes in East Devon.

We are taking a break from other activities in August and begin again in September.

## Service in August

August 11th

Holy Communion 9-30am



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## **PLEASE READ: AIR AMBULANCE**

### **An appeal to all our villagers**

If you, your children or anyone you know plays in the recreation ground please always check with them that they have returned the goals to the edge of the field.

This is because the Air Ambulance **CANNOT LAND** if the goals are in the middle of the field.

If you pass the recreation ground or see anybody playing with the goals in the centre, could you please remind them (politely) that they should be returned to the edge after use, or move them back if you find them abandoned like this.

Thank you all for your cooperation.

**Yeoford Community Association**

## County Councillor Newsletter—July

It seems to me that there are two very distinct roles to being a councillor. The first is to represent the people of my division by listening to their problems, complaints and observations and acting to resolve them. This I do by meeting people casually in the street, in the shops and also by holding surgeries in Crediton, Copplestone and Bow. I also receive a lot of correspondence through e-mails and always ask people to include my right to forward in their missive. I also get telephone calls but much prefer people to then reiterate their point in an e-mail as I then have a written record and something that I can pass on to the correct officer. As you all know my contact details are easily available.

The other side of the role is to attend meetings where we learn a lot of information, which we can pass on and also question a lot of the decisions made by the executive. I have been to several very interesting meetings recently. Two of them concerned the railway. We are lucky in Crediton to now have a half hourly service to Exeter and £18,000 has been spent on our station. Passenger numbers on the Tarka line are up to 800k, an increase of 50% The railway company is also looking at the impact of crossing the railway lines for those with mobility challenges. They are also thinking of a way of increasing the number of disabled parking spaces on the south side of the station which at the moment only has one. I was quite surprised in another railway meeting to learn that a cow on the line near Cullompton cost 800 minutes of disrupted services and 13 cancelled trains. It seems that trespassing on railway lines is a frequent and costly event. On a positive note 40 train drivers are being trained along with 60 other railway staff and there is to be an upgrade of rolling stock on our line but no date as yet.

At a health care meeting I was pleased to note that people in Mid Devon live on average just over one year longer than the rest of Devon and Devonians live a year longer than the national average. We also have a lower percentage of drug-related deaths at just 22 in Mid Devon. But even in this we cannot take much comfort. Mid Devon's suicide rate is easily the lowest in the county.

I attended the first Cabinet meeting under the new leadership. The most interesting item was the launch of the corporate plan 2024/25. There are 5 proposed corporate priorities in the action plan.

- 1) Secure better outcomes for our children through working with key partners.
- 2) Develop an investment plan for our road network. I'm sure we all look forward to that!
- 3) Improving and modernising our processes through digital solutions. I'm not sure that I understand that.
- 4) Working with citizens - 2024/25 focus on highways and transport. This may well tie into option number two.
- 5) Building relationships with partners to facilitate improved and targeted community services.

These are clearly noble aims and I am sure that the relevant scrutiny committees will keep an eye on the executive's progress.

**Cllr Frank Letch MBE (Crediton Rural)**

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## MISSING CAT

Our black cat Bob Cat is missing from home. He hasn't come now since June 18th.

He is usually found in Yeo View in the lane behind the houses on the right as you go down, the woods in the field or the top of Yeoford Meadows.

He is microchipped and reported missing. He is on a special diet so I'd be glad to have Bob Cat back home!

If you do see Bob Cat please give let me know on either **84517** or mobile **07462 561851**.

He is well loved and we are missing him and keeping our fingers crossed he comes home!



Niki Jones



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## JOKE OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

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