



Dates for your diary  
**Farmer's Market days to Christmas 2012**  
 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October  
 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November  
 1<sup>st</sup> December  
 Christmas Market, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

**Christmas tree festival – Crediton Parish Church**  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Fayre in the Square – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**Crediton Festival 2013**

Six weeks of events and activities, 1<sup>st</sup> June – 14<sup>th</sup> July  
 Watch out for details later in the year.



# Crediton Town Council Newsletter

**From Cllr Frank Letch, Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council**

Now that our rather damp and dreary summer is a distant memory, we are moving slowly into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness: autumn is upon us. Because of the rather unusual weather, our hanging baskets and floral displays seem to have benefited. Keeping to the floral theme I can say that the Floral Garden Competition was a great success with many more gardens entered this year, judged by our local expert Bert Jewell. The results were announced on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The allotments also had an expert eye cast over them and the prizes are given at the Boniface Allotment Association's annual general meeting, on 10<sup>th</sup> October, this year.

## Useful Contacts

**Mid Devon District Council** 01884 255255 (Tiverton) www.middevon.gov.uk  
**Devon County Council** 0845 1551015 www.devon.gov.uk  
 Crediton Library 01363 772578  
 Citizens Advice Bureau 01363 778410  
 Crediton Hospital 01363 775588  
 Social Services 0845 1551015

**District & County Councillors**  
 John Downes (District) 01363 774267  
 Bob Wright (District) 01363 773566  
 Martin Binks (District) 01363 774895  
 Nick Way (District & County) 01363 777903  
**Non-Urgent Police Enquiries/Reports** 101

## MEETING SCHEDULE 2012

Meeting Dates	General Purposes Tuesday	Town Council Tuesday
October	9	23
November	6	20
December	No Meeting	18

Meeting Agendas are posted on the Town Council Notice Board outside the Council Offices in Market Street. Meetings start at 7.00pm and are held in the Council Chamber unless otherwise indicated.

Up to 30 minutes is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for questions to be put by members of the public. A Public Question Time leaflet is available from the Town Council Office.

The Council is registered under the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts and will make certain information available for public inspection.

The Council has taken all necessary steps to comply with the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

## CREDITON TOWN COUNCILLORS

### BONIFACE WARD

**Joyce Harris** Tel. 01363 775221  
 5 Charlotte Street Crediton, EX17 3BB

**Frank Letch** Tel. 01363 775739  
 2 Butts Parks Crediton, EX17 3HE

**Nick Way** Tel. 01363 777903  
 Westwood House Westwood, Crediton, EX17 3PE

**John Downes** Tel. 01363 774267  
 Blagdon House, Blagdon Crediton, EX17 1EH

**Georgina Ford** Tel. 01363 866413  
 Preston Farm Barn, East Village, Crediton, EX17 4DA

### LAWRENCE WARD

**Richard Adams** Tel. 01363 84165  
 Lower Spencecombe Crediton, EX17 5BT

**Liz Brookes-Hocking** Tel. 01363 774562  
 Oliver House, 7 North Street Crediton, EX17 2BT

**Mike Szabo** Tel. 01363 775255  
 9 Alexandra Way Crediton, EX17 2EA

**Laura Conyngham** Tel. 01363 773000  
 26 Old Tiverton Road, Crediton, EX17 1EG

**Bill Dixon** Tel. 01363 772176  
 1 Hawthorn Road, Crediton, EX17 2DF

**Town Mayor & Chairman** Frank Letch  
**Deputy Town Mayor & Vice Chairman** Joyce Haris  
**Town Clerk** Martin Maggs

**Council Offices:**  
**Market Street, Crediton, EX17 3BN**  
 Tel: 01363 773717  
 E-mail: townclerk@crediton.gov.uk  
 Web: www.crediton.gov.uk



*Two of the Floral Crediton Garden competition prize-winners at Barnfield and Fordton.*

There have been three major issues for the council over the past few months. The one that seems to have angered the town most is Mid Devon District Council's decision to dramatically change the Lord's Meadow Leisure Centre. The town council objected on behalf of the town because councillors felt there had been no meaningful consultation. I'm pleased to report that the project is on hold for the moment pending talks with Queen Elizabeth's Community College.

While I am on the educational theme I would like to report my day of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September. In the morning it was my pleasure to attend the opening of two new art rooms at Hayward's Primary School. As a past governor of the school I well remember the two ramshackle huts that were used for art and the concern the governors had as to their suitability and safety. With money from Devon County Council the school now has two wonderfully equipped art rooms. Whilst talking to the head teacher Mr. Hitchcock I was delighted to learn from him that the school had received an outstanding Ofsted inspection. In the evening I was at Queen Elizabeth's Community College's celebration evening. This was not the usual parade of pupils having passed their recent examinations but rather a celebration of a wide variety of students' efforts and achievements in all sorts of spheres including sport, participation in school life and working hard to improve their own performance. It was a very moving evening.

Sadly the town council has recently received the resignation of two councillors. Mr. Ashley Leighton-Plom has recently moved to Exeter and found that he was unable to give enough commitment and time to the town council because of his new location and life. Mr. Tom Connell has had a year of poor health which has prevented him from attending many town council meetings and for this reason he decided to resign to give the opportunity to somebody else to fulfil a role he enjoyed. We wish both these past councillors the very best for their future and our thanks for their efforts during their time on the council.

The town council has also had to come to terms with the absence of the town clerk through illness. This has put some considerable strain on our personnel but at the moment with the help of short-term contract employees we are managing to keep afloat. Residents may have to forgive us if we are unable to maintain our usual high standard.

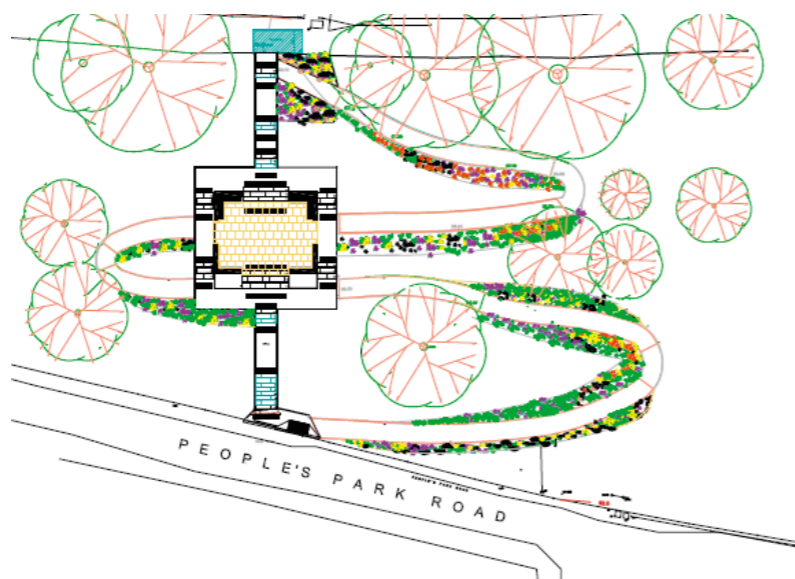
Earlier this year the first stage of the Scout Memorial Garden was completed and now the town council is looking to provide an easy access path to the garden from People's Park Road. This requires a deal of outside funding as well as a contribution from the town council. The town council has arranged a consultation of the project in the library, in the Crediton Country Courier and a High Street shop. We trust the town is behind us in this worthwhile project.

### Peoples Park Scout memorial gardens

The first two stages of the restoration have now been completed under the guidance of the working group which has benefited from the input of local people, the scouts and guides and the Access Group. Stages 3 and 4 are the construction of an easy access pathway and planting around it.

The cost of planting will be reduced if local people volunteer to get involved. It will be carried out under the supervision of a plant specialist – so if you want to pick someone's brains for free and learn about what to plant, where and how, you are welcome to join in. Contact the Town Council 773717.

There is a more detailed exhibition in the library where comments can be left.



*The architect's design for the path*



*An impression of what the path could look like with planting alongside it.*



*A very small part of the path route has already been planted to give an impression of what the whole area could look like.*

### Crediton Food Bank

This bank is maintained by donations of non-perishable food from local people and is distributed to families suffering hardship and in need. It is administered by Crediton Congregational Church. When you do your weekly shop remember to look out for the 'buy one, get one free' offers and reserve the free one for the bank.

You can donate food to the Bank anytime, either by using the labelled box in the Fishtank by the coffee bar in the Congregational Church, at the Yellow Bookshop on the High Street or at the Boniface Centre.

If you know of someone who may be in need of the Crediton Food Bank service, or would like to help in some way, please contact Wendy Brown. 772577.

### Devon's Credit Union comes to Crediton

With financial difficulties a reality for many families, short-term loans are growing in popularity. Payday loan companies are one of the fastest growing financial businesses of the last decade. But with interest rates at nearly 300% at the lower end of the scale, they are very bad news for local people.

Sustainable Crediton has now joined forces with Devon's community-owned savings and loans service, Plough & Share Credit Union, to help tackle the problem by opening an outlet in the town to provide an ethical, not-for-profit alternative.

Credit Unions are regulated by the Financial Services Authority, with interest rates capped by law at 27%. The total cost of a £500 loan over 52 weeks from Plough and Share is £564 at its highest interest rate, compared with a cost of £910 from the Provident, a commercial lender – saving £364.

All Plough and Share borrowers are strongly encouraged to save as well as borrow, with support on hand. Profits are used for more loans and dividends to members, so more money remains in the local economy.

The new Credit Union Service Point is open every Saturday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Community Room at the Fire Station in Charlotte Street. Plough & Share's services are also available online at [www.ploughandshare.co.uk](http://www.ploughandshare.co.uk), by phone on 01837 658123 and at their Head Office in Okehampton.

... And Sustainable Crediton welcomes volunteers who can spare a couple of hours once a month to help at the Service Point. Call John Skrine on 774412.



*Credit Union volunteers are ready to help anyone needing a loan.*