



NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to 2026 – I hope you had a lovely Christmas and are looking forward to the year ahead. Like me, I'm sure many of you have reflected on what went well last year, what didn't and those 'what ifs'. The older I get the more I want to do something to change things not only for me and my family but for others, too, going forwards.

Crediton has many fantastic clubs, societies and organisations run by dedicated and visionary people and we're so fortunate to have these thriving facilities. I'm sure, though, that they would welcome even more support, not financial so much as time. Time is, of course, a precious commodity. Creating a suitable window of it to share with others is not always easy. It is often so rewarding, though, not only for those you give it to but for you and your own wellbeing, too.

Suggesting that you create and give time without a couple of suggestions where to find ideas may not be helpful. So, for starters, try the creditonheartproject.org.uk website or the latest issue of the Kirton Quarterly delivered to your door (archive versions available online at kirtonquarterly.crediton.uk).

To all of you currently giving your time to Crediton and the community, I would like to say a massive thank you. Please share and celebrate what you do. Volunteering, helping and supporting others has so many benefits. Let's recognise that and look forward to donating some time to others in 2026.



[CUT!] volunteers

CREDITON YOUNG PEOPLE GET CREATIVE



Our totem pole is now proudly in place at the top of Peoples Park Wildlife Area. This beautiful piece is the finished result of the free totem pole workshops held last August in partnership with Crediton Heart Project and Crediton Arts Centre.

Each of the clay rings has been designed and handcrafted by a young

person, incorporating elements that reflect who they are. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped bring this community artwork to life! If you're passing, please do take a closer look at the detail. For more information on upcoming activities, visit <https://www.crediton.gov.uk/Youth-Work>.

DCC'S CABINET SUPPORT BONIFACE TRAIL



Devon County Council's Cabinet has unanimously agreed to progress the Boniface Trail, marking a significant step towards creating a cycle route between Exeter and Crediton. While funding is not yet in place, the council hopes to secure support through government transport funding and contributions from housing developers.

SURVEY RESULTS & 2026/27 BUDGET

Crediton Town Council (CTC) would like to thank all residents who responded to the recent budget survey. Your feedback is vital in helping us understand community priorities and ensure that our financial planning reflects the needs of Crediton.



The survey results have now been published and can be viewed on our Facebook page or via our website in the meeting pack for 2 December: www.crediton.gov.uk/Your-Council/Meetings/Full-Council.

CTC's precept is collected through council tax paid by Crediton residents. For 2025/26, a Band D property contributed £182.74 per year (7% of the full amount paid) towards CTC's share of the council tax, which helps fund local services and projects. This allocation is an important part of maintaining and improving facilities for the community while ensuring value for money.

CTC reviewed the survey responses and budget in detail at meetings on 16 December and 13 January. CTC has approved its 2026/27 budget following extensive debate on financial priorities and community needs. Key discussions included concerns over budget transparency from members of the public, the proposed precept increase of 5%, and allocations for civic functions, environmental maintenance, and earmarked reserves to prepare for potential local government reorganisation and other high priority issues such as Manor Office and Old Landscore School.

The importance of balancing both operational need, future allocations of spending on strategic priorities and impact on local council tax payers were considered throughout the decision-making process. The total precept requested from Mid Devon District Council for 2026/27 was set at £545,000. For a Band D property, this contribution will sit at £192.73 per year and represents a 5% increase on the last financial year, and will be an increase of £9.99 in monetary terms.

CTC remains committed to delivering services that represent good value for residents while meeting the requirements necessary to support our growing community. Your engagement and feedback help us achieve this balance, and we encourage everyone to stay informed and involved.

CHRISTMAS IN CREDITON 2025

It is safe to say Christmas in Crediton 2025 was one of the busiest yet! It was fantastic to see so many of you enjoying the event and we would like to say a huge thank you to:

- the fantastic choirs
 - Landscore and Haywards Primary Schools
 - the amazing performers
 - traders and local businesses
 - Christmas Tree sponsor Ernest Jackson
 - the fab sound team Prosound Solutions SW Limited
 - our wonderful electricians Jo Ward and Ian Rogers
 - Crediton and District Lions for running Santa's Grotto...
- and of course YOU the public for making Christmas in Crediton such a great success!

And one last thank you to the traders that were able to stay open for Late Night Shopping on 5 Dec. If you did pop out to do some Christmas shopping, some of you may have bumped into a special guest!



CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESSES

Earlier in the year the Town Clerk put Crediton forward to take part in the Small Business Saturday tour and we were delighted to find out the bid was successful! On 20 November, Mat and Josh from Small Business Saturday visited Crediton to celebrate the fantastic range of small businesses our town has to offer. This is part of a year-round national movement championing the small businesses that support our communities and economy.



During their visit, the team toured the High Street and stopped by Moto Velo, CJ Interiors, Paint Pots, and Kirton Games. You can see all of the clips and images from the day on Small Business Saturday's Facebook and Instagram pages. It was a brilliant day and we look forward to continuing to celebrate the amazing businesses that make Crediton a welcoming place to shop and visit.



TOWN CLOCK UPDATE

You may have noticed the clock on the museum hasn't been working for sometime. We have been working hard

hard behind the scenes to get this small but important job moving. Unfortunately, due to difficulties finding companies that do this work and the busy location of the clock we have faced some challenges, which has caused delays. We have now secured a contractor and arranged a cherry picker. They can only come when in the area, so we're pencilled in for early February to get the job done. We understand the delay is frustrating and thank you for your patience.



PEOPLES PARK GRASS CUTTING



Thank you to everyone who took part in the Peoples Park grass cutting survey. With 145 responses, it was great to receive lots of insightful feedback. The survey showed that more than 65% of respondents supported either keeping the current scheme (leaving one third of the grass uncut), retaining partial cutting with different proportions, or leaving even more areas uncut.

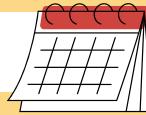
Based on these results, a decision was made at last week's Full Council meeting to continue with the current cutting scheme, leaving one third of the grass uncut. We will continue to analyse the comments and feedback received through the survey to explore how these ideas can be incorporated in the future.

HOORAY NEW TROUGH!



We are pleased to finally announce that Barnfield Allotment site is now fully equipped with two water troughs, similar to Exhibition Road allotments. So, no more queuing for the tap! If you are interested in finding out more about having an allotment or want to join the waiting list, please contact Emily on 01363 773717 or email e.armitage@crediton.gov.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



JANUARY

TUES 06 FULL COUNCIL MEETING
CREDITON LIBRARY, BELLE PARADE
19.00

TUES 13 FULL COUNCIL (BUDGET)
CREDITON LIBRARY, BELLE PARADE
19.00

SAT 17 FARMERS MARKET
CREDITON TOWN SQUARE
10.00 - 13.00

TUES 20 FULL COUNCIL MEETING
CREDITON LIBRARY, BELLE PARADE
19.00

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 14 March, Boniface Centre 9.30 – 13.00.
The Fourth **Crediton Community Conversation**
Future Planning for Crediton Housing, open space,
High Street, transport – what do you think? Join the
Conversation.

Crediton Town Councillors - Boniface Ward

Jim Cairney	jcairney@crediton.gov.uk	01363 773490
John Downes	jdownes@crediton.gov.uk	01363 774267
Joyce Harris	jharris@crediton.gov.uk	01363 775221
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Natalia Letch	nletch@crediton.gov.uk	01363 775739
Paul Perriman	pperriman@crediton.gov.uk	07442 161917

Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

Rachel Backhouse (Deputy Mayor)	rbackhouse@crediton.gov.uk	07889 680434
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Tim Stanford	tstanford@crediton.gov.uk	01363 777862

Rachel Avery (Town Clerk)

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District & County Councillors

John Downes (District)	01363 774267
Jim Cairney (District & County)	01363 773490
Guy Cochran (District)	07891 898487
Tim Stanford (District)	01363 777862

Useful Contacts

Mid Devon District Council	01884 255255	www.middevon.gov.uk
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015	www.devon.gov.uk
Crediton Library	01363 772578	
More on our website: www.crediton.gov.uk/useful-contacts		