

## **Crediton Town Council – January Update**

### **Mayor's New Year Message**

There is no doubt that we have come to the end of a year like no other! Nobody would have guessed on 1 January 2020 that by the end of March our lives would be turned on their heads. And yet the coronavirus has also given the opportunity to show Crediton at its best. Many volunteers have rallied round to support the shielded and isolated, going shopping, collecting prescriptions and making sure that people are safe. Despite all the hardships our high street shops stayed open most of the time, by following government guidelines and keeping us all safe once we were inside.

In spite of all the restrictions the town square has been a centre point of distanced community entertainment. The picnic tables were a great success and it is pleasing to see them back out on the square.

I am sure that we are all looking forward to a New Year that will be, hopefully, less restrictive and allow us eventually to get somewhat back to normal life. It is with this hope that I wish all Kirtonians, on behalf of Natalia and myself, all the other town councillors and council staff a Happy New Year.

### **A Big Festive Thank You!**

This year's Christmas in Crediton Lights Switch-on was certainly different to the usual parade and entertainment on the Town Square. With the help of the local community, schools and our sponsors, we were proud to light up the town and bring some festive joy in a year of uncertainty. We hope you joined the virtual Christmas switch on event over on our Christmas in Crediton Facebook page, but if you did miss it, please go and check it out!

There is plenty for you to enjoy. Without the dedication of everyone involved in this year's event, we would not have been able to achieve any of it. So here is a huge thank you to...

- Hedgerow Print
- Crediton Dairy
- Create Storage
- Christmas in Crediton Committee volunteers
- Jo Ward
- Roger Pennington
- Roger Lee
- Tom Coomer
- Boniface Rotary
- Kevin Payne
- Father Christmas
- Tesco
- Morrisons
- Reverend Tregenza

- Alison Richardson
- Rivka
- Jacobs
- The Symes Family
- Carter Geering
- Kathea Owners
- Sunflowers Nursery
- Pippins Nursery
- Haywards Primary School
- Landscore Primary School
- ...And to all of the Crediton Community who helped in any way!

### **How to contact the Police**

It is important that you contact the Police through the appropriate channels based on the situation and the incident/information you would like to report.

If the crime is happening now and is an emergency call 999.

To report a crime that is not an emergency - An emergency is when someone's life is at risk, someone is seriously injured, offenders are nearby and/or immediate action is required.

[www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

<https://services.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting/>

To report something that is non-emergency, not a crime, give information, ask a question or request feedback/officer contact:

call: 101 or Email: 101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Textphone: 67101 SMS/text number for the deaf/hard hearing/speech impaired

Tel: 18001 101 Minicom/Textphone

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/contact-forms/101-non-emergency/>

(These forms are NOT monitored continuously 24 hours a day).

If you want to report something/pass information – Counter Terrorism , Dangerous or Illegal Activity, Suspicious Behaviour, Drug Use/Drug Dealing or anything else that does not require an emergency response visit <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/contact-forms/report-something/>

(These forms are NOT monitored continuously 24 hours a day).

If anyone wants to share or pass information and wants to be 100% anonymous then use CrimeStoppers. Call: 0800 555 111 <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/pre-form>

To report a fraud Call: 0300 123 2040 or visit <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime>

### **Old Landscore School – Have your say!**

Crediton Town Council is considering the purchase of Old Landscore School at its Full Council meeting, due to be held on Tuesday 19th January 2021.

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking, Chair of the Town Strategy Committee said, “The school building is no longer required by Devon County Council, the current owner, for educational purposes. The county council is keen to see it used for community benefit – and so are we. For nearly a year, until lockdown, the town council and a variety of community groups were using the building for meetings, events and short courses on a ‘try it out’ basis. Now we have the chance to buy it - so it’s ‘make up your mind time’!”

The building, situated at the junction of Greenway and Landscore, has been used by Crediton children for many years. The Town Council has the community’s interest at its heart and any purchase and improvement must be of benefit to the town. The building itself is of historic importance: many of our residents talk about going to school there and some talk about taking their own children to Early Birds!

Crediton Town Council is seeking the views of both current users and potential users (there’s no minimum booking requirement for you to be a potential user!), through a Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PVFFF2N>. For further information, or to send in further comments, please contact Lisa Blake, Projects Officer, by email: [projectsofficer@crediton.gov.uk](mailto:projectsofficer@crediton.gov.uk).

### **A new youth worker for Crediton**

When Devon County Council closed the youth service in Crediton a few years ago, the Methodist Church saw the need for youth work and appointed a full-time youth worker who worked for over 6 years around the town, both in QE and in church, establishing an after-school Youth Café for all young people in Crediton. A new youth worker, Richard Martin, has recently been appointed by Crediton Methodist Church.

The town council was also concerned about the loss of the Youth Centre because of budget cuts by the county council. For several years the council has supported the twice-weekly after-school Youth Café sessions at the Methodist Church, which are secular and open to anyone. The council also funds detached work which takes place in public spaces and is not centred on any building.

The Congregational Church also has a youth worker, Dave Poulson. During the pandemic, both church premises have been closed and the Youth Café cannot operate under current restrictions. Although building-based work is not possible right now, it is possible to continue detached work. Currently, Richard and Dave have joined up to do this work together in Crediton.

With their experience in this aspect of youth work, Richard and Dave are able to make connections with young people around the town. This can be particularly helpful for young people who are not engaged by existing opportunities. Richard has already identified different opportunities that young people can choose to engage with in outdoor settings. Currently he is putting together a plan for young people to devise and create public artwork.

Crediton Town Council has a strong commitment for youth work. It values the detached youth work which is being carried out and welcomes the appointment of the Youth Worker at Crediton Methodist Church.

### **Supporting the Community**

Following a year of challenges, the grant funding awarded by Crediton Town Council in April 2020 proved to be as essential as ever to support local community groups through a time of unexpected change.

Going into 2021, it is anticipated the support given to community groups is going to prove just as vital. The Town Council has already approved over £20,000 worth of grant funding for issuing in the next financial year. For a full list of grants awarded, please visit our website.

You will also find more information about how to apply to the Town Council for grant funding in the future.

Your support gave us the encouragement, confidence and financial underpinning to reinvent the services we could offer to our many clients in the town. *Age Concern Crediton*

It is thanks to the contribution of the Town Council that the museum and our other activities continue to function. *Crediton Area History & Museum Society*

This grant has been crucial to supporting the work of Crediton Art Centre in the community. *Crediton Art Centre*

The money kindly granted to us by Crediton Town Council was used to benefit unpaid carers all over Mid Devon, including Crediton. *Unite Carers in Mid Devon*

### **Summer Bedding**

This year you may notice a change to the usual formal flower beds you would see in St Lawrence Green and Newcombes Meadow.

Following Mid Devon District Council withdrawing the provision of summer bedding in Crediton, we are pleased to confirm this will now be taken on by a variety of willing volunteers from Sustainable Crediton, the St Lawrence Green Group (who helped to keep St Lawrence Green tidy in 2020) and our local gardening expert, Mr Bert Jewell.

With the support of the Town Council, the volunteers will be combining skill and planting knowledge to create attractive and exciting floral displays. And with the help of wildlife-friendly pollinators, the displays will not only be appreciated by residents and visitors, but also the town's wildlife!

### **CCTV Project**

As 2020 comes to a close, we are getting together the final CCTV proposal to present to Full Council in January.

Following meetings with the Police, we have adapted the proposed system to ensure it provides the most benefit to the town, focusing on known problem areas with high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

With the invaluable support from local traders/property owners we are confident this project will be moving forward early this year and hope to soon be facilitating the CCTV coverage that this town needs. Look out for updates in this month!

### **Town Square Tables**

Following the success of the benches on the Town Square, we were pleased to see their return for the weekend of Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December to accommodate some festive entertainment!

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>, as part of Christmas in Crediton, a traditional Christmas story was performed by Crediton Arts Centre. An adaptation of the Russian folk tale Baba Yaga was magically performed, with puppets and live actors telling the story!

January Update: Unfortunately, due to the government advice to stay at home, the benches have been removed from the Square for the time being.

### **Dates for your Diary**

January 16<sup>th</sup> - Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square

January 19<sup>th</sup> - Crediton Town Council meeting 7.00 pm

February 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> - Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square

### **Contact Us**

Due to the most recent COVID guidance, the office is closed for appointments. Office staff will continue to answer calls/respond to emails from Monday to Friday between 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, so please call/email if you would like to get in touch.

Council Offices, 8A North Street, Crediton, EX17 2BT

Tel: 01363 773717

E-mail: [townclerk@crediton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@crediton.gov.uk)