

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2024

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The year ended with Christmas lights shining in the darkness all along the length of our town. It was a pleasure to welcome so many people to the square at the end of November to see them switched on, then illuminating the bustle in the High Street and carols in the square in December and still brightening the buildings until twelfth night in January.

In the rather gloomy days that follow, when the lights are back in their boxes and warm spring sunshine seems a long way off, it can feel as if there's nothing much going on and nothing to look forward to. But behind the scenes things are happening. The town council is working with other organisations on events and opportunities in 2024 for people of all ages in Crediton, including D-Day 80th Anniversary commemorations, the summer Food Festival and St Boniface Day celebrations.

It's important that we work with our district council, too, to make the most of any investment that comes our way. We will continue discussions with them on projects that benefit the town. We are publicising the consultation on the district council's Crediton Masterplan in January (see back page) and will be keen to hear your views. We are committed to ensuring that Newcombes Meadow continues to have a paddling pool, currently maintained by the district, and easily accessible toilets while making best use of existing facilities.

Over the years, the town council has gradually added to the formally planted floral decorations around the town. Quite a lot of these are now being planted and maintained by volunteers. Other small pockets of land have been taken on by community groups, some recently, some several years ago, transforming previously unloved corners into colourful, blooming patches buzzing with life. Many of them entered the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood competition (see page 3) and were highly scored. They really do make a huge difference to our neighbourhoods. We are grateful for all their work and look forward to being impressed again as the seasons change.

There will be a lot to do in 2024 so look out for events and projects around town. Meanwhile, I send everyone living, visiting and working in Crediton my very best wishes for the New Year.

COMMUNITY BUDGETING WORKSHOPS SUMMARY

Thank you to those of you who attended our Community Budget Workshops held throughout November. Whilst the number of attendees was low, we appreciated the opportunity to present our budget requirements and what we spend money on and why, and to chat about various other issues affecting Crediton.

In these times of financial challenges and ever-increasing pressure on local authority budgets, tough choices must and are being made. It is more crucial than ever to work collaboratively with Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council where possible, to ensure that our community's needs are met, and that our shared resources are allocated wisely and effectively. It is important to remember that town and parish councils are not subject to the same limitations when increasing their council tax requirement. Town/parish

councils, as a whole, are finding that they are taking on additional services that were once delivered by other tiers of local authority in order to safeguard them.

The workshops centred around how we spend our budget, what services we deliver to Crediton and what services people think are important. We asked those present to use radar graphs to plot the importance of each service, and the average findings can be seen below (a mark of '0' represents no importance and '6' is high importance).

Property and Assets - This graph relates to the delivery of services we already provide relating to buildings and areas the town council owns (Old Landscore School, Peoples Park, Upper Deck & the provision of CCTV).

Community - This graph relates to the provision of services we provide to our community which enhance the lives of those who live here.

New Services - This graph relates to the possible reduction of services delivered by Mid Devon District Council. They have advised that these service areas are likely to be reduced or removed and could be passed to the town council for future provision.

Crediton Town Council will use the findings from the Community Budgeting Workshops to inform the setting of the 2024/25 budget and precept. A decision on the level of precept required will be made at its Full Council meeting on Tuesday 16 January 2024.

CHRISTMAS IN CREDITON 2023

And just like that, Christmas in Crediton is done for another year! We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the wonderful messages and photos from everyone who came along on the day. There was such a festive atmosphere and it felt amazing to see our town enjoying all of the hard work. A huge thank you to all of you that came out to support the event and of course our wonderful team:

Our Sponsors: Hedgerow Print, V.E. Barker Jewellers, Springfield Emporium, Pippins Pre-School & Nursery, Crediton Masonic Lodge Grape & Grain

Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee

Jack and Crediton Arts Centre

Alan Quick & Crediton Courier

Crediton town councillors and staff

All marshals and stewards

Crediton Lions volunteers

Morrisons volunteers

Kevin Payne

Jo Ward

Ian Rogers

Roger Lee

Roger Pennington

Mike Gibson

Stu Wight

Charlotte Turner

Cate Davey

Hannah Zorlu

Landscore Primary School

Haywards Primary School
Crediton Guides, Scouts,
Cubs & Beavers
Crediton Youth Club
Crediton Rugby Club
Crediton Fire Service
High Street Traders
R&G Barber Shop
Crediton Coffee Company
Buskers
and of course...
Father Christmas!

IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPETITION

This year, 6 community groups in Crediton were awarded with certificates from the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Competition, all awarded Level 4: Thriving or Level 5: Outstanding. The entries are assessed against the following criteria: horticulture, environment and community. The aim of the competition is to encourage the greening-up of the town with community-led projects being at the heart of this.

How to get involved... Almost any outdoor space being cared for by the Crediton community can qualify for It's Your Neighbourhood. Whether it's an existing community garden or a small area of disused land that's been given a makeover, the most important part is that it is a community project. If you're interested in entering the 2024 competition, please contact Emma Anderson, Deputy Clerk by email deputy@crediton.gov.uk.

IRIS TURNS 100!

A special invitation was sent to the Mayor of Crediton, Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking to celebrate Mrs Iris Northcott's 100th birthday in Crediton. The afternoon was full of celebration with family and friends including a special 100 birthday cake. Not forgetting the prestigious birthday card from King Charles & Queen Camilla.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

Saturday 6th & Saturday 20th - Farmers Market, Crediton Town Square 10.00 - 13.00

Tuesday 16th - Meeting of Crediton Town Council, Old Landscore School, Greenway, Crediton, 19.00

Wednesday 17th - Crediton Masterplan Consultation, Boniface Centre, Church Lane, 15.00 - 19.00

Monday 22nd - Celebration of Youth, Lords Meadow Leisure Centre, 16.00 - 18.00

February

Saturday 3rd & 17th - Farmers Market, Crediton Town Square 10.00 - 13.00

Thursday 8th - Defibrillator Awareness Course, Old Landscore School, Greenway, Crediton, 19.00

Saturday 24th - Sustainable Crediton's Annual Seed Share, Boniface Centre, Church Lane, 11.00 - 14.00

CONTACT DETAILS

Crediton Town Councillors - Boniface Ward

Name	Email	Telephone
Jim Cairney	jcairney@crediton.gov.uk	01363
John Downes	jdownes@crediton.gov.uk	773490
Joyce Harris	jharris@crediton.gov.uk	01363
Stephen Huxtable	shuxtable@crediton.gov.uk	774267
Natalia Letch	nletch@crediton.gov.uk	01363
Paul Perriman	pperriman@crediton.gov.uk	775221
		07875
		886550
		01363
		775739
		07442
		161917

Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

Name	Email	Telephone
Liz Brookes-Hocking (Mayor & Chair)	lbrookes-hocking@crediton.gov.uk	01363 774562
Rachel Backhouse	rbackhouse@crediton.gov.uk	07889
Guy Cochran (Deputy)	gcochran@crediton.gov.uk	680434
Giles Fawssett	gfawssett@crediton.gov.uk	07891
Frank Letch	fletch@crediton.gov.uk	898487
Georgina Stone	gstone@crediton.gov.uk	07484
		878681
		01363
		775739
		07821 945167

Rachel Avery (Town Clerk)

E-mail: townclerk@crediton.gov.uk Tel: 01363 773717

Council Offices, The Bungalow, 8 North Street, Crediton, EX17 2BT

District & County Councillors

Name	Telephone
John Downes (District)	01363 774267
Jim Cairney (District)	01363 773490
Frank Letch (District & County)	01363 775739
Guy Cochran (District)	07891 898487

Useful Contacts

Name	Telephone	Website
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