

Ide Times



Joyce Stevens doing the flowers in the Church porch.

MARCH 2017

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MARCH 2017



As I write this at the end of February the weather is getting warmer, the lawns are being mown and the daffodils are coming out. The Coronation Gardens are neat and tidy ready for things to come into flower - thank you to whoever looks after that. Let's hope that winter is now behind us.

You will see that we have one or two new advertisers now - Feelgoodecobeds, The Cridford Inn, Trusham and the Nobody Inn, but we still have one space to fill.

Items for the April Ide Times should be sent to Ann Boyce - email annboyce@talk21.com by the 20th March.

Brenda Spivey (01392 275784)

USEFUL NUMBERS

Community Policeman: 101

The Parish Church - Church Office 01392 662280 and leave a message.

Congregational Church: Adrian Wyatt 07976 362615 sheren.wyatt@sky.com

M.P. Mel Stride: 02072 197037 melstride.mp@parliament.uk

Community Shop Opening Hours: (Tel. 410035)

Monday – Friday 8am – 12 noon and 3pm – 6.30pm

Saturdays 8am – 1pm

Sundays 9am - 12 noon

Post Office Opening Hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 11.45am and 3pm – 5pm

Saturdays 9am – 12 noon.

Sundays and Bank Holidays CLOSED



IDE MEMORIAL HALL – to book the hall for your event/party please contact Carol Whitehart on 01392 213608.

The Mobile Library will be in the Huntsman car park, Ide, from 11.45am to 12.30pm on **Monday, 13th March.**

IDE PARISH COUNCIL
idevillage.org.uk

If you have anything you wish to be discussed, please bring it to the attention of one of the councillors or contact the clerk for it to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meetings:

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Wednesday 15th March 2017** at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. This will start with a ten minutes' slot allocated for public participation.

Keeping in touch: We publish the agenda and minutes of the bi-monthly meetings on the notice board in Coronation Gardens and on the website idevillage.org.uk .

In response to feedback received earlier in the year, a facility was set up on the website page to enable residents to receive automatic emails when items of interest are added to the site. Have you signed up yet? Just add your name and email details to the section on the main page and hit "subscribe".

Community Orchard for Ide? – The presentation on Community Orchards by Charles Staniland of Orchard Link at the start of January's Parish Council meeting was well attended. 45 people came to hear the talk; and 34 questionnaires were returned, with 33 of these being in favour of the Council starting discussions with the Church Commissioners about acquiring the Victorian Orchard opposite Pynes Farm. Peter Satterly let us know that the correct name of the field was "**Slick Ham**".

We are in the process of getting the site valued and are dealing with the Church Commissioners' agents.

Play Area: This is up and running. We are still waiting for the installers to come back and adjust the height of the finger mazes. As the play area is not part of the school grounds, it is open even when the school is closed.

Coronation Gardens: This has been given a good tidy and the apple trees pruned – thanks to Barry Hookins, Peter Pattison and Kirsty House. The railings are in need of a clean and fresh coat of paint – this will be done when the weather allows.

Neighbourhood Plan: – see separate report on the consultation exhibition held on 11th February.

National Grid – work on overhead power lines: The National Grid are undertaking a £60 million project to renew the overhead power lines from here to Saltash, and at some time during the next two years will work on the pylons through the Perridge estate, crossing Haynes Lane before dropping down over the A30 towards Cowley - shaving the edge of the parish. The power will never be switched off, as they can re-route current from all over the grid when they take out a particular section like this. They will keep us advised of the timings for this area.

Contact us: The contact details for the **Parish Council** are as follows:
Dr Nick Bradley (Chairman) 01392 420616 or email ncabradley@gmail.com
Rose Saunders (Part-time clerk) 01392 420461 or email ideparishclerk@gmail.com
Sarah Tiley (Cemetery administrator) 01392 217142 or email saraht61@btinternet.com

Ide Neighbourhood Plan
Consultation Exhibition at the Village Hall
Saturday 11th February 2017 9am - Midday

Thank you to all those who attended the Consultation Exhibition at the Village Hall in February.

Altogether 75 parishioners attended, completing 47 questionnaires on the day as well as 63 Post It notes in response to the 6 policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. When further responses from the shop and pubs are added, your comments and opinions will be analysed and, where necessary, will provide further evidence in shaping the policies. A reminder that the Plan, as well as its progress, can be viewed on the village website, idevillage.org.uk.

The Steering Group are most grateful to all those parishioners who, like us, care deeply about our village and are helping to shape its future.

Chris Bishop (Chairman, Steering Group)

IDE PAINTING GROUP meets on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12 noon in Ide Memorial Hall. New members always welcome.

TODDLERS meets on Tuesday mornings during term-time from 9.30 to 11am in the School Hall. Parents/carers with toddlers or babes in arms meet together so that the children can learn to play with others and the adults can have a cup of tea or coffee together.



NEWS FROM IDE COMMUNITY SHOP AND POST OFFICE



Question - Where is the nearest cash point?

Answer - In Ide Community Shop and Post Office

Did you know that 99% of personal customers and 75% of banking customers can use our Post Office to withdraw cash and make deposits? If you have tried to use your card in the past and been disappointed, please try again as things have changed considerably in the years since our Post Office opened. It is more than just a place to drop of parcels and so much more convenient than having to fight the traffic, parking as well as the ever more difficult task of finding a bank that is still open.

Overheard on the 360 bus recently “I never use Ide Community Shop as it doesn’t sell anything that I would want to buy”. This came as a great surprise to us as at our recent stock check in the deep dark days between Christmas and the New Year we were amazed to find that we stock over 1500 different lines in the shop and I thought it might be a good time to show what a very wide selection of produce we sell. We have the everyday staples like bread and milk, fruit and veg, tins of everything and an indecent amount of cake, biscuits, crisps and sweets balanced by the healthier option of fruit and veg. We have a good selection of chilled and frozen food including about 30 varieties of cheese and the award winning Langage Farm Ice Cream. We are provided with glorious pork from Kenniford Farm, chicken from Creedy Carver and beef and lamb from Arthur’s butcher at Topsham. We have local, free range and organic eggs and a very wide range of dry goods including porridge and local honey for your breakfast. You will find a very decent selection of wines and beers and of course there is the usual array of household essentials from matches and firelighters to bin bags and washing up liquid, pharmacy products, greetings cards and stationery. We always try to stock cheaper alternatives where possible to cater for all tastes and pockets and our prices are comparable to other stores in the area. If you haven’t been in to the shop for a while, why not come in to see what we have on offer.

Despite the various food scares following bad weather on the Continent and in this country I am pleased to be able to report that we have never run out of broccoli and of course our local winter veg is in good supply and available on our vegetable counter.

Penny Smith



JUBILEE CLUB

23rd January was the day for club members to head for Fingle Glen for the annual Christmas Lunch. So good to have over 60 members and guests gathered together, with just a few members unable to be present. We were well looked after and enjoyed a good meal with Christmas Crackers. There was plenty of lively chatter. We had the usual numerous draw prizes, kindly donated by members. Bill was in charge of calling out the winners and the prizes were promptly distributed to the lucky ticket holders, with Tony as chief runner!

Forward to the 9th February and the star of the show was local 'girl', our very own Brenda Spivey, relating to us her past life. Back in the early sixties Brenda was a shorthand typist working in London when a friend expressed a wish to work abroad. On looking in the situations vacant in the Telegraph they found a job. Following an interview when she was asked if she was courting? As the answer was 'no' she landed a job working for The World Health Organization in Geneva, with a two year contract. On the 10th December 1962 Brenda and a girl from Birmingham set off. They were met and taken to a B&B, given 10 Dollars a day settling in allowance and a bank account opened. It was expensive living in Geneva, they had to find themselves accommodation, and were to work at The Palais des Nations. It was colder than expected that winter - yes I remember that winter was a particularly cold one back here. The food was different - muesli yoghurt fondue. They soon learnt to drink the wine and cope with kilos and litres in the shops. There was a shortage of eligible men, the men working in the Palais being older and married. On returning to England Brenda came and settled in Devon a lucky move for Ide.

We welcomed Pamela Bastone to the club, and it was good to have Lorraine Addicot bearing a cake for a very special long time member, Bill celebrating his 90th birthday. Bill's daughter had also sent some lovely cup cakes. Bill's wife Mavis was secretary for the club from its start in 1977.

On February 20th Alison Cross came to put us through our paces. Alison has such a cheery and encouraging way, that everyone joined in, arms in the air, shaking all about, while we all sat in our chairs accompanied to music - we were even singing along. We were all ready for our tea after such activity.

5.



DIARY DATES

April 3rd Robin Heskith Smuggling in Devon

May 15th Birthday Party

May 22nd Outing to Bristol to visit The SS Great Britain. Owing to the club dates coinciding with Bank Holidays this outing has been arranged.

Jean Hoskin



Registered charity no. 1050108

The League of Friends attached to Ide Lane Surgery. Co-ordinator Jane Greenslade Tel 428902 email jane.greenslade @nhs.net

We support patients by providing volunteer transport to medical appointments for elderly and disabled people, befriending isolated people and providing information/ support for carers.

Having been the Co-ordinator of Ide Lane Friends for nearly 17 years, I have decided to retire at the end of April. I will miss the staff, volunteers and patients but I am looking forward to spending more time with my husband and our campervan! A new co-ordinator will be appointed but doing slightly fewer hours. This is because ILF and the other leagues of friends in Exeter are losing their core funding from the Clinical Commissioning Group. Fortunately ILF has sufficient reserves to carry on whilst alternative funding sources are looked into, but it is possible that at least one of the other leagues may have to close down.

Someone else who is “retiring”, at least temporarily, from ILF is volunteer driver Mike Madge who has been one of our stalwarts for the last 12 years. Many thanks to him for all he has so cheerfully put into ILF. We look forward to still seeing him at the monthly ILF teas at Aldens Community Room. Everyone is welcome to come along to the teas, 2.30 on the first Wednesday of the month.

Could YOU replace Mike? If you could spare a few hours a week to drive older/disabled patients to medical appointments please get in touch. Mileage of 45p per mile can be paid to cover expenses, so you would not be out of pocket and you would be doing something of real value for the patients of Ide Lane Surgery.

Jane Greenslade

IDE MEMORIAL HALL

The Management Committee of the Hall met on the 22nd February. Peter Voysey had kindly offered to become the Hall Manager and was welcomed to the meeting. Jacky Chadwick had resigned from the Committee and her place as the Chapel Representative has been taken by Peter Jones.

Jacky has been a very loyal member of the Hall Management Committee for a number of years and we would like to express our thanks to her for all that she has done. Her presence at meetings will be greatly missed.

The Committee apologises for the inconvenience caused at the beginning of the year when organisations were told that they could not use the hall because of the commencement of refurbishment, which in fact has had to be postponed. It is hoped that work will commence in the autumn.

Ian Campbell has drawn up a specification of exactly what work is required. This involves stripping out the kitchen and toilets; damp-proofing that area (including the broom cupboard); renewing the roof over the kitchen and toilet area; improving the layout of the toilets; installing new toilets and kitchen fittings; removing the stage and putting in new flooring beneath it; renewing the boiler; rewiring the hall and improving the lighting, etc. Quotes for this work are now being sought.

The Parish Council have kindly made a donation of £500 towards this refurbishment and at present the hall has £17,293 in hand, with a further £10,500 promised from Mr Connett, DCC. Penny Smith is confident that further funding can be obtained as soon as we have definite quotes for the work, which needs to be carried out.

BOOKING IDE MEMORIAL HALL - We welcome bookings of the Hall for the period from now until the autumn. It is a good, inexpensive venue for parties, meetings, etc. Contact Carol Whitehart on 01392 213608 for details of price and availability. Tell your friends - we need our Hall to have maximum usage.

B.Spivey

DO YOU NEED HELP.....

Dog walking

Washing cars

Babysitting

Looking after pets

Chores (cleaning, cutting grass, etc.)

I am raising money to go to Malawi with my school to work in the local school and hospital. Call or text now: 07443044039 Flo Herbert



IDE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PREACHERS

Date	11am	6:30pm
5 th March	Mr Mark Field *	Mr M Trigg
12 th March	Mr B Bunce	Mr P Jenner
19 th March	Mr P Willer	Mr K Frobisher
26 th March	Mr G Gotzen	Mr D Chipps

*Mark Field will be highlighting why the Church supports Fairtrade through its purchases of tea, coffee, biscuits, etc. and which are available for sale.

The HUB@Ide DIARY for March

Date	Event	Time
Thurs 2 nd	Coffee Morning	10:30-12noon
Thurs 9 th	Vinyl Club	7:30-9:30pm
Fri 17 th	Download (For KS2 and KS3 children)	6:30-8:30pm
Sat 18 th	Film club – 3 rd Courtroom drama: ‘Witness for the Prosecution’ with Marlene Dietrich, Charles Laughton & Tyrone Power	2:30pm
Thurs 23 rd	Coffee, Chat & Challenge	7:30-9:30pm

KFP half term session on 15 February brought more families to the HUB than ever before. It was a hub of energy, with all sorts of activities for the children to do while the parents chatted over a cup of tea. The day was centred around the theme of LOVE (Valentine’s day being the day before). The children wrote cards to loved ones, made heart bunting for their rooms, decorated heart shaped biscuits and jumped up and down to a song about being loved. The message to them was: God loves you! His love is unconditional. We also looked at the characteristics of love from the Bible in 1 Corinthians 13: *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

The **HUB’s 3rd Birthday** on 24 February celebrated all that the HUB has done these past 3 years. We want to thank everyone who is or has been a part of the HUB’s activities in any way and we look forward to what God has planned for us in the coming year!

Please note that **Download** is happening on 17th March. See posters for details – and pass the word around..!

SAINT IDA'S CHURCH



1st March	Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	at Shillingford Church
5th March	Lent 1	9.30am	Holy Communion
11th March	MESSY CHURCH 10.30am		
12th March	Lent 2	9.30am	Morning Praise
19th March	Lent 3	9.30am	Holy Communion
26th March	MOTHERING SUNDAY		
		8am	Holy Communion
		10am	SPECIAL SERVICE

Baptisms (Christenings), Weddings & Banns of Marriage - If you wish to make any enquiries about these please ring 07562 144439. This line is open from 1pm-4pm on Mondays and on Thursdays from 10am-1pm. For any other matters please call the church office on 01392 662280 and leave a message.

It was sad saying goodbye to Stephen Bessent on the 29th January and this occasion became more sad as Jeremy Clarke had just lost his battle against cancer. Jeremy had made many friends in the parishes of Alphington, Ide and Shillingford when he was working here assisting Stephen, and he will be much missed.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed the Ide Aloud Concert in the Church, to be held on Shrove Tuesday, and I am sure we shall have all eaten too many pancakes. Thank you Jane and the choir for singing for us.

On Sunday, 26th March, at 10am there will be a special Mothering Sunday Service in Church, when traditionally posies of flowers are distributed to all the ladies present and we have the pleasure of eating simnel cake with our coffee/tea at the end of the Service. Do come and join us and celebrate mothers and motherhood.

A date for your diaries - **the Summer Fete on the Village Green will be on Saturday, 10th JUNE.**

Brenda Spivey

MOTHERS' UNION

Joyce has once again invited us to her home for our Lent Lunch, which we have each year to raise money for MU overseas projects. This will be on Wednesday, 22nd March at 12.30pm at 10 The Hams. Do join us.

On Saturday, 25th March, there will be a Lady Day Service in the Cathedral at 11am. Let me know if you can come as we need to give numbers. It is Mothering Sunday on the 26th and we hope to provide the usual posies and Simnel cake.

Note: There will be no prayer group on Wednesday, 1st March as this is Ash Wednesday and there is an evening service in Shillingford.

Sue Campbell

FUNERAL - The funeral of Inga Houldings will take place in Ide Church at 10am on Saturday, 4th March. We extend our sympathy to Olivia and family on their sad loss.

What is the meaning of life? Is Jesus relevant today? If you have questions that you want answers to, then you might want to consider doing the Alpha course.

Over 2 million people in the UK and 11 million worldwide have now attended an **Alpha course**, an opportunity to explore the meaning of life, running in tens of thousands of churches of all denominations across the world. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over several weeks.

Suitable for all stages of life/faith.

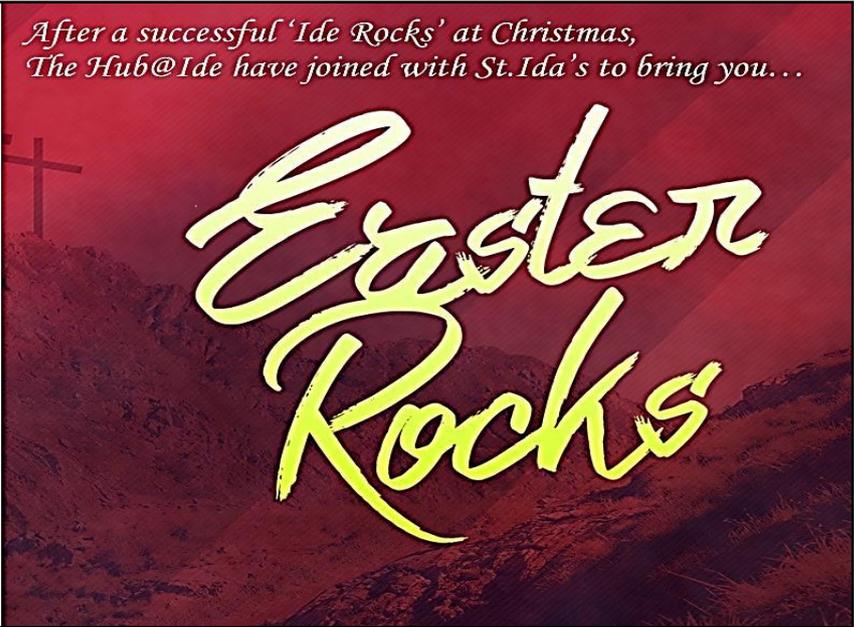
The HUB will be running the Alpha course after Easter. If you are interested in this, please email mynameisfiona@hotmail.co.uk for more information or call 07736449790.

Tuesday 11th April

- 5pm - *Easter Egg Hunt*
for children starting @The Hub
- 5:30-6:30pm *Food*
for all served at St. Ida's
- 6:30-7:30pm *Easter Rocks*
sing-a-long suitable for all

*Don't miss this
exciting
celebration!!*

*After a successful 'Ide Rocks' at Christmas,
The Hub@Ide have joined with St. Ida's to bring you...*

A graphic for 'Easter Rocks' featuring the text 'Easter Rocks' in a large, stylized, yellow-green font. The background is a dark, textured red with a faint image of a cross on a hill.

FUND RAISING - My name is Ollie Jeffery, I am 15 years old and on July'17 I will be going on a self funded 3 week aid trip to Malawi with other students from St Peter's Church of England School. We will be working in the local schools and orphanages.

I need to raise £2000 and in order to do this I have been washing dishes at the Huntsman, car washing and babysitting, however there is still some way to go. I am available at your service for odd jobs, stacking logs, cutting grass, car washing, dog walking or whatever else you think I could do to help you.

Please give me a call.

Ollie 01392 259425, Mob. 07966148840

A BIG EVENT!

I had a milestone birthday in February and to celebrate it, Murder came to Ide - again!

The night was only possible thanks to the generosity of many friends in the village who gave up their time to create a memorable event.

I want to say a huge thanks to Sarah & Elsie Cook, Bridget Brooking, Paul Fleming, Barry Hookins, Claire Bewshea, Nicki Rice, Stuart, Sally Cooke, and Christine for helping

create the Chitlyns Starlight Lounge. Thanks to the ever-fantastic Alan Saunders, Rose Saunders, Barry & Ide Community Shop for the Hawaiian bar.



Big love to the hardy souls who helped us take it all back down again including Lin & Dave Black, David Williams, Mathew Smyth and John Tyrer.

Thank you to Ide Church and the Memorial Hall for the tables and chairs as well as Ide School for the use of the hall and Rachel, Sarah & FIS for the swagging.

Thanks to Becky Cuming and all at Crafty Cakes - Exeter for an amazing birthday cake. Particular thanks to Stuart for all that he did including the ferrying and heavy lifting.

Finally, thanks to Dawn - without you none of it would have been possible. Our dance will live long in the memory for all the wrong reasons...
Thanks to the generosity of friends & family we raised £440 on the night which has been donated to Hospiscare in memory of Marie Kent.

Colin Chapman

EXETER NORTHCOTT THEATRE

The Spring/Summer 2017 Season is packed with a wide variety of shows.

Amongst other shows:

“THE TWITS” by Roald Dahl

27 Feb - 4 March

Fantastic new family show on tour with the revolting Mr and Mrs Twit!

“AN AUDIENCE WITH LESLEY GARRETT”

5 March

An evening with the glorious soprano.

“RICHARD ALSTON DANCE COMPANY”

14-15 March

An internationally inspired programme, this award winning troupe performs a number of new works with live musical accompaniment.

“THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA” based on the much-loved book by Judith Kerr

18-19 March

Olivier Award Nominee show for young children and families.

“A PASSIONATE WOMAN” by Kay Mellor

21-25 March

Starring Lisa Goddard, this Everyman Theatre Production is a tender story of love and memories.

“DILLIE KEANE” from Fascinating Aida

26 March

Expect fun, laughter and disgraceful filth from this hugely popular entertainer!

“ DRACULA - THE BLOODY TRUTH” presented by Le Navet Bete Theatre Company

30 March - 1 April

Brand new, hilarious take on this well-known story.

www.exeternorthcott.co.uk Box Office: 01392 726363

WHERE HAVE ALL THE APPLES GONE?

Today's youngsters miss out on what was a very popular pastime when I was growing up, namely 'apple scrumping'.



Where have all the orchards gone? Looking back, Ide used to be surrounded by orchards, where we were able to just climb a gate, or squeeze through a gap in a hedge, and help ourselves to a few juicy apples. All the popular varieties of the day were there for the taking at one or other of the locations. Orange Blenheims, Russetts, Qualanders, Tom Pots, King Alfreds, all names which are very rarely heard of in these days - more's the pity.

There was an orchard at the beginning of Old Ide Lane owned by Mr Frank Baker. In fact, one of the chalet-style houses which were built on the site of that orchard bears the name of 'Bakers Orchard'. A very nice gesture by the two Miss Hawken, who live there and knew the village long before the houses were built, and obviously wanted to keep a few memories alive, and rightly so.

Another orchard was opposite Pole House, and stretched as far as the river bank.

At the end of The College and situated on each side of College Lane were two more orchards. A smaller one adjoined the Huntsman Inn grounds and there were two more at the rear of the 'Twisted Oak', or Bridge Inn as it was then known.



At the top of the village there was an orchard on each side of the approach road to Ide railway station. The one on the left hand side reached back to Ide Hill and actually some of the trees of this particular orchard still remain.

Further orchards were on the road to Westown, and also adjoining the Old Vicarage grounds, but little or no trace of these is visible now.

It was a very colourful sight in May and June when all the blossom was out. Sadly one of the sights we won't witness again.

Most of the apples went to Whiteways of Whimple for cider making. In the early days many truck loads used to go by rail from Ide station, but as motor transport and farm tractors and trailers took over from the horse and cart most farmers used to take their apples to Whimple using their own transport. In those days, time and labour didn't count as much as it does today.

Another source of 'goodies' which was open to we children was a supply of walnuts. Two very aristocratic ladies, the Misses Connie and Evelyn Lucas, who resided in 'Holmbush' situated by the old twisted oak tree, had two large walnut trees standing in the meadow at the rear of the house, and for the sum of threepence, old money, they would issue we youngsters with a permit card which allowed us access to pick up any fallen down walnuts. We were not allowed to throw sticks or stones up into the trees. If it was a windy day there was always a great rush from school to get first pickings at the fallen nuts. There was usually plenty for everyone.

The walnut trees are now gone, as the two Miss Lucas', taking the last traces of aristocracy with them. They were two very likeable ladies with not a scrap of snobbery in them.

Frank Moore

This article was written by Frank Moore in March 1989 but I thought you might like to read it following the proposal that one of the old orchards could become a Community Orchard. Editor

MESSY CHURCH
Saturday, 11th March, 10.30 - 12.30
in Ide Church
Craft, games, cooking, linked to a Bible Story
finishing with a light lunch. All welcome



**Film Night - Dunchideock Village Hall
Friday March 10th, 7-45pm, Village Hall**

Sully

This is another true life film starring **Tom Hanks**, and very much in the mould of the excellent *Captain Phillips* and *Bridge of Spies*. It is also directed by **Clint Eastwood**. January 2009. Only three minutes out from New York's LaGuardia airport, Captain "Sully" Sullenberger's Airbus hit a bird flight disabling both its engines. Sully took the snap decision that he had no chance of reaching an airport and so decided to ditch his plane, with 155 passengers on board, in the freezing Hudson River.

This film tells the drama of that landing and its intriguing aftermath. "A thoughtful and riveting film." Says the *Daily Mail* "This superb drama suits Hanks and Eastwood down to the ground." Says the *Daily Telegraph*, awarding it a rare five stars. Rotten Tomatoes awards it a healthy 85%.

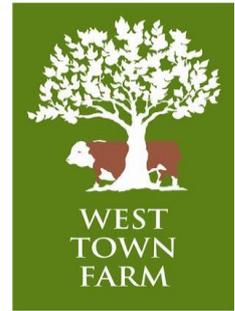
Holcombe Burnell Church, Longdown
Tuesday, 7th March, 7.30pm
Congraves and Banks
an exciting folk/acoustic duo
Tickets £7.50 from Jane 01392 811246 and
Sue 01392 811816
(A Villages in Action Event)

Come and enjoy a relaxing social evening with
'SOUNDS EASY'
Longdown Village Hall,
22nd April, 7.30 - 11pm
Tickets: £5 tel: 01392 832030 / 811807

360 BUS SERVICE - Whilst part of Exeter High Street is closed the 360 bus is stopping in Mary Arches Street and then Central Station on the way to the Bus Station. On returning to Ide the bus goes to Central Station as normal but then goes to North Street, South Street, round the back of the Corn Exchange and stops at a temporary bus stop in Market Street.



THE WEST TOWN FARM NEWS



A big thank you to everyone who came along to our walk hosted by Nigel Hewitt. It was enjoyed by all and the weather was good. Nigel can recognise the birds just from their song, he's a really good, very engaging host! We saw a Kestrel, a Raven, lots of Skylarks, a Red Legged Partridge, a Redwing, a Gray wag tail and heard the song of a Mistle Thrush. After the walk we had tea and cake. Thank you to OrganicARTS for running the donation cafe. Watch this space for future walks.

We've had 4 new lambs born this week and there are more expected. It's amazing seeing them discover the world for themselves, and what's more all the ewes are doing really well. Our lovely woofer Zia is enjoying looking after them. Other new life is popping through in form of snowdrops and daffodils. Spring is in the air, plus this month the clocks go back, hooray!

Our TB results came back inconclusive, we had 4 cows that will need to be retested in April. Once again we host D'art Fest - a weekend of arts and music for people with learning disabilities and their friends/families. There are creative workshops, musicians, dance, farm walks, fun and games, and of course food and drink to be enjoyed. If you would like to help in any way - homemade cakes would be most appreciated, (they sold out too quickly last year!) or if anyone would like a small stall to sell anything that you think would go down well at the festival please do get in touch with either Judith on 07879896551 or Grace on 01392 811257. D'Arts Fest 2017 takes place on the 8th & 9th July.

The farm shop is full of sausages. We've got pork and apple, plain, gluten free and pork and apple. The freezers are full of other delights as well roasting joints, bacon, many different cuts of steak, neck of lamb and much much more.

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