

# *Ide Times*



Photo: Clare Wills

Spring can't be far away

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# February 2021

Like millions of others around the world watching the inauguration of the US president, I was inspired and moved by Amanda Gorman's poem. One line in particular, "and notions of what 'just is' isn't always justice" summed up for me what the pandemic has taught us about the consequences of overlooking or taking inequality for granted. A situation we need to change. With this in mind, putting together the Ide Times this month greatly cheered me as I was reminded just how much selfless work to support our community and build a better future is already well underway.



It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Christine Hookins. Always friendly and enthusiastic, she contributed in so many different ways to the life of the village, Our love and condolences to Barry and Richard. Articles for the March issue of the Ide Times should be sent to me by the 20th February please – [annboyce@talk21.com](mailto:annboyce@talk21.com)

## USEFUL NUMBERS

Community Policeman: 101

The Parish Church - Rev Mike Partridge 01392 491476 and leave a message or 07751 725306, or email: [rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com](mailto:rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com)

Congregational Church: Jackie Chadwick [jacky.c@talktalk.net](mailto:jacky.c@talktalk.net)

M.P. Mel Stride: 02072 197037 [melstride.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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 - 11.45 am & 3pm -

5pm Saturdays 9am - 12 noon



## IDE MEMORIAL HALL – unavailable during national lockdown

## 360 BUS TIMETABLE

Ide	7.51	10.01	12.39	14.34	
Exeter Bus Station	8.13	10.20	12.58	14.53	
Exeter Bus Station	8.35	11.15	13.15	16.15	17.55
Ide	8.53	11.33	13.28	16.33	18.13

The bus is still running but you must wear a mask and only a limited number of passengers can travel.



**Climate and Ecological Emergency.** The Parish Council called an extraordinary meeting, on Zoom, for Wednesday 27 January 2021 devoted to the Climate and Ecological Emergency. The focus of the special meeting was to discuss and provide feedback on the interim draft Devon Carbon Plan, and the draft of an Ide Carbon Plan. Copies of these plans are now available on the Parish Council website [www.idevillage.org](http://www.idevillage.org)

**National Census in England and Wales, 21 March, 2021.**

Questionnaires for the 2021 Census, conducted every ten years, will be available electronically for the first time. Completed forms are expected to be returned predominantly online. But it will also be possible to send in a paper census form. The government has produced a booklet (copies are in Ide Shop) to assist people without a connection to gain assistance in completing this census; and explaining how communities might reach out to them.

The booklet, **Reaching Key Population Groups, A Community Handbook** is also available at:- <https://census.gov.uk/downloadable-resources/>

**The Children's Play Area**, by Ide Primary School, is still open under the current Covid-19 restrictions. There's hand sanitizer in a dispenser on the fence inside; and clear guidelines are displayed outside and inside the play area, and on [www.idevillage.org.uk](http://www.idevillage.org.uk) The main rule to remember is that numbers in the Play Area are restricted to a maximum of two family groups at a time, with only one adult per family group.

**Doctors Walk and Balls Farm Road.** We have had positive feedback from residents, commuters to work and school, pedestrians, families, people seeking space and exercise in Covid, and cyclists about the reductions in traffic along Balls Farm Road and Doctors' Walk. The Emergency Active Travel traffic restrictions, in place at the western end of Doctors' Walk, are by law a temporary measure, lasting until February 2022 when they will be reviewed.

Ide Parish Council supports the measure and will be writing to Devon County Council Highways, with results of recent surveys of usage by vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and others to request that the restrictions stay in place. The feedback Devon CC receives, from members of the public as well as the Council, will help them decide whether to make the traffic measures permanent. The address to write to if you would like to send your feedback to Devon Highways is:

Highways & Traffic Management

Devon County Council

Taw View – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. North Walk. Barnstaple, Devon EX31 1EE

Email: [transportplanning-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

If you copy local councillors [yvonne.atkinson@devon.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.atkinson@devon.gov.uk) (Exeter City Councillor for Alphington), [alan.connett@devon.gov.uk](mailto:alan.connett@devon.gov.uk) (Devon County Councillor for our area) and [andrew.swain@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.swain@teignbridge.gov.uk) (Teignbridge District Councillor for Kenn Valley) into your email they would also be pleased to hear from you.

## **Village residents' participation and engagement at Parish Council meetings**

Council meetings are held in public, by law. This upholds a cherished democratic principle that residents and members of the public should be able watch proceedings; assure themselves that meetings are being conducted properly; and observe councillors debating and making decisions on the community's behalf. Like all elected bodies, from Parliament down to Parish, our meetings remain meetings of the Council: they are not public meetings.

From time to time we hold public meetings to address or consult on particularly important or controversial matters. The last ones we held were in February 2020, about the Weir Meadow and Northern Fields project. Public meetings are not constrained by the rules of Council meetings; nor do they carry the same statutory duties or powers. But the Council will always take heed of the views expressed at a public meeting when deciding what to do next.

At our Council meetings, we set aside ten minutes (more if necessary) for residents to speak or ask questions at the start of proceedings, and this applies just the same during lockdown while we are meeting on Zoom. Anyone who lives in Ide is welcome to give their views (known as a "representation"), or question members of the Parish Council, on items on the agenda for that meeting. You can also request that an issue be raised for consideration at a future meeting. You can choose to raise your point when we get to the agenda item that interests you, rather than raise it at the very start of proceedings. The Council will hear all representations before it starts to discuss and make decisions on the item as a Council.

## **How can I attend a Parish Council meeting as a resident during lockdown?**

Covid-19 restrictions mean that we continue to meet remotely, in public, using Zoom. You can speak at or attend a meeting as a member of the public by first installing Zoom on your computing device. Then please contact Mel Liversage, the parish clerk, at least 24 hours before the meeting by email or phone (see details at end of this article). We will add you to the Zoom guest list, and send you the login details.

## **Pynes Community Orchard and Weir Meadow & Northern Fields**

We have seen some false dawns in trying to nail the three year option to purchase agreements for both these projects to secure green, open, recreational space for the village. Every detail of the conditions required by the Church Commissioners - on permitted uses, access, boundaries, water supply, overages were we to sell or develop the land in the future, mineral rights, VAT, vacant possession and exercising our option once we have the funds - have now been agreed; and we await the documentation. We do, at last, feel able to hold our breath.

Please remember that the Orchard, the Meadow and the Fields remain for now the property of the Church Commissioners, let privately to tenants. They are not yet accessible to the public.

**Website.** Ben Ervine has received the go ahead from the Council to develop the village website to become more vibrant and integrated, by creating a main Ide Village hub site, with a series of linked microsites serving, for example, the Community Shop, Memorial Hall, Ide Times, Churches, Pynes Orchard, Weir Meadow, as well as the existing Parish Council website itself.

Watch this space and the website. And contact Ben if you would like further information [ben.ervine.ideparish@gmail.com](mailto:ben.ervine.ideparish@gmail.com)

## PLANNING MATTERS

### New Applications

**21/00080/HOU - 65 High Street, Ide. Demolition and rebuilding of an outbuilding, reconstruction of a greenhouse and alterations to the front and rear fenestrations of the main house.**

**20/02366/HOU - 7 The Hams, Ide. Single storey rear extension and associated works.** The committee voted unanimously to support this application and it has now been granted permission

### Updates on current applications

**20/01674/HOU - 2 Fore Street, Ide. Single storey extension. Revised.**  
Action from last meeting: PB to inform TDC enforcement officer that the bridge has now been erected. The height of the front wall/fence also exceeds the maximum height allowed. Further application is awaited.

**20/00621/MAJ - Pynes Farm, Ide. Conversion of four existing agricultural buildings to two dwellings, demolition of remaining barn buildings and replacement with eight dwellings including associated landscaping, parking and associated access works.**

IPC supported with qualifications. No action from last meeting. Awaiting decision.

**20/00615/FUL - Land opposite Chillies, College Lane, Ide. Five dwellings with garages and creation of new access.**

IPC objected. No action from last meeting. Awaiting decision.

**20/00623/FUL – Stevens Farm, Ide. Change of Use to Skip and Plant Park with associated hard standing.**

IPC objected. Action from last meeting: PB to draw TDC enforcement officer's attention to commercial activity on the site. Awaiting decision.

**18/01024/MAJ - Springwell Nursery, Ide. Erection of a new Garden Sales Area Building including Café and Restaurant, Storage Warehouse, New Public Car Park Area.** IPC objected. Awaiting decision.

### 4.3 Decided Applications

**20/01996/CAN - 2 Fore Street, Ide.** 1 Ash tree to remove, 1 Ash tree to reduce, and 1 Willow tree to remove. The committee voted to defer to TDC's Tree officer assessment which **he granted**.

**20/01991 Fordlands, The College, Ide. Single storey rear extension.**  
This application fits well within all planning application guidelines and the committee voted unanimously to support the application. TDC **granted permission** with the proviso that no objections were raised.

To view planning applications, go to [www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning](http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning) and search using the address or reference number.

The next meeting of Ide Parish Council is on Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Clerk** – Mel Liversage 01392 259024 [ideparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ideparishclerk@gmail.com)

**Chair** – Nick Bradley 01392 420616 [ncabradley@gmail.com](mailto:ncabradley@gmail.com)

**Cemetery administrator:** Sarah Tiley 01392 217142 [saraht61@btinternet.com](mailto:saraht61@btinternet.com)

## Climate Emergency update - Ide carbon plan

74% of District, County, Unitary & Metropolitan Councils have now declared Climate Emergencies. This is a genuine commitment to work towards a specific measurable target. For most councils an early step is to write a Carbon Plan, setting out what actions we can take to make our communities sustainable. Devon has produced the interim Devon Carbon plan, and is running a consultation on it. With a great deal of help and many suggestions from across the community, we also have a draft Ide Carbon Plan and we would like to know if you can help make it better.

Ide Parish council will be looking at both plans on 27th January at 7:30pm. The meeting is on zoom and in public, you can come and listen, and there will be chances to speak, or you can give us feedback by emailing [ide-carbon-plan@stygian.org.uk](mailto:ide-carbon-plan@stygian.org.uk). Suggestions are welcome.

You can see both plans on the village website: <http://idevillage.org.uk> On the main page there is a post about the meeting on 27th January with links to both documents.

Andy Swain

This ([andy.swain.council@gmail.com](mailto:andy.swain.council@gmail.com)) is my email account as an Ide Parish Councillor.

To contact me as Teignbridge District Councillor for Kenn Valley Ward please use...[andrew.swain@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.swain@teignbridge.gov.uk)

For more information about the Liberal Democrat Councillors for Kenn Valley Ward see...<https://kennvalley.mycouncillor.org.uk/>

## Teignbridge District Council to Support Electoral Form

In November I submitted a motion asking Teignbridge District Council to support the move away from first past the post, towards ranked choice and proportional voting, and to lower the voting age to 16 in local elections. I am suggesting that England should use the same system as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It came to Teignbridge Full Council on Thursday 14 Jan, to a healthy debate, with many councillors revealing their true colours, and a nail biting finish. It was interesting how many councillors spoke against fairer voting saying it would give them less power. A few councillors were quite dismissive of 16 year olds, but there were heart-warming speeches from erstwhile opponents who have been persuaded by this process.

Surprisingly several councillors trotted out the old myth that "All Politicians break their promises" which is ironic because bringing this motion is something I promised to do in leaflets before I was elected.

In the end it was approved 24 votes to 18, so the Council now officially supports reform, and will write to the Government and local Members of Parliament calling for changes.

Andy Swain

Teignbridge District Councillor for Kenn Valley



## Christine Hookins

1947-2020



On December 9th my beautiful wife Christine passed away at home in her sleep.

Chris had dementia which she described as a daily nightmare for nearly 2 years.

She attended Ide school in her early years, so was thrilled when we moved to Ide in 1988. Chris helped to set up a youth club as she liked to help the younger generation. Ide twinning and Ide Aloud were also a part of her social life but she had to step back at the start of her illness.

Dementia also curtailed her great joy of driving and enjoying a glass or two of G&T.

Richard and I would like to thank everyone for their support especially Dawn Chapman & Sarah Tiley who were there 24/7 during Chris's illness.

Many thanks to everyone who donated over £1000 to Dementia U K.

Be kind to each other and keep safe

Barry & Richard







Goodness – what a year 2020 turned out to be! January & February started off slow and steady then it all went pear-shaped in March. Lockdown brought problems with our older volunteers, who were told by the government to stay at home. We were fortunate to have offers of help from lots of you who were unable to go to work, and then the Ide Angels stepped in to help with home deliveries.

We struggled to keep up with the panic buying – mainly because our suppliers couldn't get hold of basics such as flour, yeast, tinned tomatoes and pasta. There was a shortage of McVities biscuits, but this was due to problems with cardboard boxes!

Several of the new volunteers asked what we do with the profits, especially as our takings were sky high.

I realised that there are a lot of new people in the village who don't know the history of the Community Shop so thought it would be useful to explain.

Back in 2008, after Chris & Kathy Strong announced that their shop and Post Office (in the High Street) would be closing, the Parish Council, chaired by Colin Chapman, called a meeting to find out whether there was any interest in setting up a Community Shop. A lot of people were keen, although no-one had any retail experience – well I grew up in a village shop but that was before VAT had been invented.



A committee was set up and with grants from Ide Parish Council and Teignbridge District Council, we purchased a Portacabin through Ebay, and it was sited across several parking spaces in the village car park.

Volunteers kitted it out, stock was purchased, a rota was set up and it opened on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, (yes April Fools' Day) the day after the village shop closed. Judi Spiers and Ken Voisey cut the ribbon for our grand opening.

We had to wait another six months for the Post Office to be installed, with Colin as our first Postmaster.

Takings were good, most people were happy to have a shop & Post Office in the village, so we set about raising funds for a permanent site. We were lucky that the business next to the Memorial Hall was moving to new premises and we set about raising funds to buy the building.

We managed to get a grant of £50,000 from the National Lottery, and various other grants. But the bulk of the money came from a Village Share Scheme, with local people very generously investing a total of £68,370, with no offer of a dividend or even whether they would get any money back.



The property was in a very poor state of repair, so it meant knocking it down and starting from scratch. As soon as the builders had finished, volunteers stepped in to build shelving units, paint walls, and do whatever was needed to get it ready to open for trade. The committee argued over where to put the till, but I think we made the right decision. In trying to cut costs we nearly went without the canopy over the forecourt – thank goodness we insisted – no-one thought we would ever need to have customers queuing outside the shop!

The shop as you know it opened on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 – this time we had quite a celebration - with Fred Ames, Eve Jennings and Joyce Stevens doing the honours. And we had the Morris

dancers to entertain us.

So – after we have paid for the stock, Post Office wages, and other overheads, what happens to our profits?

Every year we allocate £1,000 to a Community Fund – for the benefit of Community groups who can request grants. In the past we have issued grants to Friends of Ide School, the Youth Club, Ide Allotments Association, Ide Times,

the Memorial Hall and many others. Last year the funds went towards expenses involved with the Community Orchard and Weir Meadow projects.

We are currently providing funding to the School to purchase laptops for home schooling.

Our main aim is to pay back our investors and we are making good progress. From the original investment of £68,000, over £40,000 has been repaid, leaving us with £27,470 outstanding.

By supporting the shop, you are supporting YOUR community.

Thank you to all our customers, shareholders, and most importantly, our volunteers. Without you there would be no shop!

We are extremely fortunate to have our Post Office open six days a week. We are grateful to Susanna, our Post Mistress, and Zetta who were particularly busy in the run up to Christmas.

Rose Saunders





## Message from Susanna and Zetta:

Thank you to everyone who decorated a bauble for our tree, They were all lovely and we very much enjoyed seeing them and are keeping them safe for next year”.



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## Jubilee Club

As I write this on a wild and wet day my thoughts go to the picture I have seen of snowdrops in flower, despite the many troubles, nature rewards us year after year. With news of the roll out of the vaccine programme, I had my injection last week, and I hear of club members already having had theirs, I like to think there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Christmas was very different this year, I picked up my sister in law at 10 am we went to church ,a pleasant service well attended and socially distanced, then off we went to Fernworthy Reservoir. A little walk by the water followed by a picnic in the car of warming soup, and home in time to



watch the Queen's Speech! We will remember Christmas 2020.

Best wishes to you all for this New Year and looking forward to meeting up as soon as possible. As ever, we the committee are pleased to have a chat on the phone should you feel lonely.

Jean Hoskin.

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## Baby and Toddler Group

Unfortunately due to current restrictions under Lockdown 3, Baby & Toddler group is unable to run. We hope to be back as soon as it is safe to do so. Further updates will also be made on the Ide Baby & Toddler Group Facebook page. Thank you to everyone for your continued kind support.

Jessica



## SAINT IDA'S CHURCH

### Services

Although churches are allowed to have services, it has been decided that due to the high number of covid cases it is safer not to do so. In consequence we have reverted to having services on line by Zoom, Facebook (St Michael's Alphington facebook page) and by YouTube. The Sunday Services are at 11am. If you would like the Zoom ID and password so that you can join any of these, please contact Mike Partridge on [rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com](mailto:rev.mike.partridge@gmail.com) or ring him on 01392 491476.



**The Church is open for private prayer on Thursdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm.** Parts of the Church have been cordoned off but there are chairs at the front where people can sit for a time of prayer or reflection.

**Baptisms (Christenings), Weddings & Banns of Marriage** - If you wish to make any enquiries about these please email [weddings@alphingtonstmichaels.org](mailto:weddings@alphingtonstmichaels.org) for weddings and banns of marriage at Ide; and [christenings@alphingtonstmichaels.org](mailto:christenings@alphingtonstmichaels.org) for baptisms at Ide; or you can ring 01392 491476.

**Christmas** was rather different this year. Our thanks go to Vron for the Christingle Service which David Williams filmed on his camera and put on Facebook. She used a beautifully knitted nativity set to remind us of the birth of Jesus in that stable in Bethlehem, and also the meaning of the Christingle oranges. Our thanks also go to Adrian who organised the Christmas trail and to those who made up Christingle packs. Material for the Christingle packs was provided by the Children's Society and a donation of £50 was sent to them. We hope you all had a very happy time in spite of the restrictions and that you managed to sing some carols.

During December Sue Campbell had a morning when she sold jams, marmalades, etc. from her driveway. She did very well and donated the money to the Church and to the Mothers' Union.

Mary Bradley kindly organised a Christmas wreath making session and also sold preserves, plants and bowls of bulbs outside the Church. Again, this was in aid of the Church.

Now that people are beginning to get their covid vaccinations it is hoped that it won't be too many months before the numbers in our hospitals with the infection fall so that children can go back to school and our lives get back to normal with services in our churches and people able to visit one another and even go on holiday. Meanwhile, we must all be careful, stay safe and be patient.

Many thanks to those kind residents of Ide and surrounding villages who donated this Christmas to the Foodbank collection point at Ide Community Shop. I was clearing the box every other day, and so many lovely chocolate treats too!

The list from the Foodbank for items in short supply is:

- > Jams and spreads
- > Nappies size 4,5 and 6 (not tiny baby)
- > Fruit Juices
- > Sponge Puddings
- > Tinned Fruit
- > They have lots of pasta and baked beans at present !

I would like to tell you about Maia Thomas, a truly inspirational young lady in



Exeter. Maia has brought food to families in urgent need of help through her Facebook page. She started this wonderful endeavour 10 days ago and has personally delivered 545 shopping bags of mixed fresh foods to families who otherwise would have gone hungry. Many recipients are too proud to ask the help of the FoodBank, often their culture makes it shameful for them to register for an organised food relief programme, or some people are waiting for delayed Universal Credit payments to arrive. The process to be referred for Foodbank assistance , can mean that families have to wait and have nothing to eat.. Maia initially was buying the food herself, but when she realised how big the need was, she created a GoFundMe page and spends the

money in local supermarkets to pack her emergency food bags.

If you think that you can help Maia, you can go to her Go Fund Me page <https://gofund.me/69fa7c89>.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Olivia Ambrose



## Battle of High Street, Ide, in Bangkok, Thailand



A highly improbable situation took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at Subhapruek Golf Course, Bangkok, Thailand. Daniel Ahl, 51, lived in from 1988 until 1992 with his parents Wendy and Bill Ahl at 46 High Street, Ide was drawn in a titanic match-play encounter versus Oliver Blundell, 38, 33 High Street, Ide, the residence of Karen and Clive Edmunds-Brown. Olly grew up, overlooking washing baskets full of Tennis Balls in the garden of Dan's parents. Dan is Head of Tennis at Bangkok Patana School, while Olly is Head of PE at the same school. Small world.

As anticipated, the match was a very tight affair, both playing off the same handicap of 9. Dan claimed the first hole with a 7, while Olly could only score an 8. The scoring improved by both players from this point forward

as Olly chased Dan's lead. Plenty of good shots by both players, pars followed, thanks to the players formative years, honing skills at Northbrook Approach Course (formerly on Topsham Road).

With all still to play for on the final hole, Dan drove straighter, using the path to gain 20 yards, while Olly found a beautiful coppice on the left of the fairway. A lovely approach shot from Dan was not matched by Olly, who decided to attempt some forestry with his golf ball, which ended up behind him. Olly recovered, but not enough to beat a consistent Dan, who finished the match with a 2up win. 1 under handicap. Olly, +1. Dan continues in the cup, while Olly joins the plate. Continuing to represent the sporting prowess of Ide'ites, I would imagine both Olly and Dan will win the respective competitions. NB. Bangkok Patana School has a third member of staff who spent a large chunk of their Childhood in Ide. Ross Millcliffe, nee Sutcliffe, who lived at 7 The Hams, Ide. What a small world indeed.

Oliver Blundell





## CLIMATE and ENVIRONMENT EMERGENCY

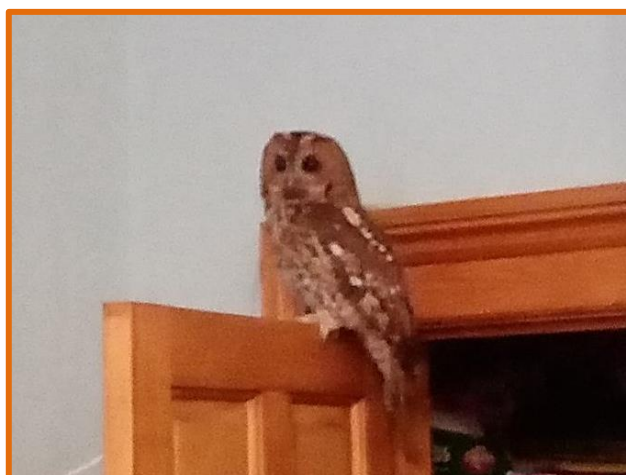
### Does anyone fancy “doing” Ide in Bloom this year?

I've been doing a bit of research into the Britain in Bloom scheme run by RHS. Seemingly it's not about park planting, but more about community participation, environmental responsibility and yes, a bit of gardening, which seems to fit right in with the spirit of Ide.

I've had a number of ideas sprouting from the dark winter months and the fabulous Ide Advent windows. I wondered if people would be interested in doing something similar in the days running up to the summer solstice, with participants providing a new floral display on each day, and if this could contribute to Ide in Bloom running throughout July.

Displays wouldn't need to be formal, “blooms” could include swathes of wildflowers and pots of vegetables. You also don't necessarily have to have a front garden there's lots that can be done with a hanging basket, a flower pot or a window box! This really could be as big or as small as we chose to make it, and could provide a great opportunity to jazz up the village and our community spaces with colourful flowers.

So this is a call to anyone who'd like to take part, I'd been really happy to hear from you on 07970960789.



During lockdown it is good that we can still see wildlife without going far from home. This Tawny owl was seen in our living room on Sunday morning! It must have fallen down the chimney, We don't think it could have been dragged in through the cat flap. After posing for photos it was released safely.

## CLIMATE and ENVIRONMENT EMERGENCY

### Rewilding Ide School (grounds not children!)

Two years ago school asked for requests for help in clearing the school grounds. A group of volunteers (parents, neighbours and governors) responded and helped to clear areas of the school, changing large unused or potentially unsafe areas into places where the children can play or use safely. This has been invaluable over the past year, encouraging the children to be outside more.

There is now a large outdoor play area with music station and large planters for the children to grow plants or vegetables in alongside the pre-school building.

When clearing and tidying the overgrown hedges, we discovered that the school field fence had a few large holes in it and in places the weight of the trees and hedges had actually pulled it down. We talked to the neighbours about the need to replace the fence and how we could do this to enhance the environment and provide more habitats for wildlife. The fence was erected with hedgehog gaps.. Native hedgerow shrubs and trees were planted on the school side of the new fence. We will be adding our numbers planted to the count in the **Countryfile 'Plant a Tree'** campaign. In the future we are planning to plant or sow more shrubs and wildflowers in these areas. In addition, bird boxes have been cleaned out and repaired, hedgehog houses have been made by a child (& grandparent), more hedgehog gaps have been created and bulbs and shrubs have been planted in the outdoor learning areas and the front garden. The children helped to create a log pile, a bug hotel, a wildlife bath and bird feeders. Our work last year was recognised by the Devon Wildlife Trust who awarded us a Wildlife Garden Award. The award certificate is displayed on the shed in the outdoor learning area.

The school is part of the RHS school gardening campaign. Hopefully, we will be able to plant the sunflower seed that were sent to the school just prior to lockdown 1.0. We would like to join the RHS's Ide in Bloom project suggested on the previous page.



This year we have drawn up an **Environment Enrichment Proposal** planning out our strategy for improving the school site for children, staff, wildlife & climate (special thanks to Kate Morley, parent and Longdown Wildlife Warden for her input).

Included are ideas such as:

- Creating a sensory garden, wildflower meadow areas and managing these.
- Providing bat boxes and slow worm habitats.



## CLIMATE and ENVIRONMENT EMERGENCY

The mound at the top of the school field on to the playpark has been left to rewild, We are hoping to involve the children in growing & planting wildflower plugs within this area to help start it. Wildflower seeds were planted last spring, a few did grow, which looked amazing unfortunately very few were in school to enjoy them!



The Woodland Trust has a scheme to apply for hedgerow saplings and trees. We applied for some hedgerow saplings which arrived in November and were planted in the front garden of school. These will provide privacy and should help to reduce pollution from the road.

We have applied for another allocation of saplings which has been successful this should be arriving in March. We would have loved to invite the community to come and help to plant these but Covid restrictions don't allow.

The school has a green team of children who work with Mrs Brown to look at all areas of climate and environment change.

We hope that in doing all these small things for and with the children in school they will engage and be inspired to take some of these ideas home to parents carers and grandparents, If this results in even just one change or action to help the environment or reduce our contribution to climate change, it will be something we can be proud of. We love the idea that the school is helping Ide to lead the way in fighting climate change.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers that have given time, skills and money to improve the school grounds for all. We are so massively grateful and proud of what has been achieved so far. Fingers crossed, soon we can continue with all our exciting plans.

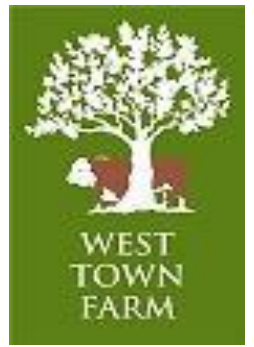
Covid has put a hold on the “**Make a Difference**” days that we hold on the first Sunday of the month , when allowed to meet again, we would love the community to come and help too, bring your skills, knowledge or just a hour to burn off the calories. Jemma Webb (Lead Governors Premises & organiser of Make a Difference days [g.webb@ide.devon.sch.uk](mailto:g.webb@ide.devon.sch.uk) )

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Writing can be a very enjoyable and satisfying activity. Maybe you really enjoyed writing when you were at school. Perhaps you could give it another go! This is a community magazine and could be greatly enlivened by your stories. Have you reacted strongly to something in the news?...write about it. Have you a lifelong passion for ...football, gardening, music, history, textile art, space exploration, tardigrades? ...write about it. We would love to hear from you.



## WEST TOWN FARM NEWS



Hello and a very happy 2021 from all of us at West Town Farm. As you may have seen in Grace's December message, she is now off on maternity leave, and I (Holly) will be taking over the role for a while. It's lovely to be able to introduce myself to you all, and hopefully, you now can work out who that strange new face on the farm is!

Whilst the current lockdown restrictions mean it may seem quiet on the farmyard, this hasn't stopped the new year's rush of productivity for Andy, Rob and the rest of the team. There's been lots of work to do, including building fences as part of the Countryside stewardship Scheme and getting the farm ready for our annual Soil Association inspection.

You may also have noticed that there have been some improvements to our farm trail as Rob, Steve and the wwoofers have been busy fixing up gates, handrails and signage. It's been lovely to see so many of you walking the trail for your daily lockdown exercise. In this spirit, we've decided to dedicate a day to the 'relaunch' of the trail on **Saturday 6th February**. Whilst we can't host any events under lockdown restrictions, we will be putting on a takeaway BBQ service between 10am and 3pm and be encouraging you all to enjoy the route as part of your daily exercise. Details of the takeaway service can be found on our website and social media.

Finally, after a successful round of Christmas Meat Box deliveries, we've decided to carry on offering fortnightly meat boxes throughout lockdown. If you'd like to order a meat box via our website or by giving us a call, our next round of deliveries will be on **Friday 12th February**. We'll then be taking a slightly longer break in between our deliveries ready for our next fresh meat week in the first week of March.

I hope you're all managing to keep yourselves safe and happy during this difficult time. If you're coming to the shop at all, feel free to give me a wave or a tap on the office window to introduce yourself, it would be lovely to get to know you all a bit!

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