

Ide Times



The Community Shop still has socks of all patterns for sale!

FEBRUARY 2024

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FEBRUARY 2024



2024 is a Leap Year so February has 29 days so not quite so short as usual. We were sorry to learn of the death of David Garnsworthy on the 11th January. It was his idea in 1975 to start the Ide Times, which he produced for many years. You will find a tribute to David on page ss11. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have kept the Ide Times going, particularly those who contribute articles and information and those who deliver the magazines. Sadly Fred Ames died on the 22nd January at Lucerne House. He was able to celebrate his 100th birthday last year and died very peacefully. It was a pleasure to know you Fred.

Articles for the March issue of the Ide Times should be sent to Ann Boyce email annboyce@talk21.co.uk by the 20th February.

Brenda Spivey 01392 275784

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
Congregational Church: Jackie Chadwick jacky.c@talktalk.net
M.P. Mel Stride: 02072 197037 melstride.mp@parliament.uk

Community Shop Opening Hours: (Tel. 410035)

Monday – Friday	8am – 12 noon and 1pm – 6.30pm
Saturdays	8am – 1pm
Sundays	9am - 12 noon



Post Office Opening Hours

Monday - Friday	9am - 11.45 am & 1pm - 5pm
Saturdays	9am - 12 noon

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

360 Bus Timetable

Ide	7.51	10.01	12.39	14.39	
Sidwell Street, Exeter	8.13	10.20	12.58	14.53	
Sidwell Street, Exeter	8.35	11.15	13.15	16.15	17.55
Ide	8.53	11.33	13.28	16.33	18.13

IDE PARISH COUNCIL
Idevillage.org.uk

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

We are delighted to welcome Patrick Irwin as a new parish councillor. He was elected by the Parish Council on 17 January, bringing us back up to Ide's full complement of nine councillors.

CLOSURE OF DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Funding for the mobile library service will stop at the end of February, and the library lorry will no longer visit. In its place the County Council is offering grants of between £100 and £300 to support the creation and enhancement of community libraries in rural areas.

As the announcement puts it, the County Council envisages "community spaces for local people to enjoy and expand their love of reading alongside existing activities providing access to social opportunities in the local area". The text goes on to say "if you already have a corner or room that is used as a book swap or library, or are looking to create one, this fund is for you. The money can be used for such things as shelving, comfy seating, books, lighting etc." Below is the link to the full details.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/community-library-support-fund>

The fund closes on 31 March, or sooner if the money allocated is spent.

IDE COMMUNITY ORCHARD

On Saturday 2 December 2023 the Orchard Christmas lights were switched on. Around sixty people came along; there was singing, music and poetry along with our own hot mulled apple juice, and cakes. Sadly, the main tree that was lit – which had in fact died over the summer but was in pole position as you enter the orchard – was blown down in Storm Henk. But that's what happens to old apple trees; and is why we have planted young replacement trees over the last four years.

A Wassail ceremony to pour apple juice onto the trees to encourage their fruiting, using a new wassail cup made specially by Kat Jenkins, will take place in the Orchard on Sunday 4 February 2024 at 5pm. All welcome.

About twenty of the trees planted in 2020 are still available to sponsor. This is a good way to support the costs of running the Orchard, and secure a long term presence in it for you or a loved one by association with a particular tree. Sponsoring one tree costs £150, two trees £250. The tree label will carry a dedication of your choice, in the style that you can see on trees already sponsored. Please contact Nick Bradley (see below) if this appeals to you.

If you would like to become a volunteer for weekend working party days; or if you would like to join the Orchard Management Group, do get in touch with Mark Thomas using markideparishcouncil@outlook.com

WEIR MEADOW

A reminder that the newly grown grass in Weir Meadow is still very vulnerable, especially in this winter's record breaking wet weather. So do please keep off it for the moment and stay on the perimeter path for the time being. This year is crucial to establish the permanent grass base. The plan is to start mowing it professionally in April and through the summer, while still protecting it and keeping it fenced off. We expect to be able to get onto it from late August. An all weather cricket wicket will be laid in late summer, timing depending on conditions.

NORTHERN FIELDS

We will be appointing a landscape architect in the next few weeks to start work on designing the community woodland park which we want to plant on the Northern Fields over the next two years. The woodland park will have open spaces on the flatter areas, wide rides and paths, and an imaginative variety of trees to match the climate, slopes and soil; and give colour and shape in all four seasons.

A reminder that the fields are no longer being farmed: they are free to walk over and allow dogs to run off the lead.

FLOOD PREVENTION MEASURES FOR IDE

The Parish Council has formed a sub-group to bring together statutory bodies and experts to find a solution to – and push for action on – preventing a repeat of the dangerous and damaging floods of early November 2023. We hosted an on site meeting on 23 January with the Environment Agency, Devon County Council, landowners and affected property owners to seek a formal flood prevention assessment, advice and practical action.

SALT and GRIT BINS are available around the village. Please do use them if you spot any slippery places in the cold and frosty weather. They are for residents' use, and are not there simply for local authority employees to use. The container in the corner of the car park stores further supplies – ask Paula Burton Perrett using pburtonperrett@gmail.com

PLANNING MATTERS

Using the blue reference it's simple to search on the Teignbridge District Council website for details of each of these applications.

New Applications

23/02157 IDE – Land Off Whiddon Lane, Ide. Change of use of land for a secure dog walking field for private hire and creation of associated area for parking.

Appeal Lodged

23/00054/REF Land at Ngr 290858 90284, Ide Village Road. Appeal against the refusal of planning application 22/00826/FUL- Formation of yard for storage of machinery and construction materials and the siting of 14 secure storage containers and associated landscaping (retrospective). PLANNING INSPECTORATE REF: 3331634

Applications awaiting decision by TDC

23/01955/HOU 7 Cross View Terrace, Ide EX2 9RZ: 2 storey rear extension. The IPC planning committee has objected to this application.

23/01924/OUT - Land North of College Lane, Ide EX2 9TF

Application for three dwellings and associated works: initial outline approval is being sought for access purposes. Ide Parish Councillors have strongly objected to this application.

23/00463/FUL Stevens Farm, Ide EX2 9FB: Change of use of agricultural building and land to commercial use for the sales and maintenance of tractors. Objected to by IPC Planning Committee

23/01675/HOU & 23/01676/LBC 44 High Street, Ide EX2 9RW: Replacement of corrugated steel roof with slate and replacement front windows. Supported by IPC planning committee

Decided Applications by TDC

23/02053/CAN 4 Old Vicarage Close, Ide T1 - Lawson Cypress = Fell T2 - Small conifer = Fell T3 - Western Red Cedar = Fell T4 - Palm sp. = Fell. **Approved by TDC**

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Ide Parish Council is on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.30pm to be held in Ide Memorial Hall.

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk – Mel Liversage 01392 259024 ideparishclerk@gmail.com
Chair – Nick Bradley 01392 420616 nickbradley.ideparishcouncil@gmail.com

FRED AMES

Sadly we have to report the death of Fred Ames. He died peacefully at Lucerne House, on the 22nd January at the age of 100. Fred lived for many years in one of the bungalows in The Hams, with his wife, Marion, who died a few years ago. In later years, unable to walk down to shop, he invested in a mobility scooter and regularly rode down the village street, waving at everyone. After he moved to Lucerne he still kept in touch with village friends by phone and the home arranged for him to be brought to the Huntsman to meet people in person on special occasions. Rest in peace, Fred.



IDE COMMUNITY SHOP & POST OFFICE



Well, what a Christmas we had in the shop thanks to our wonderful and loyal customers and fantastic and hardworking volunteers. We broke all records with sales which is so encouraging when you hear how other community shops are sadly struggling and cutting opening times. We sold 287 pairs of socks alone in the last quarter before you talk about anything else. What fun we had with the socks, you have loved them and it is fun watching our very special customers checking out all the varied designs and picking certain ones for people they know. We sold out of all our Christmas tins of biscuits and the top up order of them as well. Kat, our talented and crafty volunteer, who makes ceramics for the shop – sold a lot of her lines and Simon from Pocombe Bridge sold a lot of his hand carved spoons as well – it is lovely to be able to offer these unique and special locally produced lines in the shop. We so appreciate you supporting us especially in these challenging economic times. The Post Office was exceptionally busy, as expected, over this time but again levels were up on previous years which is all very encouraging for both your local shop and post office.

We are delighted to be able to be of service to you for more hours now as we have reduced our lunchtime closing from 3 hours down to 1 hour. So now the shop is open from 8am-12 noon and then from 1pm-6.30pm Monday to Friday and the Post Office is now open 8am-12noon and 1pm-5pm Monday to Friday. Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays remain the same for both the shop and Post Office. Please make use of the extra day-time hours if you can and take the pressure off the village parking situation around school time and also around the time the post man collects, We need to remind everyone again that the postman collects at 5pm and officially anything we take after 4.40pm should go the next day. So please help us to get your post away by coming down as early as you can. Thank you for your help on this.

We had an enjoyable volunteers evening in December, where we shared a special evening together and also said thank you to Susanna for her years of service as she retires.

It was great to decorate the shop with everyone's handmade lanterns at Christmas and this is the thing we love so much – the community involvement in the shop.



Lesley has now joined us in the Post Office section. She lives at Christow and worked in the Christow Stores and PO for seven years before it closed. She is going to be working two days a week.



We are constantly running out of the reusable shop cloth bags. The original 300 that were made are long gone and must be hiding around the village and the latest batch to be made have also gone now. These bags are for the use of all our customers and means we don't use plastic in the shop or one use items so please can we ask that you have a good look around your houses, sheds, cars and everywhere else and see if you have any and return them to us if you find some, We appreciate your help on this and we don't like it when we can't offer this service to our customers. If you need a bag to keep we have the locally designed Ide Bags on sale for just £5 with all profits going to Ide Green Spaces.

And yes, we have stocked up on again with even more new designs, We thought you would be socked out after Christmas but people most days come in looking for them so we have listened to our customers and got more in.

Look out for our next fun event in the shop which will probably involve Percy Pancake!

Zetta

IDE GROWERS

It's hardly been gardening weather of late, but Ide Growers are here to help you get the courage to venture outside.

Having new seeds to plant is a great way of banishing the winter blues, so why not get along to our Seed Swap on Sunday February 11th. It's in the Village Hall and the fun starts at 2.30pm. Refreshments available as per.

We've some other dates for your diary - Plant Swap on April 21st and Ide Show on September 15th. That feels a long way away right now, but the evenings are getting lighter and spring will come! Honest...

See you on February 11th - watch out for more details on posters and a leaflet popping through your letterbox.

Finally, Ide Growers would like to pay tribute to David Garnsworthy. David was a great supporter of Ide Show - helping us with judging, giving us advice about how to display contributions and encouraging us to do the best show we could. He will be missed.

Ide Growers.



Get Set, Grow...
With the Great Ide Seed
Swap and Sale!
Sunday 11th February
2.00-4.00pm

IDE VILLAGE HALL

**Get ready for the growing season. Save pounds, get seeds,
drink tea, eat cake!**

**Entry is free and everyone is welcome.
There are 4 ways to take part - do any or all:**



- 1. Pay £5 on the door and get access to the huge variety of high-quality, brand-new flower and veg seeds we have ordered specially. (£5 would normally get you 2 packets of seeds at most, but THIS WAY, you can choose from over 40 varieties of vegetable and flower seeds and take just what you need of each.)**
- 2. Bring saved seeds from your garden or unwanted packets of seeds and swap or share them with others on the swap table. Just make a donation if you leave with more than you came with!**
- 3. Bring nothing with you but pick up some seed from the swap table in return for a small donation.**
- 4. Just come and eat cake, drink tea and have a natter!**

**New for 2024 - Payment by cash or card!
We'd love to see you there.**

Ide Growers

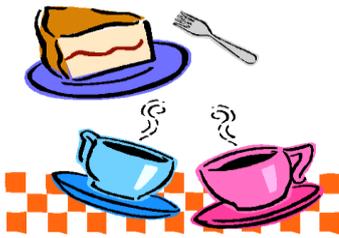


IDE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
What's happening this month?

Sunday Services are held at 11am each week. Our speakers this month are:

February 2024	11am
4th	Sir Roy Sambles
11th	Ruth Endacott
18th	Maurice Hockridge
25th	Michael Trigg

Other activities



On Thursday 1st February from 10am – 12pm we will be holding our usual Coffee Morning.

If you've never joined us before, do come along to our Coffee Morning on Thursday 1st February. It runs from 10am - 12pm, so just pop in any time.

We provide free teas, coffees and cakes with a lot of friendly chatter. Everyone welcome.



Thursday 15th February at 7pm – it's time for Coffee Chat and Challenge

On Thursday 15th February at 7pm we will be meeting together for Coffee, Chat and Challenge. A time for discussion and reflection relating to the Christian faith.

Everyone welcome, and there's always food!

FILM NIGHT.
Dunchideock Village Hall
Friday, February 16th
7:45 PM.

The Great Escaper

“Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson exude ineffable class.” Says the *Mail*. These two British icons bring a huge amount of joy to this true story about Bernard Jordan, an 89-year-old WWII Navy veteran who escaped from his care home, with the encouragement of his wife, Rene (Jackson), to get to the 70th anniversary of D-Day in France.

“Caine is brilliant.” Says the *Telegraph*. “And Glenda Jackson is utterly transfixing, a force of nature, in this, the last of her films.” The film has earned a good 80% from *Rotten Tomatoes* and 7/10 from *IM DB*. We found it touching, funny, and hugely enjoyable.

Peter Goodchild

Ide Congregational Church - Services with a Difference!

Memorial Service - Sunday December 17th 2023.



Family and friends we have lost are always in our hearts and minds, but the purpose of this service was to bring memories of them, for a short while, to the forefront. For some people their loss was recent, whilst for others, it was many years ago. A very poignant part in the service was when everyone was invited to hang a lantern with a personal message attached to it, onto a Christmas tree – creating a beautiful Memorial Tree. There were also cheerful parts in the service when happy and humorous memories of loved ones were shared and their favourite songs and hymns were sung and favourite poems and readings were read. It was a lovely service, with some very welcome new faces and, most importantly, there was a common thread binding everyone in the church that morning together - the sadness of losing loved ones and the joy of remembering them.

Candlelit Carol Service – Sunday December 24th 2023.



This was a traditional service, with the story of The Nativity being told through the traditional readings and carols – but with a twist! How many other churches can 'boast' of a visit by 'The Seven Disney Shepherds' to their Carol Service? Do you recognise any of them?

Keep an eye on the Ide Times for future services!

SAINT IDA'S CHURCH



Sunday, 4 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday, 11 th February	9.30am	Morning Praise
Ash Wednesday, 14th February	7.30pm	Service at Alphington Church
Sunday, 18 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday, 25 th February	8am	Holy Communion

Christmas now seems a long time ago but as usual the church was packed for the Christingle Service. Our thanks go to those who kindly made the Christingle oranges and generally helped to make the Service such a success. It was also good to see so many at the Midnight Service. Thank you Vron for taking it and Colin for playing the organ for us. By the way, we still have a faux fur jacket and a grey scarf which were left behind in church after the Christingle Service.

David Garnsworthy - It is with sadness that we report the death of David Garnsworthy, aged 97. He died peacefully in hospital on the 11th January. His Memorial Service will be on Saturday, 17th February, 3.30pm, in Ide Church. He had attended Ide Church for most of his life and for a number of years was our Churchwarden. He and Peter Tucker designed and built our extremely useful kitchen area. Ide Church has benefited greatly from David's hard work and dedication. You will find a tribute to him on the next two pages.

A date for your diaries - Wednesday 27 March at 7 p.m. 'The Cross of Christ' - an evening of music and readings for Holy Week with The Summerland Singers – will take place in Ide Church.

Prayers for Peace - On Saturday 3rd February, Shillingford St George Church will be open from 11am until 12 noon for people to drop in to pray and light a candle for all the areas of the world in which there is war and conflict. This is not a formal act of worship and we welcome anyone from our connected parishes (and others) to join with us on this occasion. We have already held "Prayers for Peace" in Alphington Church at the beginning of January. Delia Law & Eira Rowe

Mothers' Union – We will meet on Wednesday, 21st February, 2.30pm, at 1 Cobbe House. We hope you are keeping warm in this cold weather and that by the 21st February we will be enjoying the early daffodils and looking forward to Spring.

Baptisms, Weddings, etc. - for enquiries about these please contact christenings@alphingtonstmichaels.org or weddings@alphingtonstmichaels.org
Or ring the Revd Mike Partridge on 01392 491476.

DAVID GARNSWORTHY – Founder of the Ide Times
14th February 1926 – 11th January 2024
Memorial Service in Ide Church, 17th February, 3.30pm

We are sorry to report the death of David Garnsworthy whose idea it was to have a village magazine, the Ide Times. In 1975 he contacted the 14 village organisations asking for their help and opinion. A representative from each agreed to submit an article each month – there were scouts, cubs, and WI in those days. The cover would be for advertisements so that the Ide Times could be delivered free of charge to every house in the village. The first issue was distributed on the 1st December 1975. Those early issues had to be typed on Roneo skins, run off by hand and the resulting pages folded and stapled. David admitted that the first copy was a nightmare to produce. Of course, with the advent of the photocopier and the computer the production of the Ide Times has become simpler and the finished product is in colour, with pictures, a great improvement on those first copies.

David was born at Drakes Farm in February 1926, where his father ran the farm. They had a milking herd of cows, some pigs and chickens. The fields belonging to the farm were at the other end of the Colledge, which meant that the cows had to be taken across the road and through the ford twice daily. If the pigs had to be taken to the fields, they walked along the footpath in front of the cottages. Ide was a very different place in those days, with virtually no traffic, but with several shops.

The milk from the cows was delivered around the village by a milk float, which was a three wheeled trolley. Churns were kept in the dairy to cool. Cream was made once a week and people brought their glass dishes over on Saturday morning and the cream was ladled into them and a charge made.

David's Father had the only lorry in the neighbourhood and was the first motorized vehicle in Ide. As well as the mixed farm he also delivered coal in the village and local areas. (David is the curly head in the lorry)



Sadly, David's father died when David was only 6 and the family moved to Little Briars along Crabb Lane, where in due course David ran Little Briars Nurseries. His Mother and Miss Stockman, David's aunt, also lived with them. David attended Ide School and then went on to Heles. He was in the Home Guard and then enlisted and went to Palestine on peace keeping manoeuvres and has always enjoyed his holidays that had sandy beaches. In 1948, David married Doreen, who was a trained nurse and they had two children Verity and Philip.

The family always worshipped at Ide Church, and over 30 years David was one of the Churchwardens as well as singing in the choir. He organized Church Fetes, Carol Services, Lent Lunches and many more events.

Cont...s

David was happy being involved in a lot of things in Ide, he started the first Theatre Group which put on plays and later was involved with the Ide Pantomimes which were very popular and probably remembered by some who are still in the village today.

David and Doreen also started the Gardening Club in Ide which flourished for many years. The monthly meetings had speakers and various coach outings were organized to gardens in the West Country. The highlight of the year was the Show, which, thanks to Ide Growers continues today and includes the Little Briars Cup donated by them. They were on the Ide Parish Council and were still greatly involved in Ide when David retired from the Nursery and they moved to Exminster. However, Ide was always David's village and he came back whenever he could, attending the services at Ide as well as Exminster. He continued his work by starting a Gardening Club and a History Club at Exminster and was involved in several others. Their love of singing continued in the Choral Society.

He liked celebrations and big birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc., were always celebrated with a party and speeches. He was very proud of his family and his family name. He travelled to Australia following his Golden Wedding Anniversary and met relations who were born there as a Garnsworthy voyaged on the high sea and decided to stay in the early 1800s and had 8 boys so the Garnsworthy Clan was quite prolific there. He had researched his family tree and found all these distant relations. They held a big party for David and Doreen, in the tradition that he himself would have done. Some have been over to visit and stayed with him.

David and Doreen went with Peter and Margaret Tucker to Herzfeld in Germany where they found a lot of connection between St. Ida in Herzfeld and St. Boniface of Crediton from when St. Boniface travelled.

David wrote a book on St. Ida's Church, Ide. and other neighbouring parishes as well as another on Ide Village Life. He wrote one on his life and several poems. He continued working in his big garden as if he hadn't retired.



In latter years he became frailer but his mind was still very alert. He was very keen to keep up to date with all the news of Ide and Exminster and anything that was happening in the world at large. He needed carers as he was less able to do for himself but still managed to be wheeled down to the church at Exminster every Sunday.

He was last in Ide for the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial where he proudly wore his own medals and his father's medals. He then enjoyed a catch up in the hall with some of the Ideites.

IDE COMMUNITY ORCHARD

By the time you read this, we may be a couple of days away from our **Wassail. It's Sunday February 4th** at 5pm. It's just at the time when the sun is going down and the moon is coming up, and if it's half as good as last year, we'll have a fab time. Bring saucepans etc to make a noise, lanterns and torches so you can see where you are going and if you fancy dressing up, then all the better! We'll have some refreshments on offer too.



Since the last Ide Times we've had a Working Party which revealed two more apple trees and dressed our chosen tree for our Christmas lights switch on. That event took place on December 2nd and thank you to everyone who came along. A big shout out to Lily Ballard and Frazer Kerlake who sang and played so beautifully, Elizabeth Butland for her poetry reading and Amelie, Joseph and Isobelle Venables for their switch on fingers and excellent poems! It was a special evening.

Sadly the recent storms blew down a couple of trees but hey ho. Such is life in an Orchard.

Look out for more events and working parties over the year.

Finally a word of thanks to the Cloke family for their generous donation to Community Orchard funds. The money will be used on a long term project that we hope will honour Peter's memory.



JUBILEE CLUB

Welcome to 2024. After all that wind and rain what a joy to see some sunshine - I know it's been cold, but folk of a certain age group have memories of 1947 and 1963 when the cold just lasted for a very long time.

Since I last wrote we have had our Christmas Bingo, and on December 11th our Christmas party. As ever what a joy to have the Ide Schoolchildren come into the hall, with smiling faces ready to entertain with such enthusiasm. We had Hosanna Rock, Little Donkey on a Dusty Road, then we travelled from the East following the star, to name a few. Thank you Sue, the school staff and those children for the pleasure you bring. We then challenged the members to guess the Pantomime we helpers were miming!! Tea, cake and sherry followed. On January 8th it was time to meet up again, this time for chat and a fun quiz. It's with sadness I report the passing away of one of our helpers Liz Clayton, she will be missed.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, and to help with transport, men or ladies especially anyone living alone.

DIARY DATES

February 5th	Let me Entertain you. Brenda Loosemore
February 19th	Gentle Fun Seated Exercise .Stephanie Hall.
March 4th	Music for Mothering Sunday Ide Schoolchildren
March 18th	Return of Favourite Florist and Gardener Tina Young

Jean Hoskin



IDE MEMORIAL HALL

The swing doors at the entrance to the hall have now been 'eased' so shouldn't need such an effort to open them. Also, the new mat in the lobby is now in place, ready for all those wet feet!

To book the hall for an event please contact Carol on 01392 213608. The cost is £8 per hour, £10 per hour after 6pm, and a flat £25 for a children's party.

Brenda Spivey

TABLE TOP SALE
In Ide Memorial Hall
Saturday, 2nd March
10.30am until 3.30pm

Refreshments & Raffle

Come and browse – Have a go on the raffle – Have some refreshments – Find a bargain!

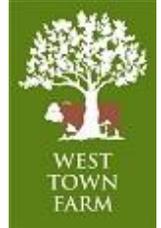


If you would like a table they will be £7.50 to cover costs of hall hire, please contact John on 07879275819.

(In aid of Wonford Inn Community Pub)

WEST TOWN FARM NEWS

Local, Organic, Sustainable



Happy new Year! 2024 is already becoming a year of change for us on the farm. Firstly Andy is stepping back from farming. He has loved and tended to the land and the animals for many years. But the time has come for him to pop on his slippers and take life in the slow lane. I know parts of retiring from farming will be hard for Andy and we all wish him so much happiness for the future. He will very much still be the heart of the farm and involved in everything we do. Stepping into Andy's shoes is our very own Kate. This is such an exciting time for her. Kate's going to keep sheep, pigs and the original west town farm cattle. It's quite a daunting prospect for Kate. What started out as a hobby flock has turned into a full farm. She is going to be amazing at it!



I have returned after my year 'off'. What a year it's been. Turns out having two children is in fact definitely harder than I imagined. Coming back to work is filled with lots of different emotions but ultimately I am so happy to be back on the farm. Lisa, who has been my maternity cover, has run a tight ship, made the yard look the best it ever has and inspired us to refresh areas of the farm. Thank you for all your hard work and patience.

We've welcomed our first calf of the year. Both mumma and baby have been lucky to spend time out in the fields due to the dryer weather and lots of sunshine. We have also welcomed a new flock of sheep to the farm. They're Devon close wools, which are a rare breed from Exmoor. Close wools are a hardy breed that thrive on a pasture fed diet.

Please note with the increase of sheep on the farm we kindly remind everyone to keep dogs on a lead and clear up your dog mess on all permissive pathways.

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