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## Putford Parish Council

Mrs L. Drake (Chair) , Mrs M. Lewis, Mr A. Bewes (Vice), Mr M. Cornish, Mr P. Bond, Mr D. Pomeroy, Mr N. Moulder, Mr J. Wooldridge, Mr M. Thomas, Mrs P. Green, Mr J. Jessell.

Parish Clerk Sue Squire 01598 710526 or  
sue@suesquire.com

**Please come along to a  
Big Breakfast  
in aid of the Putford Church renovation project.**

**Saturday 11th March**

**9.30am - 12.30**

**Bradworthy Memorial Hall**

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**To book, ring Lesley on  
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**Please note:  
the date has changed from that originally advertised**

## St Stephens Church Services

Feb 5th	11.30am	Morning Prayer
Feb 19th	11.30am	Sung Eucharist
Feb 26th	4.30pm	Evensong
March 5th	11.30am	Sung Eucharist
March 19th	11.30am	Sung Eucharist
March 26th	4.30pm	Evensong

Morning services are also held at Abbots Bickington on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and Bulkworthy on the 4th Sunday (all at 11.30am).

## Dartmoor Autumn Challenge

In recognition of our fundraising achievements over the past 4 years in aid of Devon Air Ambulance we have been awarded £200 by the Dartmoor Autumn Challenge organisers, Okehampton Rotary, to donate to our chosen charity. We have been in contact with Clovelly RNLI and we are looking forward to presenting this cheque to the helmsman and crew. We will be competing in our 5th Dartmoor Challenge in September (more details to follow) and will be aiming to raise even more funds this year.

## Exmoor Startrek 2017

We will soon be taking part in the Exmoor 25th Anniversary Startrek which is in aid of The North Devon Children's Hospice and The Devon Air Ambulance. This year it is overnight the weekend of 4th & 5th March and will be our 7th consecutive year of competing. Our start point won't be revealed until a week beforehand and our 18 mile route using map coordinates and clues will be given to us on the night and will undoubtedly test our orienteering skills to the limit!!!! We have been in training since Christmas and have enjoyed several coastal and inland walks as well as jaunts to our local pubs (Bradworthy Inn, The Bell, The Coach & Horses).

We would sincerely like to thank everyone who has sponsored us and helped us raise funds for these worthwhile charities. We are still fundraising - so if you would like to sponsor us for either of these events then please get in contact with one of us. *Marg Atkin, Lisa Cornish, Carolyn Smith, Joanna & Ali Moulder.*

West Putford will have 2 runners in this year's London Marathon (April 23rd).

Lesley Taylor is seeking sponsorship on behalf of the North Devon Healthcare Trust CREADO project.

Payments can be made at [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) ( search for 'Lesley Taylor').

Donations to Andree Carter's chosen charity, VICTA, can be made through <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/andree-carter>.

Both ladies will of course be happy to accept sponsorship by cheque or cash too!

**Our warmest thanks as always to all contributors, sponsors and advertisers.**

**Contacts Treasurer:- Rosemary 241409 Distribution:- Jackie 240321  
or email Chris at [putfordpost@btinternet.com](mailto:putfordpost@btinternet.com)**



## What's on

### Holsworthy

Wednesday 8th February 7.30pm. Reading date for the forthcoming HATS comedy "Boeing Boeing". Budding actors are invited to contact Eve (01409 220 293) or Kay (07814 237 243) for more information on getting involved!

### Woolsery

"Aladdin", February 9th, 10th and 11th, 7.30pm at the village hall. Tickets £6 adults, £3 children, from Jill D'eath on 01237 431234 (17 Manor Park Woolsery)

### Chilsworthy Village Hall

Valentine's Dance with The Texans on Saturday, 11 February. This is a bring and share supper with tea and coffee and, of course, our licensed bar. Doors open at 8.00 p.m. and dancing will continue until midnight. Entrance £6.00 per person.

Soup & Sweet lunch will be on Thursday, 16 March.

From "A Short Account of some of the changes which have taken place in the parishes of East & West Putford over the last 60 years (W.G.Walter 1985)

In the Nineteen Twenties and Thirties, Putford Bridge was a busy place, with a grocery and tobacco shop Smithy, Post Office, Bus depot and Carpenters Shop, with the recent closing of the Post Office, all these amenities have now ended.

Mr Harold Lewis as a side line also did a lot of boot & shoe repairing at which he was expert as at most other jobs to which he put his hand.

The old smithy (now silent for two decades) was also a noted meeting place in the evenings for local farmers and farm workers, when local & national problems were discussed at great length.

When the Skittle Alley was opened in the late Twenties, the Smithy became less popular as a meeting place.

One of the main social events in Putford in the Twenties and Thirties was the garden fete held at Churston Manor as it was then known, by permission of the late Mr & Mrs P. J. Walter, this event always took place in late June or early July and was in aid of Church funds.

Various entertainments were provided including horse sports, clay pigeon shooting, skittles and a large number of stalls, ending usually with a dance in the evening.

*Please note, this is the final extract. We hope you have enjoyed reading about Putford in times gone by.*

Lin Cooksley

**Bradworthy History Society** held their AGM on Thursday 12th January 2017. End of year reports showed an increase in the amount of new material acquired or deposited on loan, together with requests and visits from family researchers both here and abroad. Financial reports and the year ahead were discussed, dates agreed for Open Mornings.

Visitors are welcome to look through material held in the archives on Wednesday mornings (10 am-12 noon) and at other times by appointment. E: bradworthyhistory@hotmail.com T: Daphne 01409 241202 or Lin 01409 240098.

An end of year balance sheet will be displayed on Bradworthy Parish Notice Board from Friday 10th February until the end of March and our first Open Morning this year is in the Collacott Room, Bradworthy Hall on Saturday 25th March from 11 am to 12.30 pm.

Refreshments will be available and we look forward to seeing you.

*Daphne, Sarah, Margaret, Jackie and Lin.*

## Recent Planning Applications and Determinations— December 2016 to January 2017

**Ref. No: 1/1075/2016 FUL** Porch over front of park house. 1 Powlers Piece Park Putford, Holsworthy, EX22 7FH. Received 21 October 2016 and Validated 16 January 2017.

Status: Application being considered.

*John Light*

### JULIANS FARM EDUCATIONAL ACCESS—JANUARY 2017

Welcome to your first report on what's happening down on Julians Farm. We wanted to let you know all about what we have been doing here over the last few years and we plan to keep you regularly updated from now on.

We have just gone into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our Higher Level Stewardship agreement and its going really well. We have had a lot of scrub clearance to do, fencing, drinking bays and bird boxes. We have been very lucky to get the Natural England Educational Access Clause, which means we can offer Bradworthy Primary Academy 25 visits per year, which they have been taking. We cover all sorts of topics from Habitats, to Trees and Hedgerows, Rivers to Minibeast hunts and lots of other things in between. The children love coming out and it's great to see them learning so much about the natural environment and their local surrounding areas.

Last year we also started a Care Farming project with students from Holsworthy Community College. This started out being a 6 week course, one morning visit per week. This quickly changed to become a 24 week course, each group of students doing 6 weeks. We have been privileged to get Penbode and Harpers on board, who come out to talk to the students about animal health, feeding rations and growth weights. Mole Valley Farmers have donated a supply of overalls, wellies, gloves etc and Kivells let us visit the market in Holsworthy and allow the students into the rostrum whilst the store cattle are being sold. This year, we are welcoming Okehampton College onto a Care Farming project too.

We have also been holding Survival Days, which are great fun. We teach the children all about fire, water, shelters; get them eating meal worm omelettes and locust and end the day with team building games.

We would love you to visit our website, [www.juliansfarm.com](http://www.juliansfarm.com), which we keep updated and we also have a Facebook page too, Julians Farm Educational Access. It would be lovely for more local people to "Like" us. Lastly, if anyone has any spare wellies, overalls, gardening tools or anything you think may be of help to the students, then all extras would be gratefully received.

Thanks for reading!

*Andrew and Jenni Guy*

### KNIT & NATTER FOR NORTH DEVON HOSPICE

Knit and Natter is a fun, sociable event open to anyone, whether experienced or complete beginners. It is a great way for those who are keen on learning to knit for the first time, or for those who are old hands at knitting. To get involved, simply get together with friends, family or colleagues any time throughout February or March to hold your very own Knit & Natter. This is a two-hour sponsored knit, where you raise sponsorship or collect donations for your efforts. All proceeds go to North Devon Hospice and help us to provide our essential care to local patients and families in your area.

For your Knit & Natter event we will send you patterns to knit blanket squares, chicks or bunnies (to use as Easter egg holders), or Twiddlemuffs. A Twiddlemuff is a double thickness hand muff with bits and bobs attached inside and out. It is designed to provide a stimulation activity for restless hands for patients suffering from dementia. All knitting you produce will be used at the hospice or distributed to other charities.

This is a great way to get together and raise funds for your local hospice. For more information and to register, please contact the Fundraising Team on 01271 347232 .

### Reporting Internet Crime.

Advice received from the Police & Crime Commissioner (through the Parish Council).

The best way to do this is via Action Fraud via [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or 0300 123 2040.

This is a function operated on behalf of all police forces by the City of London Police. To be clear though, given the enormous number of reports they receive, generally Action Fraud will only record and log the matter for intelligence collation purposes. In some cases, Action Fraud will pass the matter back to the local police force to consider investigating further if there is a viable investigation trail and likelihood of successful outcome.

In terms of vandalism which is essentially criminal damage, this should be reported to the police through 101. There are a number of exceptions for example vandalism to railway station which should be reported to the British Transport Police via 0800 40 50 40. Also, graffiti is generally best reported to the local council, (TDC).

Phone 999 if life is threatened, if people are injured, if there is a fire, if offenders are nearby, if immediate action is required to save lives, stop injury or catch criminals

#### **Crime report no CR/007148/17**

Working farm dog (medium size male collie, very friendly) missing from Virginstow on 26th January. If seen, please contact the police or owners on 01409 211547 / 07870 418687.

#### **Tennis**

The Woolsery Tennis Club will holding their AGM at 7pm on 8th February at Woolsery Hall to elect a new Committee. All welcome.

We will be aiming as usual to have two outdoor courts ready for this years summer season from April to September. Membership and club details will appear soon on the Putford website.

### **Devon County Council**

Elections for County Councillors will be held this year and the last date for nominations will be 4th April. Please see [www.devon.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy) for more details.

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## NOTES OF WEST & EAST PUTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6/12/16.

- § A talk was to have been given on behalf of Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service but this had been cancelled at the last minute.
- § A representative from Natural England and Devon Wildlife Trust were present who gave a talk following a site visit to Common Moor. The survey which had been carried out over 2 days showed that the site was unfavourably declining and future management was discussed at length with many questions being asked by Councillors.
- § No public participation as no members of the public were present.
- § No letters requesting co-option to the Parish Council had been received and the one vacant seat on the Parish Council remains.
- § Apologies were received from Councillors P Bond and Mrs M Lewis, also PCSO R Rowe.
- § Councillors Mrs Drake, Cornish and Moulder declared a Prejudicial Interest in the Common Moor item.
- § The Minutes of the meeting held on 18/10/16 were approved and signed as a correct record.
- § Police Report. PCSO Rowe hoped to follow up initial interest by a parishioner in connection with Farm Watch. A report giving incidents at Thornbury, Chasty and Milton Damerel was given.
- § Parish Plan. A report was deferred until the Spring.
- § Roads in the Parish were discussed. Councillors were pleased that some works had been carried out.
- § Parish Council Website. The application for funding had been successful and the sum of £350 had been awarded. This would be allocated with £60 towards the website fees and the remainder for the purchase of a laptop which could be used by parishioners if their computer had broken down or to learn how to use a computer if a household did not have one. A rental agreement would be drawn up by Councillor Thomas.
- § The West Putford notice board had been relocated.
- § Common Moor was again discussed after those who had been present earlier had left the meeting and a further in depth discussion took place. It was proposed to reply that the Parish Council are in agreement with Natural England's suggestion of burning and swaying Common Moor with Devon Wildlife Trust involved, with a caveat of forming a committee of interested parties, commoners and Councillors. Natural England would need to inform the commoners of this. Councillors would like the Devon Wildlife Trust to manage it rather than appoint an agent, and the management details to be clarified. This was agreed with the exception of those who had declared a Prejudicial Interest.
- § The Council's representations had been submitted in connection with the Local Government Boundary Commission.
- § The Council's representations had been submitted in connection with the North Devon & Torrington Local Plan.
- § The Council's representations had been submitted in connection with the 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement.
- § A reply had been sent to TDC regarding the rough sleeper register.
- § A comprehensive reply to the enquiry regarding internet crime had been received from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- § There were no planning applications to consider.
- § There was no planning correspondence to consider.
- § Finance. Balances were tabled and payments authorised.
- § Various items in connection with the Lloyds Bank Account were advised (text alerts, internet banking on a view only basis, additional signatories to the account and key account party).
- § Confirmation had been received that new signatories had been added to the National Savings and Investment Account.
- § The 2017/18 Budget was agreed as was the Precept which was set at £2,500.00, an increase of £400. This was on the grounds that the Parish Council has to be more resilient and will need to take on tasks which had in the past been carried out by DCC, whose budget had been cut over the years.
- § Details of a Heritage Festival in May 2017 were given and a request for a donation. The Parish Council agreed for a donation of £200 to be made.
- § Meeting dates for 2017 were agreed as follows: 21 February; 18 April; 16 May; 10 July; 29 September; 21 November.

## [www.putford.co.uk](http://www.putford.co.uk)

The Putford Post was started in about 1999. At first it was just 4 pages with a "staff" of 2 (Gerry Welland and Richard Atkin who did the printing himself). It grew over the years and at its peak there were enough contributors to expand to 12 pages. At the same time a management committee of 6 was put in place; Bulkworthy and Abbots Bickington were included in the distribution area; advertisers increased to the current 25 businesses; and we were able to engage a printing company. The success of the publication enabled us to make a £60 donation to the Colscott defibrillator and £500 to the church war memorial renovation project. These donations were made possible by keeping overheads to a minimum - our only cost apart from printing has been £68 in expenses, spread over 17 years, so it is immediately clear that volunteers have not only donated their time but they have rarely claimed for fuel, stationery or postage/phone costs. And we of course have never made a charge for the newsletter. We received £250 from the TDC councillor fund 8 years ago but apart from that all of our income has come from our advertisers.

The expansion has not however been an unqualified success as the more involved production process has led to many complaints about the late arrival of the newsletter. In addition there has been an environmental impact from both the printing and travel costs involved with distribution.

Times have changed since the Post began. Putford no longer has a school, chapel, W.I., youth club or cricket team. Bulkworthy parish council has gone. The shortage of local organisations, combined with the inflexibility of a bi-monthly publication schedule, means that parishioners will be better served by the renewed parish website which will be able to respond to any news in hours rather than months. The new website ([www.putford.co.uk](http://www.putford.co.uk)) is being run by Myles Thomas with support from the committee, and as it is now nearly complete we have decided that this will be the last printed Putford Post which will be delivered to your door.

We would hesitate to try and list everyone who has been involved over so many years but must especially **thank our distributors**, some of whom have been walking their rounds making door to door deliveries for 17 years. Also the **advertisers**, particularly Hemmings, Bridgmans and Harpers who have been with us many years. And particular thanks are due to **contributors** (both past and present), without their articles we would have had no Putford Post.

A couple of years ago we asked readers if the Post should be an internet-only publication and, although there were not many responses, we continued to print it because there were a few parishioners who do not use the internet. Can we suggest please that they make themselves known to Myles Thomas or any other parish council member (or one of us) so that we can be sure they are not "excluded", and so they can be kept informed individually of anything which interests them. If necessary we will print copies of updated information which will be left at a few collection points and on notice boards.

Although Lorraine has resigned from the committee she asked that we should thank the advertisers for their loyalty and let them know how much she enjoyed her contact with them. We too would like to express our appreciation to all who have been involved over the years, and we look forward to the new era.

*Chris, Richard, Jackie, Rosemary, Lesley & Myles*