



Credition Town Council

Newsletter

January - March 2018

New Year Message from the Mayor

As readers will see from the other articles featured, the last few months of 2017 have been packed with activities which have drawn on the enthusiasm of Kirtonians for their town. Many community groups have contributed to a host of events topped by Christmas in Credition.

We know that the Office Building is a sword of Damocles above our head, but whatever happens the staff and your councillors will do their best to serve you. On that note, I wish you all a Happy New Year and a peaceful and enjoyable 2018.

Councillor Frank Letch, Mayor and Chairman of Credition Town Council



Christmas in Credition



This year's Christmas in Credition was an amazing demonstration of the huge amount of home-grown talent that we have within our Town. All the entertainment was provided by local residents and didn't they do us proud! It was a truly FABULOUS event with a magical atmosphere. We hope you enjoyed the whole event just as much as we did.

Of course, any event such as this takes a lot of planning, preparation, support and funding and so we would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to our sponsors and everyone that helped make it happen. We have lots of photos, a few videos and a long list of 'thank yous' that can be found at www.credition.gov.uk/christmas-in-credition.

Believe it or not preparations for next year's event start in January 2018! If you would like to be involved in the planning and preparation of Christmas in Credition 2018, please contact Clare at townclerk@credition.gov.uk or phone 01363 773717.

Photos courtesy of Alan Quick, from the Credition Courier.

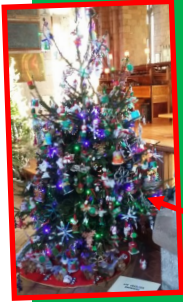


Christmas Tree Festival

Once again, a festive display of Christmas Trees were on show in Crediton Parish Church, for residents and visitors to enjoy in the lead up to Christmas.

Local groups decorated their trees in various themes, with a total of 76 trees filling the church to create a wonderful illuminated display.

Congratulations to Daphne's Lace Group & the 4th Crediton Brownies for being voted adult and children's favourites, respectively.



We would like to thank everyone who attended the Remembrance Sunday Service & Parade

Two new arrivals for the Town Council Team

Two new faces have joined the Council. The first is Kay Piercy who was co-opted to the Council for Boniface Ward in November. Kay has lived in Crediton for 17 years and during this time has been involved in numerous community projects, which the Town Council soon took advantage of following her co-option. Kay said "I'm really pleased to have been co-opted onto the Town Council. I have already been put to work.



My first job for the Town Council was marshalling traffic in North Street during the switching on of the Christmas lights, it was great to see so many happy people braving the cold weather and having fun."

Our second addition follows the retirement of Sandie Blake in December. The Town Council has recruited a new Administrative Assistant, Mrs Emily Armitage. Part of Emily's duties will be to staff the reception area at the Council Offices, so she will soon become a familiar face to you all.



Your Views!

"I have recently moved to Crediton and want to tell you how impressed I am with your website. Also please pass on thanks to all who made last night's Christmas switch on such an enjoyable experience!"

Crediton Town Council has an excellent record in working with local partner organisations ... to deliver events that create a sense of wellbeing and community. It is a fine example of local democracy at community level.

Once again, Mid Devon District Council is doing the dirty on Crediton. Not content with removing its presence in town completely, it is now selling our Council office building in the Square.

Council Office Building update

It's fair to say that when it comes to the Council Office building things are not going exactly according to plan. The Town Council had hoped that by now it would be the proud owner of the building, maximising its use for the benefit of the whole community. Mid Devon District Council seem to have other ideas, which you are probably aware of from the recent articles in the Crediton Courier and the very prominent For Sale board, which has been fixed to the building. So, what happens now? Well, the Town Council is still making every effort to secure the long term future of the building as an essential community asset. Talks with Mid Devon District Council are still ongoing and it is hoped that common sense will prevail, with the District Council realising that the benefits of selling the building to the Town Council, so it can enable the delivery of essential community services, far outweighs a commercial sale.

If you support the Town Council in its efforts please consider acting on the advice of Crediton resident, Jo Ward who said 'I urge all my friends to write to every MDDC member, and our MP, and the chief Executive of MDDC, to try and save this beautiful building and its services in our lovely Town Square.'



Community Outreach Project by Community Transport, one of the many users of the building

Health & Well-being

You may have heard we will be holding a Health & Well-Being Open Day on Wednesday, 25th April 2018, in the Boniface Centre. We will be showcasing the excellent range of health and well-being services available to those living in and around Crediton. We have invited a range of exhibitors and we are expecting representatives from the NHS, care homes, social care, occupational therapists, voluntary groups and organisations. If you come along, you will have the opportunity to meet the experts and volunteers that are committed to helping people improve their health and well-being.



You can pop in at any time from 10.30 am. At 7.00 pm our guest speaker, Dr David Jenner, will round off the day with a presentation explaining what current NHS policy means for the people of Crediton.

Neighbourhood Plan

Our plan is progressing alongside the district council Local Plan. The district expects to submit its plan early in 2018 when legal checks have been completed. At that point, we will be in a position to present the Crediton Neighbourhood Plan for local consultation. It will sit underneath district plans and policies. However, it will contain more detail relevant to the circumstances of our own town. For example, it will include policies to promote sustainable transport: buses, trains, cycle routes and footpaths. We are fortunate in having a station connecting to the main line – an advantage that many towns of our size do not have. We know from surveys that residents support rail use and enhancement. We also know that people are strongly supportive of the town centre and policies in the plan aim to make it an attractive local destination that will help the town to thrive in the future.

Changes at Peoples Park



You may notice a few new additions up at Peoples Park in the New Year. The Trefoil Guild has recently planted a Trefoil Rose in the Scout & Guide Memorial Garden to mark 75 years of Trefoil Guilds.

Two new trees will also be planted soon - a Lucombe Oak and Beech tree. The Beech tree was awarded to the Town Council as part of the Woodland Trust's Tree Charter. For more information visit <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/tree-charter/>.



In addition, a memorial bench will soon be installed along the top path by R J Brooks & Son, who have kindly done this free of charge. The bench was produced for the loving family of Nanette McClelland who miss her dearly. Nanette visited this spot often and would sit, reflect and enjoy the view across the Town and would be happy that others will now get to do the same in her memory.

Silver Gilt for Crediton Town

On 31st October, 14 voluntary groups were invited to the Council Chamber to receive their It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) Certificates. RHS judge, Lynette Talbot, presented the awards alongside Cllr Szabo. Crediton also entered the Britain in Bloom Pennant Competition for the second year running and was once again awarded the prestigious Silver Gilt Award.



The judges were very impressed with the hard work shown within Crediton and encouraged everyone to continue to help improve the Town. The Three Little Pigs was also awarded third place in the Best Public House in the South West category!

Blooming all year round

Have you noticed the flourishing flower towers on the Square?

These are planted all year round so the Square looks vibrant not only in the Summer but through the Autumn and Winter too!



A huge thank you to Bert and Margaret Jewell for doing a fabulous job.



2018-2019 Budget & Precept

It's that time of year when the Town Council deliberates its budget, and thus the precept, for the next financial year. This process has been made somewhat easier by the Town Council adopting a Strategic Plan. It is always difficult balancing a budget that meets the needs of the community and keeps a rise in the precept to a minimum. This year has been no exception with the Town Council resolving to increase the precept in 2018-2019 by 11%. This may seem a lot as a percentage, but what does it actually mean? If you live in a Band D property (this is the middle band) this means an extra £9.49 per year or 79p per month.

So why the increase? The Council is still trying to purchase the Council Office building, if successful ongoing running costs are estimated at £20,000. Some will be offset by rent income, however, as the building is used by community organisations this income is minimal as they can't afford commercial rents. If not successful, the additional funds will be needed for alternative accommodation.

The costs to maintain the public toilets has increased significantly and the Town Council is now purchasing Newcombes Meadow toilets from the District Council in order to take control of the rising costs and the hope of improving them over time. The Town Council wishes to also continue to support local groups and organisations in the Town that make a significant contribution to the health and well-being of our Town. The number of applications for grant funding has increased significantly and so the Council has increased its grant budget by a further £5,000 to £25,000. For further information on the Town Council's Strategic Plan and budget, please visit www.crediton.gov.uk.

Dates for your diary

January

6th & 20th **Farmers Market** Crediton Town Square
16th **Crediton Town Council** meeting 7.00 pm
Council Chamber, Market Street

February

3rd & 17th **Farmers Market** Crediton Town Square
20th **Crediton Town Council** meeting 7.00 pm

March

3rd & 17th **Farmers Market** Crediton Town Square
5th **Annual Town Meeting** 7.00 pm Boniface Centre,
Church Lane
20th **Crediton Town Council** meeting 7.00 pm
Council Chamber, Market Street

Visit <http://www.crediton.gov.uk/Contacts> for a list of key services available in the town.

Crediton Town Councillors - Boniface Ward

Frank Letch (Mayor & Chairman)	2 Butt Parks, Crediton, EX17 3HE	01363 775739
Joyce Harris (Deputy Mayor)	5 Charlotte Street, Crediton EX17 3BB	01363 775221
John Downes	Blagdon House, Blagdon, EX17 1EH	01363 774267
Kay Piercy	21 Dean Street, Crediton, EX17 3EN	01363 777531
John Ross	3 Victoria Place, Pounds Hill, EX17 1DS	01363 775146
Nick Way	Westwood House, Westwood, EX17 3PE	01363 777903

Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

Liz Brookes-Hocking	Oliver House, 7 North Street, Crediton, EX17 2BT	01363 774562
Anne Hughes	3 The Old Print Works, Crediton, EX17 3LG	01363 773131
Mike Szabo	9 Alexandra Way, Crediton, EX17 2EA	01363 775255
Jade Walters	Ground Floor Flat 1, 7 Union Road, Crediton, EX17 3AW	01363 774317
Bob Wright	3 Okefield Ridge, Crediton, EX17 2EG	01363 773566
Hannah Zorlu	Hilary, Barnfield, Crediton, EX17 3HY	01363 530037
Clare Dalley (Town Clerk)	Council Offices, Market Street, Crediton, EX17 2BN E-mail: townclerk@crediton.gov.uk	01363 773717

Useful Contacts

Mid Devon District Council	01884 255255	www.middevon.gov.uk
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015	www.devon.gov.uk
Crediton Library	01363 772578	
Crediton Hospital	01363 775588	
Social Services	0845 155 1015	

District & County Councillors

John Downes (District)	01363 774267
Bob Wright (District)	01363 773566
Frank Letch (District)	01363 775739
Nick Way (District & County)	01363 777903

Non-Urgent Police Enquiries/Reports 101
Report a power cut 105



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