

Crediton Town Council – November Update

It's still going to be Christmas!

. . . So we're still going to have Christmas in Crediton! We will be lighting our town as best we can, given the current restrictions. Our main priority is to keep everyone safe, whilst spreading some Christmas joy.

This year, it's a HATTASTIC Christmas in Crediton! Santa has lost his hat. He needs a new one and children are invited to design one for him. The best designs will be judged on 28th November. The closing date is 14th November so you might just have time to join in. Find the details on the Town Council Facebook page.

The winning hats will be displayed along the High Street – look out for Christmas shop windows with a difference, decorated by the scouts, guides and local schools, with a variety of fantastic hats for Santa. He's going to look great!

And there's more . . . December 12th will see two performances of a Russian folk tale, involving large puppets, in the square and live music – all socially distanced, so booking your places is essential. Contact Crediton Arts Centre 01363 773260. Performances will be subject to COVID guidelines at the time. Please keep an eye out for updates.

It's still going to be Christmas and we hope everyone will enjoy the lights, hats, decorations and entertainment just the same and safely.

Commitment to Crediton

Although many civic events did not take place this year, including the Mayor's Reception, the Town Council was proud to arrange a small, socially-distanced presentation to recognise one local man's commitment to the Crediton community.

On Friday, 16th October 2020 the Mayor of Crediton, Cllr Frank Letch presented Crediton man, Martin Daniel, a Crediton Town Council Plate on the Town Square, alongside Deputy Mayor, Cllr Joyce Harris.

Martin was awarded with a town plate to show the Council's recognition for the hard work he has done over the years as a football coach, chairman, treasurer and secretary of Crediton Youth Football Club.

Mr Daniel explained he was accepting the award on behalf of everyone at the club, expressing it is the combined hard work of all involved, players, coaches, managers and committee which make the club a success.

Stay Connected

The arrival of Covid-19 and the subsequent meeting rules has put the town council under some strain. However, all meetings have been "virtual" using Zoom. The public can also join from the comfort of their own homes. Just ring the office for log on details or visit the Town Council website.

Benchmarking Success

The installation over the summer months of twelve tables and benches in a circle around The Square proved a major benefit for local people, enabling families and friends to meet in a properly socially distanced way.

Funded by the Town Council, this initiative came from Crediton's Town Team, the voluntary group that has pioneered numerous local projects, including the colourful flags along the High Street.

In the first weeks of the tables' use, The Rotary Club sanitised them regularly and advised visitors on how to use them safely. The various cafes around The Square assisted in setting out parasols daily. On the weekends the Arts Centre co-ordinated local musicians, groups and other performers to provide an attractive variety of live entertainment. Events included larger-than-life puppets, a grand piano and a performance of show songs by CODS opera and dramatic group.

While the withdrawal of the tables for storage during the winter months will disappoint a number of people, the idea is that the hospitality will be most appreciated during the warmer months, and it would be too much to expect volunteers to keep up their daily maintenance all year round. Keeping the tables clean and sanitised, re-locating them for farmers' markets, and attaching and removing parasols are among the tasks required. (Along the way some minor problems needed attention, such as users moving tables to accommodate larger groups, and the accumulation of litter, including cigarette ends.)

All in all, however, this initiative has succeeded in turning The Square into a much more usable space and a hospitable destination for residents and visitors. The council would like to record its gratitude to all those involved for their help - and brilliant inspiration! Let's look forward to the welcome return of the tables and entertainment in the spring.

CCTV Project Update

Following the update in April 2020, the Town Council's CCTV Project has faced some unexpected hurdles. However, we are pleased to say the project is now back in full swing.

We are currently in the process of obtaining permission from business owners and landlords for the siting of cameras/equipment throughout the town and we are very grateful for the supportive and helpful responses received from many businesses already.

The system will provide coverage of the entire high street as well as the Town Square and the Bandstand in Newcombes Meadow. Finalised quotations will be presented to Council in December, allowing us to submit an application for funding to the Police & Crime Commissioners office.

We understand just how important it is to get this system up and running and we aim to progress through each step of the project as quickly as possible.

The Future of Old Landscore School

The Town Council has now received the Feasibility Study relating to Old Landscore School (OLS). With the information contained in the report, the OLS Sub-Committee can make an informed decision as to the future use of the building and how it can be utilised to the benefit of the community. To keep up to date, visit the Town Council's website for a copy of all Old Landscore School Sub-Committee minutes.

Proudly Planting

The town council has recently taken over the maintenance of the two beds at Norrington House on Exeter Rd from Mid Devon District Council. Two volunteers, Bert Jewell and Eddie Sherwood, are shown preparing the beds for planting. We hope to inject some colour and interest at the entrance to the town.

On the Barnfield allotment site, a community allotment is taking shape with four newly planted fruit trees. The community plot is looking for local people to help out or just come by and visit. For more information contact Katheryn Hope on 01395 446896 or drop her an email: katheryn.hope@westbank.org.uk.

An autumn scene in town with the Virginia Creeper.

Mid Devon District Council has recently advised us that they will no longer be providing the summer and winter bedding within the town. Although disappointing and a large cost to the town, we are excited to plan next years displays!

Crediton Pollinator Project

For Sustainable Crediton, as for many of us, it has been a difficult year owing to the Covid-19 virus disrupting the work and events we usually organise

One project, however, has continued, the Crediton Pollinator Project, part of Sustainable Crediton. This began with permission from Mid Devon District Council to plant vacant land at Belle Parade with plants for pollinators, our bees and butterflies, as their habitat is in decline. The project hopes in different ways to create a pollinator friendly corridor through the town protecting pollinators and enhancing the townscape. Two plots have now been planted with a range of plants and bulbs for a long flowering season and more are in the pipeline. A small wildflower meadow was also created at Tesco in conjunction with other local groups, Turning Tides and Granny's Meadow.

The Town Council was kind enough to support the project through a grant earlier this year enabling more planting to be undertaken in the next year. If you would like to get involved contact info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk.

Planning for the Future

As we approach the end of 2020, it is time for the Council to look ahead to what 2021 and beyond may have in store. Each of our committees will review its current and future projects and these for inclusion within the 2021-2022 budget.

Crediton Town Council is committing itself to projects such as CCTV for the town, something that members and officers would like to deliver as soon as possible. With additional projects to consider, such as the future use of Old Landscore School, MDDC's withdrawal from the town's floral bedding schedule and the Town Square tables, we are faced with the important task of setting a budget that is realistic in meeting the developing needs of the town but is most of all, fair to the community.

This has not been an easy year and it is certainly one that we will all feel the ramifications of for some time to come. Crediton Town Council wishes to represent value for money, with the core values of our community at the heart of what it does.

We are the local authority closest to you, and we want to serve to the best of our ability. For more information on the Town Council finances, please visit our website.

Dates for your Diary

November 17th - Crediton Town Council meeting 7.00 pm

December 5th & 19th - Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square*

December 12th – Russian folk tale and music, Crediton Town Square*

*Event subject to COVID guidelines, please look out for update.

Contact Us

Due to the most recent COVID guidance, the office is closed for appointments. However, office staff will continue to answer calls/respond to emails from Monday to Thursday between 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, so please call or email if you would like to get in touch.

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