

Langtree Parish Magazine



Welcome to the Winter edition of the Langtree Parish Magazine. We wish all of our readers a happy and prosperous New Year.

We would especially like to offer a warm welcome to all newcomers to the Parish and hope that they enjoy our legendary hospitality.

In this issue you will find reports of events leading up to Christmas and attractions forthcoming in 2019. These include memory, on the 100th Anniversary of the ending of WW1, of those who did not return from wars and conflict. Celebration of the completion of the changing rooms to complement our new recreation ground. The erection of a landing light to enable Devon Air Ambulance to service our needs during the hours of darkness.

The magazine is available on our web site, www.langtree.news, for you to read, download or print. However, by popular demand, we are pleased to announce the resumption of magazine delivery to your door. Printed copies of the magazine will still be available to collect in the following places -

- Parish Hall foyer**
- Mobile Post Office**
- Langtree Community School**
- The Green Dragon**
- The Union Inn**

www.langtree.news complements this magazine and our Facebook presence by providing a one-stop shop for up to date information about everything that is going on in Langtree. It is an extension of the parish magazine, with links to other clubs and organizations within the parish, an events calendar and also areas where all parishioners can contribute. It is also the home of an archive of past editions of the magazine. If you haven't already, please take a look and email us with your feedback (good or bad).

We hope that you enjoy reading the magazine. We would very much like to hear your views on it and any suggestions on what you'd like to see in future editions or on the website?

As always we thank the many contributors who have provided articles, advertisements and photographs. Anyone wishing to contribute or advertise in the magazine, or on the website, should please email us at magazine@langtree.net.

Many Thanks - The Magazine Team.

Langtree Rainfall

From Joan Lampard

	2014 (mm)	2015 (mm)	2016 (mm)	2017 (mm)	2018 (mm)
Jan	246	212	211	106	195
Feb	166	84	153	85	62
Mar	63	63	99	118	159
Apr	79	37	49	44	90
May	118	94	57	42	30
Jun	64	60	108	120	8
Jul	44	106	30	93	35
Aug	127	142	65	97	85
Sep	9	101	109	127	91
Oct	113	58	51	72	75
Nov	97	179	141	126	135
Dec	172	163	47	163	189

	MM	Inches
2010	859	34.00
2011	955	38.2
2012	1560	62.40
2013	1089	44
2014	1298	51.1
2015	1299	51
2016	1132	45
2017	1193	47
2018	1154	45.4

www.langtree.news

Next Deadline 8th April 2019 for Spring Edition

Langtree Chapel News

Since I last wrote our new kitchen in the Sunday School has been fitted, the electrician has been and there are just a few finishing touches left to do (painting, tiling etc) before it is complete. You are more than welcome to come in and have a look!

We are continuing to meet on Thursday evenings 7.15pm for a meal followed by Bible study. We will soon be thinking about starting a series for Lent. Please feel free to join us (01805 601350 for further details). We would love to see you.

Sunday School continues with Bible stories, crafts, colouring and games. We usually start in the Church at 11am for the Sunday Service and disappear into the Sunday School after the second hymn.



Our 98 shoeboxes will have been delivered by now and we expect to hear by the end of this month where they have gone.

Our Toy Service gifts went to the Women's refuge in Barnstaple and proceeds from our Carol Service (£235) were donated to the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple (they provide shelter and food for the homeless).

Services for February all starting at 11am:

February 3rd David Ley
February 10th United Service at Parish Church
February 17th Rev Rob Blackhall (Sacrament)
United Service - Parish Church join us
February 24th Roy Harris

Please see the notice board for more details of preachers and services for March and April.

Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;
make music to our God on the harp.
He covers the sky with clouds;
he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.
He provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they call.
His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;
the LORD delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Psalm 147

May God bless you all throughout 2019



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**Please support North Devon Hospice
and Big Breakfast 2019!**

Please come along and support your local Big Breakfast at:

**Langtree Parish Hall
Sunday 24th March 9.00am – 12.15pm**

Delicious Big Breakfast £7.00 donation
all inclusive including fruit, cereal,
tea/coffee, toast and Full English.
Booking preferred– please phone 01805 601602 or
welcome on the day!

You can be sure of a warm welcome so please support our generous Big Breakfast organisers if you can. The money raised through Big Breakfast, which is generously sponsored by Phillip Dennis Foodservice, will help North Devon Hospice care for local people who are suffering from the impact of cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. All hospice services are provided completely free of charge, but it costs over £5 million each year to care in this way.

Langtree WI



Langtree WI are celebrating our 70th anniversary this year, and have many exciting things planned in order to do so. We started off with a bang this year with a surprise Birthday Party for Ethel Huxtable, our founder member, celebrating her 90th Birthday! She was greeted with a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday, which left her speechless (for a moment or two)!

Everyone had contributed in some way to make this happen. All the tables had nibbles that were provided by the committee. Gina Haselhurst had made the most spectacular floral tribute and Jenny Coles had made her the most beautiful card. Annette Bright had composed a poem which she read out and Nikki Poulier appeared with 3 enormous helium filled balloons. Ethel recounted a few memories of WI activities years ago. (one of which was for WI members only!) Then the fun began with a "Beetle Drive". This took us all back to our childhood, the laughter and squeals of delight getting the number you were waiting could be heard for miles! Soon it was time to cut the lovely cake also made by Jenny Coles, which was delicious! This was shared by all and then we all raised a glass to Ethel, wishing her many more Happy Birthdays.

February we will be making Jewellery, March - Michael Gee talks about Devon Orchards, and April - Peter and friends South African adventure. All welcome, we meet at 7.30pm every third Wednesday of the month at the Parish Hall. Visitors £4.50.



Hobby Group

Our group continues to grow I am pleased to say, however, we still have plenty of room for YOU!. Why not come along with whatever your hobby is and meet some like minded friends? It's just £1 per week 10.30 – 12.30pm every Tuesday morning. This includes tea/ coffee and biscuits! All welcome.

Any questions call Sylvie 01805 601485



District Councillor David Hurley

Hello again. I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. At the time of writing we are being told that the “Beast from the East” is due to return. We are experiencing unseasonal temperatures and strange weather phenomenon that many people equate to global warming. The menace of plastic pollution in our seas is finally being recognised, and addressed, by several initiatives. Hopefully not too late.

I’ll get off my high horse now and report on something that is much closer to home and indeed is something that we can all participate in. Recycling. I’m pleased to report that when the new collection service started last June the recycling rate quickly leapt past the 50% target set by the Government that had to be met by local Councils by 2020. The rate has dropped slightly since then but is still well in excess of the target. It’s pleasing to report that fact, as had we not reached the 50% mark, the Council would have faced fines which inevitably would have translated into higher council tax bills, something that nobody wants to see. Let me finish on this topic by saying that over 70 tonnes of food waste was collected over the 5 day Christmas period. Last year it was 59 tonnes. The food waste is taken to a Company called Andigestion who are based near the Agricentre at Holsworthy. There it is processed to create methane gas which is then used in generators to create electricity which is fed back into the local Power Grid.

In May it is time once again to elect both Parish Councillors and District Councillor. I will enlarge, at least the District Councillor part. The Boundary Commission believe that all residents should have equal access to their District Councillor. They set a figure of 1500 residents to each Councillor. As the Ward boundaries have not changed for around 20 years, and populations have, they decided to combine many Wards to achieve this resident/Councillor balance. As a result of this, only the Winkleigh Ward will remain untouched. Some Wards will disappear altogether and be combined with others. The Shebbear and Langtree Ward remains but will be much larger having been combined with the Clinton Ward. This means that the Ward will then extend from Newton St Petrock in the West to Merton in the East. In the North will be Langtree, Stibb Cross and Taddipport extending to Shebbear, Sheepwash and Petrockstowe in the South. This will mean that two Councillors will have to be elected to look after, what is, quite a large area.

At the time of the election I will have been a District Councillor for almost 6 years. In that time I have worked hard and served in many roles including my current one as Deputy Leader of the Council. The most rewarding thing is helping meeting residents, and trying to sort out any problems that they may have. Hopefully I can continue in this role after May 2nd.

I’m pleased to see that the affordable houses at Langtree Meadows (next to Langtree Parish Hall) have been released for sale. I believe that applications to buy these properties are progressing and it shouldn’t be too long before the first residents are occupying their new home. It has been a long time coming.

Let me finish by saying that we live in an area that is relatively crime-free. However there have recently been a spate of break-ins to vehicles and property in our area. I understand that the police have some leads to go on but we are all aware that their numbers have been reduced over the past few years and so the thin blue line is thinner than ever. For that reason we must all be vigilant and ensure all security precautions are taken to protect both ourselves and other residents of our area. I know this may sound a little like “nanny-state” advice but we all know it makes sense.

Until next time.

David Hurley councillor.hurley@torridge.gov.uk 01805601604

So what's on at Langtree Parish Hall?

At last, the grant money secured in 2018 has been spent and projects are nearing completion. The changing room block at the rear of the Hall has been fitted out with showers, toilets, changing areas and a small kitchen. It is splendid - many of the trade's folk who have worked there say it the best changing area in North Devon! Thanks to Greg Mitchell and team for doing such a professional job. The recreation field now awaits a cut when the weather improves and lines will be painted to demarcate a football pitch. A grant was also obtained from Leader 5 based at Caddsdow site to remove a window and install bifold doors with a patio onto the recreation field. Energy efficient plastic doors have also been fitted at the rear of the Hall. Fencing and gates have now been included to make the area safe and further fencing will be put alongside the recreation field to keep dogs off the pitch. Please if you exercise your dog obey the notices and use the perimeter of the field for walking dogs and not the pitch. A dog bin will be in placed by the gate. The recreation field is being used by Langtree Primary School in the daily mile ,

Other works that have been done include additional lighting to the car park and the main part of the kitchen is due to be refreshed to include new work tops, tiling and painted.

There will be an open morning on Saturday 9th February from 9.30am – 12 noon with tea /coffee to view all the changes made to the site. Do come and have a look.

The annual general meeting was held back in November when the annual accounts for the year ending September 2018 were presented. These are published on www.langtree.news (a copy of the receipts and payments is shown on page 7). Grants for the bifold doors, fencing and patio have not yet been claimed so will appear on the next annual accounts. Our next focus is to fund raise with the help of grants (hopefully) for a multi use games area at the back of the school fence. This could then be used for a variety of sports including school netball, walking netball for the older ones amongst us, five a side football and possibly a tennis court. These cost in the region of £75000 depending on size and whether it is floodlit. The fund for this was kick started in December when we had an auction of gifts and promises. James Morrish was the auctioneer and engaged the audience with his comments and humour. Complimentary mulled wine and mince pies were provided and the lots donated made £1192 which was a great start. Thanks to all who donated lots and promises and of course to the buyers. It would have been good to see a few more there but on the particular night there were other events on locally.

The Christmas meal was again very successful with 175 attending. My apologies for advertising the price in the last newsletter and on the web site differently. I hope this did not cause too inconvenience. Again a big thank you to all who donated deserts and raffle prizes It was a great selection. (See the photo later) The lunch made an amazing profit of £1969.34p.

At the time of writing the pantomime is being rehearsed. Hoodwinked written by Andrew Yates is being performed on 21st, 22nd, and 23rd February. Tickets are £7.00 with concessions at £5.00. Under 5s free. The pantomime is largely based on Robin Hood but with a twist! Maid Marion decides she wants some of the action and plays him at his own game along with 5 merry maidens. The sheriff is supported by his own junior army arriving on horseback. Do come along – a night of fun!

Our spring lunch is being held on March 17th and the cost is £14. This includes roast with 2 meats, potatoes, a selection of 5 vegetables, the amazing selection of deserts, cheese and biscuits tea /coffee and a small glass of wine. At the time of writing I have 137 seats reserved so still space for another 43!

We are again one of the venues for North Devon's Big Breakfast in aid of the North Devon Hospice. Our date is Sunday 24th March and includes a full English breakfast with cereal, juice, fruit, toast and tea and coffee. We will be serving from 9am – 12.15pm Please book if you can with me, Sue 01805601602 with the approximate time as this helps in ordering sausages etc. The suggested donation is £7.00. Under 5s free, primary children £3.00.

There are a number of private celebrations being held at the hall through late January February, and March including 2 birthday parties, 2 charity dinners, Rotary games night, and an end of season celebration for Torrington Swimming club..

Events open to all at the Hall are -

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Friday 1st February | Bingo - Eyes down 7.30pm |
| Friday 8th February | Quiz Night - 7 for 7.30pm Teams of up to 6 £5.00 per person in aid of Shelter |
| Saturday 16th February | Open morning with complimentary tea coffee to view the changes |
| Sunday 17th March | Spring Lunch £14.00 |
| Sunday 24th March | Big Breakfast - 9am - 12.15pm in aid of North Devon Hospice £7. |

Finally welcome to all the new comers to the Parish. Regular groups and societies are listed at the back of the magazine but for private bookings please contact me, We'd be pleased to see you!

Sue Lee

01805 601602



LANGTREE PARISH HALL
 UNAUDITED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
 YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018

4

	Note	2018	2017
Receipts			
Fundraising income			
Entertainment		990	1045
Bar sales		37694	31258
Food sales		19992	17092
Draw/Auction etc		1810	2502
Hire of Hall		16480	19839
Donations and Grants	1	17535	23147
Defibrillator Fund		995	0
EDF - Feed in Tariff		5119	6126
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		100615	101009
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Payments			
Fundraising expenses			
Bar supplies		19446	16391
Food and kitchen supplies		6905	3921
Entertainment		555	1867
Cleaning and materials		5133	4335
Light and heating		9603	7180
Insurance		1372	1337
Water rates		1634	1828
Professional fees		475	450
Stationery and postage		106	126
Licences		370	365
Miscellaneous		1412	1045
Repairs and renewals		8748	10531
Donations	3	1675	20
Website expenses		176	134
WiFi		819	703
Planning fees		234	0
Credit card fees		100	0
Travelling expenses		538	387
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Assets purchased	2	75016	13889
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total payments		134311	64509
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net receipts and payments		<u>-33696</u>	<u>36500</u>
Cash funds brought forward		<u>96826</u>	<u>60326</u>
Cash funds carried forward		<u>63130</u>	<u>96826</u>



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Prevent theft from your vehicle
Empty your vehicle before someone else does!

Keep vehicles locked and secure, and remove all valuables. Our logs show that this message is still not getting through as we have had 8 reported incidents in the past few months.

Please follow our simple safety advice below.

Top tips to keep your vehicle safer

- Secure doors, windows, boot and sunroof when you leave your vehicle
- Don't leave items on display when you leave the vehicle, especially your satellite navigation system. You should also try and remove the mount when your vehicle is unattended and clean any suction marks if visible from the window.
- When you leave your vehicle, make sure you remove the keys from the ignition.
- If you have to leave items in the vehicle put them in the boot out of sight.
- Always park in a well-lit location that is visible to passers-by.
- Have your vehicle windows marked/etched with the vehicle identification number (VIN)
- Never leave car documents or spare keys inside the vehicle.

Contact details:

Torrington Station
Pathfield
TORRINGTON
EX38 7BX
Email: torridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Non Emergency 101
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111
Emergency 999

Langtree Community Garden

Hello Folks,

Well we haven't achieved a lot over the winter months, we have planned a few jobs coming up soon. We need to paint the Shed to preserve the wood. We also need to continue laying the paths and clearing new ground.

There are slabs to lay so that we can have a seating area outside the shed. We also plan to add to the end of the shed, south facing a potting area, just a cover with shelves and work bench.

Also we plan to construct a centre piece with raised beds so that hopefully people that are unable to work on the ground can still plant with us. The bottom of the meadow needs to be cut and more wild flower seeds sown, also there are more willow to plant.

We are determined to get more of you involved and are planning opening days, we will let you know when they are. If you are on Facebook just check on our page for updates. Well let's all look forward to spring around the corner. Don't forget any unwanted plant or shrubs, bulbs or veg seeds a bit later, please contact me. Please feel free to wonder down to you community garden and check it out !

Sue Leach on 01805601348.

13 Visitors from Down-under

Some readers may remember that, despite efforts by Mike Evans and the Halifax Memorial Committee, at the time of the dedication of the memorial to the crew of Halifax DG 412 on August 27th 2009, we had been unable to trace family members of two of the Australian crew members, namely Peter Chadwick Bartle and Hugh Patrick Henry.

On the morning of Sunday, July 8th 2018, at about 09:30, I received a telephone call from Mr Graham Moore from Barnstaple to say that a relative of Peter Chadwick Bartle would be visiting Langtree sometime that morning and would like to see the memorial. Mike Evans was on holiday but I was able to contact Barry Neal and Richard Gubb. Barry is a retired RAF Wing Commander and is the person who was able to arrange for the fly past of the Lancaster bomber as part of the dedication ceremony.

Barry and I, and our wives Ruth and Margaret, went to the Memorial to await their arrival, having been told to expect them soon after 10:30. We waited and waited, it was a hot day so we sat in the shade of the chestnut tree. A lady from a nearby house, who I have since learned was Pam Wilson, kindly gave each of us a refreshing cup of coffee.

Some time after midday a coach drove into the Village Hall carpark. Thirteen people got out of the coach, one lady and 12 men. They introduced themselves as Australians, one of whom being a relative of Peter Chadwick Bartle.

One of the party had prepared an order of ceremony and Barry was invited to read a short prayer. We all recited -

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

A recording of the last post was played, we stood in silence for one minute, followed by a rendition of Reveille.

Barry, Ruth and Margaret had to leave at this time. Fortunately the village hall door was unlocked and I was able to show our Australian visitors the seat in the foyer which was donated by Mrs Mary Branson the sister of John Peter Williams, the pilot of the Halifax.

It was now lunchtime so I went across to the Green Dragon to ask Colin if he could provide lunch for 13 hungry Australians, the coach driver and myself. He was able to do so and lunch and drinks were enjoyed by all.

After lunch we walked the short distance to Buda farm where we were met by Richard and Jennifer Gubb and shown the field in which the Halifax crashed on the late evening of August 27, 1943. A commemorative tree is planted on the site. The party then departed Langtree heading for Heanton Punchardon where the two Australian crew and pilot are buried.

The relative of Peter Chadwick Bartle is Jim Stanger from Barry, New South Wales. He was given a copy of the Order of Service for the Commemoration and a copy of Mike Rowe's DVD of the event which took place on August 27th 2009.

Since then I have sent him some photographs and newspaper cuttings of the Commemoration. Margaret Knapman has also donated one of the History of Langtree books which we really thought would be of interest to him and his family.

We will remember them.

David Hill

Photographs taken during the ceremony and the tree planting may be found on the following page.



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Thursday 21st February 7.30pm
Friday 22nd February 7.30pm
Saturday 23rd February 2.00pm and 7.30pm

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Registered charity number 1159916

Team Rector: Revd Martin Warren, tel: 01409-281424

Team Vicar: Revd Susannah Metz, tel: 01837-810621

Dear Friends,

By the time of the next magazine – in just 8 weeks time, or so – we might just have some idea of where we stand as a country and in what direction we might be heading.

At the moment we seem to have no idea. The carefully worked out agreement by the government has been heavily rejected. Everybody has their own idea, and the rest of us little clue at all, of where it is all going to end. It does all feel, as Private Frazer of Dad's Army fame would say, 'We're all doomed!'

And even if we don't feel it personally – yet – there are many who do, whether it is those who have settled here from other EU countries, or who are dependent on parts for their business from across the Channel or trade there as do many in agriculture, or indeed simply want to go on holiday to Spain or France, etc. It certainly feels pretty uncertain and chaotic.

So how do we cope with uncertainty? It touches us all at some stage. It may not be the political life of the country, but it might be the outcome of an exam, a relationship that is teetering, a looming redundancy, the waiting for a diagnosis. Uncertainty comes to each one of us.

Fortunately most of us don't have the uncertainty of where the next meal is coming from, but we can look to Jesus to see his response in that situation. The temptation is to make his own solutions and make bread out stones. But he knows life is not that simple. He knows there is more to life. 'Human beings don't live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' He knows he can trust God in every situation. He knows that God will not let him down, however uncertain the world is around.

Here is the rock. God is frequently described as being a rock. Here is the foundation on which we can build with security. I remember hearing Billy Graham speak on the things of this world being shaken. They certainly are now. The confidence of the Christian is that we are receiving a kingdom – that we know a love, and a God – which cannot be shaken. And so, amazingly, we can be thankful, even in the uncertainty.

Yours in hope,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints

3rd Feb	9.30am	Morning Prayer
10th Feb	11.00am	Family Service
17th Feb	11.00am	United Service (at Chapel)
24th Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion
3rd Mar	9.30am	Morning Prayer
10th Mar	11.00am	Family service
17th Mar	11.00am	United Service (at Chapel)
24th Mar	9.30am	Holy Communion
31st Mar	11.00am	
7th Apr	9.30am	Morning Prayer
14th Apr	11.00am	Holy Communion
21st Apr	11.00am	United Service (at Chapel)
28th Apr	9.30am	Holy Communion

From the Registers

Funerals: Our prayers for the bereaved.

Dec11th Marjorie Pedrick (at Barnstaple Crematorium)

Enthusiastic bell ringers are always welcomed at the church on a Thursday evening from 7:30pm for an hour or so - Mark Highet 01805 601524



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Night Landing Light for Devon Air Ambulance



The Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Light is now installed and operational at the Langtree recreation field. There are now over 100 night landing sites across the county and this location helps fill a gap in north Devon.

Although we were ready to go in October, installation was completed later than expected as there was a problem in manufacturing the lighting column.

Very shortly the Air Ambulance helicopter will do a test run to give the pilot experience of landing in Langtree. When using the site at night the helicopter pilot will be able to dial up the light from his mobile phone to switch it on and then do the same as they leave, so there should not be any unnecessary nuisance.

The landing light has been funded through a combined bid from Frithelstock Parish Council and Langtree Parish Council for Communities Together funding available through Torridge District Council and Devon County Council, Devon Air Ambulance, and the many local community fund raising events. We are grateful to all of these people and organisations who have helped to make this area that little bit safer.

Leigh Pollinger, Parish Clerk



SPRING

Spring Term News from Langtree Community School

(01805) 601328 admin@langtree.devon.sch.uk www.langtree.devon.sch.uk

As many of you will know, our joint Head Teacher, Miss Mellody, decided to retire at the end of last term. We feel sure you will agree that she has been an amazing Head Teacher and has shown great commitment to the school, its staff and governors, and most importantly the children, for the last 26 years. We would like to wish her many happy days as she plans her retirement, and feel sure she will find lots of exciting things to fill her time.

From the start of this term, Mr Smale has taken-up the position of Acting Head Teacher and everyone here is very much looking forward to working with him as he continues to lead the school. We are currently advertising the permanent position of Head Teacher, with the intention that governors make a permanent Head Teacher appointment from September 2019. Hopefully, by the time the next edition of the Parish Newsletter goes to print, we shall have an exciting update! Thank you meanwhile to everyone who came along to any of our events to celebrate Miss Mellody's retirement, and for so many good wishes and messages sent in during the last few days of term.

Stay and Play

Foundation Class are holding stay and play sessions on 01 February 2019 and 01 March 2019, 10.30am – 12.00pm. These will be relaxed sessions where parents/ carers and their children experience the wide range of activities that we offer and an opportunity to join in with our fun and games. Please note that some of our activities are based outside in our garden area: if you would like to take part in these, you will need to bring some Wellington boots or footwear suitable for playing in wet or muddy surroundings.

This is the Greatest Show! 'Bethlehem: The Musical' and Foundation Christmas Play

We would like to thank everyone who came and supported either of our festive productions: our Main School, or Foundation Stage, Christmas Play. Both of our performances were a great success due to the confidence and acting skills of our children, of whom both we, and parents, are suitably proud!

Remembrance Day Commemoration

We were pleased to welcome Mr and Mrs Gilbert into school (Martha, Poppy and Leo's Mum and Dad), to join us to lay our Remembrance poppy wreath at the Parish Hall Memorial. Representing the British Army, Mr and Mrs Gilbert also gave a talk to each class about the Armed Forces and the part they played in both the First and Second World Wars. We all felt we were able to learn a lot from their visit, making 11 November seem a little bit more significant than usual. Thank you to both of them for the time they spent with us.

Netball and Football

We would like to congratulate our Netball team for winning the 'Torrington Learning Community High 5 Netball Festival'. The team did amazingly well by winning every one of their games and not conceding a single point, enabling them to progress to the next round. Our popular Football Club will be returning this term, with the team training after school on a Thursday afternoon, to be match-ready for future fixtures. We are grateful to all our volunteer coaches and trainers for the positive encouragement and knowledge they pass-on to our young players, and will keep an eye on future Olympic events – just in case!

Devon County Council - Cllr Andrew Saywell

It is a real privilege to represent this Parish at County Hall and I would like to thank the people of Langtree and Stibb Cross for all the support and kindness they have shown me since my election in 2017, and before that when I was the Parish's District Councillor.

The remit and services that Devon County Council undertakes are large and varied – from maintaining highways, schools and libraries through to economic development and consumer protection. But the Council's most important services are those that help to protect the vulnerable through our Adults and Children's Social Services.

Given the scale and size of the County Council, it can sometimes seem very remote from what happens locally back in Langtree. Nonetheless I have striven to be as open, accessible and proactive as possible as your local County Councillor.

Unsurprisingly, the most prominent issue I get emails and telephone calls about are Highways. I know the service is not always perfect, but with over 8,000 miles of roads to maintain Devon has one of the largest highways networks in the country and there is a finite resource with which to manage that network.

Since 2017 I have fought for more funding for Highways and to modernise and improve the service. I was pleased that in my first year in office my proposal to increase funding was accepted and an extra £6.5 million was allocated to Highways for more drainage works, patching and resurfacing.

The overall performance of Highways appears to be improving, with more contractors being hired to undertake works. DCC's main contractor, Skanska, accounts for just 40% of the work done on the Highways, with a variety of contractors undertaking schemes for the Council. Surface dressing work for example is undertaken by a different contractor to Skanska.

Having lobbied for more improvements locally, I was pleased to see the worse sections of Fore Street in Langtree and the Stibb Cross to Shebbear road get patched. They will be surfaced dressed in this coming summer, further strengthening the road and preventing more potholes forming.

Through the use of the 'Pothole Action Fund' we have also seen some of the more minor roads in the Parish repaired as well, including, just outside the Parish, Greeny Lane (the road from Watergate to Little Torrington).

Nonetheless, all of this has happened in a backdrop where demand for our Children's and Adults Social Services has increased. To be able to run these services requires huge amounts of money - Devon County Council has over 700 children in care and for children in crisis it can cost over £10,000 a week to care for them.

The pressures on our social services budgets are immense and this is why, when it comes to Highways, that we do not always see the improvements we may like for some of our more minor roads like Greeny Lane. We can see a pothole in the road, we may not see that vulnerable child or adult.

Nonetheless I will continue to fight for this Parish and the area I represent at County Hall. I would like to wish everyone all the best for 2019 and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need help with a County Council matter.

Best wishes,

Andrew

Devon County Councillor for Torrington Rural
07886 446560
andrew.saywell@devon.gov.uk



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Torrington Hypnotherapy - 07814522591
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- 07789 020668

Pubs and Food Services

Green Dragon Inn - 01805601342
Union Inn - 01805601626
Stapleton Yoghurts - 01805601414
West Heanton Meals on Wheels - 01409218754
Marland Meats - 01805601245

Hairdressers & Beauty treatments

Lucy Coles - 07920828181
Christina Thomas - 01805601910

Builders and Trades

Tim Langmead Builder - 01805601500
Pat Mitchell & Son Builders - 01805601415
Wayne Hill Painter - 01805625238
S.D Martin – Plumber - 01409240240
KJ Bromell – PVC Windows - 01288357020

Other Services

P&S Sanders - 01805601280
Peter Hearn Septic Tanks - 01805601286
ACM Web Site Design - 07812772638
Beamtree Interiors - 01805601785
DES Mobile Repairs - 01805601546
Jo Wilson-Duffy Gardening service - 07572579422
Qualified Math Tutor - 07884232308
Accountant/Book Keeper - 07884232308
GW Architects Ltd - 01409281362

Suppliers

TT Fire Wood - 07884080171
Bridgeman's - 01409261321
Grascott Firewood - 01409281393
West Heanton Care Service - 01409281754

Accommodation

The Old Rectory B&B - 01805601602

Emergency Details

Crime Stoppers - 0800 555111
General Enquires is now - 101
Out of Hours GP - 111
Shebbear Surgery - 01409281212

Police email:
melissa.baker@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Local Contacts

Parish Hall Bookings - 01805601602
Langtree Church - 01409281424
Langtree Methodist Chapel - 01805628041
Langtree Primary School - 01805601354

What's On in Langtree

Health & Keep Fit

Body Blast - PH, Mon 6:15pm to 7:15pm

Short Mat Bowls – PH

Mon 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Wed 1:15pm - 3:30pm & 7:30 - 9:30pm
(not in Summer)

Shebbear Surgery Health Club

Last Tue of the Month 2-3pm

Clubs and Groups

Hobbies, Arts and Crafts Group Tue 10:30 to 12:30
(PH)

Parish Whist Drive - £2 entry - 7.30pm (PH) -
Fourth Thursday of the month

Little Acorn's Wed 9am to 12pm (PH) Term Time

Woman's Institute

7:30pm to 9:30pm - 3rd Wed of Month (PH)

History Group

7:00pm to 9:00pm – 4th Wed of month (PH)

TGIF Club 2nd Friday of Month, 3.15pm - 5.15pm
(PH)

Bible Study and Meal – Thursday Evenings 7:15pm
(MC)

Langtree Market & Cafe – Thursdays 10am to 3pm
(PH)

Other Services

Mobile Post Office at the (PH) Car Park

Mon to Wed & Fri 11:40am to 13.05am

Parish Council Meetings

7:30pm to 8:30 – 2nd Thu of the Month

Mobile Library

Langtree on a Thurs - Parish Hall 10:40 - 11:15

Stibb Cross on a Wed - Union Inn 15:35 - 16:35