

Chulmleigh Parish Council – April Newsletter

If you would like to have this Newsletter by email, please contact Sue Squire.

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The next Police Surgery will be on Monday, 14 April 2025 in the Town Hall between 10am and 12 noon, subject to operational duties.

The Parish Council is pleased to have been able to arrange a Cyber Crime Talk by a Devon and Cornwall Police Officer specifically dedicated to this role.

It will take place on **Thursday, 3 July 2025 in the Town Hall at 7pm.**

Defibrillator and First Aid Workshop. Following on from the very successful event held last year, the Parish Council has been able to obtain the delivery of another workshop – by First Aid at Hand, on **Thursday, 26 June 2025 in the Town Hall at 7pm.**

This very comprehensive event is limited to a maximum of 20 people, so please book with Sue Squire, Parish Clerk (email above) or phone 01598 710526 as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Annual Parish Meeting. **Thursday, 22 May 2025 in the Town Hall from 6pm to 8pm.**

At the time of publishing this Newsletter, 15 organisations have booked a table.

All organisations in the town have been given the opportunity to have a table to promote themselves by bringing along materials and props.

This is an excellent opportunity to speak to people about what your organisation does.

Message from Devon and Cornwall Neighbourhood Alert.

Over 35,000 account hackings reported in 2024.

Protect your online accounts from hackers and enable 2SV: Action Fraud issue new warning about social media and email account hacking as new data is revealed.

This year Action Fraud and Meta are encouraging the public to protect their social media and email accounts as data shows there were more than 35,000 reports made last year.

Data shows there was a rise of social media and email account hacking reported in 2024 with a total of 35,434 reports made to Action Fraud, compared to 22,530 reports made in 2023.

Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a campaign, supported by Meta, to encourage people to take an extra step of online protection by enabling 2-Step Verification for each online account they have. The warning comes as reporting shows nearly £1 million was lost to hackers last year.

The most common motives for social media hacking were either investment fraud, ticket fraud or theft of the targeted account, reporting insights revealed.

Never share your passwords with anyone else and ensure each password is strong and uses three random words.

In the reports made to Action Fraud, there were various different methods of hacking highlighted, these include:

- **On-platform chain hacking.** This is when a fraudster gains control of an account and begins to impersonate the legitimate owner. The goal is to convince people to reveal authentication codes, including one-time passcodes, that are sent to them via text. Many victims of this type of hacking believe it's a friend messaging them,

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however the shared code was associated with their own account and the impersonator can now use it to access their account. Usually when an account is taken over, fraudsters monetise control of the account via the promotion of various fraudulent schemes, like fake tickets or crypto investment schemes, while impersonating the original account owner.

- **Leaked passwords and phishing.** The other common method of hacking is when account details are gained via phishing scams, or the use of leaked information used from data breaches, such as leaked passwords. This become prevalent as people often use the same password for multiple accounts, so a leaked password from one website can leave many of their online accounts vulnerable to hacking.

What can you do to avoid being a victim?

- **2-step verification (2SV) will keep criminals out of your account – even if they know your password.** Turning on 2SV gives your most important accounts an extra level of protection, especially your email and social media accounts. It can be turned on in a matter of minutes – time well spent to keep the fraudsters out. Find out how to enable it [here](#).
- **Email and social media passwords should be strong and different to all of your other passwords.** A good way to make sure your passwords are 'long enough and strong enough' is to combine three random words to create a unique password which is easy to remember. Find out more [here](#).

Report suspicious emails by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

If you've lost money or provided your financial information to someone, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, call Police Scotland on 101.

Message from Forestry England.

You may have seen harvesting has already started at Eggesford Forest, due to the exceptional weather the contractors are weeks ahead of what we had originally planned.

We will be thinning the trees across the entire forest area, removing selected trees to give the remaining ones more space to grow to their potential. Thinning also allows more light to reach the forest floor, which improves the habitat for ground flora and the wildlife it supports.

For safety reasons the car park was closed at the beginning of the week and will remain closed until mid-June, if the weather remains in our favour it could be sooner and we will open it at the earliest opportunity. As the operation progresses, we will also need to close the layby at Southcott Woods this could be at the same time as the car park closure, we will try and avoid closing both if we can.

Alternative parking for people wishing a forest visit would be at Heywood wood or Flashdown Plantation (very limited parking).

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We understand that residents may not be familiar with sustainable forest management especially as Eggesford forest has not been worked in more than a decade and are keen to explain how this planned work supports the long-term health and resilience of the forest.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on any of the above or if you have any queries about any of our other woodlands. westengland@forestryengland.uk.

One of the items on the Annual Parish Council Meeting Agenda in May is to further consider an Emergency Plan.

In the meantime, advice from National Grid has been received as follows:

With named storms passing through more regularly, it's good to be prepared for potential power cuts. Whatever the conditions, National Grid is here to keep the lights on and support you 24/7.

Switched on advice

Visit the **Switched On Hub** and you'll find lots of useful help and information about what to do if the power goes down. Plus safety advice should you come across fallen power lines, or if your home is flooded.

The Switched on Hub also provides information on:

- Fuel Poverty Support
- Our guarantees to you
- How to contact us

Sometimes we may need to visit customers. Our **Arrangements for Access to Premises** statement explains what you can expect from us when that happens.

Switch on to the Priority Services Register

If you are elderly, have a disability, are chronically ill or rely on electricity to power medical equipment, you're eligible to receive extra support during a power cut by joining our Priority Services Register.

It's free to join, simply call us on [0800 096 3080](tel:08000963080). You can learn more about the PSR in this **Special Services Statement**.

County Council Election – Thursday, 1 May 2025.

Polling Stations will be open from 7am to 10pm and people in Chulmleigh will go to the Town Hall to vote.

It is important that you are registered to vote.

The deadline to register to vote is 11.59pm on Friday, 11 April. Voters can quickly and [easily register to vote online](#) at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

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Research shows that young people, students and those who have recently moved are less likely to be registered than others.

Voters have a range of options for casting their vote on the day, including voting in person, by post or by appointing someone they trust to vote in their place, known as a proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Monday, 14 April, while the deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on Wednesday, 23 April.

Voters need to show photo ID if they intend to vote at a polling station. Types of accepted photo ID include passports and drivers' licences, as well as some concessionary travel passes such as an older persons' bus pass. The upcoming elections are the first in which a HM Armed Forces Veteran Card can be used as photo ID. Voters may use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

If you do not have one of the accepted types of ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate ID online or by completing and submitting a paper form to your local authority. You must apply by 5pm on 23 April to be able to use the certificate on 1 May.

Deputy Returning Officer at North Devon Council, Ken Miles, said:

"It is important that those who want to vote in this year's local elections have an accepted form of photo ID. We are urging voters to understand what types of ID they can use, and how to apply for free ID if they need it. Checking now rather than later means you will be ready when it's time to vote.

"Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID either online or by completing a paper application form and sending this to their council's electoral services team."

You can [apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate) on the Government website at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate.

Voters in the North Devon Council area who do not have ID, wish to vote in person and apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, but are unable to do so, can arrange an appointment with the council's elections team to facilitate this by calling 01271 388277.

Information about all voting options can be found on the [Electoral Commission's website](#). Alternatively people can stay up to date by visiting [NDC's Elections page](#) or [Torridge's Elections page](#).

Forthcoming road closures – all relating to pole replacement. Diversions will be in place.

1st and 2nd May from 9.30am to 3.30pm. From Lightleigh Cross to Kings Moor Cross, Kingsnympton.

6th May from 8.30am to 3.30pm. Parsonage Cross to Challacombe Cross.

12th May from 9.30am to 3.30pm from Toll Bar Cross to Dobbsmoor Cross for pole replacement.

9th and 10th June from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Leigh Road, Chulmleigh.

13th June from 8.30am to 3.30pm. East Street and road from East Street to Lodge Cross.

30th June to 1st July from 8.30am to 3.30pm. Rock Hill, Chulmleigh. No diversion.