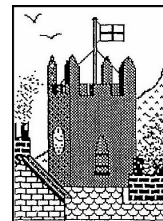


Chulmleigh Parish Council – December Newsletter

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Councillors contact details: Simon Phillips 580240; Deborah and Ed Phillips 580424; Ben Farlam 07950 344024; David Ives email ives5296@googlemail.com; Kara Pincombe 580900; Grant & Shelley Sherman 580086; Ann & Chris Stanton 581473; Jean Trehitt 580049; Ed Tyldesley, email edtyldesley@gmail.com

We are very pleased to announce that Ed Tyldesley was co-opted onto the Parish Council at the December meeting. This means that the Council is up to full strength with all vacancies filled.

Seasons Greetings from the Councillors and Clerk of the Parish Council to one and all.

The collection dates for black bins and recycling over the Christmas and New Year period won't be the same as usual between 25 December and 5 January, with normal services resuming on Monday, 8 January 2024.

There are no garden waste collections for two weeks starting Monday 25 December. You can see the dates when your bin / recycling will be collected by visiting the Council's website:

<https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/christmas-collection-dates>

Reminders of the do's and don'ts of the Council's recycling service:

DO

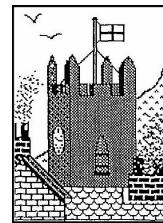
- Display your bin, box, or bag by 6am on the morning or evening before your collection.
- Flatten cardboard boxes and place them in brown bags. Overflowing cardboard can be taken to your local recycling centre.
- Remove non-recyclable plastic film inserts from cardboard.
- Scrunch up tin foil, including mince pie foil cases, and recycle in your black or green recycling box.
- Wash and squash plastic bottles and drink cans. Place the lid back on the bottle or inside it.
- Use brown paper as a recyclable alternative to wrapping paper. Remove tape for recycling in your brown bag.
- Reuse leftover food where possible. Food waste should go in your kerbside caddy.
- Separate glass from other recyclables and place it in your blue box.
- Dispose of real Christmas trees with a trunk of 5cm or less in your green wheelie bin (with permit). Larger trees are accepted at local recycling centres.

DON'T

- Put non-recyclable items like black plastic or mixed-material items, such as crisp tubes or tetra packs, in your recycling. Black plastic and mixed materials cannot be recycled as part of your kerbside collections due to our machinery being unable to separate the different materials. Use special collection banks at your local recycling centre instead.
- Include shiny or glittery (includes biodegradable glitter) Christmas cards and wrapping paper in your recycling bags. Unfortunately, they cannot be recycled in your kerbside collections or at your local recycling centre due to them often being dyed, laminated and/or containing non-paper additives.

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- Recycle greasy pizza boxes; dispose of them in your black bin. Paper and card don't get heated during the recycling process which means the grease combines with the pulp, which can ruin the batch.
- Include carrier bags, cling film, or plastic film in the recycling box. Some plastic films can be recycled at supermarkets or local recycling centres.
- Place batteries or vapes in your kerbside collection. This is due to fire safety concerns in our recycling halls. Please use recycling points at supermarkets or local recycling centres instead.

To ensure you're collected, please remember to present your bins by 6am on the morning or evening before your festive scheduled collection.

Following on from this, **Devon County Council has this information about food waste:**

The Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) have launched a new campaign that's designed to inspire residents and encourage them to recycle their food waste in the correct container.

Recent analysis of black bin waste across Devon has unveiled an alarming trend - many households are still disposing of food waste in their black bins. With a particular focus on North Devon, recent statistics have shown that the district disposes of just over 60 tonnes per week in their black bins.

The DASWC is encouraging residents to harness the power of their food waste containers by utilising them for their intended purpose. By placing food waste in these containers, it will be collected weekly, alongside other waste and recycling services. The collected material is then processed at an anaerobic digestion facility right here in Devon. Through a series of sealed tanks, this material is broken down to produce methane, a valuable gas used to generate electricity, and digestate, a nutrient-rich fertiliser benefiting local farmers.

Lead Member for Waste and Recycling at North Devon Council, Councillor David Knight, says: "Not only does diverting food waste from the black bin help save space for non-recyclable waste, but it also prevents the occurrence of odours and pests, ensuring a cleaner and more hygienic environment."

*"One point I would like to remind residents of is that **you can use any bag** to line the food waste container, including reusing bags such as bread or cereal bags. This not only keeps the container clean but it's free and is recycling in itself!"*

To encourage residents to recycle their food waste responsibly, DASWC is inviting them to pledge one or two simple actions to make a difference.

To stay up-to-date with the campaign, follow @recycledevon and @northdevoncouncil.

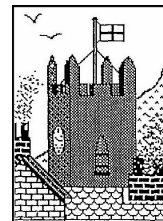
For additional information on reducing food waste, you can explore Recycle Devon's ['Love Food Hate Waste' webpage](#).

To find out what goes in what bin, box and bag in North Devon, please visit North Devon Council's helpful ['what goes where' webpage](#).

After the icy weather at the beginning of the year, we had a request from a resident for a **grit bin at East Street**. DCC Highways is strapped for cash and could not supply one, but County Councillor Henderson suggested that I send in an application for £300 for a grit bin

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to come out of his Locality Grant Allocation of £8,000 which he has to spread between the Parishes he represents.

The application was successful, and arrangements are being made for the new bin to be put in place before the bad weather comes.

Davy Park and Academic Lane Signs. In case you have noticed these are missing and wondering where they've gone, Councillor Ben Farlam has taken them for sandblasting and on return, District Councillor Kevin Davies is going to refurbish them to bring them back into a good state again. Thanks go to both these gentlemen for doing the work.

Another defibrillator is being supplied by the Parish Council in conjunction with the same arrangements as the one at Pincombe's Garage, being leased from South Western Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST). The location will be in Leigh Road close to the entrance to the Golf Club.

We are very grateful to District Councillor Davies for a grant of £400 towards the cost of leasing it, from his Community Councillor Grant allocation.

We are waiting to have some suggested dates for a defib awareness session to take place, provided by SWAST.

Police Visits. After a change to the shift pattern of Sgt Rob Brown, the following new dates are when he is coming to Chulmleigh, based in the Town Hall between 10am and 12 noon. It was good to hear that a number of people called in to see him when he was there on 11 December.

8 January
5 February
4 March
4 April

Barn Owl Trust. The Trust has indoor nest boxes that they would like to erect and residents who would be interested in having a nest box installed in suitable buildings are sought.

The criteria for a suitable building would be:

- Where the nest box can be erected at least 3m above the ground
- Year round access by owls is possible either through an open fronted / sided building or an access hole at least 100mm wide x 200mm high and at least 3m off the ground (this hole can be cut retrospectively if required)
- Ideally faces out onto open countryside
- For more information, please contact Josh Case, Assistant Conservation Officer, the Barn Owl Trust on 01364 255256.

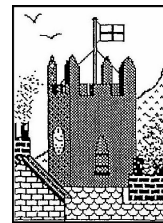
The Parish Council is pleased to give financial assistance towards the **Christmas lights** in the town.

At the December meeting, it was agreed to donate the sum of £250.00 towards the cost.

Also, financial assistance towards **gifts for children** when Father Christmas visits the town was agreed, with £60.00 being given towards this.

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STOP PRESS: At the December meeting of the Parish Council, the 2024/25 Budget and Precept was set and agreed.

The Precept is to be increased by just £200 from £31,800 to £32,000, a 0.6% increase, which will have a very minimal impact on Council Tax bills as far as the Parish Council allocation is concerned.

The following article has been received from North Devon Council and we thought the information may be helpful.

Keeping your furry friends safe over the festive period



Over the festive period, an influx of food tends to enter our homes, however, you may not realise that some foods can be particularly toxic to dogs...

- Chocolate and sweets - even a small amount of chocolate/sweets can be very serious to dogs. If you notice they have eaten some, it's important you take them to the vets. It's useful to note that the darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is to your animal
- Christmas puddings and mince pies. These are full of currants, sultanas and raisins which can be toxic to your dogs kidneys
- Allium species including onions, garlics, leeks, chives are all poisonous to your dogs, both cooked and raw
- Macadamia nuts. These can cause a high fever and make your dogs very poorly

Avoid a trip to the vet this festive period by keeping your Christmas treats up high and away from furry friends.

What can you do to prevent your dogs from eating what they shouldn't over Christmas?

Get prepared and remove the stress out of Christmas! Training your dog the 'leave it command' during the lead up to Christmas is a good idea - this will ensure they don't gobble up whatever falls on the floor without your permission.

What can your dogs eat and enjoy?

- Meats - lamb, beef, turkey, salmon (avoid bones as these can be harmful)
- Basic vegetables - green beans, parsnips, carrots, sprouts (If you're trying to get rid of your sprouts, you know what to do!)

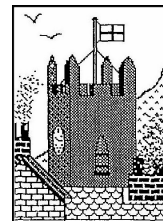
Did you know, some plants are also toxic to dogs?

Poinsettia, Holly, Mistletoe and Ivy are also toxic to your furry friends. Try and avoid bringing these into your house this Christmas and find suitable, safe alternatives.

More information below on Christmas trees, recycling, microchipping your dog, a safe place for your animals to relax at Christmas and introducing a new pet at Christmas.

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Christmas trees



Real trees, as we all know, drop needles. If you have a pet, it's a good idea to pick a non-drop species of tree. This will make it less likely for your furry friends to get needles in their paws.

The most popular and commonly known, non-drop Christmas tree, is the Nordmann Fir.

Fake trees and artificial snow

On the subject of trees, many fake trees are decorated with artificial snow. While it may look festive, certain ingredients can be toxic to dogs if eaten. To be on the

safe side, avoid 'snow-covered' artificial trees if you have a pet and stick to ones with bare branches.

Recycling your real trees after the big day

Real Christmas trees should be cut up and put into your green wheelie bins (if you have a permit). Trunks must be less than 5cm in diameter otherwise they will be too large for the crews to collect. If you don't have a garden waste permit, you can take your Christmas trees to one of Devon County Council's recycling centres.

[Find out where your nearest recycling centre is](#)

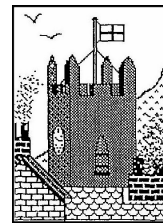
If you are unable to take them to your nearest recycling centre, The Children's Hospice South West can recycle your Christmas tree! This is a great way to get rid of your tree and do a good deed by donating to charity.

[More information on the Children's Hospice tree recycling scheme](#)

Making sure your dogs microchip is up-to-date – please see below.

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Christmas is a busy time of year. With people coming and going to grab the presents from the car, shutting the door can sometimes be forgotten, giving your animals the opportunity to wander!

Make sure your pets microchip is up-to-date so you aren't spending your special day searching for them.

We don't have any scheduled chip check events this side of the year however if you're concerned that your pets details may not be up-to-date, you can give our Neighbourhood Officers a call on 01271 388870.

Safe spaces for your animals to relax



Similar to firework night, it's important that your dog has a safe place where they can escape to if they are tired or want to avoid the hustle and bustle of Christmas day.

Loud crackers, singing and the noise from TV's can be overwhelming for animals so having that safe space will provide them with some comfort.

Introducing a new pet to the family this Christmas?



Christmas is a wonderful time to gift your family member an extra special gift, however, with Christmas being so hectic, it's important to consider when will be best to gift your new furry edition.

It's important to plan. Having a low key, quiet Christmas will allow for you to bond with your animal without them being frightened by the loud noises and large crowd.

Be sensitive to the needs of your new pet. They are likely to have just been taken from their mum and siblings and have been taken to an unknown setting. It's important to consider picking them up before or after the big day to avoid them being overwhelmed and

frightened.