

CREECH ST MICHAEL

Summer 2011 Parish Magazine Issue 121

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CREECH ST MICHAEL

May 2011 Parish Magazine Issue 121

Delivered by volunteers to homes in Creech St Michael, Ham, Langaller, Creech Heathfield, Adsborough, & Thurloxtton, and supported by CSM Parish Council.

Visit the Parish Website to find out more about What's On!
www.creechstmichael.net



Would YOU like a “Creechment” ? (Creech allotment)

We are looking into the possibility of allotments in Creech St Michael Village and would like to know what demand there would be. Potential site not yet confirmed but would be in the village. Individual plot sizes will be half the traditional allotment size to be manageable, with costs being as low as possible, probably between £15 to £25 per year. May be available from this winter in time for Spring 2012, Ideal for individuals, groups or organisations.

This project is being organised by a small group from Creech St Michael Baptist church, with full support of the parish council. Plots would be available to all. If interested in a potential plot, please email nr.birch@virgin.net or fill in the form at the bottom of **page 3**.

Expressing an interest does not commit you to a plot; it simply gives an idea of numbers. If you would like to comment, give ideas or help with this community project please contact us by email, or the address overleaf.

Welcome. . . . to the May edition of the Parish Magazine and wishing all readers and advertisers a good summer ahead. Anyone who would like to publicise local events or activities, or submit reports and articles can e-mail them direct to Michael Phillips. See contact details below.
Items for May 2011 issue should arrive by **Mon July 11, 2011** please.

CONTACTS

Parish Council Clerk – Jill Loader, 6 Tithe Meadow, Fitzhead, TA4 3LD.

E-mail: parishclerk@creechstmichael.net Tel: 01823 400801.

Parish Councillors – Ann Bishop, Frederick Bates, Dave Durdan, Ron Rooke, Richard Jeanes, Gordon Lucas.

County Cllr – David Fothergill – 01823 443740 or 07765 256256 (Mob).

E-mail: DJAFothergill@somerset.gov.uk

Creech St Michael Website – www.creechstmichael.net - Nigel Finch

E-mail: creechwebsite@somersetwebservices.co.uk Tel: 01823 353760 or publicity officer Eric Chown on 01823 442770.

CSM Parish Magazine Distribution: Kelly Durdan. 01823 443605

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Will be held at **7pm** in **Creech St Michael Village Hall**
On Mondays May 16 (Annual Parish Council Meeting), June 6, July 4 and Aug 1 (Planning Only).
Parish Elections were held on May 5.

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR SERVICE

Creech St Michael Village Hall on July 8 and 9 and Monkton Heathfield Village Hall on August 10.

Sessions are 1.30 - 3.15pm & 5.00 - 7.15pm

To book and for details ring 0845 7711711 or go to www.blood.co.uk

SOMERSET OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL SERVICE

For urgent medical help when the surgery is closed

(6.30pm—8am Mon—Fri or over weekends and Bank Holidays)

Ring 0845 408 8000 or NHS Direct on 0845 4647

Magazine Editor: Michael Phillips. Tel: 01278 452014 or 07986 127349
E-mail: newsletter-editor@creechstmichael.net

What's Happening...

Creech St Michael Annual Flower Show

Anyone willing to help out with the 72nd Flower Show at the Village Hall this year, or would like more information, please contact Show Secretary Sandra Adams on 01823 442851.

Summer Fayre

The village school's PTFA is planning an Olde World themed Summer Fete this year. Date still to be confirmed. Contact Kelly Durdan on 07789 871856 for more information.

Welcome

Reverend Rebecca Harris has arrived as the new parish priest-in-charge for St Michael's Church. And Creech St Michael C of E Primary School welcomes new head Mrs Jan McCarthy this term.

Parish Council

Six members of Creech St Michael Parish Council retain their places on the council following the local elections. A new chairman and vice-chairman will be appointed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on **May 16**, with potentially a further five councillors co-opted. If anyone would like to be considered for a position on the council, please contact clerk Jill Loader on 01823 400801, or speak to a councillor.

Crime Spree

Police are warning villagers to lock up garden items at night or when they are out following a spate of thefts. Bikes and garden tools are especially vulnerable.

I would be interested in having an allotment plot, but realise this does not commit me.

Name;..... Phone no;.....

Address ;

.....

*Please return to; Richard and Jane Birch,
42 Arundells Way,
Creech St Michael, Taunton, TA3 5QT*

PARISH COUNCIL

MARCH

Planning - 11/02/2011 14/10/0029 INSTALLATION OF AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP ADJACENT TO OUTBUILDING AND INSTALLATION OF 2 NO. SOLAR PANELS ON LAND AT LASHPOOL BUNGALOW, CREECH ST MICHAEL The site was visited and details explained by the owner. The only visual interference was from across the canal which will be minimal and in time will be shielded by fruit trees. There was no real reason to object. After discussion, the Parish Council voted unanimously to support this application.

28/01/2011 14/11/0003/REX CONSTRUCTION OF VEHICULAR ACCESS TO A361 AT HAMILTONS, WALFORD CROSS, TAUNTON The Planning Working Party visited the site. As this application was for the renewal of a previously granted application and there was no change in the circumstances at the site there was no objection. After discussion, the Parish Council voted unanimously to support this application.

Parish Magazine – MS Publisher software – it was agreed to get prices for this software and would purchase it once a new editor was found if necessary.

A38 works at Adsborough update – The ‘no lorries’ signs had been sited but in the wrong place. The white lining had not been painted. After discussion, it was agreed the clerk would email photos of the signs and issues raised to David Fothergill. He would find out when white lining was planned and whether new signs were in the right place according to Highways legislation.

Recreation Field Lease Update: The PC working party had produced a draft agreement which had been approved at a meeting on 7th March. It was agreed to give this document to the Recreation Field Committee so they could assess the details. The RFC would discuss any issues with the PC working party and finalise this agreement. Once this had been achieved it would be formally approved at a PC meeting.

Clerks Report - a) Wessex Water agreed to install a new water meter free of charge. M Jeffery agreed to dig out the trench free of charge too. This would be carried out after the football season had finished. b) Landowners are responsible for stiles/gates on footpaths on their land. However, SCC has a duty of care to respond to reports of dangerous furniture and inform the landowner. c) Allotments – the PC were very keen and thanked Mr and Mrs Birch for their thoughts and help in trying to find suitable land for allotment use. d) Bus Service changes – bus routes being changed or stopped could be found on the SCC website. e) LARC – no comments f) The Localism Bill workshop report concluded many of the points discussed had not been finalised at Government level to date. An overview was given of what can be expected regarding interests, standards, local referendums, the council tax, new duties when setting budgets, the community right to challenge, plans and strategies, neighbourhood planning. Future notification and training would be given by SALC once fixed details were known. The Parliamentary timescale for Royal Assent is October 2011 and Orders and Regulations from December 2011 onwards.

Local News

Canal Boat Link from Creech to Taunton

The Somerset Waterways Development Trust charity trip boat **Future Perfect**, is running weekend trips. There is an new opportunity to go on her on Saturday mornings, **RIGHT INTO TAUNTON FROM CREECH!** These depart at 9am, £3 one way. (Please ring to book for these and to check availability). She is also on the Canal from Creech (boarding at the landing stage near the road bridge), on Sundays, and in Taunton on the River Tone on Saturdays. The trips run approximately every 25 minutes between 10am and 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. No need to book. (But if you are travelling especially it is a good idea to ring and check as the boat occasionally goes elsewhere). It is also useful to tell us in advance about needing the wheelchair lift, but not essential. The boat is a 12-seater electric launch. She can be used for school educational trips, has a lift to enable disabled and wheelchair access, and can be booked for trips by community, nature, historical and educational establishments etc. She can also be privately chartered for occasions like family parties and wedding day trips. There are ongoing opportunities for volunteers to help with running the boat, (both onboard and at the waterside). Keep an eye out on SWDT's website www.swdt.org.uk for timetables and announcements. (Also see photos of the boat). Any enquiries or bookings, contact the charity's Boat Director, Alec Hay on alecmhay@aol.com or phone Taunton 443034.

April Council News

The webmaster position had been filled and everyone welcomed Eric Chown who has lived in the village for many years and is a fount of all knowledge. He will be liaising between the website, parish magazine and the clubs and societies around the village, so please see the website for his contact details. The A38 works at Adsborough had been completed but a few alternations to the position of road signs were required. Two planning applications were approved, together with updates on the playing field agreement, and the usual highway and rights of way issues requiring attention.

Are you interested in editing a Parish Magazine?

It is a highly rewarding voluntary role made possible by the parish council, and a team of volunteer distributors, headed up until recently by Nigel and Ruth Farrow, and currently overseen by Kelly Durdan.

We have moved from Creech St Michael, so making contact less accessible for contributors. We will happily support a new editor for a few editions if needed, for anyone who is keen or who would like to take over. It should suit anyone with a community interest.

The position draws a small honorarium, and training/computer software may be available. Anyone interested contact parish clerk Jill Loader on 01823 400801 or at parishclerk@creechstmichael.net or direct to us at, newsletter-editor@creechstmichael.net

Michael and Helen Phillips



**A warm welcome awaits you at our
Regular or Special Services and
events**

With Easter a distant memory, many of us are thinking what we'll do this summer. Well don't forget the annual Holiday Club for all those in reception through to year 6 which runs from Monday August 1 this year. As usual, booking is essential as we have a limit of 100 children for safety reasons, and booking forms will be available from the church website (www.creechbc.co.uk) from June 1. Part of the week's activities is the family fun evening on Thursday August 4, so keep that free to come along for fun, games and free refreshments.

We continue our regular calendar of events and activities for all ages, although some take a break during the summer time. Please see the website for up to date details.

Midweek Programmes for Toddlers, Kids & Teens normally in the Church Centre: **Parent & Toddlers' Group** Wed at 10.30am; **Kidzone Club** (School yrs 3-6) the first Friday of the month at 6.30pm; **Noiz** (School yrs 10-13) still continues weekly on Wednesdays at 7.30pm with **Noiz XL** on the first Wednesday in the month in the Church Centre and **NoizCell** at Brookings Cottage behind the church by invitation of Matt & Beccy Bradley. **Youth Stream Café** (School yrs 7-9) on alternate Thursdays has kicked off to a good start this term – check out the website or church notice board for details. And keep an eye out for details of the 2010 Encounter Youth Weekend!

Creech Men continue their occasional programme of Saturday Breakfasts and Special Events/Outings. Contact Gary Birch for details or look on the church website.

Worship Services are held at **10.30am** and **6.30pm**. Children and teenagers (0-16 yrs) have their own relevant activities during the morning service. Full details of all other services are published on the website, or are available from the contacts listed below.

Hire of the Church Centre: Our premises are available for hire for some community events and meetings when not being used for the many church-related activities. Enquiries, please, to the Administrator via the Church Office on 01823 443692 or send a booking request online from the calendar page at www.creechbc.co.uk.

Got questions? Want to talk? Need information?

You can contact us on the following details:

Rev Gary Birch (Pastor) 01823 442213 or 01823 443692 or
gary@creechbc.co.uk

Matt Bradley (Youth Pastor) 01823 443692 or matt@creechbc.co.uk
Viv Grief (Administrator) 01823 443692 or admin@creechbc.co.uk

Creech St Michael Church of England Primary School
'Creech St Michael Church of England Primary School is a shining example of a village school with an outstanding Christian ethos' (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report 2009)

Hello. I would like to introduce myself as the new head-teacher of Creech St. Michael C of E Primary School. My name is Jan McCarthy and I started at the school just after Easter, having previously been headteacher at Kingston St. Mary C of E Primary School, Taunton.

Everyone has made me most welcome and I feel very fortunate to be part of such a happy and successful school as Creech. The children are delightful and seem to smile a great deal. They are very purposeful and hardworking as I go from classroom to classroom. There are a great many names to learn and I hope to be familiar with the existing routines very quickly.

In the beautiful weather today, the younger children took part in a mock royal wedding. This was a lovely opportunity for the children to learn about the ceremony and to prepare for the royal wedding itself. There were a bride and groom, a best man and a vicar in appropriate costume, with wedding music, confetti and cake.

I am impressed with all the opportunities the staff plan for the children so that learning is fun and memorable for them.

I very much look forward to leading this lovely school and becoming involved in the wider life of the village.

Jan McCarthy, Head Teacher

www.creechstmichaelprimary.co.uk

St. Michael's Church



The St Michael's Church family offers a welcome to the whole village community and if you would like to join us, or simply have someone to talk to or pray with, then please contact the Rector or the churchwardens.

The licensing service for the **Reverend Rebecca Harris**, the new Rector for the three parishes of Creech St. Michael, Ruishton and Thornfalcon, will take place in St. Michael's Church, on **16th May 2011, at 7pm**. The Bishop of Taunton, the Right Reverend Peter Maurice and the Archdeacon of Taunton, the Venerable John Reed, will officiate. The new Rectory in Creech, should be ready for occupation by Rebecca and her family in May 2011.

During 2011 we intend to continue with our programme of worship and parish events. These will include our regular monthly coffee mornings and lunches in the village hall and other events as advertised.

Our Regular Services Take Place As Follows

at St, Michael's, CSM unless otherwise stated

1 st Sunday -	11.00 am.	All Age Worship
2 nd Sunday -	11.00 am.	Holy Communion
3 rd Sunday -	9.30 am.	Holy Communion
-	11.00 am.	All Age Worship, St.George's
4 th Sunday -	11.00 a.m.	Morning Worship

Also at church in Creech St Michael on June 5, all age service "Up, up but not away"; July 3 "Joseph the Dreamer, and at Thornfalcon on July 17 "Zacchaeus" followed by a picnic.

Service times are confirmed on the church noticeboard nearer the time. Why not come and join us at any of these services and activities. Further details available from:

Churchwardens: Mike Evans Tel. 442595

Mick Thomas Tel: 442435

New website Publicity Officer

We are delighted to announce that local resident Eric Chown has responded to the Parish Council request for a webmaster to help manage the content on the Parish website. Eric will help coordinate general website content, news and historical articles, act as a focal point for organisations to contact for publicity and help with replies on the Ask A Question page. Please visit the News page to read the full article with photos.

Plaque and Bench dedicated to the memory of the late Eileen Webb

A plaque and bench dedicated to the memory of the late Eileen Webb were unveiled at the Village Hall by Frank Berniaz on 10th April. Please visit the News page to read the full article with photos.

New Parish Register Transcripts section

The late Gwyneth Leighton was in the process of researching various Creech families and transcribing the Parish registers post 1837 up to the time of her death. We have published her transcripts of marriages 1880-1898 and will be adding more information in the near future. If you have any information to help this project could you email Eric on **publicity@creechstmichael.net**

creechwebsite@somersetwebservices.co.uk
Nigel Finch, Somerset Web Services

SOMERSET BID FOR SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Somerset County Council is urging local residents to get behind their bid to win vital Government funding for superfast broadband. The Council is jointly bidding with Devon County Council for millions from the Government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) agency's £530m pot to roll out superfast broadband across both counties.

A critical part of the bid is demonstrating the need for improved connectivity. Residents, businesses and community groups are therefore being asked to complete a short survey at **www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk** to register their demand for superfast broadband and share Internet issues they face. Completing this survey will provide substantial support to the application. Cllr Ken Maddock, said: "Superfast broadband will mean you could download from the Internet at least 30 times quicker and could change the way we all access services or work. People will be able to work more from home which will make a real difference to reducing commuting and help the environment." If successful the bid will bring a superfast service to both counties exceeding 20MB/s to 85 per cent of businesses and homes, with significant increased speeds to all premises by 2015.



A message from PC1146 Maria Jennings, PCSO8784 Lynsey Gamblin and PCSO9981 Stephen Chapman

Beat Surgeries

**Thursday May 26 at 10am.
Thursday June 23 at 8pm
Thursday July 28 at 8pm
Thursday August 25 at 10am**

All to be held at Creech St Michael Village Hall

YOUR RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT SERGEANT **PS1400 ANTHONY CROWTER**
NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT MANAGER **PC1146 MARIA JENNINGS**
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER **8784 LYNSEY GAMBLIN**
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER **9981 STEPHEN CHAPMAN**
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER **7310 MANDIE REED**
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER **8466 EAMONN LENISTON**

POINT OF CONTACT AT TAUNTON POLICE STATION
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT ALLOCATOR **9516 GARY DEAN**

TEAM VOICEMAIL: 01823 363287 then 70106
Voicemail messaging service is NOT for incident reporting

NON URGENT REPORTING: 0845 456 7000
EMAIL: SSNTauntonRural@avonandsomerset.police.uk
WEBSITE: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk
LETTERS: Taunton Police Station, Shuttern, Taunton, TA1 3QA

Art Exhibition

The Creech St Michael Art Groups will be holding an exhibition of their work at Taunton Library from Tuesday August 23 to Saturday September 3. Members invite parishioners to come and support the exhibition, and to discover what is produced at the village hall on Monday and Thursday mornings.

Maureen Evans

BALLET NEWS

After three terms of exams, the school is taking a rest from exam work. There is a brand new class for Grade 3 children in Creech, and names are being taken for September for the Pre-Primary class. Further information and contact details from **Janet Searle LRAD 01823 286617**

1ST HENLADE BEAVERS (for youngsters aged 6 to 8 years)

Meet in term time at CSM Baptist Church Centre or Huish Woods, Thornfalcon on **Wed 6 to 7.15pm**. If you would like to know more about our Wednesday meetings contact **Jamie Marriott on 01823 698518 or Mark Curry on 01823 412131**.

1ST HENLADE CUBS (for boys and girls aged 8 to 10 years)

The Cubs and Scouts had a joint camp in Weymouth at a PGL camp. This was an extremely active camp with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Thanks go to the leaders who gave up their time to take them.

On Wednesday 20th April the Cubs and two Scouts went bag packing at Sainsburys Hankridge, we raised £330 which will go towards our summer camp and we were also given 700 active kids vouchers. Thank you to everyone who supported us. If anyone has any vouchers they would like to donate to us please contact me on 443976. Thanks to all the parents and leaders who support our group. Meet in term time at CSM Baptist Church Centre on **Tues 6 to 7.30pm**. Contact **Barbara Williams on 01823 443976**.

1st HENLADE SCOUTS (for boys & girls aged 10½ - 14½ yrs)

Meet on Thurs evenings at the hut at Ruishton.

If your son or daughter would like to join the Scouts, telephone **Steve Ward on 01823 443873**.

BROWNIES (for girls aged 7 - 11 yrs)

Meet in Ruishton Village Hall on Fridays 6 to 7.30pm during term time.

Come along one Friday or ring **Margaret Penn or Cathy Jones on 01823**

442003. **RAINBOWS** Contact **Debbie Garland on 0790 878 7545** - meet

4.30pm to 6pm. **GUIDES** Cath Ellis on **01823 442398** meet in Ruishton for younger and older girls - **Mondays 6 to 8pm**.

CREECH ST MICHAEL COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL

At Creech St Michael Primary School. Rated outstanding of Ofsted. Any queries, please contact **Debra – 01823 444860** or call in. Simon Hutchings – chair of committee.

SMILEYS CHILDCARE CLUB at Creech St Michael Primary School.

We offer fun, high quality Ofsted registered breakfast, after-school and school holiday sessions.

Available to all primary school children aged 4 - 11 years.

Contact: **Sasha Warren or Jo Barham**

Tel: 07903263022 or visit **www.smileyschildcare.co.uk**

CREECH ST. MICHAEL GARDENING CLUB

Chairperson: Gerry Norris (01823 444099)

February Meeting:

This month's talk on Clematis was given by Marcus Dancer, a nurseryman who grows all his own plants for sale in his nursery. For the last 20 years he has specialised in growing Clematis. During his talk he showed us many pictures of the different types of flowers – single, doubles, clusters, height and spread of plants and where each plant was best suited in the garden. Mr Dancer explained that Clematis like a soil which drains well and they like plenty of granular fertilizer and mulch just after pruning.

From the early flowering Montanas through to a Clematis which is winter flowering, Mr Dancer pointed out that this versatile group of plants would provide flowers for every month of the year. We all knew of the large-flowered hybrids but had not realised that the smaller flowered Clematis – Vitacella, texensis And Macropetela were all able to be planted in shade as well as sun and were as happy to be grown amongst herbaceous plants or cascading over walls, as well as growing over arches. Many members purchased Clematis after the talk and thanks to Mr Dancer's advice will know how deep to plant them and how to look after them.

March Meeting: Garden Birds and Wildlife Gardening was the topic for this month's talk. The speaker, Les Cloutman, is a well known local member of the Somerset Wildlife Trust. His talk was well illustrated with many beautiful slides of birds, butterflies and bees. Throughout his talk he encouraged members to consider garden birds and wildlife in all aspects of their gardening by providing bird feeders, nesting boxes and thick hedges to attract birds and help their survival during the winter months. Butterflies and bees are attracted mainly to our native flowers and moths are drawn to knapweed and scabious. This was a most interesting talk and provoked many questions from Club members.

May 18 Visit to Hangeridge Farm
May 21 2-4pm Plant sale/Cream teas at CSM Village Hall
June 15 Visit to Farndown Thatch

Our garden visits start from the Primary School
For further details of departure times please ring Claire on **01823 442661**

CREECH ST MICHAEL VILLAGE HALL

A plaque and a bench dedicated to the memory of our late Chairman, Eileen Webb, were recently unveiled by Eileen's long-time companion, Frank Berniaz, at a reception held in the hall. Frank was delighted to meet so many of Eileen's friends and it was a very happy occasion although tinged with sadness as Frank prepared to leave the village. He will be missed by us all but wished every success for the future.

Our booking secretary, Maggie Savage, has had to relinquish the position for family reasons and caretaker Gill Underhay, has kindly agreed to fill in on a temporary basis until the AGM. If you wish to book the hall you should contact Gill by telephone on Henlade 444599 or at her address, 2 Old School Cottages, Creech St Michael. The committee thanks Maggie for all her hard work. If anyone would like to take on the position of booking secretary they should contact Gill as soon as possible.

Forthcoming event

Friday, May 20 AGM in the hall at 7pm

Friday June 3 BINGO in the Hall at 7.30pm

Friday July 1 BINGO in the Hall at 7.30pm

The village hall committee manages the hall on behalf of the community and the AGM gives everyone the opportunity to find out what this involves.

Perhaps you have something to say regarding how it is run, or how charges are levied. The hall committee welcomes the views from individuals or groups. Please come along and let us have your comments.

The committee includes representatives from some of the organisations who use the hall on a regular basis and their help has been invaluable. Are you a member of one of the groups who use the hall? Or perhaps you come to the hall only occasionally for bingo sessions, coffee mornings, etc. Whatever your involvement with the hall (or none) you may serve on the committee and would be made very welcome. Come along to the AGM or telephone hall secretary, Iris Chown on **Henlade 442770**, for further details.

CREECH ST MICHAEL OVER 60s CLUB (55-plus also welcome to join)

Secretary: Pat Goffron (01823 322528) Events Secretary: Val Oates (01823 443796). Meets in the Village Hall alternate Wednesdays at 2.15 pm. It welcomes new members, including those living beyond parish boundaries.

Visitors (any age) welcome for entry of £1.50 to cover tea and entertainment.

May 11 Rivertones Barbershop Singers

May 25 Speaker Mike Bolton - How We Used to Live

June 8 Singalong - Freda Carter on Keyboard

June 22 Bowls

July 6 Evan Williams - Wildlife in My Garden

THE SOUTH WEST ORCHID SOCIETY

Details of the forthcoming meetings at West Monkton Village Hall, 2.30 to 5pm

For further information contact **Marian Saunders** (Secretary) **01278 455170**.

Sunday May 8 Maren Talbot - Cypripediums

Sunday June 12 Malcolm Holness - Disas/Sydie Bones. Triumphs/Disasters

Sunday July 10 Max Hopkinson - Catasetanaia

Sunday Aug 14 Cream Tea, Social and Plant Clinic



Tea Break

Creech St. Michael Baptist Church,
Mrs. Vivien Grief,
Tel: 01823 443036.

Tea Break is an afternoon meeting for retired persons who wish to have a chance to meet old and new friends whilst enjoying a cup of tea and cakes. There is a varied programme of speakers, quizzes and social events and the meetings are held in the Baptist Church Centre, Creech St. Michael. The afternoon begins at 2.30pm until 4pm on alternate Tuesdays.

June 14 Rev Robert Widdowson - A Few of My Favourite Things

June 28 David Usher - Hestercombe

July 12 Mary Godin - Chaplain at Musgrove PH

July 26 Songs of Praise

August Summer Holiday

CREECH ST MICHAEL TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Since the New Year we have had three successful events; The New Year Meal at the Monkton Inn; the skittles at the Nag's Head; and most recently the Quiz.

Our next main event is our exchange visit to France over the weekend of 28th and 29th May when we will again have the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of our French friends in the Auge valley in Normandy. We also have a number of further events over the rest of the year:

Wine afternoon at Chris and Rose Fisher's – 2pm - Sunday 10th July - £7.50 per head;

Barbecue at Anna and Dave Caddy's – late August - to be confirmed;

Bee keeping and key beeping evening – an informative, entertaining and fun evening - 24th September 7.30pm- CSM VH;

Taste of the Gaelic (featuring food from Ireland, Scotland and Wales) – Saturday October 22nd 7.30pm CSM VH;

AGM – 27th November 7.30pm Thurloxton VH – to be confirmed

Come along to any of these events and you will see what fun they are.

New members are always welcome and anyone interested in joining or coming along to any of the events should contact the Secretary, Nigel Farrow, on **01823 443882** or visit our website: **www.csmta.info**

CREECH ST MICHAEL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

President: **Mrs Ruth Farrow 01823 443882** Secretary: **Mrs Barbara Squire 01823 442611**. Meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. New members and visitors are always welcome.

May 11 Tai Chi by Mr Flowerdown. Comp: A Small Oriental Item.

June 8 Rural Britain by Mr Triggs. Comp: Floral arr. in Egg Cup

July 13 Rumwell Farm Shop by Ann Mitchell. Comp: Taste of Somerset.

ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY

Meetings held at **Creech St Michael Village Hall**.

Maybe there are people in Creech with Scandinavian connections who would be interested in coming along.

Evening meetings mostly start at **7:30pm for 8pm**.

For more details contact: **Dawn Watts** (Hon. Sec.)

dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk or **Bjarne Nielsen** (Chairman) **01823 412201**.

PHEONIX GROUP OF PHOTOGRAPHERS

www.pgop.org.uk

Secretary Deborah Needs Tel 01823 323263. Meetings at West Monkton Village Hall every Monday at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome.

May 16 The London Salon

May 23 Start of the Summer Programme

MODERN SEQUENCE DANCE GROUP

Meet **Mon evenings** in the **Village Hall** from **8pm to 10.30pm**

Cost £1, New members of any age would be most welcome to come and join us. For further information ring **01823 274422**, or come along.

“POP-IN”

Meet other villagers/neighbours for a chat, a cup of tea & a biscuit in **CSM Village Hall** on alternate **Weds. 10 - 11am**. Everybody welcome - no lower or upper age limit. Raffle, Bring & Buy Stall, Plants, Bric a brac, Books.

For more details about regular meetings or to enquire about the coach trips, contact **Mrs Peggy Cartwright** on **01823 442517**.

KEEP FIT ASSOCIATION

Meets on **Tuesdays** from **7 to 8pm** at **Creech St Michael School**.

A friendly, low impact session using small weights, and exercise bands.

You need to wear loose clothing, bring a bottle of water and have a sense of fun. Payment is in advance termly. Ring **01458 252429** or come along.

HELLS WRINKLIES MOTORBIKE CLUB

The club meets socially every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Ruishton Inn.

www.hellswrinkliescreech.co.uk or email: **rogmarg105@aol.com**

May 8 Spirit of the Sixties at Tiverton Canal Basin

May 22 Tortoise and Hare Run, Wells Classic Motorcycle Club

June 19 Banbury Run and Autojumble

June 26 Coast to Coast

July 7 Velo Skinny Dippers at John and June's

July 9 and 10 Sedgemoor Rally at Highbridge

July 16 and 17 Somerset Traction Engine Club Rally at Langport

July 31 Our own Exmoor Run

August 6 and 7 West Somerset Railway Rally, Norton Fitzwarren

August 28 and 29 Honiton Hill Rally

TAUNTON MODEL ENGINEERS

Meetings are held on the **first and third Tuesday in the month at Stoke St Mary Village Hall** during winter, spring and autumn commencing at 7.30pm. Public running dates at CSM playing field are May 2,8,22 and 30, and June 4,5,12,and 26, and July 10 and 24, and Aug 14. There is also a Taunton Model Engineers Exhibition at Heathfield Community School on the weekend of June 4 and 5. For further information contact **Mr Dominey on 01823 442587** or visit **www.tauntonme.org.uk**

GREAT WESTERN SOCIETY (Taunton Group)

Programme Co-ordinator. Peter Triggs. on 334188. 7.30pm in Stoke St Mary Village Hall. Transport may be arranged from CSM by ringing 442507.
May 20 By Culm and Exe Valleys to Ilfracombe by Peter Gray
June 17 Railways Around Bristol by Chris Ralls
July 15 The Midland and Great Northern Railway by Max Wilkenson
August 19 Members' Slides with Peter Triggs
All interested are welcome to attend.

BUS SERVICE TIMES

WEBBERBUS Route 15A Easylink, Monday to Saturday.

To Taunton:

Creech Heathfield 0751, hourly at 51 minutes past the hour to 1651
Creech St Michael 0755, hourly at 55 minutes past the hour to 1655
Arrive at Taunton Bus station
0825, hourly at 25 minutes past the hour to 1725

To Bridgwater:

Creech St Michael 0852, hourly at 52 minutes past the hour to 1852
Creech Heathfield 0856, hourly at 56 minutes past the hour to 1856
Arrive at Bridgwater Bus Station
0925, hourly at 25 minutes past the hour to 1925

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The library will visit the village and surrounding area as follows:

CSM Village Hall car park (Route SOCOM - F) from 9.55am to 12.25pm on May 10 and 24, June 7 and 21, July 5, and 19 and Aug 2 and 16.

There is a lift for those with difficulty with steps. The driver will help, but if you use a wheelchair you must have somebody with you trained to help you on and off the vehicle.

Contact Paul Smith to arrange this. If you are housebound the service may be able to arrange for books to be delivered by the driver or a Good Neighbour.

Ring 0845 3459177 or visit **www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries**

To join, renew or reserve books, visit **www.librarieswest.org.uk**

BALLET NEWS

After three terms of exams, the school is taking a rest from exam work. There is a brand new class for Grade 3 children in Creech, and names are being taken for September for the Pre-Primary class. Further information and contact details from **Janet Searle LRAD 01823 286617**

1ST HENLADE BEAVERS (for youngsters aged 6 to 8 years)

Meet in term time at CSM Baptist Church Centre or Huish Woods, Thornfalcon on **Wed 6 to 7.15pm**. If you would like to know more about our Wednesday meetings contact **Jamie Marriott on 01823 698518 or Mark Curry on 01823 412131**.

1ST HENLADE CUBS (for boys and girls aged 8 to 10 years)

The Cubs and Scouts had a joint camp in Weymouth at a PGL camp. This was an extremely active camp with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Thanks go to the leaders who gave up their time to take them.

On Wednesday 20th April the Cubs and two Scouts went bag packing at Sainsburys Hankridge, we raised £330 which will go towards our summer camp and we were also given 700 active kids vouchers. Thank you to everyone who supported us. If anyone has any vouchers they would like to donate to us please contact me on 443976. Thanks to all the parents and leaders who support our group. Meet in term time at CSM Baptist Church Centre on **Tues 6 to 7.30pm**. Contact **Barbara Williams on 01823 443976**.

1st HENLADE SCOUTS (for boys & girls aged 10½ - 14½ yrs)

Meet on Thurs evenings at the hut at Ruishton.

If your son or daughter would like to join the Scouts, telephone **Steve Ward on 01823 443873**.

BROWNIES (for girls aged 7 - 11 yrs)

Meet in Ruishton Village Hall on Fridays 6 to 7.30pm during term time.

Come along one Friday or ring **Margaret Penn or Cathy Jones on 01823 442003**. **RAINBOWS** Contact **Debbie Garland on 0790 878 7545** - meet **4.30pm to 6pm**. **GUIDES** Cath Ellis on **01823 442398** meet in Ruishton for younger and older girls - **Mondays 6 to 8pm**.

CREECH ST MICHAEL COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL

At Creech St Michael Primary School. Rated outstanding of Ofsted. Any queries, please contact **Debra – 01823 444860** or call in. Simon Hutchings – chair of committee.

S M I L E Y S CHILDCARE CLUB at Creech St Michael Primary School.

We offer fun, high quality Ofsted registered breakfast, after-school and school holiday sessions.

Available to all primary school children aged 4 - 11 years.

Contact: **Sasha Warren or Jo Barham**

Tel: **07903263022** or visit **www.smileyschildcare.co.uk**

CREECH ST. MICHAEL GARDENING CLUB

Chairperson: Gerry Norris (01823 444099)

February Meeting:

This month's talk on Clematis was given by Marcus Dancer, a nurseryman who grows all his own plants for sale in his nursery. For the last 20 years he has specialised in growing Clematis. During his talk he showed us many pictures of the different types of flowers – single, doubles, clusters, height and spread of plants and where each plant was best suited in the garden. Mr Dancer explained that Clematis like a soil which drains well and they like plenty of granular fertilizer and mulch just after pruning.

From the early flowering Montanas through to a Clematis which is winter flowering, Mr Dancer pointed out that this versatile group of plants would provide flowers for every month of the year. We all knew of the large-flowered hybrids but had not realised that the smaller flowered Clematis – Vitacella, texensis And Macropetela were all able to be planted in shade as well as sun and were as happy to be grown amongst herbaceous plants or cascading over walls, as well as growing over arches. Many members purchased Clematis after the talk and thanks to Mr Dancer's advice will know how deep to plant them and how to look after them.

March Meeting: Garden Birds and Wildlife Gardening was the topic for this month's talk. The speaker, Les Cloutman, is a well known local member of the Somerset Wildlife Trust. His talk was well illustrated with many beautiful slides of birds, butterflies and bees. Throughout his talk he encouraged members to consider garden birds and wildlife in all aspects of their gardening by providing bird feeders, nesting boxes and thick hedges to attract birds and help their survival during the winter months. Butterflies and bees are attracted mainly to our native flowers and moths are drawn to knapweed and scabious. This was a most interesting talk and provoked many questions from Club members.

May 18 Visit to Hangeridge Farm
May 21 2-4pm Plant sale/Cream teas at CSM Village Hall
June 15 Visit to Farndown Thatch

Our garden visits start from the Primary School
For further details of departure times please ring Claire on **01823 442661**

STUCK FOR TRANSPORT?

Somerset Rural Youth Project is offering transport to young people aged 16 to 25 under the

MOPED LOAN SCHEME.

Contact 01278 722300 or 07890 270561 or email moped@sryp.org.uk or visit www.sryp.org.uk

Unit 2, Suprema Estate, Edington, Bridgwater TA7 9LF

PRIVATE FOSTERING

Are you looking after someone else's child long-term or do you know someone who is? If so, by law, Somerset County Council needs to be told.

Children's Social Care team is appealing to people to let them know if they think a child in their community is in informal foster care.

Private fostering is when a child under 16 (or 18 if they're disabled) lives with someone for 28 days or more who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility.

The law says that all private foster carers must tell the County Council about the arrangements so they can make sure the child is being well looked after.

People become private foster carers for all sorts of reasons. They can be a friend of the child's family or someone looking after a child they do not know, for example children on an extended holiday exchange or whose parents live overseas.

It's estimated that at least 10,000 children in Britain could be living in informal fostering arrangements. Last year 10 new cases were reported to Somerset County Council, but it's believed there could be many more that the Council doesn't know about.

To report a private fostering arrangement, please call Somerset County Council's Children and Young People's Team on 0845 345 9122 or email [**childrens@somerset.gov.uk**](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)

Road Repairs

The Government is giving Somerset County Council an extra £5m to carry out road repairs.

The cash was announced in the Budget but details have only now been confirmed.

The Authority has already repaired more than 23,000 potholes in the past year and the £5m extra funding will be used to improve road surfaces in targeted areas, helping to prevent potholes occurring.

Somerset is one of the best performing roads authorities in the South West.

Despite having to save £34m from its budget after a harsh government settlement, the Council continues to be committed to investment in preventative road maintenance.

DIABETES GROUP

Taunton & District Diabetes Support Group aims to provide people with diabetes, and their carers, with sympathetic support, information and social activities and meets regularly in the Lecture Hall of the United Reform Church, Paul Street, Taunton at 7pm. Social activities include Skittles, BBQ's, Treasure Hunts and Tea Parties and we also run 'Awareness Days' at local events and Doctors' Surgeries. Balance Buddies is a new group for children, offering "support and friendship for children and young adults with Diabetes and their families" which enjoyed a very successful launch at Hollywood Bowl in Taunton earlier this year. With more activities being planned, now would be a very good time to become involved!

For further information about these Groups, including how to join or help, please contact Chairman Brian Shipton. Tel 01823 351084

or e-mail brianshipton@bsshambles.freeserve.co.uk

or Childrens Group Leader Alison Preece. Tel 01823 253132

or email alison@thepreeces.eclipse.co.uk

ART GROUP

A social, non-tutored Art Group meets on **Monday mornings** at CSM Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon. For further information contact Heather Miller on 442570 or Angela Jones on 442525. All abilities, new members welcome.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

The club meets every **Tuesday and Wednesday** evening starting at **7.30pm** and on **Thursday** afternoons starting at 2pm at **Creech St Michael Village Hall**. Tea and Coffee are available. For details ring **01823 443628**.

GYMBOREE

Gymboree Play & Music is an international franchise providing play-based activities for pre-school children, incl. pre-mobile babies. The Taunton franchise offers Play & Learn classes in **Creech St Michael (Village Hall)**, using music and physical apparatus (climbers, slides, tunnels, etc.) and Music classes using song, instruments and props. Please visit www.gymboree-uk.com for further info. Claudia Edwards. Tel: 07540 970019