

the phoenix

chudleigh

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Lost Raffle Prize

A Variety Concert raffle prize has been handed in. Is it yours? Contact us.

Paper Phoenix Postponed

Last month we proudly told you we were going to produce the December issue of Chudleigh Phoenix as a hard-copy that would be delivered to every home in the town. We also warned contributors to get their copy in early, since we needed to go to print at the beginning of December if we were to have any chance of delivering before Christmas.

Unfortunately, we didn't allow for the weather. While we were enjoying the Variety Concert on 24th November, the CP office moved from being in a picturesque location on the banks of Kate Brook, to being a rather soggy island in the middle of Kate Brook! Such was the force of the water that a fridge full of beer was thrown into the air and landed on its back. (No-one is to ask *why* we have a fridge full of beer in the CP office!)

The long-winded process of restoration and redecoration is now under way, but it was impossible to get this issue ready for printing in



The aftermath of the storm: CP office under water

time.

We have therefore reverted to plan B; the December issue is being delivered electronically as normal, with the usual 100 copies provided at the Town Hall. All being well, we will deliver the hard-copy issue in January instead.

New Town Councillors

As confirmed in last month's issue, there were just two nominations for the two vacancies on Chudleigh Town Council. Consequently, both nominees were declared elected and took up their posts at the Council meeting on 3rd December.

Chris Webb will have no problem finding his way around the Town Hall, having been a Councillor until 2011 and a former Chairman of the Council. He is also a very active fund-raiser for the Youth Centre.

This will be the first time Michael McCormick (or 'Sir' as we call him in the Chudleigh Phoenix office) has served as a Councillor, although he is no stranger to Chudleigh matters, since he is Chair of the Business Guild and also chairs the Chudfest Organising Committee.

Chudleigh Phoenix would like to congratulate both Councillors and wish them luck in their new roles.

Helping Young Musicians

The Harcombe Singers performed their Christmas Concert in the Parish Church on 8th December. A wonderful programme, beautifully sung, included carols by Rutter, a Bach Cantata and Sullivan's brilliant *Christmas Bells at Sea*. Also featured were two young musicians from the South West Music School, which develops young musical talent throughout the region.

SWMS has recorded a charity single *What We All Need*, which can be downloaded from iTunes and CD Baby. Find out more [here](#) and download your copy today to help local young musicians.

CADS (Chudleigh Amateur Dramatic Society) PRESENTS

The Merry Men of Chudleigh

A local pantomime for local people... Oh yes it is!

Chudleigh Community Hall

Saturday 26 January 2013 - 2pm and 7pm

Sunday 27 January 2013 - 3pm

Early Bird Ticket Discount

£1 off adult tickets and
£2 off family tickets bought before 31 Dec!

Tickets after 31 Dec

£5 adult

£3 child (<16)

£15 family

(2 adult & 2 child)

Available from Sugar Mill,
Dandelion and
Chudleigh DIY.



From the (damp) Editors

We were so looking forward to getting our first hard-copy issue to all of you before Christmas — and hoping to collect lots of new readers for our electronic version. But it wasn't to be.

Looking on the bright side (you can't keep a good editor down for long) we now have the opportunity to include pictures of the Christmas Fayre and other seasonal activities in our round-up of 2012. If you've got a really great picture from one of the many activities in town during the past year, email a copy to us and we'll try to include it in the January issue.

This December issue is only four pages (everyone seems too busy to send us any copy) but we will make up for it next time. We intend (weather permitting) to go to print on 2nd January, so our copy date for **this month only** is earlier than usual — on 29th December.

Whatever your plans for the coming holiday, whether you are spending time in church, in the pub, in the kitchen or walking on Dartmoor (or maybe a combination of all four), we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We'll see you in 2013 — and don't forget to buy your pantomime tickets.

Kate and Sharon



HEATHSIDE TUTORS

Chemistry to A Level/IB
Maths, Physics, Biology to GCSE
Qualified Teacher, CRB checked
Michael
01626 854611
michael@heathside.com

Waste Collections Over Christmas and New Year	
Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 24th December	As normal
Tuesday 25th December	Thursday 27th December
Wednesday 26th December	Friday 28th December
Thursday 27th December	Saturday 29th December
Friday 28th December	Monday 31st December
Monday 31st December	Wednesday 2nd January
Tuesday 1st January	Thursday 3rd January
Wednesday 2nd January	Friday 4th January
Thursday 3rd January	Saturday 5th January
Friday 4th January	Monday 7th January
Monday 7th January	Tuesday 8th January
Tuesday 8th January	Wednesday 9th January
Wednesday 9th January	Thursday 10th January
Thursday 10th January	Friday 11th January
Friday 11th January	Saturday 12th January
Collections will be back to normal from Monday 14th January	

Copy date 29th December for January issue. Reserve your space in advance.
editors@chudleighphoenix.co.uk or phone Kate on 01626 854611
The editors reserve the right to edit copy for considerations of space.
The views expressed in CP are not necessarily those of the editors.



2013 Short Story Competition

Open to all writers, published or unpublished
Open theme, 1200 — 1500 words, entry fee £4
(£3 for members of Chudleigh Writers' Circle)
Closing date for entries: **31st January 2013**
Three main prizes: **£100; £50; £25**
additional **£25** prize for best entry from a **local writer**
Judges: Katherine Parris, The Write Retreat Ltd, Brittany
plus Elizabeth Ducie and Sharon Cook
For competition rules and details of how to enter:
www.chudleighphoenix.co.uk
or email us
editors@chudleighphoenix.co.uk
Competition sponsored by:
Heathside Information Services Ltd
The Write Retreat



The McCormicks say 'Thank You, Chudleigh'

As well as making a mess of the CP office, the storm on 24th November flooded the ground-floor of our house. Within minutes, friends were offering help and support. This continued over the next few days as we gradually got over the shock and started sorting ourselves out.

To all of you who turned up to help with the cleaning, provided towels and mops, fed us or hugged us when we needed it most — a huge 'thank you'. You reminded us again why we love living in this town.

Stuck for a Last Minute Christmas Gift?

We are offering a copy of *Life is Not a Bed of Roses* and *Life is Not a Trifling Affair* at a special price of £7 for the pair. Contact Kate or Sharon for your copies NOW



Carnival News from Alan Holman

As the year draws to a close, I would like, on behalf of the committee, to thank everyone for their support during what has been a very difficult time for the Chudleigh Carnival. A special mention must go to the 'Friends of the Carnival'. Without their help the coffee mornings and bingo nights simply would not happen and these events are a major contributor to the fundraising which keeps the Carnival week alive.

I've previously mentioned that during the winter months, we are reducing the length of the Carnival Float by some four or five feet to make it more manageable for towing next summer. We are pleased to report we have been offered a vehicle and driver for selected processions. In an ideal world, we would also have an alternative person to call on if necessary. If you can help us, please contact me (Alan) on 852639.

Our existing committee has diminished recently to just a handful of volunteers and we would welcome some new members.

A Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Amenity Society Notes from Tony Woodville

On 16th November Nick Powe gave a fascinating talk on Kents Cavern, the complex of limestone caves just to the north of Hope's Nose. Nick is the fifth generation of his family to own the caves and run them as a visitor attraction.

The English Riviera Global Geopark is part of a UNESCO-sponsored scheme for sites of outstanding geological interest. There are 67 such sites in the world, mostly in remote areas: Kents Cavern is unique, being beneath a densely built-up area. It is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Devonian limestone was formed below a tropical sea 400 million years ago from the remains of small sea creatures. The caves were eroded by water movement 2 million years ago. The earliest animal remains are of cave bear, dating back 500,000 years.

There has been continuous human occupation since the earliest hunter-gatherers. A fragment of upper jawbone has been dated as 41,000 years old, making it the earliest evidence of modern humans in north-west Europe.

William Pengelly, who excavated the site from 1865, found very early flint tools and bones of extinct animals, with which the early humans must have coexisted. This was highly significant, since most educated people still accepted the view of the scriptural text that the earth and all living creatures on it were created in six days in 4004 BC. However, scientists like Pengelly pointed to unfamiliar animals which had become extinct a long time ago. Were these the result of earlier, unsuccessful creations? Geologists were beginning to realise the earth was formed by processes that took millions of years, and were still continuing. However, in the 19th century, to question traditional biblical view was dangerously heretical. While it no longer led to burning at the stake, it would not win many friends. Early scientists such as Pengelly had to be extremely careful what they said in public.

The new programme of talks for 2013 will be circulated early January. Subscriptions for 2013 are now invited: £6 for individuals and £10 for joint membership to Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary John Ponting (01626 854 106).

Financial Planning from Steve Underwood

According to new research three in ten (30%) consumers are uninsured in vital areas, mainly life insurance. The survey also revealed that 8% of Brits have cut back or stopped taking out insurance cover in the past 12 months. Why do people do that? We say we love our families but at a time when the pain of losing a loved one is bad enough, a decision not to have life insurance could leave the family in a very poor financial state. I have met very few people that have wanted to pay out for life insurance but I have also met a few widows and widowers who were glad they did!

It doesn't have to be expensive either as there are websites that will arrange life cover on a fee only basis — that is they strip out the commission and charge say a one off £35 fee. Which means over the term of the policy, you would save hundreds of pounds. If you know what you need, search out such a website and see for yourself how much you could save. Of course, don't cancel the old policy until the new one is in place. However if you are unsure, seek independent financial advice.

I wrote last time about The Retail Distribution Review (RDR) which means that advisers can no longer take commission from investments including pensions. Instead they have to be remunerated by a fee agreed with you. This is why many of them are now switching to arranging life cover which is not covered by RDR. With nil commission websites, you save the commission and win.

Have a great Christmas. Legal bit: nothing in this article should be construed as advice, accidental or otherwise

Recycling Christmas Trees

As in previous years, Chudleigh Rotters are giving residents the chance to recycle their old Christmas trees. This service will be available on Saturday 5th January, between 10am and 4pm, at the Tower Hill allotments site. Real trees only please!



On The Beat with the local police

The seasonal drink-drive campaign has started and we urge all local residents to take heed of this and not be part of the crime statistics for the year. Taxis may be expensive but not as expensive as going to court, losing your licence and paying a fine. Insurance premiums are really hefty once any ban has expired, and we have not even considered the impact on you, your family and your job. Makes you think..??

The weather over the past month has caused us some issues with flooding in Christow and a few other places up the Teign Valley. Our team worked all night in the worst of it, to help as many people as possible. It was pleasing to see all the local communities coming together to support each other.

Remember to keep your doors locked and windows shut to prevent any burglaries. Also do not leave anything on display in your vehicle.

The next 'Have Your Say' surgery is 21st December at Christow in the Teign Valley community hall.

For non-urgent issues, call 101

<http://neighbourhoodpolicing.devon-cornwall.police.uk>

Ian.STEVENS@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

What's On In Chudleigh

DECEMBER

Monday 17th

Carol Singing: Rosemount Care Home, 6pm.

Wednesday 19th

Chudleigh Writers' Circle: Council Chamber, 10am.

Mother's Union: Carol Service, Parish Church, 2.15pm.

Carol Singing: Highwayman's Haunt, 8.30pm.

Thursday 20th

Weekly Produce Market: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

Saturday 22nd

Weekly Produce Market: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

Saturday 29th

Chudleigh Phoenix: copy deadline for January issue.

Weekly Produce Markets: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

JANUARY

Wednesday 2nd

WI: Bardsley Bird Observatory, Rest Centre, 7.30pm

Thursday 3rd

Weekly Produce Market: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

Saturday 5th

Weekly Produce Market: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

Tree Recycling: Tower Hill Allotments, 10am. To 4pm.

Monday 7th

Town Council: Full meeting, Town Hall, 7pm.

Tuesday 8th

Diners Club Monthly Dinner: Contact Phil on 07702418458 for details.

Wednesday 9th

Mothers' Union: help Us to Grow, Parish Church, 7.30pm.

Thursday 10th

Weekly Produce Market: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

Saturday 12th

Weekly Produce Market: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

Tuesday 15th

Chudleigh Phoenix due out.

Wednesday 16th

Chudleigh Writers' Circle: Council Chamber, 10am.

Mother's Union: Allan and Tricia Bapty talk about their trip to Uganda, Parish Church, 2.15pm.
Chudleigh Writers' Circle: Evening Group, contact Kate for venue, 7.30pm.

Thursday 17th

Weekly Produce Market: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

Friday 18th

Chudleigh Amenity Society: John Walters with *Wildlife of Devon*, Woodway Room, 7.30pm.

Saturday 19th

Weekly Produce Market: Outside Town Hall, 8.30am to 1pm.

Pensioners Coffee Morning: Rest Centre, 10am to 11.30am.

Christmas Services

Church of England Services (Parish Church)

Sunday 16th December

Christingle Service and Nativity, 4.30pm.

Thursday 20th December

School Christmas Service, 10.30am.

Sunday 23rd December

Carol Service, 10.30am.

Monday 24th December

Family Carol Service, 3pm.

Holy Communion, 11pm (with Christmas

music from the choir from 10.30pm)

Tuesday 25th December

Holy Communion, 8am.

Baptist Services (Community Hall in School)

Sunday 16th December

Children's Christmas Presentation, 10.30am

Sunday 23rd December

Carol Service, 10.30am

Tuesday 25th December

Christmas Morning Celebration, 10.30am

Chudleigh Mummers

Will murder more English verse in their

St George Play

Wednesday 26th December

Town Hall	12 noon
Cridford Inn	1pm
Highwayman's Haunt	2pm
Bishop Lacy	3pm

News from the Town Council: recent highlights

- Teignbridge District Council will be providing their rural skip service in Chudleigh on Saturday 16th February between 10am and 4pm. The skip will be situated in the Market Way car park, for the disposal of bulky household waste only.
- Last year, the Town Council introduced an annual award as our way of saying thank you to people who contribute to the local community. There were ten nominations and the inaugural award was given to Alan Brunton of History Group, CADAS and Beating the Bounds fame. It is now time to start the process for the 2013 award and, once again, the local community is invited to submit nominations for these awards. There are no specific criteria but they must show that the nominee has made a significant contribution to the community. Application forms are available by e mail or from the Town Council offices and the closing date for nominations is Friday 1 March.
- Dog fouling problems are on the increase again — both in the parks and in various parts of town and the District Council's dog warden has sprayed "Pick it up" messages on the paths in problem areas. Anyone witnessing dog fouling should report it to the District Council via the Environmental Hotline 0800 328 6402: when and where the incident took place and as much detail as possible about the dog owner (where they live, car registration etc — anything that helps to identify them).
- It is rare for us to have any problems at the Town Hall but, recently, four youths seemed to find harassing our users a productive way to spend their evenings. Thanks to the CCTV, of which they seemed unaware, the four were identified and reported to the police. They received a police warning and have been banned from the Town Hall.
- A comprehensive list is available of all activities held at the Town Hall, together with contact details of the organisers. If you would like a copy please contact town hall staff.

Contact details: John Carlton, Town Clerk, 01626 853140, Johncarlton1994@yahoo.co.uk ; <http://www.chudleigh-tc.blogspot.com/>