



Tatworth and Forton Parish Council Newsletter

March 2026

Contents: Amenities, Tatworth Cemetery, Policing, Reporting Crime, Diary of Community Events, Annual Parish Meeting

Hello, and welcome to our first newsletter of 2026 for the residents of Tatworth and Forton Parish.

After a wet and miserable winter, the weather is improving, with Spring on its way. It is lovely to see daffodils flowering, mostly planted by the Parish Council over the years.



Amenities

The last amenities committee meeting was held on 22nd January 2026 at 7.00pm at Forton Community Hall, where a full and comprehensive range of subjects was covered.

Jubilee Field

We still look forward to hedge laying, but the weather has at last allowed replacement trees and groundwork at this important and popular amenity. Land drainage management has progressed as far as financial constraints have allowed, and the gateway to the allotments and the dedicated dog exercise and training area have been reworked too.



The reports of the unsupervised dog that found its way back into the park area have stopped. We are still unsure of where the dog was entering the field, so let us know by marking the gap in the perimeter fence somehow, and report it to the Parish Clerk. Dog walkers are requested to continue to respect all visitors to the area and take full advantage of the special facilities provided, including the dog waste bin at the exit to the Jubilee Fields at School Lane.

The top field, specially secured, prepared and maintained, where walkers are encouraged to exercise dogs off lead, now has a memorial bench installed.

The fruit tree pruning work is in progress. As I write, only the lower part of the orchard is completed. Anyone who would like to help is asked to give their contact details to the Parish Clerk.

The Wassail was a huge success, and many more braved the January evening this year, where everyone had fun supporting an ancient tradition to encourage the fruit trees to yield apples for cider making. The children especially joined in with enthusiasm.



The Allotments

The Parish Council have agreed to award the best kept allotment, and we hope that can be in association with the Horticultural Association. Spring is upon us: and already the activity has increased, and our industrious allotment holders have been busy preparing for the new growing season. A few allotments have become available, so be sure to contact the Parish Clerk to reserve one. Allotment holders have formed an "Association", and are represented on the Parish Council Amenities Committee. The Allotment Association is hoping to have a "community plot" where anyone can work after arranging it through them. The rental cost of allotments in our parish has been held down for many years and is considerably cheaper than Chard or surrounding parishes, so must be increased soon.

Coombses Pond

Please come and visit the restoration of this essential and important amenity. The Parish Council have appointed a professional ecologist to produce a management plan - thanks to a successful grant application from "Rivers Run Through Us" funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The first part of the plan, to prepare the entrance and the near pond bank for limited ability access, is completed. Please take care when you go and visit to check progress. Here, too, we are soon to install a picnic bench. Management of the perimeter path continues with removal of dead, fallen and hazardous trees.

All owners of land bordering watercourses have critical responsibilities and the council have adapted an old water course in the hope that the flooding risk to nearby property is reduced. The record-breaking rainfall endured over the last 3 months has proved its worth. Now the pond outlet must be modified to match the potential inlet in certain conditions.

Many improvements are planned, but limited finances force slow progress. The surface is badly contaminated with duckweed. This weed stops light from penetrating the water and kills all other life. The iris growth has also taken over a huge part and must also be controlled.

A new litter bin has been installed; please go and enjoy the pond but take your litter home rather than spoil it for others.

Shelters, Bins, Notice Boards and Seats

All our bus shelters are provided, kept clean and maintained by the parish. Additional bins have been installed and some older ones replaced.

Benches can be installed in memory of members of the parish; details of this plan can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Notice boards are installed and maintained around our community. Please contact the Parish Clerk with a notice if you wish to use them.

Please remember great care must still be taken by anyone in this wild area, with deep water, nettles and many trip hazards. The access and perimeter path will be kept clear of undesirable vegetation and log piles. Contractors will begin this work, but we need volunteers to maintain it.

Green Areas, Footpaths and Hedges

We have a better definition of this work that has always been the responsibility of Somerset County but has recently fallen by default to the Parish Council to complete.

Drains, Gullies, Potholes and Problems on the Road: How to Report a Problem

If we want to get these issues addressed, we really have to report them.

Adopt a drain near you and get our drains and gullies cleared now

To report blocked drains, potholes, or other highway issues in Somerset, use the Somerset Council website's "Report a problem on the road" service or call their contact centre at 0300 123 2224. For urgent problems posing a public safety risk, especially outside of normal working hours, the phone number should be used immediately.

Go to the Somerset Council Website: Visit the official website for roads and parking.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

Select the Problem Type:

Choose the specific issue from the list, such as:

Potholes, road damage and edge loss
Drains and gullies
Flooding on the road
Hazard on the road

Provide Details: Fill out the online form, including the location of the problem, and submit it.

Call for Urgent Issues: If the problem is urgent and a risk to public safety, or if you are reporting outside of Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, you can call 0300 123 2224.

What to Expect:

Inspection: Your report will be assessed, and an inspection will be arranged.

Action: The Somerset County Council will determine if a repair is needed based on the risk and severity. Serious issues are prioritised for faster repair. **Follow-Up:** You will be able to track the progress of your reported issue using the reference number you receive.

Tatworth Cemetery

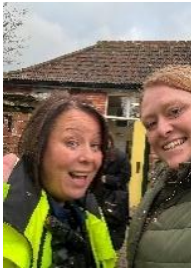
The improvement of our cemetery is ongoing, with the recent completion of the extension to our front railing replacing the perished privet hedge. We are hoping to sandblast and powder coat the front railing in the next 12 months. In the Autumn we are planning to plant a yew hedge around the Garden of Remembrance.



We have completed memorial safety testing for the top four sections of the cemetery. It was deemed that 18 memorials were considered dangerous and had to be laid flat, and a further 12 repaired. **If your family memorial is one of those laid flat please contact the Clerk and we can inform you who to contact to replace the memorial subject to modern regulations.** We are considering how long to allow them to be laid flat before they are removed to another part of the cemetery.



The cemetery extension planning application is proceeding with the Environment Agency report (105 pages) having been written and being submitted. Once approved we can move onto topographical and ecology surveys. It is a long process.



Policing

PCSO Hayley Harris has reported that they have carried out two patrols at Tatworth Primary School, which included some lovely and positive engagement with children and families. The Police will continue to patrol our Parish.

Reporting Crime

Without logged reports of crime, the police are unable to take much action. If you are aware of something you feel the police should investigate, then please go onto the [Avon and Somerset Police website](#), where you can submit a report. It does not take long. This builds up a vital bank of evidence, and enables the police to investigate. Without this information, the police do find it hard to act. It is a simple process, and greatly helps the local police in their role. Thank you!

A NEW RELEASE – DIARY OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Forton Community Association

18 April Jumble Sale 10:30-12:30
14 June Cream Tea 2:00-4:00
4 July Music Festival

Litter Picking Memorial Hall Car Park

21 March 10:30-12:30
13 June 10:30-12:30
Organised by the WI, all are welcome

Playing Field Association

Good Friday 3 April and Saturday 4 April Beer Festival

Tatworth Memorial Hall

Monthly Events - Bingo 3rd Friday
Flower Club 1st Thursday
Horticultural 2nd Thursday
WI 3rd Thursday

Weekly Events – See Memorial Hall website for details
TAPS, Zumba, Tai Chi, WI, Table Tennis, Choir, Yoga,
Art, Fitness, Children's Dance

St John's Church

3 April Messy Church in the Church Rooms for all children and families
5 April Easter Sunday Service 10:30am

Tatworth and District Horticultural Society

9 April 7:00pm Talk "Summer Hanging Baskets" - Memorial Hall
30 April Trip to Brimsmore Garden Centre
14 May Talk "Gardening for Moths" - Memorial Hall
16 May Plant Sale – St John's Church
11 June Coach Outing to Rosemore

Details on Facebook page for Horticultural Society

Perry Street Club Details on their Facebook page

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 14 May, where we can all meet together to hear presentations from a Guest Speaker, Council Chairman, Somerset Councillors, and from local organisations awarded parish grants. A new feature will be the Chairman's Award for the person that has made an outstanding contribution to the residents of Tatworth and Forton.

DATES OF NEXT PARISH MEETINGS

2 April, 7 May, 4 June

Residents are very welcome to attend these meetings and have an opportunity to speak before the meeting about any matter not on the Agenda. If you have any questions or feedback arising from this Newsletter, please send them to admin@tatworthandfortonparishcouncil.org.



WE TRUST THAT ALL RESIDENTS WILL HAVE AN ENJOYABLE EASTER BREAK