



Tatworth and Forton Parish Council Newsletter

September 2026

Contents: Parish Councillors and Introduction to Jack Stevenson, Amenities, Tatworth Cemetery, Parish Council Defibrillators, Youth Work, Community Christmas Lunch and Children's Christmas Party, 2026 Grants for Local Organisations, Community Support Needed, Diary of Community Events.

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

After a long, hot and dry summer, we look forward to a cooler autumn. We need rain — but hopefully not all at once. There will be community events throughout the next few months; please look out for our free outdoor cinema event. For full details, please read our youth events and diary of community events on the last page, and please support where you can.

Parish Councillors and Introduction to Jack Stevenson

As a Parish Council, we have 12 councillors who come from different backgrounds and skills, they represent your interests. They are volunteers — some retired, others still working — but all share the desire to improve our community and the area we live in, giving up a few hours of their time to help achieve this.

We welcome **Jack Stevenson** as our newest councillor.

“Hello, my name is Jack, and I'm very pleased to be joining Tatworth Parish Council.

I have lived in the parish for just over a year and, during that time, my husband and I have had the pleasure of co-running Ye Olde Poppe Inn. Although a year may seem a relatively short time, running a village pub has given me the opportunity to get to know so many people within our community and to understand just how special Tatworth and its surrounding villages are.

A pub is often about far more than simply serving food and drinks. Over the past year, I have been

privileged to share in some of the happiest moments in people's lives, but I have also been there during some of the saddest. I've celebrated with members of the parish, listened to their stories, heard their concerns and, at times, grieved alongside them.

That experience is a big part of why I wanted to join the Parish Council. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been welcomed into this community, and I would now like the opportunity to give something more back than simply pulling pints and serving dinners. I look forward to listening, learning and doing my bit to help make our parish an even better place to live, work and visit”

Amenities

Jubilee Field

After the hot weather, the field is parched and dry but is still open for residents to enjoy. We have lost two trees in the main field and two in the orchard, which will be replaced this winter.

The Allotments

Allotment holders have been working hard against the weather to maintain and produce a good crop — some more successful than others.



The Parish Council has donated a cup and garden vouchers to the Tatworth Horticultural Society to award to the **Best Kept Jubilee Allotment**. The winner was **Mrs Janet Russell**. 2nd Garon Wakin, joint 3rd Bethany Gillingham and Rebecca Jacobs. Council Chairman **Richard Down** presented the trophy.

Bus Shelters, Bins, Notice Boards and Seats

All bus shelters are provided, kept clear, and maintained by the Parish Council.

Benches can be installed in memory of members of the Parish. We are arranging another bench for the dog exercise area at Jubilee Field. If you are interested and want more details, please contact the Clerk.

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

The Parish Council has ordered a durable and stylish replacement community notice board for outside Morrisons. There is a two-month wait before delivery and fitting.

Coombses Pond

A further grant from *Rivers Trust Through Us*, funded by the National Lottery, is allowing a number of overhanging trees and branches to be removed to allow more sunlight into the pond. The pond will be closed for a week in middle of November to allow this work to be done safely.

We would like to arrange a flow of water into the pond but need specialist guidance and permission.

Both actions should reduce duckweed and improve water quality.

A team of volunteers from *Rivers Trust Through Us* have helped clear large areas of bindweed. We are also taking advice to shore up the bank between the pond and the brook.

Tatworth Cemetery

The improvement of our cemetery is ongoing. The front railing will soon be removed for sandblasting and powder coating.

In autumn, we are planning to plant a new hedge around the Garden of Remembrance.

Memorial testing is ongoing. We have retested the four sections where memorials were identified for annual inspection. Of the 18 memorials laid flat as dangerous, families of three have contacted us to begin reinstatement under modern safety regulations. Please contact the Clerk if your family memorial has been laid flat.

The cemetery extension planning application has moved to a new stage as the Environment Agency has passed the groundwater assessment. The permit for burials has been applied for, and topographical & ecological surveys arranged.

Parish Council Defibrillators

The Parish Council manages three defibrillators:

- St John's Church, Perry Street Club, and Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall device has been replaced, so all three are identical.

There is a **free defibrillator training session** on **21st October 7pm** at the Memorial Hall. As places are limited, please email: clerk@tatworthandfortonparishcouncil.org.uk

This training session — and the guide below — has been prepared by **Peter Fosh**.

How to use a Defibrillator Device

Phone 999 and give your location followed by the following information, suspected cardiac arrest.

You will be given advice on how to do CPR if required. Ask for the location of the nearest Defib and its access code as a text.

If needed to use the defib,

- 1 Open the case turn the device on listen to the commands.
- 2 Place the pads on casualties bare chest. ALL clothing to be removed from chest and stomach. Pad placement. The device has a flashing image to show placement. They will stick to hairy chests.
- 3 Listen to the instructions and keep clear to allow the device to analyse patients heart. It will not shock you but do not touch the patient as that will interfere with the analysis.
- 4 Press flashing shock button if the device says to.
- 5 Continue CPR and or shock cycles as required.
- 6 The devices in our area are almost fool proof but please return it after use and I will check it over before it goes back online.

These devices save lives please learn how to use one. There numerous high quality defibs around the Parish, the location is on the British Heart Foundation App.

Youth Work

Summer Trips Bring the Community Together

This summer, members of our community enjoyed two fantastic days out, bringing together people of all ages for fun, laughter and plenty of happy memories.

A Sunny Day in Lyme Regis

On 31 July, we enjoyed a wonderful bus trip to the beautiful seaside town of Lyme Regis. The weather was kind to us, and everyone had a brilliant time enjoying a sunny day by the sea.

It was lovely to see both young and old coming together to enjoy the trip, with plenty of opportunities to explore, relax and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere of the seaside.

A huge thank you to Roaster Bus for getting everyone safely there and back and helping to make the day possible.



Fun and Laughter at Crealy Adventure Park



Our second summer trip took place on 21 August, when we travelled to Crealy Adventure Park for another exciting day out.

A great day was had by all, with lots of laughter, excitement and, of course, plenty of rides to enjoy! There was something for everyone, and it was wonderful to see families and members of the community spending time together and making the most of the day.

Both trips were a great success, and we would like to thank everyone who came along and helped make these days so enjoyable. We hope that there will be many more opportunities for our community to come together for fun days out in the future!



We also provided craft and painting materials for entries from our young people in the Horticultural Society Village Show.

Look out for our free outdoor cinema event



Community Christmas Lunch & Children's Christmas Party

We are delighted to announce that the Community Christmas celebrations will return this year with two special events, bringing people of all ages together during the festive season.

Community Christmas Lunch

The first event will be our traditional Community Christmas Lunch, featuring a classic Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. The lunch will take place at **St John's Church Rooms on Monday 7th December, starting at 12.00 noon.**

The event is open to everyone in the community. However, priority will be given to those who may be spending Christmas alone or who live on their own. We hope the lunch will provide an opportunity for people to enjoy a delicious festive meal, good company and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

If you would like to register your interest in attending, please contact the Clerk on :

clerk@tatworthandfortonparishcouncil.org.uk

Children's Christmas Party

Our second event will be a Children's Christmas Party, taking place on **Saturday 5th December at St John's Church Rooms.**

Children and their families are invited to come along and enjoy a traditional party meal, along with a range of Christmas crafts, activities and festive fun.

If you would like to register your interest in attending the Children's Christmas Party, please contact the Clerk on :

clerk@tatworthandfortonparishcouncil.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming members of our community to these two wonderful festive events and celebrating Christmas together.

2026 Grants for Local Organisations

The grant application form is on our website. **Closing date: September 14th.**

Community Support Needed

- 1) We have had a request from **Swiss Tulle** after a series of incidents with dogs on Factory Lane — including a dog biting a member of staff and several near misses with vehicles. Please can dogs remain on a **short lead** whilst walking along Factory Lane.
- 2) The WI is holding the next **Litter Pick** on: **Saturday 3rd October, 10:30am – 12:30pm** Meet at the Memorial Hall. Bags and gloves provided. Litter pickers and hi-vis vests are provided by the Parish Council, but please bring your own if you have one. Please come and help tidy up the area we enjoy living in.
- 3) Community Speed watch needs fresh volunteers; this valuable service keeps us safe from speeding vehicles. Contact the Clerk who will pass your details on.

DIARY OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Forton Community Association

17 October Race Night
14 November Fish & Chip Supper

Last Friday of the month, 7:30pm – Quiz Night

Tatworth Memorial Hall

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

Playing Fields Association

7 November Bonfire Night

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

Perry Street Club

September

12th Lockyer Clan (Live Music)
25th Quiz Night
26th Old School Disco (80s)

October

2nd Disco
17th Turnette Duo (Live Music)
25th One Tree Hill (Live Music)
30th Quiz
31st Halloween

November

13th Ladies Night
14th Bar None (Live Music)

Tatworth and District Horticultural Society

10 September Otters: Coming to a River Near You
8 October Wildlife Wanderings in Somerset
12 November A Rogues' Gallery for Gardeners

WI

Monday afternoon social and games 2–4pm
Monthly meeting: 3rd Thursday
17th September – Knight Tales: History, Mystery & Folklore of Somerset
15th October – Medical Detection Dogs

Dates of next Parish Meetings: 1st October, 5th November, 3rd December

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