

INVOLVE
VOLUNTARY ACTION IN MID DEVON

CREDITON
Summer 2025

I was delighted to join INVOLVE in May and become their Community Builder for Crediton. My background is in nursing and fitness and I have been in Devon since 1985 so a while now!

Since being in post I have been amazed at just how many different organisations there are in Crediton and I am busy making sure everyone knows about them. The newsletter provides and update on what I have been up to, and showcases some of the amazing groups and people that help our community thrive.

I would love to hear from you. Do you:

- have an idea for our community
- want to share what you care about
- have a skill you want to share with your local community
- need help with a local project
- would like to receive their community newsletter
- Would like to share details of a group you run or support

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Emma

CREDITON & AREA VINTAGE FARMERS



It was a real pleasure to join INVOLVE formally on 1st May but I was lucky enough to join Tamlyn and 65 fabulous Vintage Farmers at their first anniversary meal at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monochorum on 30 April.

Richard and Stephen from the FCN and Hazel Evely attended and we thanked them for their fantastic support this past year. Tamlyn, Richard, Stephen and members also spoke on BBC Radio 4's Farming Today about rural isolation.

The Group is going strong with 81 members and regular monthly meet-ups at lovely local venues like Homeleigh, Bow Garden Centre, Mole Avon, and Exe Valley Farm Shop.

"Dad always used to go to Market on a Friday and see his friends but he doesn't go now he's retired. These meet ups are great. He can now see his friends again".

"Farming can be a lonely job and when you retire it can just get more lonely. It's great to see old friends and meet new ones.

I'm so grateful for this group".



CREDITON CANCER SUPPORT

The Cancer Support Group continues to grow. Alongside our monthly coffee mornings at Homeleigh Garden Centre, we're excited to launch a new coffee morning at Bow Garden Centre, helping us reach more rural communities.

Supported by a grant from Macmillan, we have run a six-week Pilates course and have a series of creative workshops and gentle Yoga sessions booked over the next couple of months - see Dates for the Diary.

Open to anyone affected by cancer - do get in touch if you would like to attend our peer to peer support coffee mornings or planned activities.

"I come in feeling miserable and leave feeling so much better"

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

48

Individuals have attended at least one activity

11

Different activities have been created

78+

Hours of activities and support in the first 12 months







ECOTHREADS & PRE-LOVED PROM

Ecothreads has been an incredible initiative to be part of, especially working alongside creative and motivated students in Years 13 and 10. Collaborating with these inspiring young people has been a real highlight. The project is making a meaningful impact by promoting sustainability, improving access, and helping with the cost of living.

Thank you to Crediton Town Council and Recycle Devon for your generous Grants to support these initiatives.





400 + items of schoolwear donated

July Pop-Up Shop to support new starters

Saved our community over £3,500

16 Pre-loved Prom outfits rented

190 + items of schoolwear sold to our families

COMMUNITY ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP

We're working with a range of local partners through CAP (Community Alcohol Partnership), which aims to reduce alcohol harm among young people, with a focus on preventing underage drinking. Our partners include Mid Devon Police, Crediton Town Council, QE School, Mid Devon District Council, and businesses across the town.



This kind of collaborative work is at the heart of what we do. It strengthens our efforts and helps achieve the best outcomes for the community. Next stage is the survey with QE students.

COMMUNITY COOKERY HUB



We are proud to be one of five groups in Devon awarded funding to set up a Community Cookery Hub.
Launching in September. The project supports the development ofpractical skills, brings people together, and will feed into county-wide in learning.

There's been lots going on behind the scenes to get it ready and we're excited for what's ahead. Our first group will be the team at Crediton Youth - what a great starting point.

Devon County Council

WE ARE DEVON Community Foundation

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

LISTENING EVENTS



I thoroughly enjoyed having a Listening Event at Crediton Congregational Church on Friday 16th May. I was able to listen and chat with a wide range of locals who were attending the Cafe as well as using the Food Bank.

My second Listening Event is planned for Thursday 21 August at Redlands Primary Care in Crediton 11.00-1.00pm. Hope to see you there!



THE COMMUNITY QUESTION

Every month, we ask a question on social media to spark conversation, gather ideas, and make sure lots of different voices are heard. This helps us really understand what matters most to the community. As the project moves forward, we'll show how your feedback shapes what we do next.

Folllow us on facebook - facebook.com/creditoncommunitybuilder

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS:
505

NEW FOLLOWERS
137

FACEBOOK INTERACTION
+168%

Be part of the conversation.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

GETTING TO KNOW OUR GROUPS

The Crediton Lions

I've had the pleasure of spending time with Ann from the Crediton & District Lions. An inspiring group who truly are the backbone of this town.

I'm absolutely delighted that they've joined the Community Cookery Hub Project.



Photo: Alan Quick, Crediton Courier

This incredible group is also recruiting new members. So if you're looking to get involved and make a real difference in our town, this is the perfect opportunity. The Crediton Lions are a shining example of community in action, and now's your chance to be part of it. www.creditonlionsclub

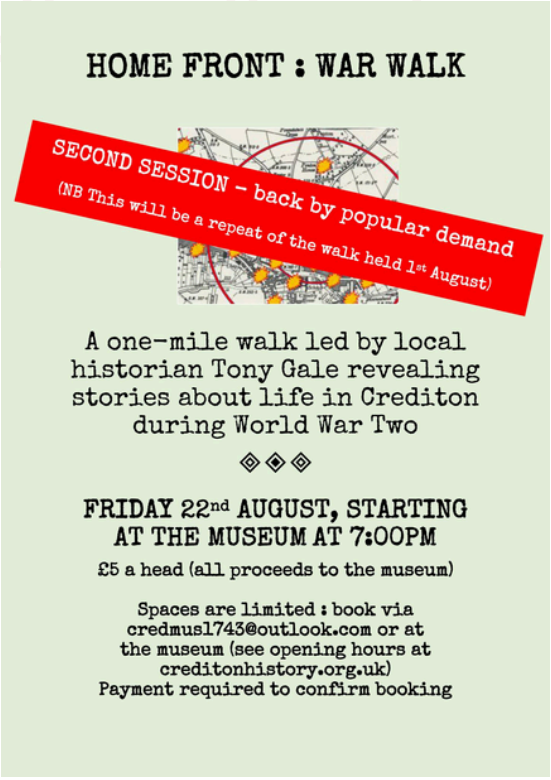
Crediton and District Lions
Serving our Community

The Growing Well Garden, Bow



I also got to spend time with another Emma! It was fantastic to be invited to the Growing Well Garden at Bow, a green social prescribing project based at Bow Medical Practice which provides gardening as a therapeutic activity in a friendly and supportive setting.

Crediton Area History & Museum Society



Crediton Museum looks back at what life was like here at home during World War Two, 80 years after the war ended.

The exhibition shares local stories of evacuees, Land Army girls, and volunteers from the Home Guard, Civil Defence and WVS. It also explored how people managed with food shortages – from British Restaurants to rural meat pies! You can even join the Home Front War Walk

Open from 9th April to Autumn 2025
Wed–Fri: 10am–4pm
Sat: 11am–2pm

Free entry – donations welcome!

Armed Forces Support Hub

Jola from the Armed Forces Support Hub invited me to join their Crediton Breakfast Club at The Ship Inn in Crediton in June to meet some of the Veterans and also Mark Littlewood who runs this monthly event. It was so useful to learn about the range of support and events available to Veterans.

Folliow their facebook page for information and updates on regulare meetings and events.



FACEBOOK.COM/ARMEDFORCESCOMMUNITYSUPPORTHUB

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Our much-loved Age Concern is open and buzzing with life! With lunch clubs, social activities, and a wide range of support services, they offer vital companionship and care to the older members of our community.

Whether you're looking for a friendly face, a warm meal, or simply a place to connect—Age Concern is here for you.

ageconcerncrediton.co.uk



Crediton Foodbank

Crediton Foodbank is based at Crediton Congregational Church on the high street. It supports individuals and families facing financial hardship by providing emergency food parcels, a listening ear, and signposting to further support services.

The Friday Café at Crediton Foodbank is open 10am - 12pm, offering a cuppa, support and a friendly ear. Always there to support.

creditonfoodbank.org.uk

CREDITION BAPS

A weekly baby group run BY Crediton Parents, FOR Crediton Parents.
At Crediton Methodist Church, Tuesday 12-2pm - all weeks including school holidays. Friendly and free to attend! Bottle and combi-feeding and qualified breastfeeding support available.

The Fish Tank

Is the fab club for pre-school children at the Crediton Congregation Church.
TUESDAYS, 10.00 - 12.00
Lots of singing, craft, free play and fun for pre-schoolers (plus coffee and cake for the adults).



The BOOKERY

Our very own award winning community bookshop offers numerous groups, activities and events for all ages. Working with Turning Tides, Jam Babies runs on a Thursday 10am - 11am. Creative Play and Music

THE HEART PROJECT

The Crediton Heart Project, an independent charity run entirely by volunteers, is dedicated to keeping creativity, connection, and community at the centre of local life.
At the core of their work is www.creditonheartproject.org, a vibrant online hub designed to support local people, promote events, and showcase the many wonderful activities and initiatives happening across the area.

But the Heart Project is about more than just sharing information – it's about nurturing what makes this community thrive.





Creative workshops and opportinities across the town, including the Summer Arts Festival and youth focused Kick Start Art.

The Park House is an exciting new proposed development by the Crediton Heart Project. To create a vibrant arts and community hub next to Newcombes Meadow. The Park House will help keep the heart in Crediton as the town grows



Find out more and have your say - follow the facebook page and complete the consultation

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2nd - 9th August - The Crediton Heart Project Summer Arts Festival - check out the full schedule creditonheartproject.org

6th August - Involve - Cancer Support - Group Lunch* Homeleigh Garden Centre. 11am - 12.30pm*

21st August - Involve Cancer Support - Clay Workshop* White Room, Crediton. 10.30am - 1pm*

Do keep an eye on The Bookery for a wide range of events and activities. thebookery.org.uk

21st August - Involve Listening Event Redlands Surgery Crediton. 11am - 1pm

3rd September - Involve Cancer Support - Coffee Morning Homeleigh Garden Centre, Crediton. 11am - 12.30pm

4th September - Involve Vintage Farmers - Cider & Quiz* Mole Avon, Crediton. 6pm - 8.30pm

NEW **11th September** - Involve Cancer Support - Coffee Morning Bow Garden Centre, 11am - 12.30pm

4th October - Crediton & District Lions Great Fire Walk, Crediton Square. 6pm-9pm e-clubhouse.org/sites/creditondistrict

Crediton and District Lions
Serving our Community

Those activities or events with * require booking.