



Littleham and Landcross Parish Council

Parish Newsletter

Welcome to the latest newsletter for Littleham and Landcross

Thank you for the positive feedback on the last newsletter — it is encouraging to know that the information was useful and appreciated. There are several activities and developments taking place within the community that we felt deserved an update and wider publicity, which is why we've put together this edition.

Our aim is not to replace existing newsletters or websites, but to complement them and help highlight the many things happening across our villages.

If you are new to Littleham or Landcross, a warm welcome. We hope you will soon feel at home and become part of our friendly and active community — there truly is something for everyone.

Parish Council



The purpose of your parish council is to represent the interests of our local community, improve the quality of life for residents, and deliver local services. As the first and most local tier of government they act as a vital link between the community and other levels of government. This Parish Council represents the communities of **Littleham and Landcross** consisting of around 400 residents in approximately 200 households.

We meet **monthly**, on the **first Thursday of the month at 7.15pm**. Members of the public are warmly encouraged to attend; the first 15 minutes are reserved for public questions and comments.

Our website includes councillor details, contact information, and minutes of past meetings:

❖ <https://www.littlehamandlandcross-pc.gov.uk/>

There are occasionally vacancies on the council, so if you are interested in getting involved, please do get in touch.

April 2026

Activities the parish council has been involved in recently include:

Parish Plan

The last Parish Plan was completed in 2006 and while a lot of the issues identified are still current, the parish council believes that the plan needs to be updated to reflect developments since 2006 and be prepared for future development pressures.

What is a Parish Plan?

A parish plan is a community-led, non-statutory document that sets out a shared vision for the future of a local area, along with practical actions to address local needs. Covering social, economic, and environmental aspects of community life, it helps guide improvements to quality of life and inform future development.

Key benefits include:

- **Influence on development** — While not a statutory planning document, a well-evidenced parish plan is often recognised by local authorities as a material consideration when assessing planning applications.
- **Stronger community cohesion** — The process brings residents together to identify priorities, aspirations, and solutions for the parish.
- **Better access to funding** — The evidence gathered through the plan strengthens applications for grants and funding for community projects.
- **A clearer community voice** — It improves communication between residents and the Parish Council, ensuring local views are heard in decision-making.

Your views on how Littleham and Landcross should develop are essential. We will soon be seeking volunteers to join a steering group to help lead the process. We look forward to seeing you at the **Annual Parish Meeting on 7th May at 7pm**, where the Parish Plan will be a key topic for discussion.

Community Energy Project

The Parish Council, in partnership with 361Energy, has secured a grant from Great British Energy to explore the feasibility of developing community-owned renewable energy within the parish.

Why are we undertaking this project?

- **Reducing our carbon footprint** by generating clean, local energy.
- **Increasing local renewable energy production** to support a more sustainable future.
- **Bringing financial benefits into the community** through potential long-term income from energy generation.
- **Strengthening community resilience** in the face of increasing climate instability, including funding for two community hubs.
- **Lowering energy costs** for those who choose to invest in or hold a stake in the project.



Key Questions:

1. Is it feasible?
2. Does the community want this?
3. How would we deliver it?

The feasibility study, carried out by Energy4All, will address the first question by examining grid capacity, local energy demand, and the suitability of potential sites. If the study shows that a project is viable, we will move on to the next stages, where community input will be essential.

The Vision

The proposal centres on an appropriately sited, community-owned wind turbine within the parish, supported by an energy hub at the village hall equipped with solar panels, battery storage, a heat pump, and EV charging. The church would also benefit from additional battery storage and a heat pump. Income generated by the wind turbine is expected to cover electricity costs for both the village hall and the church, with surplus funds reinvested into community projects. Ground-mounted solar is not included in the proposal.

Biodiversity

A successful biodiversity event was recently held in the village hall. A native hedgerow has also been planted up at the village hall. Keep your eyes open for future events.

Broadband and Phone Signal

We continue to pursue better mobile phone coverage and broadband connectivity for the parish. Sir Geoffrey Cox, together with Devon County Council, is now actively involved in these discussions.

As the traditional landline network is gradually phased out, securing reliable alternatives becomes increasingly important. We will keep pressing for meaningful improvements to ensure residents are not left behind.

Littleham Phone Box

Following the recent consultation on its future, the phone box will undergo some refurbishment and will initially be used as a village history information point. If you have any historical photographs or memorabilia that could be included, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Mobile Post Office

We approached the mobile Post Office service to request that Littleham be added to its list of regular stops. Unfortunately, the Post Office has advised that they do not currently have the capacity to extend the route and believe there is insufficient demand at this time.

Footpaths and Bridleways

The new Shutta bridleway is now open, fully signposted, and cleared of brambles, making it far easier and more enjoyable to use.

Defibrillator

The parish council continues to fund the community defibrillators, despite the withdrawal of support from the South Western Ambulance Service. This ensures that these vital emergency resources remain available to everyone in the parish.

Churches and Community Newsletter

Our parish is home to three churches which all hold regular services:

- **St Swithun's, Littleham**
- **Holy Trinity, Landcross**
- **Littleham Methodist Church**

The Crosslet, a church-sponsored monthly community newsletter covering Littleham, Landcross, Monkleigh and Weare Giffard is an excellent source of local news and events and costs just **£5 per year**.

To subscribe, provide input or advertise, email:

andrewtregoning@btinternet.com.

It is also available to view online at:

<http://www.littleham-landcross.org.uk/Crosslet.htm>.

Village Hall



The village hall is a well-used and much-loved community hub at the heart of Littleham. The website provides full details of regular activities, special events, hall hire, bar and skittle alley bookings, and a calendar of upcoming events:

❖ <https://www.littlehamvillagehall.co.uk/>

A “Helping Hands” WhatsApp group supports events throughout the year, and new volunteers are always warmly welcomed.

Regular Groups and Activities

Social skittles evenings
Stitch & Create
Art Group
Book Exchange
Quilters
Friday Club
Film Club

Annual & Seasonal Events

Sunday brunches
Bingo
Quizzes
Music evenings
Beetle drives
Dance classes

Attendance at these events helps to fund the hall and keep it thriving as a resource for everyone in the parish.

If you'd like to start a new activity or host an event of your own, please get in touch: bookings@littlehamvillagehall.co.uk

The Crealock Arms

If you haven't already visited, our village pub – **The Crealock Arms** – offers a warm welcome. Run by Rick and Clare, with Joeseeph and Emily, the pub serves excellent food including a very popular Sunday carvery lunch (**booking essential**).

The pub hosts several skittle and pool teams, plus regular evening events such as Morris Dancing in the summer.

The Crealock is also home to **The Littleham Howlers**, a close harmony singing group available for parties, community events, weddings and festivals. Their performances raise funds for Neuroblastoma UK, Harbour, North Devon Hospice, and St. Swithun's Church.

The Crealock Arms:

- ❖ <https://crealockarms.co.uk/>
- ❖ 01237 477065

Littleham Film & Social Club

The Film Club meets once a month—usually on the first Saturday—for ten months of the year, showing a selection of topical and current films. Doors open at 6:30pm at the village hall, with the film starting at 7pm. An interval is held roughly halfway through.

Free tea, coffee, and biscuits are available during the interval, and a well-stocked bar offers wine, beer, soft drinks, and ice creams for purchase. Tall seats are provided at the back of the room, while those who prefer subtitles will find the best view from the seats at the front.

Entry is very reasonably priced at **£5 per person**, or for even better value, an annual membership is available for **£17.50 per person**.

Look out for posters around the village and at the village hall in the week leading up to each screening. For more information, please contact [Keith](#) on [07425 392731](tel:07425392731).

A Little Bit of Littleham History

Littleham once had its own brewery, located on the site now known as Apps Farm. Although the exact opening date cannot be confirmed, it is believed to have begun operating around 1852–53. The earliest known reference appears in the *North Devon Journal* on 23 February 1854, which carried an advertisement for the new enterprise.

Known as the **Apps Brewery**, it employed an experienced brewer from Burton-on-Trent, a town renowned for its brewing expertise. The spring water at Apps was considered excellent soft water for brewing and was even described at the time as having *medicinal properties*.

The brewery produced a range of beers, including *Good Table Ale*, *Good Mild Ale*, *Good Apps Beer* and *Good Apps Pale Ale*. Prices ranged from 1 shilling to 1 shilling and 8 old pence per gallon. Beer was sold both in Bideford and directly from the brewery, and early success led to an expansion in 1859.

The brewery endured significant setbacks. A fire in 1873 destroyed the stables, a barn, and a cottage, though brewing continued. A second, far more serious fire in 1885 burned the entire brewery to the ground. It was rebuilt on the same site and continued operating until 1901, when it was sold and production was moved to other local premises, including in Bideford.

APPS' ALE

THE APPS' BREWERY COMPANY'S ALE can now be had in fine condition in casks containing 54, 36, 18, 9 and 4½ gallons each, at 1s., 1s 3d., and 1s 6d., per Gallon: DIRECT from the BREWERY, or from their appointed AGENT, Mr. G. OATWAY, Jun., High-street, Bideford.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 7th May 2026

7.00pm

Littleham Village Hall

What is your vision for the future of Littleham and Landcross?

Do we need a new Parish Plan?

Your chance to comment or ask questions on any Parish issues



Contact clerk@littlehamandlandcross-pc.gov.uk

Useful Links

- **Parish Council:** <https://www.littlehamandlandcross-pc.gov.uk>
- **District Council:** <https://www.torridge.gov.uk/> (useful for bin collection dates)
- **Village Hall:** <https://www.littlehamvillagehall.co.uk>
- **Littleham & Landcross Community Facebook Group:** (search on Facebook)
- **Bideford Events Calendar:**
<https://discoverbideford.co.uk/events/bidefords-annual-event-calendar>

If you'd like this newsletter emailed to you in future, or have items you'd like included, please let us (the Parish Council – see above for contact details) know!

April 2026