



# ATWEST



**ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT WEST SOMERSET**

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## ATWEST TRAVEL CLUB

Like last year, I didn't fancy trying to put a newsletter together close to Christmas because we are very busy with driving. So this is a "double issue" in that it has the trips for both December and January in it. They have separate booking dates but all the details are listed on the relevant page.

There are also lots of other things, festive and otherwise, so I hope you enjoy it.



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## Deb's Joke and Fun Corner!



An 80 year old man lived on his own in a little village. He wanted to plant up his vegetable plot but his only son, who used to help him, was in prison. He wrote this letter to his son.

"Dear Andrew. I'm fed up that I won't be able to plant up my vegetable patch this year as you're not able to help me and I'm just too old for all the heavy digging."

A few days later he received the following reply. "Dear Papa. Whatever you do, don't dig up the garden. I'm sorry to tell you this in a letter but that's where I hid the bodies."

At 7am the next day detectives and uniformed police arrived and by noon they had turned over the whole garden. But they couldn't find anything so they apologised and left.

The next day the man received another letter from his son. "Dear Papa. You can go ahead and plant your garden now. I hope the team didn't upset you too much but it was the best I could manage to arrange in the circumstances!"

I walked into a shop and the man behind the till came out and covered me in cheese. He then put yoghurt all over the cheese.

How dairy.

What's the most popular Christmas wine?

I don't like Brussels sprouts!

What are the wettest animals in the world?

Reindeer!

Why didn't the skeleton go to the New Year's party?

He had no body to go with!





# Deb's (not-so new) Puzzle Page!



- ANGEL
- BAUBLES
- BELL
- BOWS
- CANDLE
- CHRISTMAS TREE
- FAIRYLIGHTS
- GARLAND
- HOLLY
- LANTERN
- MISTLETOE
- NATIVITY SCENE
- PAPER CHAINS
- ROBIN
- SNOWFLAKES
- SNOWSCENE
- STAR
- STOCKINGS
- TINSEL
- WREATH

S Z V U Z C T M B H S Z C Z Y T W Q D H  
 N Q X T P C F A I E B H C W R E A T H O  
 I S R R K E U K K S R S U W C O U L T L  
 A S T H M B K A P I T D G D Q Q F H I L  
 H O Y H L A L N S R A L C B C I W U B Y  
 C D L E G F J T R Q T Y E J R V I M R S  
 R R S H W I M E N E C S Y T I V I T A N  
 E Z N O O A L L C V T E I M O P K M T O  
 P V N R S D P Y V S A N Y X L E J W S W  
 A S P T Y R W A R L Z O A D E U A O J S  
 P W R W S T O C K I N G S L S V Y W E C  
 W E H T J A F Z Q G A M N I N P P L D E  
 E D R E E Y N S N I P F M R I T D Y T N  
 D T F A C X Q T H A K J R D T N L X P E  
 G D D L N L O B P S W O B M A E F L H G  
 Q V N G R G V Q C V B P A C E G P N E B  
 V X F K Q Z E R L I W S I X D D U O I B  
 D N A L R A G L N F V J R F W E O T V S

OSQT KTQ BKKW RGKYQY JTKPSQW BKKW  
 KZQTY; LDP OQ YK KHPQT GK KU YK GKTM  
 JTB YK WQMWQPHDGGI DZKT PSQ RGKYQB  
 BKKW, PSJP OQ BK TKP YQQ PSQ KTQY  
 OSERS KZQT LQHKWQ DY.  
 - JGQAJTBQW MWJSJN LQGG



Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe. Albert Einstein  
 (solution to last month's code)

# THE YEAR AT ATWEST

I asked Lloyd if it was possible for our computer system to generate a list of most-visited places, and unusual trips we have done. The system isn't quite set up to do that, but it gave him enough information to support what he has stored in his head so he could put this list together.

## MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS FOR GROUP AND TRAVEL CLUB TRIPS

- ❖ Barnstaple
- ❖ Burnham-on-Sea
- ❖ Cheddar
- ❖ Clarks Village
- ❖ Lynmouth
- ❖ Monkton Elm
- ❖ Sanders Garden World
- ❖ Sheppy's Cider Farm
- ❖ Wells
- ❖ Weston-super-Mare



## UNUSUAL AND ONE-OFF TRIPS WE HAVE TAKEN

- ♣ Abbotsbury Swannery/Sub-tropical Gardens, Dorset
- ♣ Brean Down
- ♣ Charlton Farm Children's Hospice
- ♣ Cerdic Foundry, Chard
- ♣ Crealy Adventure Park
- ♣ Fleet Air Arm Museum
- ♣ Ham Wall RSPB Reserve
- ♣ Longleat Safari Park
- ♣ Noah's Ark, Nailsea
- ♣ Police Headquarters, Portishead
- ♣ Sea Life Centre, Plymouth
- ♣ Steart Fenning Nature Reserve
- ♣ Wallace Farm Rare Breeds Centre, Wellington Hill
- ♣ Wraxall Vineyard



# NEW

# Friday Shopper



- \* Like the other shopping buses you will be collected from your home (at present).
- \* The minibus is easy-access with a passenger lift if required.
- \* With friendly driver trained in passenger care.
- \* Up to three hours in Bridgwater.

This new service is still in its trial period so these times are approximate and may change as the route develops.

Pick up	Williton	8.50am
	Kilve	9.00am
	Holford	9.05am
	Stringston	9.10am
	Stogursey	9.15am
It is possible to pick up from outlying villages within West Somerset on route eg Burton, Shurton, Stolford and so on.		
Drop off	Bridgwater Aquasplash	10.00am
	Bridgwater Morrisons	10.10am
There is scope to drop off at other destinations in Bridgwater on request.		
Pick up	Morrisons	12.50pm
	Aquasplash	13.00pm

All passengers need to register in advance.

Please book your seat by 4.00pm on the Thursday before travelling, at the latest.

Phone Atwest on 01643 709701 to register and book your seat.

**THIS IS A USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT SERVICE. WE HAVE PERMISSION TO RUN IT UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY AND THEN WE HAVE TO LOOK AT HOW WELL IT IS BEING USED TO ASSESS WHETHER IT IS VIABLE!**

## MINEHEAD REVISITED by Mike Prescott



This is the western end of the town around 1905. Park Street and the northern end of the Parks are much as they are today, but the southern end ends at Park Terrace. There were no houses to the north apart from Clanville which stands out on the right among the trees, Elgin Tower to the left and behind it the cottages around the Church and the Baroness de Tintagene's residence at the far top left.

As one can see the north side of the Parks Road is as it is today, and it ended as seen in the picture. The next houses were out at Woodcombe, with Periton a small hamlet near the track that is now the Minehead bypass road.

This photo was taken from where the eastern end of Regents Way now is.

Bampton Street led out of the town to the south before Dugdale Street, West Street and all the other roads and residences to the south were built.

### BUS PASS NUMBERS

We have a new piece of software on our computer system that means we can print a list of everyone's bus pass numbers. This has alerted Debbie to the fact that many passes have expired this year, or are due to. Your new pass has a different number so please could you let Debbie know what this is as soon as possible, so that we can keep your registration details up to date! *Thank you.*



# JANUARY'S TRAVEL CLUB TRIPS

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

**Clarks Village**

It's hard to imagine Christmas being over, but mid-January is definitely a time of year when we all need cheering up! Retail therapy anyone?

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**Lunch at Raleigh's Cross**

Well, the weather could be awful in which case the views will be seen through murky windows – or it could be glorious! Either way, the lunch will be delicious and enough to warm the cockles!

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**Taunton**

The shops will be full of sale items and bargains, but might also be starting to get some new things in with spring in mind – definitely worth a visit!

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

**Lunch at the Cottage Inn, Keenthorne**

This is a direction the Travel Club doesn't often go in, so the tour might show you some new places. And if the weather is bad, we should still be able to get to the pub as it is on the main road!

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Weston-super-Mare (£4 per seat)**

Apparently many of you braved the January weather to go to Weston last year, so we're hoping the same will happen again! And also that the weather will be splendid both for the drive up, and the walks on the beach!

*PLEASE NOTE...* the £1 booking fee has not been included in any costs per seat - it must be added to that price.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BOOK  
AS MANY TRIPS AS YOU  
LIKE!**

The booking line for January's Travel Club trips will open at 9.00am on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Please remember that bookings will not be taken before this time.

Booking line number 01643 709701

# DECEMBER'S **TRAVEL CLUB** TRIPS

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

## **Monkton Elm Garden Centre and The Merry Monk pub**

Aiming to arrive at the pub for an early lunch the bus will then travel onto Monkton Elm for some indulgent Christmas shopping and perhaps the odd thing for the garden!

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

## **Taunton**

We learnt last year not to do many trips in December but Taunton is always popular and with a good variety of shops, even if your Christmas is all sorted you might be able to find some last minute stocking fillers!

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

## **Clarks Village**

I have just about run out of ways to describe this very well-known shopping centre. If you've been there you know you love it, and if you haven't perhaps now is the time to treat yourself!

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BOOK AS MANY TRIPS AS YOU LIKE!**

The booking line for December's **Travel Club** trips will open at 9.00am on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Please remember that bookings will not be taken before this time.

Booking line number 01643 709701



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## ATWEST SCOOTER



Mrs Jenkins from Montacute has very kindly given this scooter to Atwest to dispose of as we wish. It is in very good condition, just in need of a bit of a clean-up. For those who know about these things it is a Legend Classic model XL8.

Pete Freeman is going to service it and make sure that it runs fine, and then we have to decide what to do with it.

Several things have been discussed - selling it on ebay, loaning it out for a small fee, auctioning it for a good cause, driving round the office in it! The final decision hasn't yet been taken, but if anyone has any suggestions or is interested please phone the office. We will let you know as soon as a decision has been made.

In the meantime, yes we have all had a play and boy you need some skill to keep one of these things under control!



Pete and Lloyd demonstrating the skills needed to operate a mobility scooter!

## SNOWDROP VALLEY



The year runs by quickly enough without having to plan next year already, but we thought this a good opportunity to let you know the arrangements for visiting Snowdrop Valley next February.

The Park and Ride scheme is operated by Cutcombe Parish Council and, in conjunction with Atwest, they have asked for the following terms for groups using Atwest buses to visit.

- ❖ All groups of able-bodied visitors must use the Park and Ride service without exception.
- ❖ Mobility passes for groups using an Atwest bus can be obtained from the information trailer in the Rest and Be Thankful Inn car park providing that -

- The group or all individuals hold a blue disabled badge. Passengers will be allowed to get off the bus for a maximum of 15 minutes, by which time the Atwest bus must move on to allow the Park and Ride scheme bus to pull in.
- A majority of the individuals on board hold a blue disabled badge. Able-bodied passengers will be expected to make a donation towards the scheme which must be arranged with Atwest at the time of booking.
- The group is from a Care or Residential home and passengers do not get off the bus at Snowdrop Valley. Any passengers wishing to get off the bus must make a donation towards the scheme which must be arranged with Atwest at the time of booking.

Sorry that this all sounds a bit strict but the people managing the visitors to the valley do have to control the vehicles that enter it - the road is very narrow and a build up of vehicles could quite quickly cause a problem!

Hopefully nobody will be put off going as it really is a wonderful sight!