

**£1**

**December 2024**

# The BEACON



**South Tawton**

**South Zeal**

**Belstone**

**Sticklepath**

Ads 1



December 2024

No. 515 website 55

Well, Christmas has come around again and how many of us are really prepared for it? I bought all the ingredients for making my Christmas puddings some weeks ago. They are still sitting in my cupboard! And I'm pretty sure that I will make the usual dash into Exeter to get those last-minute presents. I doubt I will be the only one.

Whether you are enjoying Christmas surrounded by friends and family, or spending the season on your own, you never need be lonely in the Beacon villages. There's always someone to share a smile with. If you know of anyone spending time alone this Christmas please give them a virtual 'Beacon' hug, or consider how you can make this festive season a little less lonely.

Have you got all your presents? If not, you could consider purchasing a subscription to the Beacon. There are plenty of activities advertised in all issues of the Beacon, and finding something to join in might turn someone's Christmas into a happier time.

However you are spending your Christmas, the Beacon Committee wish you and your family all the compliments of the season.

*Ali*

Editor, The Beacon

*The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the author and not necessarily of the Beacon Committee.*

*To commence a subscription to the Beacon please phone Distribution Manager Janet Taverner on 01647 231695 or email [janettaverner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janettaverner@hotmail.co.uk). Living Out of the area & wanting to stay in touch? You could consider a postal subscription- ask Janet.*

**The deadline for copy for inclusion in the January 2025 issue is Noon Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** but early submission would be very much appreciated.

Please send all copy by email to **[theeditorbeacon@gmail.com](mailto:theeditorbeacon@gmail.com)**.

(The current issue of the Beacon will be available on [www.thebeacon.website](http://www.thebeacon.website) on 20<sup>th</sup> December)

The Beacon directory of local clubs, societies and other organisations is published annually in February. Visit the Beacon website for a greatly expanded version of the Directory at [www.thebeacon.website/directory](http://www.thebeacon.website/directory). For changes please email [info.thebeacononline@gmail.com](mailto:info.thebeacononline@gmail.com).



## **BEACON MATTERS**

### **BEACON COMMITTEE**

Regrettably, our Treasurer Jane Messer, has had to step down from her role. Jane has been an active member of the Beacon Committee for many years, and has been invaluable as our Treasurer. The Beacon Committee thank her for all her hard work over the years and send their best wishes to Jane and family.

A very timely email came from Emma Delow, who has accepted the role of Treasurer and will be receiving a handover from Jane. Welcome Emma!

Also within the week, a phone call came from Polly Kronschnadl offering her services as Advertising Manager. Polly has now had a handover of her role and is ready to accept your adverts! Welcome too, to Polly.

### **COLOUR SUPPLEMENT**

January sees the production of our colour supplement, showing photographs of events around the four villages throughout the year. We would love to see your photos, especially those which highlight village life – in both work and play.

If you have any photos you'd like to share, please send them along to the Editor on [theeditorbeacon@gmail.com](mailto:theeditorbeacon@gmail.com) , or direct to Robin Tilley who produces the supplement - [robintilley00@gmail.com](mailto:robintilley00@gmail.com)

Please ensure you have permission to print the photographs. The supplement will be produced alongside the January Beacon – so cut-off date is 15<sup>th</sup> December

### **THE BEACON DIRECTORY**

The Beacon Directory will be printed in February. Now's the time to check your entries for accuracy and let us know of any changes. The Directory can be found at [www.thebeacon.website/directory](http://www.thebeacon.website/directory). Any changes – please contact us on [info.thebeacononline@gmail.com](mailto:info.thebeacononline@gmail.com)

### **BEACON VILLAGES DESERT ISLAND DISCS**

Desert Island Discs with a difference! Following some very positive comments about the Beacon Committee's contribution to this, we are inviting other groups to submit a list of their favourite pieces of music from individuals within the group. Maximum of 8 'discs' with a very short description of why each one has been chosen. Or you can make up a list of your own. Please send your lists to [theeditorbeacon@gmail.com](mailto:theeditorbeacon@gmail.com)

## REVIEW - SOUTH ZEAL PLAYERS PRESENTS

### Last Tango in South Zeal and The Cherry Sisters

The South Zeal Players delighted audiences once again with their latest production of two plays in the Victory Hall on 18/19 October.

The evening started with Last Tango in South Zeal, a funny farce featuring 4 amateur dramatics deliberating over their dire financial situation, and thinking up various ways of making more money. The second play, based on Chekov, The Cherry Sisters offered a totally different scenario with the cast as Russian characters with comedic Russian names playing very convincing gloomy love scenes with tragedy and comedy all wrapped up in one.

With a great cast that complemented each other with well placed acting and tongue in cheek dialogue, the general silliness and clever writing worked well with both productions.

Here's to the continuing success of the South Zeal Players and we look forward to seeing you all again in the not-too-distant future.

L. Terrell

Happy audience member

*Please join us for a*  
**CHRISTINGLE & TOY SERVICE**  
*at St Mary's Church, Belstone,*  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm**

*If you would kindly like to donate a new toy in aid of the Women's Refuge in Torbay, it would be most gratefully received. Please wrap and label with the age and gender, Alternatively, gifts or vouchers could be donated for the women.*

*There will be a collection box for toys in St Mary's Church from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> December or please leave in the porch at Green Lodge, Belstone.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

*Everyone is welcome to the Service with or without a gift*

# BEACON BOXES

Christmas Gift Boxes for families in Okehampton and Surrounding Areas



## HOW TO HELP

Beacon Boxes is a local initiative where residents of Beacon Villages are asked to create Christmas Boxes/Bags, which will be distributed to families facing hardship this Christmas in our local area

Christmas Boxes/Bags will be distributed by The Okehampton Community Food Bank

## WHO CAN HELP?

Boxes/Bags can be put together by individuals, families, classes, groups, work colleagues, streets.... Whether you can donate a whole bag or box or just a few items your help is so welcomed.

Please see full list of items below



## COLLECTION DATE

**14th Dec 2024**

Christmas Boxes/bags can be dropped off at

Belstone Village Hall from

8am to 11.30am. There is also chance to drop items, bags or boxes at the Cafe at Belstone Hall on

**5th and 12th Dec 10am - 12noon.**

We can also arrange to collect items. Please contact:

Joanna Currie 07745 558580

## WANT TO HELP MORE?

We are looking for more people to help grow this project.

If you think this is a project you would like to assist with, or maybe you would like to be a point of contact for your Beacon Village please contact

Joanna Currie 07745 558580

## BEACON VILLAGES DESERT ISLAND DISCS - GLENN JOHNSON

I was born in Aldershot, Hampshire in 1952 and grew up listening to the popular music of the day, particularly with a love of Country and Western music and the music my parents grew up with! My father worked for the Post Office and would arrange the PO Social and entertainment evenings. He played guitar, ukulele and snare drums. It was during the 50's he taught me to play which set me 'on the road' later in life. I joined the PO at sixteen and by the early 70's, started entertaining at small venues locally. I married Christine in 1985 and after two moves, settled here in Devon. By this time, I went professional, finally just working/performing in care homes, leading up to bereavement in 2010. I retired from performing in 2020 during the pandemic but now concentrating on promoting Christine's two novels she completed before her passing.

Eight pieces of music to choose from, a difficult decision! Finally, here's my list.

- **'CATTLE CALL' (ORIGINAL 1955 RECORDING) SLIM WHITMAN.**

The high yodel, voice breaks and the haunting steel guitar evoked wonderful memories from this era along with Slim's melodious voice. Conjured up great images from the films and TV Western series of the decade and my all time favourite Western song!

- **'WONDERFUL LAND' THE SHADOWS with the Norrie Paramor Orchestra (1962)**

A beautiful instrumental with Hank's guitar and enhancement by the Norrie Paramor strings. The piece of music I love to play while driving through wonderful Devon.

- **'WHITE HORSES' (1968) JACKY**

This next choice is the theme tune from the 1960's TV series 'White Horses' by Jacky Lee (originally lead singer of the Teardrops). Composed by Ben Nesbit and \*Michael Carr (\*who co-wrote the hit song 'South of the Border'). Still have the original PHILIPS single which I often play.

- **'GIRL DON'T COME' (1965) SANDY SHAW**

My favourite female singer from the 60's. Some fantastic songs by Chris Andrews were tailor-made for her voice and style but this one stands out amongst all the others. This one personifies this decade!

- **'SLEEP WALK' (1959) SANTO AND JOHNNY**

A wonderful Hawaiian guitar hit single on both sides of the Atlantic in 1959. A jukebox favourite of the time when the rockers would slow down and couples would 'smooch'. A number one in the USA. Dreamy visions of blue skies, palm trees and surf. Beautiful!



- **‘HEY GOOD LOOKIN’ (1951) HANK WILLIAMS SNR**

Growing up on Hank’s music, a difficult choice but has to be this one! In an upbeat happy mood, sung in C Major, he was the Shakespeare of Country music and left behind a legacy of music that has featured in other genres! Along with Slim Whitman, they both influenced me!

- **‘OH BOY’ (1958) BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETS**

A difficult choice amongst the many Rock and Roll songs of the 50’s. I think this is the one that sums up that era. He wrote some great numbers, just as popular today.

- **‘THEME FROM A SUMMER PLACE’ (1959) PERCY FAITH AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

A wonderful orchestral arrangement and recording played many times back in its day on the BBC Light Programme. Conjures up beautiful images and always been a firm favourite over the years.

My luxury: 1 - Acoustic guitar and 2 - The Western Complete Film Reference - Phil Hardy

## **SOUTH ZEAL CARNIVAL**

South Zeal Carnival Committee would like to express their thanks and gratitude to everyone who supported the 2024 carnival. It was a fantastic evening, enjoyed by spectators and participants in which £500 was raised, vital funds needed for putting this event on. The AGM will be held in January (TBC) and welcome any new members to join.

Thanks to all those who supported events throughout 2024 and here is to 2025!

## **UPDATE FROM KESWICK**

It’s almost six months since, having just watched all my goods and chattels being driven away by Reddaways, I said goodbye to Devon. And by ‘Devon’ I really mean all my dear friends and neighbours in and around Sticklepath, and my garden, the Taw River Inn, the Devi, St Marys, Dartmoor, and indeed everything that for the past thirty years had been so important a part of my life. I felt uprooted and sad as my daughter, who had come to fetch me, began the long drive back to her home in Cumbria. And the weather, horribly wet and blustery, didn’t help.

But it was no good feeling miserable. After all, the decision to move nearer my family was mine and I knew it was the right one; I was lucky to be going from one very beautiful part of the country to another, equally beautiful; plus, 'the cockles of my heart' were still warm from the wonderful send off I had been given in Sticklepath Stores the day before. "Come and have a goodbye coffee with one or two friends," they had said, and at first, on arrival at the shop, I couldn't think why it was so full. Then it dawned; everyone there was there to wish me well. I was so touched. How can I ever thank you, all those of you who gave their time to be there for me that morning, and all those of you who couldn't make it but popped in or stopped by at my gate during the surrounding hours? I can't, except to say here, how much I appreciated then and still appreciate now, your doing so, and how I will always treasure the memory of that morning.

For the next couple of months after that, I lived with my daughter and her family about eight miles from Keswick, where I was in process of buying a retirement flat. Every few days, Jane would drop me off in Keswick so that I could begin to find my bearings in the town where I would soon be living. And gradually it all happened: contracts were signed; carpets went down, Reddaways delivered my furniture, and I moved in. And I'm happy here. Still things to sort; still things that I don't yet know where on earth to put them; but making friends, appreciating the surrounding countryside and generally enjoying life.

My new home is on the second floor of a block of flats. We share laundry facilities and there's a communal lounge. Everyone is very helpful and I am no longer the newest arrival. Positioned at the head of a T junction, I have a long street-view westwards towards Grisedale Pike, which being so high comes and goes with the cloud. A birch tree is just outside. When the skies are clear I can watch the setting sun. And at dusk, bats flit around outside my window, literally at eye level. I'm within fairly easy walking distance of the shops, bus station and Derwentwater (the local lake); and very easy walking distance of some beautiful parks and the River Greta. I've joined u3a, found my way to the local church, and now that the town isn't so busy, began to explore the tourist spots. Living nearer the family is great. My daughter calls every few days; my elder grandson pops in with his girlfriend, and my younger one likewise when he's home. My son has already been down several times from Scotland and on one such occasion recently we took a rowing boat out on Derwentwater. It was enjoyed by everyone except perhaps his dog. Even I got a turn with the oars. And it was on that occasion that I suddenly realised that flat 35 had ceased to be my 'new home' and had somehow and unobtrusively become - just 'home'.

I promised Ali and everyone at the post-office coffee morning that I would keep in touch and am sorry it's taken so long to keep that promise. But I do think of you often, cherish the cards you gave me, and trust that if any of you ever find yourselves in the north you will feel able to call. I'd love that; but be warned: the weather here is at least as wet as in Devon. However, to compensate, just like Devon, when it's nice it's glorious, and it's still lovely even when wet.

**Mary Stevens**

## **OKEHAMPTON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

On Weds 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm Derek Moore will give a talk on 'Sticklepath Characters and their Stories' at the Ockment Centre, Okehampton. All welcome. Visitors £3.00

Derek moved to the village in 2014 and was told that there had been plans for a Heritage Group, but that nobody was able to take the task on. He admits that he loves listening to local history stories and felt that it would be a good way to get to know the village better. However, only for the first five years were there other, keener, and more thorough researchers, and they are some of the characters, and their characteristics, worth mentioning in themselves. There has been a concern that, although many of the local stories of the past are shared willingly in the pub(s), some of these characters 'disappear' and that memories of them can be richly embroidered.

Derek's enthusiasm has been to make available some of those stories over a wide sweep of village history. He supervised the reordering of St Mary's Church to contain displays and has a 'bomb proof' archive from which some characters will emerge, hopefully in a lively way.

He is looking forward to the exchange of ideas.

### **BEACON ARTS A.G.M.**

Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 19.30 hrs.

Bert Stead Room, Village Hall

Sticklepath



## **XMAS TREE SALES**



Once again, I will be selling home grown (organic and not imported) Xmas trees from my burgage plot on Back Lane , Sticklepath. There will be a range of sizes of both Norway spruce and the beautiful Nordmann's Fir which retains its needles longer than any other conifers once cut. Please come with your children, choose your tree and I will cut it there and then for you so it will remain fresh for you over the Xmas period. If you want a small rooted specimen, please come with a sack. Norway spruce transplant well up to 3' 6" in height but not so Nordmann's fir on account of

their long tap root.

I will be open as follows: December 7th, 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd. From 9.30 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 to 4.00 pm on each day. Please follow signs from the entrance to Back Lane, next to the entrance to the Taw River Car Park

Rob O'Bryen (Tel 01837 840525)

## **BEACON RECIPE OF THE MONTH – Taylor Made**

### **CHRISTMAS FUDGE**

Simple to make and ideal for Christmas gifts.

1 tin of Carnation condensed milk

120ml milk

115g butter

450g. Brown sugar.

Put all ingredients in a large pan on a low heat, until the sugar has melted. Stir well.

Bring to the boil slowly, then simmer on a low heat for 10/15 minutes, stirring well.

Drop a ball of mixture into cold water. If ready it will solidify. Be careful this will be very hot.

Tip into a greaseproof lined 8inch dish. Smooth the top. Put into the fridge overnight.

Carefully cut into squares and enjoy!

*Do you have a favourite recipe you would like to share? If so, let the editor know – [theeditorbeacon@gmail.com](mailto:theeditorbeacon@gmail.com)*





**Christmas Coffee Morning**  
**South Zeal Victory Hall**  
**Saturday 14th December**  
**10am – 1pm**



*Please join us for a cosy coffee morning, cake stall and a spot of christmas shopping featuring products from our lovely local stallholders.*



**Stallholders – If you are interested in trading at the coffee morning, to book your place, please call Jenny on 07855628263**

Please join us at South Zeal Victory Hall on Saturday 14th December from 10am-1pm for our Christmas coffee morning. Come along and enjoy a festive morning and a spot of Christmas shopping from our lovely local stallholders.

If you are interested in trading and would like to book a place, please contact Jenny on 07855628263. Attending as a trader is free of charge, but a kind donation in aid of Victory Hall would be gratefully received. We look forward to welcoming you all!

Hi everyone

Just like that, we are in to December. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly time flies. It has been an incredible year across the Dartmoor National Trust places. We have welcomed new volunteers to the team, had over 200,000 visitors to Castle Drogo, Finch and Lydford Gorge, improved our facilities for people who live with a disability (still lots more we want to do) and fundraised nearly £30,000 in our second hand bookshops to go towards caring for these very special places. We couldn't do all this without the support of our local communities and neighbours. Thank you for your patience, support and helping us to look after this little part of the Moor.

Thank you to everyone who got in touch to offer help planting trees. I am delighted to tell you that we are now fully booked and even have a waiting list. So many people wanted to get involved that we are looking at other opportunities for people to get involved. Look out for groups of people from local youth clubs, scouts groups, youth rangers and many more over the winter months.

Just a reminder that 2025 marks 50 years since Castle Drogo was first opened to the public by the National Trust. As part of this milestone, there will be a new exhibition in the Night Nursery, focusing on the 1920s, 1970s and today. It will celebrate the stories, objects and features that make Castle Drogo special. As we prepare for it, we are asking for everyone to give us their thoughts on the following question. **What makes Castle Drogo special to you?**

Please drop me an email with your thoughts to [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk) by the end of December. I'd also love to hear any stories of visits to Drogo from 1975, especially if you have photos! There will be lots of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities next year so look out here for more announcements.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and new year. Let's see what 2025 brings!

Best wishes all,

**Paula**

Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor  
07826 945107, [paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk)



## **COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2024 WEST DEVON**

Hello all and I wish you a peaceful Christmas and New Year. It has been another busy and productive year for the Borough council. I will outline some of our aims and achievements to date.

The council has agreed on 8 key priorities for the next 2 plus years.

1. Natural Environment - We have secured funding to deliver projects including developing plans for active travel. The Beacon Path from Sticklepath to the Okehampton Interchange is one of the routes to be considered for funding. I have instigated this project so I am so pleased it is included. Support for agriculture to implement regenerative farming practices, we are working with organisations to deliver this. Developing sustainable and renewable energy projects across West Devon with Tamar Energy being funded to work on this project. We aim to incentivise renewable energy projects.

2. Built Environment - the council aims to preserve and protect Devon's historic buildings. We are part of the Joint Local Plan with Plymouth and South Hams councils to deliver the sustainable homes we need. We have delivered our quota of homes so far. An upcoming review of the JLP will be carried out in 2025 to ensure it meets local needs.

3. Housing - The council has declared a housing crisis and are striving to tackle this locally. The cost of homes to buy or rent is high and many local people find difficulty in obtaining an affordable home, especially in rural areas. I have instigated a Community Land Trust in this area so that the local community can work to meet our local affordable housing need. We have the evidence from our housing need survey carried out last year to underpin this project.

4. Health and Wellbeing - the council is proactive in supporting healthier, safer and fairer communities. There are a range of grants to support local organisations and community centres to thrive. We inspect food premises and carry out environmental protection schemes. We respond to concerns about private sector housing standards. Waste collection and recycling is a core strategy to ensure healthy communities.

5. People and Community - the council will support local communities to deliver their own ambitions. Our ground maintenance services keep open spaces available for people to enjoy. We have our locality teams that visit and engage with local organisations and residents. We lobby other organisations on behalf of the West Devon community, on issues such as road conditions.

6. Economy and Jobs - the council creates an environment to enable businesses small and large to flourish and develop. We will strengthen our visitor economy and lobby on behalf of farmers. We have plans to promote our cultural heritage and sports activities.

7. Performance and Resources - the council needs to deliver good quality services that are value for money and will continue to lobby the government for fairer funding on behalf of residents.

8. Accessibility and communications - West Devon Borough Council business is mainly carried out online with most of our customers choosing this method of contacting us. We know that some residents prefer telephone and face to face contact and will continue to deliver these services whilst they are needed. We aim to put the needs of the community at the centre of our communications.

I hope this report gives a flavour of the work of West Devon Borough Council this year and our aims for the next few years.

Councillor Lynn Daniel 2024

## **REYNARD'S NATURE NOTES**

I had planned to write this article about my fourth trip along the Torridge heading towards Meeth but can make that the subject of my first article for 2025.

In the bird world something rather exciting and unusual has occurred. We have had a visitor from across the Atlantic!

Some time ago I told you about an experience I had on Lundy Island in the middle of the Bristol Channel. My friend and I had gone to stay there for a fortnight in September. We were out on the North end of the island and could see a big storm cloud heading our way. Just before the rain hit us a bird flew out of the cloud, landed in front of us and began to feed feverishly. It was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper that ought to have been migrating down the east coast of America to wintering grounds in South America. It had been blown drastically off course and Lundy was the first land that it had seen.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> this year, a photograph was sent to my phone of a small Dunlin sized wader seen locally on Northam Burrows. The lady who sent the photo suggested that the bird might be a White-rumped Sandpiper, a rare American bird. I had no previous experience of this species so sent the photo to a friend who had seen several in his time as a birdwatcher. The reply came back immediately that the bird was *indeed* a White-rumped Sandpiper. This wader was extremely rare and we expected that a lot of birdwatchers would descend on the Burrows in order to see it. Many of you will have seen the news item about another very rare bird that appeared just outside Halifax in a tiny, quiet cul-de-sac. Within hours of news that this bird had been seen the cul-de-sac was anything but quiet! Whilst not expecting crowds of quite the size waiting to see the Halifax bird we did anticipate that there would be a lot of birdwatchers wanting to see this little wader. Another of our concerns was that of dog

disturbance. Whenever possible whoever was watching the bird was aware of disruption and was quick to point out the bird and encourage whoever might be doing the disrupting to come and have a look at it through a telescope and marvel at its story.

Nobody will ever know the true story of this White-rumped Sandpiper. We do know that severe storms generated in the Caribbean sweeping across the Atlantic Ocean can and do pick up migrating birds and blow them onto our shores. We also know that birds can hitch rides across the Ocean on boats heading to ports along European coasts. I think another possible explanation exists. In the early part of November no less than 17 White-rumped Sandpipers were identified at different UK locations. The Arctic ice is melting at an alarming rate, and I wonder if this is opening up another possible line of movement for birds that breed in the far north of Canada. Birds can cover incredible distances during their various migrations so it might just be that some of these waders head into Greenland, 'hop' across to Iceland and work their way down the eastern side of the Atlantic. Come the spring the reverse migration could take place and the 'displaced' waders will find their way home.

Reynard.

## **THOUGHTS FROM THE VICAR - GETTING READY FOR THE END**

Well, Christmas is coming, but it is the duty of vicars at this time of year to throw a bucket of ice water onto the proceedings and say that first we must go through Advent.

Advent is a time of preparation and reflection. Sure, it gets mixed up with shopping and putting up decorations, but it should also be a time when we get ready for the end of the world. See what I mean about the bucket of water? Or maybe not... It has been moving to hear the story of Sir Chris Hoy, who has been given a terminal diagnosis following the discovery of prostate cancer. He describes himself as "incredibly lucky" because at the moment he feels well, he can do the things he wants to do, and he can prepare himself for what comes next. Focussing on the fact that life doesn't go on for ever need not be gloomy introspection; it can be transformative, because it makes us realise just how precious every moment can be.

Advent calendars are like a countdown to the real event. They can be fun, especially the chocolate ones, but ticking off the days is not a good way to live your life. Much better to recognise that we are here for a limited time only and that every day is priceless. Then when the big day comes it will be all the more special.

Stephen



## Den Brook Community Fund

**The Den Brook Community Fund** invites local Charities, Community Groups and Not-for-Profit organisations based within the five parishes listed below to apply for grants which would help provide a contribution toward funding for Capital Projects.

The deadline for receipt of applications for this “round” of funding is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2025** and as a guide, it is envisaged that about £49,000 will be available for allocation by the late winter period. The amounts available to each parish are likely to be –

Bow - £14,600

North Tawton - £28,000

South Tawton - £0

Spreyton £86.00

Zeal Monachorum - £6,405

An “Easy Guide”, Full Terms and Conditions and the new Application Form are available by e-mail only from [denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com) Applications on old versions of the Application Form will no longer be accepted.

*The Den Brook Community Fund is administered by representatives of Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton, & Zeal Monachorum Town and Parish Councils.*



We very much look forward to seeing you for a

### Traditional Crib Service

4.00pm at St Mary's Church Belstone on Christmas Eve

All very welcome!

There will be carols, candles and chocolate and hopefully a live animal!

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas

## **LOCAL NEWS FROM ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO (AND FIFTY YEARS AGO)**

### **– DECEMBERS 1924 & 1974**

Just like today, people were complaining about the state of the roads one hundred years ago. Colonel Hutchison (Resugga) and William Pike (Moorlands House), who both lived at Birchy Lake, Belstone, wrote to Okehampton Rural District Council protesting about *the ‘disgraceful’ state of the roads at Belstone. Very little had been done to them for years, the hedges were not cut, and the water tables were not cleared. A member said the steam roller could not get in until a hedge had been cut. It was resolved that the chairman and the surveyor visit Belstone and bring up a report of all defaulters with regard to the cutting of hedges and inspect the water tables, and see if the complaint was warranted.*

Another hot topic of today was echoed back then; *Before the Okehampton magistrates several owners of ponies were summoned for allowing animals to stray from Hatherleigh Moor and Dartmoor, and in each instance a fine of 1s per animal and costs was imposed. The Superintendent of Police said he appreciated the difficulty of keeping stock from straying off the Moors, but there had been three cases lately of people being thrown off bicycles by straying animals. One man was found at night by the roadside bleeding profusely, and it was lucky someone came along and was able to convey him to South Zeal. Owners should give more attention to their animals, especially in rough weather, for it was then that straying mostly took place, when they sought shelter. It was a serious danger to the travelling public.*

Two plays, the one-act farce *Domestic Economy* by Mark Lemon (1809-1870) and *Faces and Fortunes* were staged in the Memorial Institute at Belstone, a building which sat almost opposite the current Village Hall until it burnt down in 1945; *It would be invidious to criticize in detail where so many showed ability, but one must single out the vivacious acting of Miss Ida Parker in the second piece. But the outstanding features of the performance were the remarkably fine setting by George Moorlock and the beautiful scenery, painted in distemper, by his son, Cyril Moorlock.* Miss Parker married in 1929 and, as Mrs Ida MacCulloch, lived on in Belstone until she died in 1992. Cyril Moorlock married Ida's sister Blanche in 1937 and they also lived on in the village for the rest of their long lives. When the Belstone Players formed in 1956 Cyril revived these theatrical skills to become the backstage craftsman who designed, built and painted the sets for every performance until 1976.

Long-time readers may remember that the name John Durant was mentioned several times in my First World War articles. He died this month giving me the

opportunity to repeat his remarkable exploits – recognising the value of sphagnum moss as a dressing for wounded soldiers he collected over 2½ tons of the stuff, in the process walking about 3000 miles up onto the moors from Okehampton, including visiting Cranmere Pool an authenticated 202 times (is this still the record?).

Local news was a bit scarce in December 1924 so I had a look at 50 years ago, December 1974, and found this piece of front page tabloid-speak about Prince Charles, courtesy of the *Daily Mirror*; *The Prince, who is training as a helicopter pilot at Yeovilton, had flown to Okehampton for a weekend exercise. But bad weather grounded the royal flier. He spent his unexpected holiday:*

*DRINKING in two of the local pubs.*

*TESTING the West Country rough cider, known as 'scrumpy'.*

*ASKING about the local female talent and*

*WATCHING the X certificate sex comedy 'Percy's Progress' at the town's cinema [The Carlton].*

*The cinema's owner said: 'It is the first time we have had royal patronage. He came in with a couple of his pals and sat at the back in the 43p seats, although for another 11p each they could have had a box. He obviously thoroughly enjoyed the film.'*

*Earlier, the Prince, wearing camouflaged combat gear, turned up at the 'Plume of Feathers' hotel – named after his own royal crest. Chatting to the regulars, he asked about the girl situation in Okehampton. But before he could get expert advice he dismissed the subject, saying wistfully: 'Every time I go out with a girl it gets into the papers.' Then he asked about 'scrumpy', only to find that the Plume does not sell it. The next day two officers from the Camp called at another local pub, the King's Arms, and took away a gallon of scrumpy for the Prince to try. Landlord Bill Gater said: 'In the evening they came back to return the plastic container and I asked: 'Did Charlie enjoy his scrumpy? A voice said: 'Yes, thank you'. I looked up and saw the Prince grinning at me. He stayed for about half an hour drinking another half-pint of cider, so he must have taken quite a liking to it.'*

Belstone's Rector John Stark had his '15 minutes of fame' on 12 December 1974 when he appeared in the third semi-final of BBC1's prime-time hit *Mastermind*, losing to the eventual winner Elizabeth Horrocks. He had of course already won his first round, with a specialist subject of St Paul.

Chris Walpole (unless otherwise stated, quotes in italics are from the *Western Morning News* and *Western Times*).



Festive

— *South Zeal* —

# FARMERS MARKET



---

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December  
10:00 AM - 12:00PM

---

The Pavilion, South Zeal

---



**Baked Goods** Ola's Syrian Kitchen, Ellis Bakery.  
**Milk** Gooseford Dairy. **Meat** Lovaton Farm  
**Vegetables and more** Harvest workers' Co-op.  
**Pottery** Leela Chakravarti. **Art and Cards** Amy  
Reddaway. **Jewellery** Nicola May. **Wreaths,**  
**Fudge, Teas and Coffees, Bacon Baps and more!**





## **FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S - LABYRINTH OF LOST ANIMALS PART TWO.**

Last month's Beacon reported on the inauguration of the Labyrinth of Lost Animals in the Church Garden at St Mary's, Sticklepath, and promised more information this time.

Firstly, a couple more thanks: some StOC stalwarts, Hilarie Gillespie, Brandon Francis and John Savage all helped a lot. And since the last episode, more contributions have been coming in, 20 so far. Visit and see the project unfold! There's been some very moving conversations about loss sparked by the project. One person brilliantly summed up losing her animal friend as 'a healing kind of grief that helped me to deal with my other griefs, which seemed so unmanageable'.

We hope that there will be a slow filling out of the maze, and would like to offer people in the Beacon Villages the opportunity to take part when there is a need to make a tribute, whether it is to an old loss or a new one. A small donation to St Mary's (suggested £10, more if you can. Less if you can't.) would be very much appreciated. (We have big expenses coming up at the church and need all the help we can get!).

We have enough to keep us going in the oil-based marker pens which are the best, easiest, thing to use for a little while, and these are also very affordable and easy to buy for oneself. We hope the Labyrinth is a service to the community and a creative response to loss. If you are reading this outside of the Beacon Villages why not think about borrowing or adapting the idea? Let us know if you do!

A box marked 'Sticklebeasts' will be placed in the Church, near the Sticklepath Pantry in the carpeted area to the right as you come in. This will have some of the right size paving bricks washed and prepared. We have enough to keep us going in the oil-based marker pens which are the best, easiest thing to use for a little while, and will leave some in the box. These are also very affordable and easily available to buy for oneself: have a look and you'll know what you're looking for. Inspiration for the variety and range of ideas are available from the existing memorials! The point is that they're personal and unique.

Please leave any finished memorials back in the box, and you can use it as a letter box for any questions. We'll check it regularly. It is important that the decorated stones are (relatively) durable, so they will then be given several good layers of varnish before being placed, which may take us a week or two.

For any questions, more information about the project, advice on contributing a memorial, or feedback about the project, (which the Friends and the Trustees of the Self Heal Association, who have funded this project would welcome) please contact this e mail: [sticklebeasts@insiderart.org.uk](mailto:sticklebeasts@insiderart.org.uk) .

Malcolm Learmonth, Friends of St Mary's.



St Mary's, Sticklepath

# Carol Service

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm



Followed by refreshments in the Village Hall

For further information contact Carol Johns Tel:01837 840822

## JEFF'S DARTMOOR DIARY

Invariably now,  
The season is bitter.  
A pale, empty vista,  
Where vast skeins of drizzle  
Cast off by the increasingly occluded  
air of Storm Pia,  
Mix freely with fountains of frigid  
spray,  
Driven inshore,  
By the two-thousand-mile fetch  
Of the Northern Atlantic.

The air hangs so heavy and wet  
here,  
And the shore is so soaking  
And flat and shallow,  
That the brute force of the wind  
And the boiling waves together  
Can gain no purchase,  
And instead,  
Water skates in great circles all  
across the shoreline.  
Crackling against the hard, grey lines  
Of the Crackington formation,  
That eternally probes the breakers.

Sliding over the shists  
And the shales  
And the mudstone  
And the buff Bude Sandstone,  
That slumps in a slow-motion ballet,  
As it tips relentlessly,  
Little-by-little  
Into the sea.  
Weathered concrete tank traps lie  
Drunkenly  
Everywhere,  
In a frayed line,  
All along the shore,  
Where the land used to be.  
And the sky is full of the roar of the  
water,  
And the screech of gulls,

As they're flung

Helplessly

Headlong

Inshore

Here the calm,  
Is an illusion.  
Tucked deep in a hollow  
On the side of the Beacon.  
Dark clouds scurry hurriedly  
Like woodsmoke  
All across the horizon.

Out on the Moor at Scorhill,  
The drizzle circles mercilessly  
Over the blanched grasses  
Of Gidleigh Common and Shovel  
Down.

The mire more liquid and air  
Than earth.  
And the hard rushes and the deer  
grass,  
Float strangely.  
Bobbing amongst their own  
reflections  
On the brittle surface of the water.

The wind whispers through the  
molinia grass,  
And the bilberry,  
And the common bent,  
And the scattered pillows of gorse  
everywhere.

So that all the land is audible.

And it mixes freely with the  
overflowing water of the North  
Teign,

And The Walla Brook,  
And the Twelve-Mile Leat that  
circles to the South.

Behind the scattered stones of the  
Scorhill Circle,  
Which is the sole anchor here,

Is a world where everything else  
Is adrift.

A portent,  
Resisting the will of the wind,  
And of the rain,  
And of the endlessly shifting water.

**Moor Harmony**

**CHRISTMAS**

**CONCERT**

**Saturday 21st December**

**St Mary's**

**Belstone**

**5.30pm**

**Free\* mulled wine and mince pies**

About an hour of Christmas songs and Carols for all  
the family

Free admission - \*retiring collection.



### 'TIS THE SEASON...

"My children love Christmas and they're already picking extra treats off the shelf when we go shopping and telling what

presents they want. I want to make it special for them, but times are tough and I worry about overspending and getting into debt. What can I do?"

Borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can seem like your only option but there are steps to take to keep spending under control and avoid falling into debt. First - make a budget and stick to it. Who are you buying gifts for? What other seasonal expenses do you have? How much can you realistically afford to spend?

Keep receipts or ask for gift receipts in case you have to return something if you overspend. Household bills are likely to be higher too, with colder weather and people spending more time indoors. If you have built up debt, don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to as they may let you pay smaller amounts. Priority bills need to be paid first such as rent, mortgage, council tax and energy bills.

For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, look at what you owe, work out a budget and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary but it's an important first step and a great many people are having to do exactly the same thing. If you are struggling to afford all the essentials like bills and food, we at CA TNMWD can help in various ways.

A good place to start is by visiting our website

<https://www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk> where there is lots of useful information to help. You can also see our local office hours and availability for appointments and drop ins. Or call our free, local AdviceLine on 0808 27 87 999. A quick benefits check may also show that you can claim additional financial help. You may also qualify for a reduction in council tax or help with energy costs. Demand for our services is increasing all the time and we need all the help we can get to help people in our community with problems like this. If you could spare a day a week to join our teams in Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon, do please take the first step and contact [recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk) for more information. Everyone gets full training and ongoing support, you will make new friends, maybe learn new skills and play a crucial role within our community.



## **ST ANDREW'S AND ST MARY'S NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2024**

The family and friends of the late Frances Wonnacott gathered at the graveside of her husband, Albert (Jack), for her funeral service and burial with him in St Andrew's churchyard on Tuesday 15 October. Nicky, her son, spoke of Frances's life; happy times working at Mill End hotel, where she met and worked for Frank Whittle – designer of the first British jet engine. Frances's move to Hillcrest, South Tawton followed her marriage to Jack. Here, within the sound of church bells they raised their family. These same bells, now well cared for by Nicky, sounded out a peal in her honour, following the service.

We were delighted to be joined by several families and their children on Sunday 27 October at St Mary's for the Holy Baptism of little Arthur Woods, son of Alexander and Catherine who live at Ramsley, South Zeal. Around a dozen children sat on cushions by the altar to see Right Reverend Nick at close quarters welcome Arthur into the family of the Church. Arthur had just celebrated his first birthday – so well old enough to notice what was going on – but he nevertheless handled being the centre of attention very well.

Our 1 November Foodbank Friday happily coincided with Half Term and numbers were swelled as we welcomed around half a dozen younger visitors, enjoying a break from school. Church House was again filled with at least 25 of us. Lemon drizzle cake and chocolate covered slices were on offer plus, for sale, local honey and free-range eggs. A worthwhile box of provisions was collected, whilst in addition raising £116.50 for Foodbank Funds.

St Andrew's church was filled with adult worshippers and dozens of our local children as South Zeal Brownies, Beavers and Scouts added to our Service of Remembrance on Sunday November 10. Jill led our worship with Bible readings by Tony Clark and Alan Wright. The collection of over £350 was sent to the Royal British Legion. Many thanks to Helen, Sarah and Lucy and the Brownies for decorating the church with 152 Doves of Peace. Their original aim was to make 20 doves from folded paper but when this milestone was passed they raised their sights to make doves for every conflict currently afflicting the world, 110 in all. The Brownies enjoyed making the doves and quickly became very skilled. This second target was also exceeded and the final tally was 152! Well done South Zeal Brownies and well done to Brownie leader, Helen, and also to Sarah and Lucy for organising this meaningful addition to this year's service.

It is time to prepare for this year's Beacon Nativity! We need plenty of shepherds, angels and kings ready to greet baby Jesus when he comes. You are all warmly invited to meet in the square at South Tawton on Sunday 8 December at 4pm. Nazareth, the donkey, will be there ready to lead us around the square as we make our way to the Inn (Seven Stars) before moving on finally into the 'stable' around the altar in St Andrew's to celebrate the new 'Holy Family'.

**Paul Snell and Will Pyne (Churchwardens).**







# Village Praise

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
10:30am  
St Mary's Sticklepath



## ANGELS not just for Christmas



St Mary's Church  
together with  
Sticklepath  
Community Church

Friendly and suitable for everyone

Refreshments to follow





## **ST MARY'S CHURCH AND HERITAGE CENTRE STICKLEPATH**

The annual Carol Service will take place in church on Sunday 15th December at 3.30pm, followed by refreshments in the hall. A small choir from South Tawton Primary school will perform pieces for our enjoyment.

Christmas Day Family Communion Service at 10.30am led by Revd Stephen Cook. An advance date for the last service to be taken at St Mary's by Stephen before his retirement. This will be held on Sunday 12th January at 3pm, followed by light refreshments in the Devonshire Inn.

We hope you will be able to join us at all or any of these services. With thanks to our community for the support given to St Mary's in very many ways throughout 2024, and with the hope for a new year which brings about peace and joy in our world.

Happy Christmas Greetings.

### **OXENHAM ARMS CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Oxenham Arms Christmas Party, Festive food, live music with Andy Marshall – Bookings only 01837 840244

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Carols around the tree in our front car park for charity from 6pm – glass of mulled wine for singers

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve, OxyOky – sing a long in the bar. Great fun 7-10pm

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December – Boxing day walk from the Oxenham Arms to the Beacon, meeting at 11am – all dogs welcome with owners. Free soup for walkers, free treats for dog.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> New Years Eve – Dance the night away with friends and music in Oxenham Arms bar.



# CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2024

## Church of England

### St Andrew's & Church House, South Tawton, & St Mary's, South Zeal

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.15	Holy Communion	Church House
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	16.00	Beacon Nativity	St. Andrew's
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	18.00	Evensong	St Mary's South Zeal
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	17.00	Carols by Candlelight	St Andrew's
Christmas Eve	18.00	Carnival of Carols	St. Mary's South Zeal
	20.30	Christmas Holy Communion	St. Andrew's
Christmas Day	10.00	Family Service	St. Mary's South Zeal
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Celtic Morning Prayer	St. Mary's South Zeal

### St Mary's Belstone & St Mary's Sticklepath

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30	Village Praise	Sticklepath
	16.00	Christingle & Toy Service	Belstone
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	09.30	Holy Communion	Belstone
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	15.30	Carol Service	Sticklepath
	18.30	Carol Service	Belstone
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	09.30	Holy Communion	Belstone
Christmas Eve	16.00	Crib Service	Belstone
Christmas Day	09.30	Holy Communion	Belstone
	10.30	Holy Communion	Sticklepath
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>		No service	

### Sticklepath Community Church

Every Sunday	10.30am	Sticklepath Village Hall
--------------	---------	--------------------------

## Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Chris Jackson	Tel: 01837 52302
Fairplace Church	Okehampton
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> 18.00	Café Church, Old School Tearoom Belstone Chapel

## Roman Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Father Darline Marianathan.	Tel: 01837 52229
--------------------------------------------	------------------

St Boniface Okehampton

Sunday: 11.15 am and 5.30pm

Tuesday: 7.00 pm

Wednesday: 10.00 am

Every First Saturday: 9.00 am

Every First Saturday: 10.00 am

Holy Day of Obligation: 10.00 am

## Okehampton Quaker Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 10.30, Ockment Centre Okehampton

okehamptonquakers@gmail.com

**FOR SALE** Genuine Toyota CHR car parts – complete set of mats, never used £25.

Roof bars as new £50, Boot liner £10 tel. Allen 01837 840070

**FOR SALE:** well seasoned and air dried ash firewood, two years old, all split into 9" lengths. Delivered to you as 1m3 loads at £80 per load. Please speak to Thomas on 07852 611802 (evenings)

## Regular Events

Please contact organiser for updated details

<b>Every MONDAY</b>			
Knit & Knatter	(1st & 3rd) 1.30-3.30pm	Sticklepath Stores	
Pilates	5.45pm	Sticklepath Village Hall	Yvonne West 07712 611670 yvonnnewest@live.co.uk
North Dartmoor Explorer Scouts	(Age 14-18) Fortnightly 7.30 – 9pm	Scout Hut, South Tawton	south.zeal.scouts@btinternet.com
Yoga	7pm - 8.30pm	Belstone Village Hall	Sarah 849110 07592 377028
3rd Monday Folk	3rd of the month 8pm	Kings Arms, South Zeal	
<b>Every TUESDAY</b>			
Yogalates	9am -10am	Whiddon Down	Sarah 849110 07592 377028
Yoga	10.30 to 12.00	North Tawton Bowls Club	Sarah 849110 07592 377028
Tai Chi exercise	10.00 - 11.00	Pavilion South Zeal	Kate 01837 840959
Tai Chi form	11.00 - 11.30		
Art Group (STAG) ONLINE	10am	karimcgowan.com	Kari 840695
Belstone Arts & Crafts Group	9.30 - 12.30	Belstone Village Hall	Marion 840498
Pickleball	2.30 – 4.30	Table Tennis Centre Okehampton	Angela <a href="mailto:angelaht@btinternet.com">angelaht@btinternet.com</a>
Dartmoor Walking	2.30 - 3.30	Different location every week dartmoorwalking.co.uk	Denise 07944 630677
Hatha Yoga ONLINE	7 - 8.30pm	vivekagardens.com	Fiona Law 880050
South Zeal Players	7.30 - 10pm	'Battershay', South Zeal	Robin 840654
Sticklepath Phoenix Group	7.15pm 3rd Tues. of the month	Sticklepath Village Hall	Lorinda 01837 840326
Bards Night	7pm 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Devonshire Inn	01837 840626

Bingo	7.30pm last Tues. of the month	Victory Hall South Zeal	jane.mwhite17@gmail.com
-------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------

### **Every WEDNESDAY**

Moor Harmony	7.45-9pm	Victory Hall	Jeremy 840741
Sticklepath Coffee Morning	10.00- 11.30am	Sticklepath Village Hall	Ali 840070
Meditation Group	6.30 - 8.00pm	Online	Alison 849085
Dartmoor Walking	10-11.30am	Different location every week	Denise 07944 630677 dartmoorwalking.co.uk
1 <sup>st</sup> South Zeal Beavers	(Age 6-8) 5-6.30pm	Scout Hut, South Tawton	Nicki Glanville south.zeal.scouts@btinternet.com
1 <sup>st</sup> South Zeal Scouts	(Age 10-14) 7 – 8.30pm	Scout Hut, South Tawton	Nicki Glanville south.zeal.scouts@btinternet.com
1 <sup>st</sup> South Zeal Brownies	6 – 7.30pm	The Pavilion, South Zeal	Helen Parker-Bray 07980837156
Taw River Meditation Group	6.30 - 8.00pm	Church House, South Tawton	
Yoga with Gill	10 - 11am	Spreyton Village Hall	840189 / 07811 639055 thorntongm@outlook.com
Hatha Yoga	12-13.00 pm	Church House South Tawton	Gillthornton2016@gmail.co m
Gentle Hatha Yoga	10-11.30	Belstone Village Hall	Angela 01409 221110 or 07809 427991
Okehampton & District Local History Society	2nd Wed 7.30pm	Ockment Centre	

### **Every THURSDAY**

Pilates	9.30am	Sticklepath Village Hall	Yvonne West 07712 611670 yvonnewest@live.co.uk
Belstone Cafe	10am-noon	Belstone Village Hall	www.belstonevillage.net
Ukelele Group	7pm - 9pm	Church House	David 01837 54439
1 <sup>st</sup> South Zeal Cubs	(Age 8 – 10) 6-7.30pm	Scout Hut, South Tawton	Nicki Glanville south.zeal.scouts@btinternet.com
Yoga	7pm - 8.30pm	Belstone Village Hall	Sarah 849110 07592 377028
Cogs & Wheels Ladies Morris Dancers	7.30 - 9.45pm (October - April)	Victory Hall	Donna dtombs65@gmail.com phone 07711 294331
Mariners Away Shanty singers	8.00-10pm	Kings Arms	Steve 840465

Meet Your Local Councillor	2nd Thursday of the month	Coffee Morning Belstone	Cllr Lynn Daniel
North Dartmoor Garden Club	4th Thursday of the month	September to April 7.30pm Village Hall	Robin Hill 840332 edwinarobinhill@outlook.com

### **Every FRIDAY**

Sticklepath & Okehampton Conservation StOCs	10am	Finch Foundry car park	Mike 840183 Ian 840435 <a href="http://www.stocgroup.org">www.stocgroup.org</a>
Food Bank Friday Coffee Morning	11-12am First Friday of the month		Church House, South Tawton
Soup & Roll	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the month	Sticklepath Village Hall 12.00 – 13.30 Donations welcome	
Meet Your Local Councillor	First Friday of the month	Coffee Morning South Tawton	Cllr Lynn Daniel
Pickleball	8-9.30pm	Table Tennis Centre, Okehampton	Angela <a href="mailto:angelaht@btinternet.com">angelaht@btinternet.com</a>

### **Every SATURDAY**

Dartmoor Walking	10.00- 11.30am	Different location every week <a href="http://dartmoorwalking.co.uk">dartmoorwalking.co.uk</a>	Denise 07944 630677
------------------	-------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------

### **Every SUNDAY**

Tinner's Morris	Informal practice sessions outdoors & dancing out		Derek 840316
Café Church	18.00 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month		Old School Tea Rooms Belstone Chapel
Devi Folk Session	8pm First Sunday of the month	Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath	Derek 840316

## **COMING EVENTS 2024/2025**

### **DECEMBER**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Christingle & Toy Service, St Mary's Belstone 4pm see p. 6
1 <sup>st</sup>	Village Praise 10.30 St. Mary's Sticklepath see p.33
5 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of St Mary's Sticklepath meeting 18.30 St. Mary's Church
7 <sup>th</sup>	Farmers Market Pavilion South Zeal 10.00 – 12.00 see p.24
7 <sup>th</sup>	Songs For The Season - Emily's Balm maidens St Mary's Chapel, S. Zeal 7pm. See p.33
7 <sup>th</sup>	DartFest young people's festival Moretonhamstead Parish Hall
8 <sup>th</sup>	Beacon Nativity St. Andrews Church 4pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Okehampton & District local history Soc. Talk on Sticklepath Characters see p. 11
14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Coffee Morning 10am Victory Hall S. Zeal see p.15
14 <sup>th</sup>	Lowton Farm craft fair Bondleigh 10.00 – 17.00



14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party, Oxenham Arms Festive food, live music Bookings only 01837 840244 see p.35
15 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service, St. Mary's Church Sticklepath 15.30 followed by refreshments in the hall. see p.26
20 <sup>th</sup>	Carols around the tree, Oxenham Arms 6pm see p. 35
21 <sup>st</sup>	Moor Harmony concert 17.30 St. Mary's Belstone see p.29
24 <sup>th</sup>	Oxenham Arms OxyOk – sing a long in the bar. Great fun 7-10pm see p. 35.
24 <sup>th</sup>	Traditional Crib Service 16.00hrs St Mary's Church Belstone see p. 21
26 <sup>th</sup>	walk from the Oxenham Arms to the Beacon, 11am see p. 35
31 <sup>st</sup>	Dance the night away at the Oxenham Arms see p.35

**2025**

**JANUARY**

6 <sup>th</sup>	Probus – Mike Wreford “Developers of Okehampton” 10.30 Old Drill Hall Kempley Rd. Okehampton
12 <sup>th</sup>	Last service to be taken at St Mary's by Stephen before his retirement. 3pm followed by light refreshments in the Devonshire Inn
15 <sup>th</sup>	Beacon Arts AGM 19.30 hrs Sticklepath Village Hall see p.11

## **ANNUAL CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS – provisional dates for your diary**

**2025**

1 <sup>st</sup> June	Sticklepath Open Gardens
8 <sup>th</sup> June	South Zeal Open Gardens
8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> August	Dartmoor Folk Festival
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Sticklepath Horseshoe Fell Race
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Grey Mare event

## **DEFIBRILLATOR**

**For Sticklepath & South Tawton Parish Councils**

**Volunteer Emergency Telephone Scheme (VETs)**

In case of emergency, on finding a casualty who may need the Defibrillator,

**FIRST CALL 999**

You will be reminded of the location of your nearest defibrillator.

If you are unable to leave the casualty, call VETS on

**Sticklepath PC: 01837 500523**

**South Tawton PC: 01837 500999**

This will connect you to a local resident who can bring the defibrillator to you. Enter this as your ICE no. in your mobile or in your speed-dial.

**REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS – Calendar A**

DECEMBER 2024	M	Tu	W	Th	Fr
Recycling, food waste and refuse week	2	3	4	5	6
Recycling, food waste and garden waste subscription week	9	10	11	12	13
Recycling, food waste and refuse week	16	17	18	19	20
Recycling, food waste and garden waste subscription week	23	24	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
Recycling, food waste and refuse week	30				

**Any date underlined will have a day change this week. See below:**

Normal day	New day
Weds 25 December	Fri 27 December
Thurs 26 December	Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> December
Fri 27 December	Mon 30 December

**STICKLEPATH SHOP OPENING TIMES *tel. 840359***

Monday	07.00 – 17.30	Friday	07.00 – 17.30
Tuesday	07.00 – 17.30	Saturday	08.00 – 13.00
Wednesday	07.00 – 17.30	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	07.00 – 17.30		

**VILLAGE OUTREACH POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES**

	Sticklepath Village Hall	Throwleigh St Mary’s Church
Every Wednesday	10.00 – 11.30	12.30 – 2.00

## THE BEACON COMMITTEE

[theeditorbeacon@gmail.com](mailto:theeditorbeacon@gmail.com)

Editor- Alison Cruse 01837 840070  
Dist. Mngr Janet Taverner 01647 231695  
Distribution-Lesley Terrell 07549 376842  
Treasurer Emma Delow [cedelow@freeuk.com](mailto:cedelow@freeuk.com)  
Website – Ged Fitzgibbon  
info.thebeacononline@gmail.com

## Advertising [thebeaconadverts@gmail.com](mailto:thebeaconadverts@gmail.com)

- Polly Kronschnadl 840077 / 07933 511575  
Pauline Taylor 01837 840858  
Jane Lehní 01837 840087  
Robin Tilley 01837 840654  
Pam Matthews 01837 840216

## Village Emergency Telephone System VETS

South Tawton Parish 01837 500999  
Sticklepath Parish 01837 500523

## Police

Okehampton enquiries 101  
Crimestoppers 0800 55111

## Local Authority

Belstone Parish Council 07970 498239  
South Tawton Parish Council 01837 89095  
Sticklepath Parish Council 01837 849131  
Okehampton Town Council 01837 53179  
Devon County Council 08451 551015  
W.Devon Borough Council 01822 813600  
Dartmoor National Park 01626 832093  
Okehampton Library 01837 52805

## Medical and Dental

Okehampton Medical Centre 01837 52233  
Oke Community Hospital 01837 658000  
North Tawton Dental Practice 01837 82261  
Chagford Health Centre 01647 433320  
MyDentist Okehampton 01837 52745  
Taw Valley Dental Care 01837 880096

## Schools

South Tawton Primary 01837 840242  
North Tawton Primary 01837 82284  
Okehampton Primary 01837 52866  
Okehampton College 01837 65 910  
Adult & Comm. Learning 01837 659436  
Chagford Primary 01647 432412

## Transport

Okehampton Taxis. 01837 53555/840841  
Ring&Ride/Community Cars 01837 55000  
Bus timetables. [www.travelinessw.com](http://www.travelinessw.com)

## Churches & Chapels

Church of England - Belstone with Sticklepath  
Rev. Stephen Cook 01837 659297  
Church of England - South Tawton with South Zeal  
Rt. Rev. Nick McKinnel 07773 3633330  
Methodist Church Rev. Chris Jackson 01837 52302  
Roman Catholic Church Fr. Darline Marianathan  
01837 52229  
Okehampton Baptist Church Jeff Jacobson  
01837 318563  
Sticklepath Community Church Philip Dennis  
01837 840144

Society of Friends - Quakers 01837 840966

## Advisory Agencies

Citizens Advice 03444 111444  
Cruse Bereavement 01392 272406  
Relate 01392 275681  
Samaritans 116 123  
Age UK Devon 0845 296 7810

## Veterinary

North Park Veterinary Group 01837 82327  
Okeford Veterinary Centre 01837 52148  
North Park (Oke Surgery) 01837 658777  
Equus Vets 01837 214004  
St David's Equine Practice 01837 849096  
Stringer Equine 01647 231246

## Ads

ADS 10