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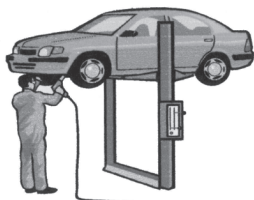
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March 2022

No. 483 website 23

Hello

Thank you for all the kind thoughts and wishes I have received. There is still a huge gap in my life but I have plenty to do to occupy my mind!

What a delight to be entering so many events for the next few months and to be able to include so many accounts of things that have happened or will be happening. This is what makes The Beacon so special to us all. So please keep sending them in - we love to know what is going on.

Fiona

**The deadline for copy for inclusion in the April 2022 issue is
Sunday 13th March**

You can email material to editor.thebeacon@icloud.com

The March issue of The Beacon will be delivered following 26th March and will be available on www.thebeacon.website on 1st April

The Beacon's printed Directory of local clubs, societies and other organisations is published each February. Visit the Beacon's website for a much expanded version of the Directory at <https://www.thebeacon.website/directory>, in many cases including additional contact details and further information.

For additions and alterations to both versions of the Directory [email info.thebeacononline@gmail.com](mailto:info.thebeacononline@gmail.com) - online alterations can be made any time.

South Tawton Commoners Association

The Annual General Meeting of South Tawton Commoners Association will be held on Thursday, April 28th 2022 at 7.30pm at the Kings Arms, South Zeal. It will be immediately followed by the HLS Agreement Holders annual meeting.

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Devon <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/devon> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Devon (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk. john@walkinginengland.co.uk

VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE (VETS)

South Tawton Parish Council is looking for volunteers for VETS. VETS is here to assist in the lone rescuer situation where the rescuer must stay with the patient, and help needs to be found in collecting the community defibrillator.

All volunteer telephones are polled at the same time, not one after the other, not all lines will ring at the same time.

VETS relies on volunteers within our community to be able to be called to be asked to fetch a defibrillator or to assist with CPR,

however you are not under a mandate to attend a rescue, if you hang up the phone the other volunteer numbers will continue to be polled. Modern AED's/Defibrillator equipment is designed to talk to you and tell you what to do. When applied to the victim, voice commands will guide you step by step through the rescue. The AED will also make the decision on whether to shock someone, as such you cannot shock someone who does not require it. In fact with basic CPR and defibrillation members of the public like you give the greatest chance for a positive outcome to someone who has suffered a Cardiac Arrest.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01837 89095 or email clerk@southtawtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Your details will not be shared or used for any other purpose. Training and support will be provided by Community Heartbeat specifically geared towards VETS Volunteers and members of their household who may also be present to take a call.

Stone Lane Gardens. Call for entries for the Stone Lane Gardens Sculpture Exhibition 2022

£1000 Ashburner prize, supported by Caradon Granite, to be awarded for the sculpture that best represents the theme 'connectivity'.

Closing 1200 31st March 2022

Organisation Stone Lane Gardens charitable trust

Region South West England

Address Stone Lane Gardens, Stone Farm, Stone Lane, Chagford, Devon TQ13 8JU

Email Sculpture@stonelanegardens.com

Website <https://stonelanegardens.com/>

Applications are invited from emerging/early career sculptors based in or connected to the South West of England. Submissions are free and open to all. It is a selling exhibition. Please submit photographs of your work or details of proposed work including dimensions and weight if possible.



The theme this year is 'connectivity'. Connectivity may be interpreted in terms of materials, form, growth, and especially potential energy. It can apply to the body (internal to external); to place; to others; or, paradoxically, between materiality and the void. Connectivity implies affinity, openness, both being

receptive to, and actively seeking, relatedness.

Our 2022 selectors are ceramicist Sandy Brown, arts author and academic Penny Florence and Stone Lane trustee Sandy Lipo.

Dates

28th or 29th January 2022 Sculptors open day

21st April 2022 Notification of selection

13th and 15th June 2022 Installation

1st July 2022 Exhibition opens

31st October 2022 Exhibition closes

Thought for food

Count the small things, because small things count.

One morning in January, in one of my fields bordering South Tawton Common, I found the largest worm cast I have ever seen. The cast itself was shaped like a mini volcano: The base was 70mm in diameter and the summit 30mm above the surrounding soil. At its centre was a burrow no less than 8 mm in width, which suggested it was excavated by a very large earthworm. My excitement was all the greater because this was most likely formed by a deep burrowing lob worm and its presence is a good indicator of soil health. This type of worm works with fungi to turn leaves into deep soil organic matter, which is an important means of storing the carbon plants extract from our atmosphere.

Earthworms are the unsung heroes of soil health. They are nature's greatest geo-engineers. Charles Darwin studied earthworms extensively and wrote an entire book on his findings titled, "The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Action of Worms with Observations on

their Habits". In it he describes the work of earthworms and how, over long periods of time, they manufacture soil by breaking down minerals and organic matter.

I recently heard a conventional farmer say, "It won't be long before I won't be able afford to go farming, fertiliser is now £700 a tonne." One of the many benefits of regenerative farming is worms make fertiliser for free ! At a population of 25 worms per square foot, you will have more than a million worms per acre and between them they produce 30 tonnes of worm casts per year. As well as producing nutrient rich casts, their tunnels provide a route for water to infiltrate the soil, reducing flooding in winter and helping store water in summer. Crop roots grow deeper and therefore more healthily, aided by worm tunnels. Finally, the soil structure is improved making it less prone to compaction by grazing animals.

Healthy soil is the foundation of healthy crops and livestock. Earthworms are my 24x7 farm labourers. Keeping them happy is an important goal. This applies whether you are a farmer or a gardener. So what makes for happy earthworms ? First, know your soil: Dig a hole and count your worms. Do this every year and monitor your worm stock. Second, increase your soil organic matter to feed them. They like composted dung, but green manure crops are like worm caviar. Third, avoid compacting soil. Fourth, minimise soil disturbance by ploughing or digging. Fifth, keep soil moist and covered by using green manures or species rich grasses. Sixth, monitor and adjust the pH, ideally to keep it above 5.7. This is tricky on the fringes of Dartmoor where I have acidic soils, so I treat this as an aspiration more than a target. Finally, do not poison your soil by adding chemicals.

The worm who lives in the burrow I found could live for up to twenty years, so I hope to see it again soon. Clarence

Sticklepath Village Hall AGM -

Wednesday 6th April at 1800

Please come along and find out what has been happening at Sticklepath Village Hall, and provide your views on plans there are for future improvements. If anybody would like to become more involved in the running of the hall we are particularly keen to hear your views. All members of the community are welcome to attend and drinks and refreshments will be provided.

South Zeal Carnival

We are looking for new members to come forward and join our small committee.

We have been going for 34 years

However it looks to be set that 2019 will have been the last.

We do not have enough members to carry on.

Wouldn't it be a shame to see another village tradition go. We are one of the very last village carnivals. I know each year we always ask for new members otherwise the Carnival will fold, somehow we manage to get a committee together. So please please come forward if you could help.

Call Dawn 01837840946

We do not want to put in the Beacon next month that South Zeal Carnival has gone. So please come forward and save it.

The Carnival Committee

Jeff's Dartmoor diary

The colour, form and indescribably sweet scent of the hyacinth defies description in English. Like Georgia O' Keefe's paintings, its sensuality somehow evades precise definition. I do remember the Latin for its parts though, learned parrot-fashion in Biology classes in 1977 Androecium-Gynoecium-Calyx-Corolla

Maybe these erotic sounding words with their beautiful rhythm and inflection come closest for me. It doesn't matter that they aren't easily decipherable.

Our Cottage garden is positively blooming. It felt right to fill it with flowers. The garden too has become transformed by the promise of spring, and everywhere you can see the hand of Carol who lived here before us, and who lived for the garden, especially in the lockdown.

The Hyacinth was a parting gift from her to us, and it has ripened implausibly well, flowering so profusely that I needed to add a stick to help it stay standing at all.

Yesterday We snatched a chance to take a leisurely stroll down to the River Wakham at Grenofen just before Dusk, quite alone.

We communed with the river - taking stock of every inch of new territory it had stolen from the land in the last run of spates. We saw how much more the bankside trees had been undermined, clinging nonetheless precariously still to the silty banks.

We saw the scattered dust from an old iron pan, embedded deep in



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the soil, gloriously red. There were nodules of brilliant quartz, slugs of rusty sandstone and glistening slates exposed there too. Around the way, stranded floodwater stagnated in pools near the path, their surfaces gradually becoming milky, like a rheumy eye. The river smells, and always has, with a verdant life all of its own. It catches the last rays of the sun as they become gradually eclipsed by the shadows from the high sides of West Down. The last flashes of light rise up through the trees quickly, blazing briefly like flames at the top of the valley. The light changes then, becomes cold, luminous and blue. The rocks fade into one mass, the birds gradually become quiet. Only the river is not silent and in this pregnant stillness the sense of the place comes alive.

Weather watch

Every now and again Mother Nature likes to remind us of her power. At 04:14 GMT on the morning of Saturday 15th January, Hunga Tonga volcano, close to Tonga in the South Pacific Ocean was the site of an enormous eruption, likely the largest of the 21st century so far. The sound of the eruption was heard as far away as New Zealand and even Alaska almost 6000 miles away. The eruption ejected ash and sulphur dioxide as far as 30 km (around 100,000 feet) into the atmosphere.

The blast caused extensive ashfall across Tonga and a tsunami which spread around the entire Pacific Ocean over the following hours. Thankfully this was much smaller than the Indian Ocean event in December 2004 and did not produce the devastation and loss of life seen on that occasion.

Being about as far away from Hunga Tonga (around 10,300 miles) as its possible to get, you would think South Zeal would not see any effects of the eruption. Well, we did! The force of the eruption sent out a shockwave which circulated around the entire planet several times. Our atmosphere is a fluid, so if you imagine the ripples which spread across a pond when you drop in a pebble, it's pretty much the same thing.

The shockwave travelled at close to the speed of sound, which is around 767 mph. This suggested that it would have taken around 14 hours or so to reach us here, and sure enough, just after 7 pm on Saturday evening my weather station recorded a sudden jump then fall in atmospheric pressure which was the signature of the shock arriving.

This shock was so small by the time it reached us it would not have been noticed by anyone. However, it does go to show that even something which occurs on the other side of the planet can be felt here too.

As far as January 2022 was concerns it was a much drier than average month here, seeing less than half of our average rainfall. After an exceptionally mild start we ended up with just a slightly milder than normal January overall. Interestingly the 9 air frosts I recorded was in stark contrast to my friend who lives in the middle of Okehampton who recorded just 1. It just goes to show the effect even modest sized towns can have. I saw sleet fall in the village on 2 days, with the slightest of dustings of snow on The Beacon twice.

Perhaps the January statistic which may surprise you most was that England as a whole had its sunniest January on record. Clearly down here in the Southwest we missed out on much of that!

Summary for January at Shelly.

Temperature (°C):		Rainfall (mm):	
Mean (1minute)	5.6 (+0.2)	Total for period	72.0 (46.7%)
Mean Minimum	2.6C (-0.3)	Wettest day	20.7 on 8th
Mean Maximum	8.3C (+0.4)	Wet days	21
Lowest minimum	-4.6C on 21st	Dry days	10
Highest maximum	13.7C on 1st		
Air frosts	9		

St Andrew's and St Mary's News

Our church of St Andrew's was filled on Friday 14 January when family and friends gathered for the funeral of Ronald Darch. Ronald was a well-loved and respected part of our community, farming at Lovaton for over thirty years before moving to Addiscott Home Farm. The service, commemorating Ronald's life was led by Rev Mark. Rev Mark also read the eulogy to Ron and the poem 'Don't grieve for me, for now I am free' was read by his grandchildren. Ron leaves his widow Audrey, daughters Linda and Sylvia, grandchildren Rebecca, Alex, Miranda and Daniel and great grandchildren Cohen and Carter.

Family and friends of Ronald Page joined us at St Andrew's on Tuesday 25 January for a service to commemorate his life. Memories of Ronald were shared by son Kevin, daughter Jenny and niece Emma. Emma also recalled memories of 'Grandpa' on behalf of grandson Joseph, unfortunately unable to attend his funeral service in person as he is working in Spain. The service was

led by Rev Mark. Ronald was laid to rest in Beer Cross Woodland Cemetery and we sang our farewells to him with a rousing unaccompanied rendition of that lovely hymn acknowledging nature, 'Morning has Broken' to lighten our spirits on a cold grey January afternoon.

Our dear old Christmas Crib which has given good service for many many years is at last really beginning to show its age. The timber supports for the roof have become very rickety whilst the roof itself is now home to a growing family of woodworm. So with some sadness the PCC decided this year that the time had come to get a replacement. We are most fortunate that Patrick Sullivan and two of his friends came forward to build us a new crib, and this, a beautiful piece of craftsmanship with a lovely shingled timber roof, finished with preserving oil was completed and installed in St Andrew's in good time for our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 19 December. Thank-you to Patrick and friends Dee and John Savage of Folly Gate for all your hard work and for building and gifting such a lovely stable for our nativity scene, which will grace our Christmases for many years to come.

Our Christmas tree this year was again provided by Brian Howell of Hittesleigh. The tree was probably even taller than last year's (also provided by Brian), and certainly made our church feel festive for Christmas time. Thanks again Brian. Your goodwill is very much appreciated.

Our church of St Andrew's generated international interest when on Tuesday January 25 Rev Mark received a visit from a film crew from Central Chinese Television. The Chinese are making a film about 'The Three Hares' and how this unique symbol, thought to have originated in China, gradually travelled along the Silk Road, appearing in Asia and various European states and proliferating as a cluster of symbols in our North Dartmoor parishes. Chris Chapman, who created the spectacular roof boss montage on display in our church, has been advising the team who have also visited churches at Widecombe, Spreyton and Tavistock.

On the afternoon of 30 January we celebrated the feast of Candlemas which marks the end of Epiphany and the beginning

of Lent leading up to Easter. Some of us, including parents, grandparents and children celebrated by walking with candle lanterns from St Mary's to Church House where we joined others for prayers, singing and tea and cake; a welcome uplifting and timely reminder of the beginning of the end of winter!

And as we move from January into February, more tea, coffee, rocky road and scones. Our February Foodbank Friday held in Church House continues to be well-supported with local people enjoying refreshments and a friendly natter. The box of donations of food was again filled and donations on the morning exceeded £90. Well done everybody who joined us for a happy morning's get-together.

March Church Bingo will be in the Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Tuesday 29 March, starting at 7:30 pm.

John Candler and Paul Snell (Church Wardens)

Will Pyne (Assistant Church Warden)

Notes from the minutes of South Tawton Parish Council January meeting

Reports and Correspondence

DCC Highways have reconsidered STPC bid from last November for replacement benches at Zeal Head and Village Green South Tawton, which they initially declined and now, under the Public Realm fund have been able to offer half of the original bid.

Ian Brooker – DNPA Ranger, advises that Devon Wildlife Trust have kindly donated 50 trees for this season, to be planted in two groups of 25 on Firestones Common. These were planted on 14th January. The mix includes oak, maple, hazel, crab apple and rowan. The StOC Group will take responsibility for their future care and will involve those interested, especially if DNPA are successful in obtaining a further 75 trees at the end of this year.

Members expressed their disappointment that DNPA had planted trees on the common when STPC had been liaising with them about the Councils plans to plant 2 clumps of trees after consulting with Brian Beasley with regards to species, the Commoners Association and Secretary of State for relevant

permissions. Members requested the Clerk to write to DNPA expressing their disappointment and ask for an explanation, and to inform the

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Commoners Association.
Councillors' verbal reports

Cllr White reported that workmen were parking right up to the junction at Zeal Head which is causing an obstruction and is a danger to other vehicles and pedestrians. Clerk to report to Okehampton Police. Cllr Sampson reported that the new fingerposts installed at Dishcombe Head are facing the wrong way. Clerk to report to Highways.

School News

From Head of School, Sarah Marvin -

The KS2 children showed excellent team work and stamina with all four classes taking part in cross country relay competitions run by OCRA. We were thrilled to take 32 runners to Simmons' Park for the inter-school cross country event. This is the first offsite event against other schools which we have been able to compete in since before the pandemic and it was brilliant fun. This race is the first in a series, so there were no individual or team results given on the day. However, we had some excellent runs and had the first runners home in the Y3/4 girls' race, the year 5/6 girls' race and the Y5/6 boys' race! The effort, enthusiasm and encouragement for others shown by all our pupils made the event particularly special. Well done and thank you to all runners and parent drivers/cheerers.

We were delighted to welcome The Bookery, Crediton, to school, as part of our World Book Day celebrations. They brought their Top Titles for 2022 to share with the children, read extracts and introduced them to new authors.

Wildlife Champions had a fantastic afternoon spent in the Forest school area with Sarah from the Devon Wildlife Trust and Mrs West. The children created a super bug hotel and woodlouse house,

The First South Zeal Scout group had a fabulous trip to Exeter Cathedral to see Museum Of The Moon by Luke Jerram. Our pupils told us that it is well worth a visit and recommend it to their school mates.

our whole school assembly celebrated Wear Your Scarf to School Day for the launch of Children's Mental Health week. During the assembly, Mrs Culverhouse introduced some of the activities the children would complete during the week. All classes developed their own emotional thermometers to help them to recognise feelings of anxiety and anger and explore strategies to calm themselves down.



PTA News

Thank you to all those who have donated gifts for future raffles and Christmas clothing that has been outgrown. We will continue to collect these items so please give all donations to the school office or to a member of the PTA!

Dates for the diary – more information to follow!

Pancake day – Tuesday 1st March

Break the rules day – Friday 1st April

Ground Force Day – help to tidy up the school grounds Saturday 30th April.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the 2Challenge. You all joined in with such enthusiasm and completed our giant 2 extremely neatly! You've raised a brilliant £127!

No doubt you've heard the exuberant ringing of the new hand bell in Year 6, this is one of a few items we have been able to purchase for the children already this term.

We have also funded an annual subscription to 'The Week' for Year 6 to offer an even wider range of reading materials and a storage rack for their art aprons so they are always ready and waiting when it's time to get creative.

North Dartmoor Parishes Magazine Distribution

Following many (more than twenty) years of loyal service our North Dartmoor Magazine distributor who delivered the magazine to the houses around the lower area of South Zeal is finally calling it a day. We thank her for all her past help. We are now in the market for replacement volunteer(s) with an hour or two to spare once every two months, who would be willing and able to take over this useful service to our village community. Additional to news from our local parishes, the magazine is also full of handy contacts for local services. Please, if you live in South Zeal and think that you could help by delivering 25 to 50 magazines once every couple of months, contact Philip Lynn on 01837 849144.

Many thanks for your help.

Grant application to Sticklepath and Belstone School Charity

Applications for financial support are invited from young people, aged under 25 years, who live in the parishes of Belstone and Sticklepath.

The objective of the Charity is "To promote the education (including social and physical training) of persons who are under the age of 25". Eligible people, or organisations, can apply to the Charity for a grant to help with the expenses of items which meet the objectives of the Charity. Grants have previously been approved for music lessons and sport/dance training fees, but the Charity will consider all appropriate areas of educational expenditure.

Applications can be made by such residents regardless of their, or their family's, financial circumstances.

Applications must be made by 31 March 2022 by way of an application form which can be obtained from the Clerk. Please contact Lois Rowlands on 01837 840367 or email sticklepathbelstonecharity@gmail.com to request a form or for further information. The application should be made by the applicant themselves, rather than their parents, where this is appropriate, and should be for future costs to be incurred.

Events at Okehampton Library

February – 22nd March - The Gathering – Finding connections Through Loss

This project is responding to issues of loneliness, social isolation, bereavement, and loss in the community. Feeling of disconnection or loss can be amplified in the dark winter months, so Honeyscribe are inviting people to take part in a collective act of co-creation by dedicating a pressed flower to someone special.

The project will culminate in the creation of an illuminated artwork containing preserved flowers and leaves gathered from across the community. The finished artwork will be exhibited at libraries and tour to care homes and support facilities who were involved in its making.

Anyone who would like to dedicate a flower for this project can collect a pack with everything they need from Okehampton and Holsworthy

libraries or press a fresh flower at the flower pressing stations where library staff will assist.

Thursday 3rd March 15:45-16:45 - World Book Day Tea Party. Dress up as your favourite book character (optional), join in our fun tea party with light refreshments, party games and prizes. Free event, suitable for ages 5+, numbers limited so it is essential to book in advance

4th March – 1st April 10:00-12:00 - Beeline for digital skills course
This 10-hour course will give you the basic digital skills you need in today's online world.

Free course, booking essential. Book with Learn Devon on 01822 61370. Course code ITB818

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 11th – 20th March

Tuesday 15th March 19:00. 'Interconnected Okehampton Wildlife' – a talk by Matt Parkins who is a woodland naturalist and conservationist. Matt will talk about how the interconnectedness of nature and the natural world around us can draw us together.

The wonderful world of nature is something we humans are a part of, and can make a positive difference which is healing to both wildlife and ourselves. Tickets £3 each in advance or £3.50 at door, to include refreshments.

Wednesday 16th March 10:00-10:15 – Science Week Storytime for under 5's Free, no booking necessary

Monday 21st –Thursday 24th March. Discovery Screen Film Festival Showings

A selection of exceptional hand-picked films showing in libraries across the county throughout March. You can enjoy exclusive viewings of culturally diverse films across Devon, away from the big screens. Discovery Screens is organised by Libraries Unlimited, through its Evolve programme. Okehampton Library will be screening....

Mon 21st Minari (12a) open at 18:30, film starting at 18:45

Wed 23rd The Father (15) open at 14:30, film starting at 14:45

Wed 23rd Sweetheart (15) open at 19:00, film starting at 19:15

Thurs 24th Another Round (12a) open at 19:00, film starting at 19:15

Tickets: £3 adult, £2 students/child. Bookable through Eventbrite.

Contact the library for more details.

Music at St Mary's Church, Sticklepath. Friends of St Mary's. Sunday 20th March, 5.30.



The great work of letting the lovely little church of St Mary's at Sticklepath breathe and offer more at the heart of the community, and to visitors, goes on. Jim Causley's performances have confirmed what a lovely acoustic the building has, proved very popular, and the recent service around the songs of Sidney Carter brought worship and music together beautifully.

The Friends of St Mary's hope the church can continue to grow musically and bring enjoyably uplifting, accessible and beautiful

live music to the heart of the village. Suggestions and contacts are very welcome.

The next step is a performance by Devon based musicians 'Foxwillow'. Harp, clarinet, guitar and harmony singing bring all original songs of life and nature alive. Foxwillow have played widely across Devon and beyond, and contributed greatly to keeping music live and local from their base at Cove, near Tiverton.

A listen to music from their CDs here <https://foxwillow.net/> will hopefully, persuade you this performance is not to be missed. We have all longed for different things over the last few years, and for many of us, the shared joy of live music has been one of them. Here's a chance to welcome it back, along with the spring! Tickets will £10 on the door, up to the capacity of the church. Contact Malcolm Learmouth 01847 840919

South Zeal Open Gardens - Sunday 19th June



After a 2 year break the South Zeal Open Gardens Event is ON! Further details to follow in next month's issue - watch this space! georgie.defay@gmail.com

News from the Moor

Hi everyone

I hope that you are all keeping well and making the most of the cold and dry winter days we have been seeing in January. I am starting to see little hints of Spring in the garden at Castle Drogo and I am already day-dreaming of swathes of daffodils.

The teams across Dartmoor are turning their attention to re-opening the built places in our care. The deep clean of Drogo is well underway and each time I walk around the castle, there is an extra sparkle to the precious items on display. The garden team have been busy too working on the parking area next to the castle. They are using the historic architectural drawings as inspiration to transform this area in to the 'servants garden' Lutyens originally imagined. The area transformed, seemingly over night, and looks incredible already.

At Finch Foundry, maintenance work is taking place on the historic machinery so it will be ready to wow visitors once again when it re-opens on 30 March for pre-booked guided tour. At Lydford Gorge, the Ranger team are working their way through a long list of jobs including path maintenance, tree checks and rock face inspections.

If you have taken a drive from Okehampton to Tavistock recently, you may have noticed some scaffolding at Wheal Betsy engine house. We were able to secure some funding to undertake re-pointing work to the house and it certainly looks impressive.

Finally, I would like to share news of a lovely activity the Drogo team did just before Christmas where they worked with local care homes and an organisation called Ladder to the Moon to create a virtual tour. It was very well received by all of the residents who took part and it was a joy to share our beautiful castle with people who would find it tricky to visit in person.

Best wishes all, Paula

Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor
01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk



National Trust

Sticklepath Phoenix Group

It will be a case of "All Our Yesterdays" for members of the Phoenix Group at their next meeting on 15th March when Mike Gilbert, custodian of the Village Archive, will be talking about the history of the group. Long-standing members will have the opportunity to revive some memories from the past, while newer

members will gain new insights about the Group.

There was an influx of new members at our welcome back social in January, when we enjoyed some simple (and not very strenuous) party games organised by Dora and a buffet supper provided by the Committee. St. Mary's Church, Sticklepath was chosen as the beneficiary of our monthly raffle and other donations.

Don't worry, there is still room for more members if you want to join us and you will receive a very warm welcome! Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 7.15 to 9 p.m. at Sticklepath Village Hall. For further information, contact Lorinda Legge (01837 840326) or just come along on the night.

St Mary's Church Heritage Centre

'Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm'

Ralph Waldo Emerson

This quotation seems to sum up our communities, for even during the past couple of (testing) years 'things' have been quietly ticking along in the background and achievements of all kinds realised.

The special service held on Sunday 6th February to celebrate the diverse works of Sidney Carter are proof of this. Musicians and

singers entertained a large audience and pasties, cakes and hot drinks were enjoyed in the hall after. Our thanks to Revd Stephen Cook for organising this event and to all those taking part and coming along.

A further musical event is planned for 20th March (see details in this edition).

Village Praise will be held in St Mary's, Sunday 6th March at 10.30am and Mothering Sunday will be marked on Sunday 27th March at the 8.30am short communion service.

Spring is on its way! Carol Johns

Taylor Maid

Egg Free Fruit Cake

250g mixed dried fruit
75g caster sugar
150ml water
Butter for greasing, and to serve
250g self raising flour
1tsp mixed spice
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1/2tsp vinegar, malt or cider
3tbsp milk
1 lb loaf tin, lined and greased

Place the fruit, water and sugar in a pan and bring to the boil.
Reduce the heat and gently simmer for five minutes.
Pour into a large bowl and leave to cool for approx thirty minutes.
Preheat the oven to 180oC
Grease and line a 1lb loaf tin.
Stir the spice and flour into the mixture, then add the milk, vinegar and bi carb.
Gently fold it in, trying not to

knock the air out or the cake will become too heavy.

Spoon into the tin and smooth top

Bake for 45 minutes until a skewer inserted comes out clean.

Leave in the tin for five minutes then turn onto a wire rack to cool.

Serve sliced and buttered.

Enjoy.

St. Andrew's Churchyard, South Tawton

Members of ACE Archaeology will be coming on Saturday, 5th March to help us finalise transcribing and mapping the location of the headstones in the churchyard. This project was started with the help of ACE about 8 or so years ago and has sadly lost momentum in recent years, so it will be good to get it finished! Many hands make light work, so if anyone in the parish (or surrounding villages) would like to participate, you will be very welcome. Please contact Lorinda Legge (01837 840326) for further details. Hot drinks will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch.

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Local News From One Hundred Years Ago

You don't see this sort of reporting in the press these days.

*'That's not mine!' Thus ejaculated John Reddaway, farmer, of **Belstone**, when the Chairman at Okehampton Petty Sessions informed him that he had a bad record, and that there were twelve previous convictions for cattle straying. Reddaway, who was summoned for allowing three sheep to stray on the highway, said he believed he had only been in the Court about twice previously. Those twelve convictions were not his. What his father did before him, he could not stand for – (laughter).*

Supt Gordon: You are John Reddaway?

Defendant: Yes sir. But there is more than one John Reddaway.

The question of defendant's age arose, and the Chairman remarked he was 65 years.

Defendant: What!

Supt Gordon: Well, what is it? We have to put your age down.

Defendant did not reply.

The police constable who proved the case, said the fences were in good condition, although there was one gap, through which, apparently, the sheep got out. The Bench fined defendant 10s and costs.

It's not hard to see why the court was confused. There are records in the Belstone Archive of John Reddaway being fined for either pigs or cattle straying in 1873, 1883, 1888, 1897 and 1904, but I don't know which JR was involved any more than the court did. The JR of this 1922 case was a farmer who lived at The Lees in the centre of Belstone, where he died in 1928, aged 66. His father John, who JR was blaming for the earlier cases, had lived at The Lees before he died in 1900, aged 75. Further into the past, our man's grandfather, another farmer, was also called John (1786-1846). Our JR had a nephew called John (1891-1957), another farmer, who was known around Belstone as 'Uncle John'. Our JR also had a real uncle called John, born in 1826; he was a butcher, not a farmer. John the butcher had a son, also called John who was a policeman and a cousin of our JR. In all, 11 John Reddaways are recorded in the St Mary's Church baptism records between 1630 and 1891.

Here's another thing that doesn't happen nowadays, having been banned by the Hunting Act in 2004. *Hatherleigh Harriers, on the occasion of the meet at the Cawsand Beacon Hotel, **South Zeal**, had two good runs, although there was no kill. The first hare was found near Cawsand Beacon, and led straight on to Creber, near Gidleigh, then back again, and, after running for an hour and fifteen minutes, was lost on Mr Hill's Week Farm. The second hare also provided a good run.*

This was the last meet for the season. During the season hounds have accounted for 24 brace of hares.

Back with the courts, a harsh sentence was handed out to Henry Cowler, for the previous 13 years a shunter for the L&SWR railway at **Okehampton**; he was fined £10 11s 3d (around £500 today!) for stealing a 2lb pot of strawberry jam, valued 2s 6d, from Okehampton railway station.

A brief report from **South Zeal**; *Several of the new District Council houses at Zeal Head are nearly fit for occupation, the first being occupied this week. The number under construction is ten.*

Belstone's plan for a war memorial at the church encountered unexpected opposition, as described in the *Okehampton Deanery Magazine* by Herbert Wilson Milner, the village's rector; *The proposed plan of placing the bronze figure of our Blessed Lord against the outside of the church, approved by the Church Council, and apparently generally acceptable to all, does not meet with the approval of the Bishop. This is most unfortunate, as the expense of the architect's plans has been entailed, and various other expenses. The Bishop urges instead that a rood beam should be erected in the church, and the figure placed there upon a cross, and that we should wait and hope in time to get the customary accompanying figures of our Lady and St John. A meeting of the Church Council is to be held to consider the matter.*

We all know that the price of gas has soared recently and is about to translate into higher energy bills as the energy price cap is raised significantly. Interesting then that 100 years ago, *the price of gas at **Okehampton** is to be reduced by 8d per thousand cubic feet.*

Chris Walpole (unless otherwise stated, quotes in italics are from the *Devon and Exeter Gazette* and *Western Times*)

Belstone Church Event

There will be a special Mothering Sunday Service at St Mary's Church, Belstone on the 27th March at 10am.

The Mothering Sunday Service this year will be an interactive Family Service with readings and songs and the opportunity to make posies and to decorate gifts as well as the usual opportunities to eat some chocolate! We also hope there will be a guest appearance from a baby animal... We very much look forward to seeing you all there and joining us for refreshments afterwards!

Friends of St Mary's, Sticklepath

Inaugural Meeting

Thursday 10th March 7pm in the chapel.

So much has been achieved to provide new life and purpose for our little church and heritage centre.

Now it is important to take the next steps to ensure that it fully contributes to the community and provides an essential focus for visitors to our village.

Without the support of local people, and without the sustained interest of visitors, the building is just a shell.

It needs to be a place where anyone can visit and find something uplifting, meaningful and welcoming.

There are many more histories and stories to tell about the area.

There are concerts and music sessions planned. There is a garden to plan and to enjoy. There is space for meetings which explore a moral and spiritual meaning of life, and conditions for personal meditation or worship of many kinds.

It will always have costs to cover. Moreover, its future needs ideas, some commitment and a little labour to sustain it.

Everyone and anyone is welcome to join the Friends of St Mary's - come along to this first general meeting to hear more.

Or have a conversation with one of the core group: Carol (840822), Derek (840316), Mike(s), Jerry, Emma, Jake, Lynn, Malcolm and Rev. Steve Cook

World Scout Jamboree in South Korea – Summer 2023!

Hello! Our names are Abi (12) and Eleanor (13). We are part of 1st South Zeal Scouts and we have been selected to represent Devon at the 2023 World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) in South Korea. We love being part of our local Scout group - scouting is an amazing opportunity for young people, which is why we are honoured to be representing Devon at the WSJ.

Our selection weekend took place at a muddy campsite in October 2021. We participated in lots of activities with other Scouts from all over Devon and following that weekend, a number of us were selected to go ahead and represent Devon at the WSJ. We both made some great new friends and some amazing memories in just one selection

weekend, so we can't wait for the trip and all the opportunities it will bring.

The WSJ is a World Organisation of the Scout Movement event, it happens every four years, each time hosted by a different country. We will be travelling to South Korea to meet with 40,000 other Scouts. There will be many activities, but the focus of the event is about a sustainable world, building an understanding of global issues and to develop ideas on what we can do to make the dream of a sustainable world a reality. The motto for the 2023 WSJ is Think Big, Dream Wild and Act Together! It will be a privilege to meet young people from different cultures and nationalities and to learn from them – we are also looking forward to letting people know about Devon!

Because we are traveling so far and have to pay for accommodation, kit, food, support staff and training camps, we need to raise £4,300 each. This is a huge sum of money, especially for people our age. We have already started our fundraising journey by washing cars and undertaking other jobs for friends and family. We are planning various fundraising activities including a sponsored walk over Dartmoor, a chocolate bingo night, a quiz, cake sales and hopefully a big breakfast event later in the year.

If you would like to help us on our incredible journey, we would be happy to help with jobs you may need doing for a small donation – any donations help so much. Please contact chloehw@gmail.com to get in touch with us. You can also check out our fundraising pages on JustGiving (search Abi Smith) and GoFundMe (search Eleanor Pearce). Finally, we may have the opportunity to share local products at the WSJ – so if you are a Devon business and would like your product to be shared internationally then please get in touch. We really want to promote everything that's great about Devon, the food and drink and any other products!

We hope to see you at our Chocolate Bingo at the Victory Hall on Friday 25 March.

Thank you so much, Abi and Eleanor

Belstone Parish Council

Over the past few months Belstone Council have been discussing activities for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, they have adopted a new logo (attached), confirmed a Public Seating Policy, have decided not to install an electric car charging point, have responded to consultations by the Dartmoor National Park, Devon

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and Somerset Fire Service and West Devon Borough Council and planned to improve the surface in the car park. The Clerk will be paid for an extra hour a week to do the website and payroll work which was not done before, and this (along with other increases in expenditure) has necessitated a rise in the amount to be paid by Belstone residents next year of £7 per year for the average household.



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Church Services March 2022

Church of England

St Andrew's South Tawton, St Mary's & Pavilion South Zeal

Wed	2nd	7.30pm	Holy Communion with ashes	St Mary's
Sunday	6th	11.15am	Holy Communion	Church House
Sunday	13th	10am	Iona Service	St Mary's
Sunday	20th	6pm	Evensong	St Mary's
Sunday	27th	10am	Mothering Sunday Service	St Andrew's

St Mary's Belstone & St Mary's Sticklepath

Sunday 6th	9.30pm	Celtic Prayer	Belstone
	10.30am	Village Praise	Sticklepath
Sunday 13th.	9.30am	Holy Communion	Belstone
Sunday 20th	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Belstone
Sunday 27th	8.30am	Short Communion	Sticklepath
	9.30am	Interactive Family Service	Belstone

Sticklepath Community church

Every Sunday 10.30am Sticklepath Village Hall

Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Chris Jackson Tel: 01837 52302

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Okehampton

Roman Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Father Darline Marianathan. Tel: 01837 52229

St Boniface

Okehampton

Holy Family church

Chagford

Okehampton Quaker Meeting

Ockment Centre

Okehampton

Regular Events - March 2022

please contact organiser for updated details

Every		MONDAY	
Knit & Knatter	(1st & 3rd) 1.30-3.30	Bert Stead Room, Sticklepath Village Hall	
Pilates	5.45pm	Sticklepath Village Hall	Yvonne West 07712611670 yvonnewest@live.co.uk
Yoga	7pm	Belstone Village Hall	Sarah 849110 07592 377028
3rd Monday Folk	8 p m 3rd Monday of the month	Kings Arms, South Zeal	
Every		TUESDAY	
Yogalates	9am	Whiddon Down	Sarah 849110 07592 377028
Yoga	10.30	Whiddon Down	Sarah 849110 07592 377028
Tai Chi exercise Tai Chi form	10.00 - 11.00 11.00 - 11.30	Pavilion South Zeal	Kate 01837 840959
Art Group (STAG) ON LINE	10 am	karimcgowan.com	Kari 840695
Belstone Arts & Crafts Group	9.30 - 12.30	Belstone Village Hall	Marion 840498
Dartmoor Walking	2.30 - 3.30	Different location every week dartmoorwalking.co.uk	Denise 07944 630677
Hatha Yoga ON LINE	7 - 8.30pm	vivekagardens.com	Fiona Law 880050
South Zeal Players	7.30 - 10pm	'Battershay', SZ	Robin 840654
1st South Zeal Beavers	6pm - 7.30pm	Scout Hut, South Tawton	Nicki Glanville 07510612205
Sticklepath Phoenix Group	Third of each month 7.15pm	Sticklepath Village Hall	Lorinda 01836 840326
Every		WEDNESDAY	
Moor Harmony	7.45-9pm	Victory Hall	Jeremy 840 741
Sticklepath Coffee Morning	10.00-11.30am	Sticklepath Village Hall	
Meditation Group	6.30 - 8.00 pm	On line	Alison 849085
Dartmoor Walking	10.00- 11.30am	Different location every week dartmoorwalking.co.uk	Denise 07944 630677

Every		THURSDAY	
Pilates	9.30am	Sticklepath Village Hall	Yvonne West 07712611670 yvonnwest@live.co.uk
Belstone Cafe	10am-noon	Belstone Village Hall	www.belstonevillage.net
Drawing, Fun, Friendship	2.30 - 4.30	South Zeal Pavilion	John 01837 840366
Ukelele Group	7pm - 9pm	Church House	Nathan
Yoga	7pm - 9pm	Belstone Village Hall	Sarah 849110 07592377028
Cogs & Wheels Ladies Morris Dancers	7.30 - 9.45pm	Victory Hall	Donna dtombs65@gmail.com phone 07711 294331
Mariners Away Shanty singers	8.30-10pm	Kings Arms	
Every		FRIDAY	
Sticklepath & Okehampton Conservation StOCs	10am	Finch Foundry car park	Mike 840183 Ian 840435 www.stocgroup.org
Food Bank etc	11am-12noon First Friday of the month	Church House, South Tawton	
Every		Saturday	
Dartmoor Walking	10.00- 11.30am	Different location every week dartmoorwalking.co.uk	Denise 07944 630677
Every		SUNDAY	
Tinner's Morris		Informal practice sessions outdoors & dancing out	Derek 40316
Devi Folk Session	8pm First Sunday of the month	Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath	Derek 40316

Coming Events

	March
Mon 7th	Belstone Cricket Club AGM 7.30pm The Old School Tearoom, Belstone
Thurs 10th	Friends of St Mary's, Sticklepath Inaugural Meeting 7pm in the chapel. See <i>article</i>
Sun 20th	'Foxwillow Trio' 5.30pm at St Mary's Church, Sticklepath Malcolm Learmouth 01837 840919see <i>article</i>

	March
Fri 25th	Chocolate Bingo 6.30 victory Hall. <i>See article</i>
Sun 27th	Quiz, 8pm Kings Arms
30th	Tour of Finch Foundry - to <i>pre-book</i> see <i>article</i>
	April
Wed 6th	Sticklepath Village Hall AGM 6pm see <i>article</i>
Tues 12th	Belstone Parish Council meeting. Contact clerk for details
	May
Tues 24th	Belstone Annual Parish Meeting. Contact clerk for details
	June
Sun 19th	South Zeal Open Garden

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

March 2022	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
Recycling, food waste and refuse week		1	2	3	4
Recycling, food waste and garden waste subscription week.	7	8	9	10	11
Recycling, food waste and refuse week	14	15	16	17	18
Recycling, food waste and garden waste subscription week.	21	22	23	24	25
Recycling, food waste and refuse week	28	29	30	31	

Village shop opening times

	The Stores, South Zeal	Sticklepath Stores
M	8.00 to13.00, 14.00 to16.45	7.00am to 5.30pm
T	8.00 to13.00, 14.00 to16.45	7.00am to 5.30pm
W	8.00 to13.00, 14.00 to16.45	7.00am to 5.30pm
Th	8.00 to13.00	7.00am to 5.30pm
F	8.00 to13.00, 14.00 to16.45	7.00am to 5.30pm
S	8.00 to13.00	7.00am to 3.00pm
S	Closed	8.00am to 1.00pm

Village Post Office opening times

	Sticklepath Village Hall	Belstone Village Hall	South Zeal Stores	Throwleigh St Mary's Church
Mon			09.00-13.00 14.00-16.45	
Tues		9.30 - 11.30	09.00-13.00 14.00-16.45	13.30 -15.00
Wed	9.30 - 11.30		09.00-13.00 14.00-16.45	
Thur			09.00 -13.00	
Fri			09.00-13.00 14.00-16.45	13.30 -15.00

Mobile Library Service - Wednesday 23rd Marc

exmouth.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk. 01395 272677

Belstone	Green	10:15 - 11:00
Sticklepath	Oak Tree Park	11:15 - 11:45
South Tawton	Seven Stars	11:50 - 12:10
South Zeal	Zeal Head	12:20 - 12:50

The Beacon

editor.thebeacon@icoud.com

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Village Emergency Telephone System VETS

South Tawton Parish 01837 500 999

Police

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Local Authority

Belstone Parish Council 01837 849 131
Sticklepath Parish Council 01837 608 388
Devon County Council 08451 551 015
Dartmoor National Park 01626 832 093

Medical and Dental

Okehampton Medical Centre 01837 522 33
Chagford Health Centre 01647 433 320
MyDentist Okehampton 01837 527 45

Veterinary

North Park Veterinary Group 01837 823 27
North Park (Oke Surgery) 01837 658 777
St David's Equine Practice 01837 849 096

Schools

South Tawton Primary 01837 840 242
Okehampton College 01837 650 910
Chagford Primary 01647 432 412

Transport

Okehampton Taxis. 01837 53555/840841
Bus timetables. www.travelinessw.com

Churches & Chapels

Church of England - Belstone with Sticklepath
Church of England - South Tawton with South Zeal
Methodist Church
Roman Catholic Church
Okehampton Baptist Church
Sticklepath Community Church
Society of Friends - Quakers

Advisory Agencies

Citizens Advice 03444 111 444
Samaritans 116 123
Age UK Devon 0845 296 7810

Pauline Baker 01837 840 858
Lesley Terrel 07549 376842
Treasurer-Jane Messer 01837 840 405
Website - Fi Reddaway 07850 305040

Sticklepath 01837 500 523

Okehampton enquiries 101

South Tawton Parish Council 01837 890 95
Okehampton Town Council 01837 531 79
West Devon Borough Council 01822 813 600
Okehampton Library 01837 528 05

Oke Community Hospital 01837 658 000
North Tawton Dental Practice 01837 822 61
Taw Valley Dental Care 01837 880 096

Okeford Veterinary Centre 01837 521 48
Equus Vets 01837 214 004
Stringer Equine 01647 231 246

Okehampton Primary 01837 528 66
Adult & Community Learning 01837 659 436
North Tawton Primary 01837 822 84

Ring&Ride/Community Cars 01837 550 00

Rev. Stephen Cook 01837 659 297
Rev. Paul Seaton-Burn 01647 432 880
Rev. Chris Jackson 01837 523 02
Fr. Darline Marianathan 01837 522 29
Jeff Jacobson 01837 318 563
Philip Dennis 01837 840 144
Ann Dickman 01837 840 966

Cruse Bereavement 01392 272 406
Relate 01392 275 681



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*Pharmacist is not present 1.15-1.45 pm daily (no dispensing permitted at that time)

North Tawton Pharmacy, The Old Bank, The Square, North Tawton, EX20 2EW
www.northtawtonpharmacy.co.uk
northtawton.pharmacy@nhs.net

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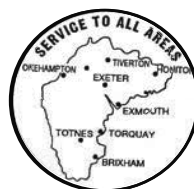
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