



The MORCHARD MESSENGER

The Independent Village Newsletter

www.morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk/latest-morchard-messenger

No.369 MARCH 2026

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY MORCHARD BISHOP BOWLING CLUB

Your Bowling Club needs YOU!

What's the first thing you think of when you hear about bowls? Probably dodderly old people wearing whites on a Sunday afternoon rolling bowls down a flat green and debating who is closest. Well, some bowls matches are like that, but the modern game isn't.

Did you know that the current indoor World Champion is from Crediton? Rob Paxton is in his forties and Nicole Rogers, this years' losing finalist in the indoor women's singles, is under 30 and plays in Exeter! Almost all of this year's Commonwealth Games bowls team are under 40 and Devon is particularly well represented. In Devon currently, there are 95 registered bowls clubs with 5,500 players, 1,900 women and 3,600 men.

And we all wear bright colours now, looking more like modern sports people. Bowls is a sport for all ages and you can play competitively – some players are VERY Competitive – or just for fun and the social aspect.

The village is very privileged to have its own bowling club just beyond the football field. Why not come and have a go? It's fun, you are outside in the sunshine – mostly – and games can be both lots of fun or very competitive. We have 'friendly' matches which are relaxed and for the more competitive players, we have leagues where we play teams from surrounding towns, such as Tiverton, Exeter and Barnstaple.

Or just come for the social roll-up we have on a Tuesday evening. We start at 6:00pm and everyone is welcome to come and have a try. No equipment is needed as we can provide the bowls you need. All you need are flat soled shoes. Just come as you are - jeans and tee-shirt are fine. We offer help and advice and there is always a drink and sometimes even cake available. We even have bowls suitable for young children to try out their skills.



So why wait? Come and have a go? You have nothing to lose and much to gain. A new skill to learn, meet new people and possibly surprise yourself about how keen on this game you can become.

Contact Frances on rixycottage@gmail.com or on 07763058118 for more info.



MARCH 2026 DIARY

If you'd like details of your event or meeting to appear in the March 2026 Diary, please let Sue Eaglen know by February 12 at sue_eaglen@fastmail.co.uk or text Sue on 07854745791. You may also like to use the section below to publicise a future event.

St. Mary's All welcome at our services

Sun March 1, 10.30am Morning worship
 Sun March 8, 10.30am Holy Communion
 Thurs March 12, 1.15pm All Age Worship with school in church
 Sun March 15, 10.30am Family service
 6.00pm Bible study at Emmanuel
 Sun March 22, 10.30am Morning worship
 Sun March 29, 10.00am Palm Sunday Mission Community service at Bow Church

Thurs April 2, 7.30pm Maundy Thursday service at Down St. Mary church
 Fri April 3, 10.00am Good Friday Walk of Witness, **St Mary's to Emmanuel**, coffee & hot cross buns.
 Easter Sunday April 5 Eucharist time to be confirmed

Emmanuel All welcome at our services. Morning services start at 11, coffee from 10.30. Visit www.emmanuel-morchard-bishop.org for detailed information about services, Sunday School for primary age children, youth clubs and other events. Third Sunday joint Bible study with St. Mary's at Emmanuel. The Prime Club meets on the 2nd Friday at 19.00. Edge Club meets on the 3rd Friday at 19.30. Coffee mornings Tuesdays 10.00 – 11.30.

Easter at Emmanuel, Sunday, April 5, from 10.30 Easter Eggs & Refreshments.

BOOK SWAP: Wed, March 4, 15.00 – 16.30 in the Memorial Hall.
 PARISH WALK: Usually 3rd Sat of the month, 11 start at the Memorial Hall.

(Many apologies to people who turned up at the Memorial Hall for the Saturday Coffee Morning at 9.30. Coffee Mornings start at 10.00, the exception is the 2nd Saturday of the month's Table Top Coffee Morning which starts at 9.30.)

FUTURE EVENTS

Fri, April 3, 17.00 – 19.30, Max & Mike's Street Food
 Fri, April 17, a Quiz in the Memorial Hall
 Sun, April 19, 17.00 – 19.00. Start of Alpha course, Emmanuel
 Sat, May 2, 10 – 11.30 ANNUAL PLANT SWAP
 May 23, Morfest Music Festival
 MAY 29 Save the date! Two Moors Way 50th anniversary walks & celebrations
 June 6, Make, bake, grow & woof! Flower, produce and dog show.

Mon	2 & 9, 23	09 – 10.00	Mat Pilates – mixed ability	Memorial Hall
	2	19.00	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall
	9	20.00	Skittles	MBSSC
Tues	3 & 10, 17, 24, 31	10.00 – 11.30	Coffee Morning	Emmanuel
	3 & 10, 24, 31	17.15 – 18.00	Dance, intermed. Modern	Memorial Hall
	3 & 10, 17, 24, 31	19.30	Bridge & Pool	MBSSC

Sponsored This Month by Morchard Bishop Bowling Club

Wed	4	10.30 – 11.15 14.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 16.30 17.30 – 19.00 19.30 – 21.00 19.30	Chair Pilates Pickleball intro with free tea & cake afterwards Book Swap Brownies Pickleball Ladies Darts, Captain's Cup	Memorial Hall " " " " " " " " MBSSC
Thurs	5	10.00 – 15.00 12.00 – 15.00 16.00 – 16.30 18.35 – 19.30 19.30	Can't sew, won't sew Singaround incl. lunch break Junior ballet Mat Pilates mixed ability Men's Darts	Emmanuel London Inn Memorial Hall MBSSC
Fri	6 & 13, 20, 27	10.00 – 11.00	Pickleball	Memorial Hall
Sat	7	9.30 – 11.00 10.00 – 11.30 Open 16.00 On 7 th 16.00 14 th TBA 19.30	Togs & Toys Coffee Morning Seed Share Rugby 6 Nations Italy v. England Super Saturday MBSSC open + for football home games	Emmanuel Memorial Hall MBSSC
Mon	16 & 23, 30	20.00	Skittles, Cup matches	MBSSC
Wed	11	14.30	W.I.	Memorial Hall
Sat	14	9.30 – 11.30	Table Top & Coffee Morning	Memorial Hall
Tues	17	10.00 – 11.30	Coffee Morning	Emmanuel
Wed	18	12.30	Over 60s Lunch	London Inn
Thurs	19	20.00 – 21.30	Pickleball	Memorial Hall
Sat	21	10.00 – 11.30 13.00	Coffee Morning Footpath Friends (free soup & chips after)	Memorial Hall London Inn
Sun	22	18.00	Joint Bible study	Emmanuel
Fri	27	18.45 doors open	Comedy Night – Johnny Cowling	Memorial Hall

NOTICEBOARD

Copy for Publication in THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

The deadline for articles, adverts and notices for the next issue is:

15th March 2026

The Editors retain the right to reject, edit, alter or correct articles which are sent in for publication.

The opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors. We do not publish anonymous letters.

Copy should be sent **by email** to morchardmessenger@gmail.com

Hard copy may also be delivered to Colin Crewdson at the address below.

Postal Service.

This newsletter can be posted to you monthly at a cost of £12 per annum.

Please contact :

Colin Crewdson
Wayside Cottage
Frost

Morchard Bishop EX17 6SF
Phone: 07926 625120

ADVERTS

Open the door to new business by advertising in the Morchard Messenger

Adverts up to ½ page are £5 a month

Adverts up to ¼ page are £7 a month

Adverts up to 1/8 page are £10 a month

(Larger sizes negotiable)

Please email your copy or draft to the editor (address above)

Morchard Bishop Sports & Social Club

Bar open to all members
Annual membership £2 per adult, due
1st August 26

MARCH 2026 OPENING TIMES

Mondays – 9th skittles 8pm onwards. 16th, 23rd & 30th cup matches.

Tuesdays – all dates open for pool & Bridge 7.30m

Wednesdays – 4th Ladies darts. 25th ladies darts. Captains cup, all from 7.30pm

Thursdays – 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Men's Darts 7.30pm.

Fridays – not open.

Saturdays – open 7,30pm plus home games for football.

Rugby Six Nations

All dates are for Saturdays in March

7th Italy v England bar open 4 pm

14th Super Saturday bar open times TBC

This is a rough guide which may be subject to change please contact morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com for more information if needed.

Church Street Stores

Opening Hours:

Sunday & Monday: 8.30am-12noon

Tuesday- Friday: 8.30am-5pm

Saturday: 8.30a- 2pm

01363 877826

www.facebook.com/churchstreetstores

Matthew & Clare

Bus Service 369 (Dartline)

Outward

Morchard Bishop (Greenaway):
07.12, 09.40, 11.50, 13.55, 16.07
Saturday variation 07.25

Crediton High St: 07.46, (07.54), 10.14,
12.21, 14.24, 16.39

Crediton Train station /Redlands:
07.51, (08.00), 10.19, 12.26, 14.28,
16.43

Exeter City Centre (Sidwell St):
08.17, (08.23), 10.39, 12.45, 14.48,
17.05

RD&E Hospital 08.26, 17.14
Saturdays 0828, 1714

Return

Exeter RD&E: 17.15/ 17.15

City Centre (Sidwell St Stop 40):
08.40, 10.50, 12.55, 15.00, 17.30

Crediton Train station/Redlands:
09.04, 11.13, 13.19, 15.25, 17.57,
(17.55)

Morchard Bishop (Greenaway):
09.38, 11.48, 13.53, 16.05, 18.34
Saturdays 18.28

Witheridge: 18.59 (*not Saturdays*)

Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Available for birthday and celebration parties, family meetings/get togethers/wakes/wedding receptions.

Bookings - Contact **Debbie Ticehurst**
dticehurst@icloud.com
07875359563

General - Contact **Anton Heal**
antonheal@yahoo.co.uk
07970 227753

Produce / Table Top booking –
contact **Robert Moore**
07455 896589
robert@lydcottnursery.co.uk

LETTERS – MESSAGES – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Orchard End Kennels & Cattery Closure

After much thought, we would like to let our local community know that our kennels and cattery will be closing at the end of October. We waited until our plans were fully confirmed before sharing this news. The last few years have brought many changes for us as a family, and we feel the time has come to take a step back from the business. We are not moving away, simply closing this chapter.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported us over the years. Caring for so many much-loved pets has been a real privilege, and we are incredibly grateful for the trust, kindness, and friendships we have built within the community. Best wishes,

Megan

Internet Connectivity in the Village

The parish council are often asked about planned improvements for internet connectivity across the village. In January 2026, Starlink has recently adjusted their pricing structure to £35 a month which may now be a viable option for those with poor connectivity. Visit www.starlink.com to check coverage and installation.

Please note: Starlink is not endorsed by MBPC.

Andy Hankins

Ukraine and Moldova Quiz Sheet Results

Many thanks to all who bought the quiz sheet. We raised £150 for Christian Response To Eastern Europe which is a local charity supporting people in Ukraine and Moldova. Kathy Alder drew the winners for us.

Congratulations to the winners who were: 1st Prize Lee Friend, 2nd Prize Stella Wain and Lydia & Simon Applebee who received the consolation prize.

Answers can be obtained from Helena Sykes:
csvkes162@btinternet.com.

Organised by the Parish Council supported by village organisations

MORFEST

MORCHARD BISHOP FESTIVAL

Saturday 23rd May 2026
London Inn Fields
Midday until Late

Music and Food to suit everyone's taste!

Two Stages – seven local bands plus comedy, a choir and a Mummers Play and many other musical acts.

Save money:
100 early bird adult tickets costing just £20 will be available from The London Inn and Church Street Stores from 3rd January 2026. (Maximum 2 tickets per person).

Further details in Future editions of the Morchard Messenger!

Reserve the date – get involved and look forward to another exciting Morchard Bishop event.



See updates on page 11

MORCHARD BISHOP
MEMORIAL HALL

COMEDY NIGHT

FRIDAY 27th MARCH

STAND UP

FEATURING
CORNWALL'S NO 1 COMEDIAN
JOHNNY COWLING

DOORS OPEN 6.45PM
LICENSED BAR - 8PM START
TICKETS £20 (INCLUDES SUPPER) - ADULTS ONLY
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
DEREK HORN - 07968 168319

Food served:
SARAH'S LOADED SPUDS
(with a selection of fillings)

Proceeds to FOMBS
(Friends Of Morchard Bishop School)



LETTERS – NOTICES - ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL HALL QUIZ

Save the date!

Friday 17th April '26

7pm for a 7.30pm start

Bring your own drinks.

Hot food included in the ticket.

A pudding auction will be held in the interval.

Teams of 4 max. £6 per person

Entries to

mrshilaryjones@hotmail.com

Or

dticehurst@icloud.com

Hele Lane Methodist Chapel, Black Dog

Fourth Friday Feast community lunch

Friday 27th March 2026 at 12.30pm

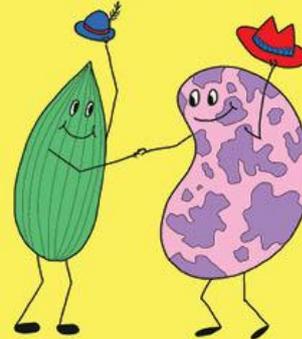
Venue: Hele Lane Methodist Chapel, Black Dog

All welcome for a delicious 2-course meal, & friendly social.

No charge but donations welcome.

Must pre-book by phoning Mary on 07814 590220

**Sustainable Morchard
Seed Share**



**Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall
Saturday 7th March**

10.00-11.30

Bring seeds ~ Take seeds

(Swap or donation)

Tools, Preserves

Get your tools sharpened

(Around a week turnaround for sharpening)

Alongside regular coffee morning

Emmanuel
METHODIST CHURCH



Easter Eggs
and
Refreshments
available

Celebrate and
join with us on the
5th April
from 10.30am



**Community
Togs and Toys
Give Away**



'Emmanuel Togs and Toys' collect good quality and giftable second hand children's clothing and toys donations. We then pass them on free of charge to any members of the community that can give them a good home.

Drop in sessions now available

Call in and see us at one of our monthly drop in sessions, in the Lower Room at Emmanuel Chapel, on the first Saturday of the month.

We currently have clothes and footwear for both girls and boys from birth to teen available, as well as a selection of toys.

Drop in sessions are as follows:

Saturday 7th February : 9.30 - 11am

Saturday 7th March: 9.30 - 11am

If you cannot make any of the above please email and we can arrange a convenient date and time with you.

For more information or to donate any items, please email:

emmanueltogsandtoys@gmail.com

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook :

Emmanuel Togs and Toys

or via the QR code



EVENTS - NOTICES - ANNOUNCEMENTS



Spring Awakening Music Festival March 2026

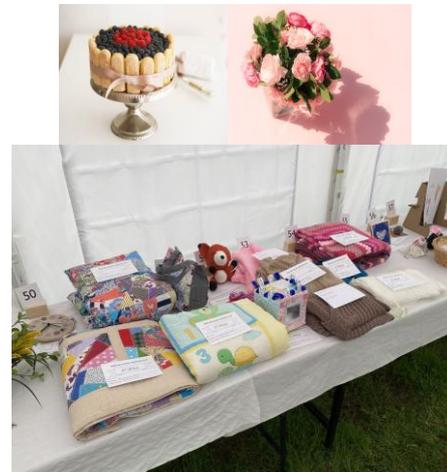
- Thursday 19 **Moon Jazz**
Top-notch jazz stylings from the Moon Jazz House Band and jammers
- Friday 20 **And 'Other' Stories**
Turning Tides Project with live music, spoken word and a splendid exhibition
- Sunday 22 **Share in the Square**
Sunday afternoon sounds from the best of Credition's musical talent
- Sunday 22 **Drumming**
Workshop
Devon Drummers return with an energetic participatory workshop
- Monday 23 **Spinal Tap II: The End**
Continues
The long-awaited sequel, a fitting tribute to the late Rob Reiner
- Tuesday 24 **Credition Strummers**
Workshop
Popular songs given the treatment by Ed Finch and his musical renegades
- 25 March **Acoustic by Candlelight**
The lovely St Lawrence Chapel is the setting for more acoustic delights
- 26 March **Wild Rose**
Tom Harper's award-winning film starring Jessie Buckley
- 27 March **Filkin's Drift**
Rising Stars of the folk circuit with dazzling instrumental fireworks
- 28 March **Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman**
Legendary multi award-winning duo, proper folk royalty, in the serene setting of the Congregational Church.
- Tickets for all events
from www.ticketsource.co.uk/creditionartscentre



Save the date!
Saturday June 6th 2026

MAKE, BAKE, GROW AND WOOF
OUR REVAMPED VILLAGE SHOW WILL NOW HAVE
A DOG SHOW AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL
BAKING, MAKING AND GROWING CLASSES

FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW!



Are you Curious?
Have BIG Questions about the Christian faith?

Try
Alpha

**No Judgement
No Pressure**

Emmanuel Church
provides an open, safe
space for anyone to
unpack life's questions.

Meet new people and
explore the Christian
faith together.

Each session
unpacks a big
question of life, faith
& purpose and is
designed to spark
conversation.

Date **starting 19th April**

Time **5 - 7pm**

Where **Emmanuel Church**

Including Refreshments!!



Come along and see what you think!

www.emmanuel-morchard-bishop.org

EVENTS - NOTICES - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sustainable Morchard

ANNUAL PLANT SWAP

SATURDAY 2nd MAY

10.00-11-30 am

MEMORIAL HALL

Swap your spare juvenile plants
for those of others

Or make a small donation

News from Morchard Bishop Playing Field Association

We are making some administrative changes to streamline the management at the Playing Field including the Sports Clubhouse, which will make it simpler for us to report to The Charity Commission, as required of us as a Registered Charity. We hope that most of these changes should be invisible to regular visitors as they are simply administrative changes.

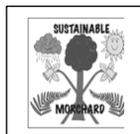
Morchard Bishop Playing Field Association (MBPFA) will shortly be applying for a Premises Licence. If/when the Premises Licence is in place, we will be legally permitted to sell alcohol as refreshments when you are all enjoying your chosen recreational sporting activity, whether that is skittles, darts, bridge, pool, football, or anything else. This means that the existing Club Premises Licence which is held by MB Sports & Social Club (MBSSC) will be surrendered. We would like to pay tribute to all of the MBSSC volunteers, especially Angie Brimilcombe, for their dedication to the Club, and we hope that in the interest of maintaining a thriving community facility, they will continue to lend us their help and support so that you see the same friendly faces behind the bar.

The MBPFA Premises Licence will mean that membership of a Club (MBSSC) will no longer be a prerequisite for anyone that wishes to buy refreshments from the bar. The building will be open to absolutely everyone from our community who wishes to use it for sports and recreation, and the bar can be open to provide refreshments at these events.

The Clubhouse is a community building, so if you have any ideas for sporting or recreational activities that the venue could support and that you would like to organise, please contact us to explore this further. The best place to keep up to date with Playing Field and Sports Clubhouse planned activities which are open to everyone in the village, is our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MorchardBishopPlayField>

If you have the opportunity and skills to strengthen our management committee, and you meet The Charity Commission's requirements for trustees (google it!), we'd love to hear from you. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in April and you can put yourself forward for election as a trustee.

From the trustees of MBPFA (Bob Robinson, Debbie Ticehurst, Terry Nott, Kevin Cozens, Lindsey Starrs, Dawn Parkhouse, Nadine Drew, Toni Robinson, David Gillbard, Steve Watson, Anton Heal, Kate Bray, Ezra Moore, Hilary Jones)
mbplayingfield@gmail.com



Sustainable Morchard



Attention all gardeners!

Don't forget Saturday the 7th March is Morchard Bishop's annual Seed Share, please come along between 10:00 and 11:30 and bring any spare seeds you might have and take away any seeds you want to try.

Don't worry if you don't have any seeds to share come along anyway and have a chat to other gardeners in the village.

The cafe will be open as usual.

Crediton & District Third Age Trust



Next Meeting **19 March 2025**
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Italian Cooking from the Middle Ages

An illustrated talk by retired headmaster Richard Haigh

Venue: [Boniface Centre](#)

Cost: £2.00

EVENTS - NOTICES - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us on our



GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Hear the story of Easter read as we walk through the village, stopping at different locations.

All meet at St.Mary's

10.00am

Finishing at Emmanuel for
Coffee and Hot Cross Buns



Over 60s Lunch & Get Together

The next Over 60s Lunch at the London Inn will be on
Wed March 18 at 12.30

The menu:

Sausage & Mash, Onion Gravy & Vegetable Selection

Bread & Butter Pudding with Custard

Tea/Coffee

£12.00 incl.

The London Inn welcomes regular and new members!

If you'd like to join in please let Sue Eaglen know by
text or email:

Mobile 07854745791

Email sue_eaglen@fastmail.co.uk

Or put a note through our door at
Wayside, Frost, Morchard Bishop

Our Amazing Swifts !



An illustrated talk with Edward Jackson

Tuesday 14 April

Doors open 7:15pm – 9pm

Victory Hall, Lapford, EX17 2PZ

Please have change for Tea & Cake, Booklet £1

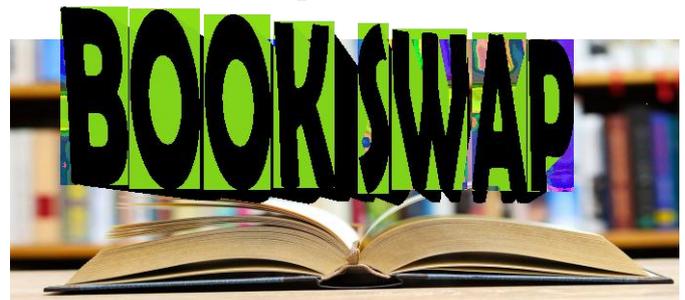
'Our Swifts return from Africa in early May.

*Come and learn about their amazing lives and how we can help
breeding colonies here and in surrounding villages thrive.'*

Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Wednesday 4th March

3pm-4.30



**We have a large and varied
selection of new books, jigsaws and
lots of children's books.**

Teas\Coffee and Cakes

Or just join us for a chat!!!

News from your Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 2 February 2026.

The Parish Council welcomed Hannah Bancroft, the Head of Morchard Bishop Primary School to the meeting and she mentioned that it was the community feel to the school that had attracted her. Ms Bancroft answered questions raised by Councillors.

The Parish Council spent £2,152.73 from the main account, nothing from its Reserve account and nothing from the Footpaths account. The items of expenditure over £100 were £1,071.60 for the Clerk's Salary between October and December and £1,000 being the annual grant to the Churchyard Committee.

There was one planning application for the Parish Council to consider – which the Parish Council supported.

26/00107/LBC	Listed Building Consent for the replacement of 6 windows and 3 doors	12 Fore St. MB
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Reports from our County and District Councillors were received. Our County Councillor is spending a lot of his time in speaking with our Devon Highways Liaison Officer – we hope that the outcome will be positive. Our District Councillor highlighted that when batteries are left out for recycling, their positive ends should be taped over and the batteries should be left in a clear plastic bag on top of your recycling crate.

Correspondence received included that Mid Devon District Council were consulting with regard to their Caravan site and Mobile Homes policy.

The State of the roads in and around Morchard Bishop are a cause for concern and this was discussed at length. Please be assured that the Parish Council are bringing as much pressure to bear on our County Councillor and Devon Highways Officer as we can. As soon as the weather warms and dries up, our own pot hole team will commence repairing those that we can. We are also taking action to put a stop to vehicles parking on the grass opposite Polson Hill Garage. The Parish Council noted the success of its new initiative of the Carer's Café on the second Friday of each month in the London Inn. Thanks were passed on to Debbie Ticehurst and Sheila Sinclair for setting it up and to Sarah Gillbard and Emma Heal for providing refreshments and cake.

The Parish Council reviewed and approved its own Governance Documents.

There will be a meeting of the **Footpath Friends** – those who are interested in the public rights of way in and around Morchard Bishop on Saturday 21st March at 1.00pm at The London Inn, with free soup and chips for those who attend.

Morchard's Weather

Well, I got that seriously wrong! Maybe I shouldn't have drunk that out-of-date beer I won at the Hall raffle! My prediction of a dry spell failed miserably. It's now been the wettest January since.....well, according to the Met Office, since 2014, which was wetter. A combination of high pressure in Scandinavia and the jet stream being lower than normal - it's over Spain - means that moisture-heavy low pressure systems keep coming in from the Atlantic and they then 'stall' just off our coastlines. As I write, we've had 41 consecutive days with rain - the last day without rain I recorded was New Year's Eve.

For January, I recorded 240mm (9.4 inches) rain. Having said all that, everything is beginning to wake up again. Shrubs are budding and the birds are beginning to defend territories and starting nest building. Our resident blackbird - 'Steve' - has a number of female admirers and has begun to sing in the evenings - a true sign that Spring is on the way.

Stephen Leese

If you want to read the full minutes of Parish Council meetings, they are available on the Parish Council noticeboard on the London Inn Skittle Alley. They can also be read on the Parish Council Website: <https://www.morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk/>. We hope that the new website is a useful tool for everyone in the village, please do let us have your comments and contributions including future dates of your organisations' activities in order that other groups can avoid double booking.

If you have any views or issues regarding life in Morchard Bishop, please do let me know.

David Parker
Parish Clerk

Contact Details for the Parish Council:
David Parker: 01363 877008 / 07794 362591
email: clerk@morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk

MORFEST MUSIC FESTIVAL MAY 23RD 2026 THE LONDON INN FIELDS

Dear

You may already have seen posters advertising this event. The Parish Council are co-ordinating village organisations and members to host this exciting event on Saturday May 23rd.

Following our very successful Laser Show in 2024 which raised over £7000 for the Friends of Morchard Bishop School, we are delighted to be hosting this event with the aim of raising substantial funds to be distributed to the village groups who help us run it.

Examples include the Playing Field Association who are managing the car parking and Sustainable Morchard who are organising the bins for recycling and refuse.

Both of these village organisations will receive a share of the profits.

Please can you speak to your village organisation and ask them if they would like to help run an element of the event? We have a long list of tasks/attractions which need running in the build up, on the day and during the clear up. Alternatively, you can suggest something which your group would like to offer.

As well as being a fantastic village event [run by the community, for the community], it will also generate much-needed funds for your group.

Two stages will host 7 local bands as well as a variety of other musical performances between midday and midnight on the 23rd. There will be lots of food and drink outlets along with craft stalls, inflatables etc.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS FOR MORFEST 2026?

Early bird tickets costing just £20 are still available, offering significant savings on the full ticket price.

As the event approaches, ticket prices will increase to **£22.50**, then **£25**.

Tickets purchased on the day will cost **£35**.

Tickets for under 18s are £10, and children under 5 go free.

TWO STAGES – FULL PROGRAMME CONFIRMED

MAIN STAGE

12.00 – 13.00 Seraph
13.30 – 15.30 Better Luck Next Time
16.00 – 17.30 Aerial Panic
18.00 – 19.30 Upper Hand
20.00 – 21.30 Burnt Daylight
22.00 – 23.30 Cheaper By Bus

ALTERNATIVE STAGE

13.00 – 13.30 Jess and Co with Dove Dance Academy
15.30 – 16.00 Coplestone Choir
17.30 – 18.00 Pennymore Singers
19.30 – 19.40 The Raffle will be drawn
19.40 – 20.00 The Brown Paper Bag Mummers
21.30 – 22.00 Comedy Suits



Tickets are available from:
The London Inn and Church Street Stores

Saturday 23rd May 2026 MorFest – Morchard Bishop Music Festival
Music, entertainment and community fun for all ages.

Geoff Thatcher

Plumbing and Heating
Services

Any job considered

Mob. 07779 515829



HANNAH PALFREY
← Gardening & Livestock Services →

- Experienced Garden Maintenance
- Fruit Tree & Cider Orchard Pruning
- Qualified Vet Tech Care

07742 459931
hannah_palfrey@outlook.com • f



RL Carpentry

All aspects of carpentry:

- Extensions
- Garage conversions
- Garden rooms
- Kitchens (supply and fit)
- Complete bathroom installation
- Roofing
- Flooring
- Loft Conversions
- Timberframe garage builds
- Staircase modernisation
- Porches
- Fitted wardrobes
- Replacement fascia, soffits & guttering
- Decking

Please contact Ryan for your free quotation on
07850 276305 or rlcarpentryltd@hotmail.com

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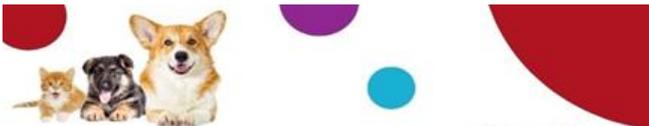
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Many A True Word



My dad spent most of his working life at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough. He was often slightly cagey or obscure about his work since he had signed the official secrets act and not only took it very seriously, but actually had good reason to do so in those Cold War days. Other attempts to find out what dad did for a living gleaned such useful revelations (to a nine - thirteen year old) as "I'm in Fracture Mechanics" or "Technically I'm a Radio Crystallographer" or "We mostly do Non-destructive Testing", and just once "Stopping wings falling off aeroplanes".

One day when my brother and I had a friend round they asked the question we had never got a good answer to and my father told us this joke:

Once upon a time there were a group of aeronautics engineers working on a new plane design. It was an amazing machine with many excellent new features, powerful engines, innovative controls and streamlined fuselage. The only problem was that whenever the test pilots tried to put it through its paces... the wings fell off! Always in the same place, just where they met the body. Nobody on the team could work out why. They scratched their heads over the blueprints, ran simulations and inspected every millimetre of the wreckage.

Eventually they put out an anonymous suggestion box. Since they were desperate they agreed to try everything, no matter how unlikely. A week later they began trials but nothing cured the problem without causing more trouble. Eventually they came to the last suggestion, which everyone had treated with concern but, since it was the only one left, they now had to give it a go. In accordance with the instructions on the small scrap of paper, they began drilling a line of holes at regular intervals across each wing where they met the body of the plane. With their hearts in their mouths and one finger poised over the ejector seat button the pilot started running through the test flight manoeuvres. Much to their surprise it performed beautifully as they slowly gained confidence, began throwing it through ever faster and tighter turns, barrel rolls and white knuckle loops. The wings, for the first time, stayed firmly attached!

The team were delighted and now requested that the obvious engineering genius who had solved the problem, come forward so they could get the recognition they so richly deserved. It was the cleaner. When asked how they had come up with such a brilliant solution with no degrees or mechanical background, they took off their cap, scratch their head and replied "Well, I've been cleaning toilets for nigh on 40 years now and I have never once seen the bog roll tear along the perforations!"

This was a joke set right in dad's area of expertise. Chortling along with the rest of us, he found it hilarious, "Partly" he said, leaning forwards with a smile and gleam in his eyes, "because it's true!"

At this he sat back guffawing for a moment or two, before switching to 'enthusiastic information mode' to explain to our inquisitive faces:

"You know how you can break a sheet of metal by putting a crease or fold in it, and then waggling it back and forth?" We all nodded. "Well, that's what happens at the junction of a fuselage and a wing: When the plane is in the air it hangs from the wings, but when it is on the ground, the wings hang from the plane, so they are wiggled back and forth, along the join, over time, and the wing develops microscopic cracks" (This is the fracture mechanics bit).

"These fractures are detectable by various scientific means" (This is where the radio crystallography and non-destructive testing comes in).

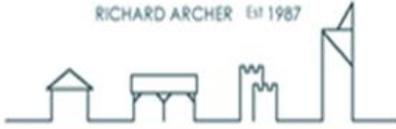
"The problem is that once a crack has started it will cause an area of even greater stress at either end" (More fracture mechanics), "and this will continue to spread until the plane becomes too dangerous to fly... or the wings fall off. However, we discovered that if you can reduce the stress at the end of the fracture it will no longer spread. The way to do this is simply to drill holes at the ends of the crack. The smooth, circular hole distributes the tension evenly, prevents the fracture from propagating and... stops the wings falling off the aeroplane!"

...here's to living happily ever after, until the next adventure.

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The Battle for Alaska

Alaska became the USA's 49th state in 1959, having previously been bought from Russia in 1867. It is the USA's largest state with the third lowest population. It has a harsh polar and tundra climate with temperatures below freezing for much of the year.

In the north-east corner of Alaska is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The ANWR is a wild, largely untouched and the most biologically diverse Arctic region in the world. It was designated one of the 573 National Wildlife Refuges by Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 to protect indigenous plants, fish and wildlife. The ANWR is the largest NWR in the US comprising 7800 km². It is home to a number of endemic animals including caribou, wolves, Arctic fox, Canadian lynx and three types of bear. It also is a seasonal home to 135 species of migratory birds.



The ANWR is thought to hold somewhere between 4.25 and 11.8 billion barrels of oil. This economic resource creates conflicts between the various players, and in 1960, Jimmy Carter passed the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act which required congressional authorisation for oil drilling. Ever since, the decision whether or not to drill for oil in this environmentally sensitive area has swung back and forth between the two main political parties of the US.

In 2015 Barack Obama designated the coastal strip of the ANWR a "wilderness" area, the aim being to protect it from oil exploitation for ever. In December 2017, Donald Trump's first administration passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act which opened up the ANWR for development.

The plan was to build four airstrips and well pads, 282 km of roads, vertical supports for pipelines, seawater treatment plants, barge landing and storage sites. Opposition to this act was empowered by a number of banks refusing to fund any oil or gas projects in the region.

In 2021, Joe Biden suspended all oil drilling leases. In January, 2025 Donald Trump declared the ANWR open for gas and oil exploration and exploitation.

Arguments put forward for development include: job creation (250,000 to 735,000), direct and indirect throughout the USA; economic benefits with 30 years' equivalent of Middle-East imported oil; limited environmental impact with just 8% of the ANWR being targeted; and, finally 75% of Alaskans are in favour of the plans.

Although proponents of the plans state the environmental costs are limited, opponents dispute this. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, the body that administers the National Wildlife Refuges, say that development would lead to a displacement at best, with a decline in numbers of the Porcupine River Caribou herd. Displacement would see them move to areas with poor forage, more predators and mosquitoes.

Polar bears would have their denning areas (the locations where they have and raise their young) disturbed, leading to the abandonment of their young.

Birds, such as Snow Geese, are highly sensitive to human disturbance.

Prudhoe Bay on the north coast of the ANWR, which was developed in the '70s and '80s to support current oil exploitation, has mountains of sludge, scrap metal, rubbish and 60 waste sites that leak acids, pesticides, solvents and diesel.

The risk of oil spills from pipelines and oil tankers, although low, tend to be catastrophic. The Exxon Valdez tanker disaster of 1989 is still causing ecological damage as the rate at which the oil breaks down is much slower in cold seas.

However, the existential argument against development concerns the use of fossil fuels and their link with climate change.

Paul Ticehurst.

Take one ingredient.....cheese



Cheese is a delicious, nutritious, and versatile dairy product produced worldwide from the milk of cows, goats, sheep, and buffalo, ranging in texture from soft Brie to hard Parmesan.

The UK has over 700 cheeses listed with the British Cheese Council [Dairy UK], hundreds of which are made down here in the South-West.

So how is it made? ...in a very simplified form, milk is heated gently with an added acidic agent which makes the milk curdle and split into solid curds and liquid whey. Different variations of this method create different types of cheeses eg ricotta cheese is made from the whey whilst hard cheddar is made by pressing the curd.

Cheese usually melts between 55*c-85*c but halloumi cheese is solid until about 200*c!



Cheese scones- preheat oven to 175*c

Rub 50g of cold butter into 150g of self-raising flour until it looks like breadcrumbs. Add grated cheese, salt and paprika then mix it together. Gradually add cold milk and use one hand to mix it together. Add the milk bit by bit. The ball of dough should leave the sides of the bowls clean. Tip it onto a floured worktop and shape it so it is the depth of your chosen cutter. Cut the scones out, re-using the spare bits of dough too. Place them on a baking tray. Brush with beaten egg and bake for 18-20 mins. They should be golden brown top and bottom.



Baked Camembert -preheat the oven to 180*c

Use a round Camembert. Remove the lid and open up the waxy wrapper so the top of the cheese is exposed. Slice some garlic into slithers and pull off some rosemary leaves from the stalk. Make incisions with a sharp knife and place garlic and rosemary in each slot. Drizzle a little white wine, lemon juice and honey onto the top. Season well. Wrap the whole cheese in tin foil and seal it well. Bake the whole parcel for 30 mins. Dip bread sticks and vegetables eg carrot sticks into the melted cheese.

Maureen's delicious easy cheesy biscuits-preheat oven to 180*c, gas 4



Add 85g of grated mature cheddar to 130g plain flour, pinches of salt, paprika and mustard powder. Mix them well. Rub in 85g of butter and squeeze the mixture together to make a firm dough. Flatten/roll it out to about the depth of a £1 coin. Cut shapes out. Bake for about 15 mins until pale golden colour. Cool to crisp up.



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Devon & Cornwall Police

Spotlight on Horse Road Safety: Sharing the Road, Staying Safe

Police and two leading equine welfare charities have joined forces to produce a collection of short films to help prevent collisions and near-misses involving horses on rural roads.

Key safety messages shared by Devon & Cornwall Police's Rural Affairs team and the British Horse Society (BHS) are featured in the new series of bite-sized horse road safety films filmed at The Mare and Foal Sanctuary's Upcott Park Rehoming Yard near Holsworthy in North Devon.

Released on 13 February, the films feature PC Lucy Wyatt from Devon & Cornwall Police's Rural Affairs team and Lisa Supple, Development Officer for BHS, along with horses and handlers from The Mare and Foal Sanctuary. They give clear, easy-to-follow guidance for riders and drivers alike and focus on road etiquette, clear hand signals, safe passing distance and speed, visibility in all weather and light conditions, and recording and reporting of incidents.

Rural Affairs Officer PC Lucy Wyatt is the lead for Equine Crime at Devon & Cornwall Police. She said: "I grew up riding horses and have experienced, first-hand, how dangerous it can be when motorists pass too fast or too close. When approaching horses and riders on the road, drivers should slow down to no more than ten miles per hour, avoid revving their engine or honking their horn and then pass slowly when safe to do so, allowing at least two metres of space between the horse and vehicle.

"We are committed to reducing the number of people and animals killed or seriously injured on our roads and will continue to work with partner organisations to educate motorists about the importance of passing horses wide and slow. Everyone has a right to use the road. Let's look out for one another and make sure everyone gets home safely."

In a Parliamentary debate on horse and rider safety in January 2026, MPs from across the country called for stricter road safety requirements to protect equine road users; citing British Horse Society figures showing 3,118 road incidents involving horses in 2024 with 58 horses killed. MPs highlighted that equine road safety is not a "niche issue" but a growing national concern.

Jenna Goldby, Head of Welfare and Rehoming at The Mare and Foal Sanctuary, believes all riders and handlers should regularly review and refresh their knowledge of road safety. She said, "Every ride or walk on the road carries risk, and we all need to treat road safety as seriously as we do our horse's health and keep up to date with changes and new advice. "Keeping yourself and your horse safe are top priorities, and a small amount of knowledge and planning can make a massive difference. Be seen, be courteous and stay safe.

"As a charity we work closely with other organisations and, in partnership, we're proud to be part of sharing these vital messages and championing equine welfare and safety on the roads for all users."

Alan Hiscox, Director of Safety at BHS added: "It's been great to partner with Devon and Cornwall Police and The Mare and Foal Sanctuary to produce these informative videos.

"Our key priority is the safety of the horse, rider or carriage driver, and it's incredibly important that we continue to work collectively together to share the Dead Slow behavioural messages with all road users.

"Secondly, encouraging more equestrians to record every incident they witness, or are involved in, will be essential when it comes to driving further legislative change.

"It's simple to do - all we ask is that you download the Horse i app and record any encounters you may experience. Let's keep working together to champion equestrian safety."

Two full-length safety films are now available on The Mare and Foal Sanctuary's YouTube channel.

Anyone with dash-cam or helmet-cam footage of vehicles passing too close or too fast can submit it for police review via Operation Snap: [Operation Snap - Devon and Cornwall Road Safety Team \(Devon & Cornwall Police\)](#)

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— THE FLOODS, BY RUDYARD KIPLING.*

One of the most precious and essential resources to the countryside, our gardens, to people and to wildlife is water. Whilst all life on earth needs some amount, most of us have a problem with too much, for example 44 consecutive days of rain, some of it very heavy, may be a bit much.

Persistent heavy rain can saturate the land so that surface water struggles to drain away through the soil down to the water table and instead runs across the surface, washing away valuable topsoil and the nutrients it contains. All plants, bar aquatic ones, need air in their soil as well as water; when it is waterlogged, drowning roots lead to dying plants, rotting roots and even less to hold top soil in place.

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Batteries, especially lithium-ion batteries commonly found in everyday devices, can pose a severe fire hazard when disposed of incorrectly. Fires caused by batteries can spread rapidly, resulting in extensive damage to waste vehicles and facilities, and creating danger for residents and waste operatives.

Recycling batteries correctly is not only a matter of safety but also a vital environmental responsibility. Batteries contain hazardous materials that can leach into the soil and water if not recycled properly. By ensuring batteries are placed in designated recycling boxes, we contribute to the protection of our environment and reduce the risk of fires.

To help prevent battery-related fires, residents are encouraged to follow these essential guidelines:

- **Use designated recycling boxes:** General household batteries can be recycled as part of your fortnightly recycling collection - batteries must be placed in a clear plastic bag or tub, and left on top of the black box clearly visible for our collection crews. We do not collect Lithium-Ion batteries at this time.
- **Wrap or tape batteries:** Used batteries are not always completely discharged so take caution when disposing of multiple used batteries that could come into contact with one another. To dispose of the batteries safely, cover the positive terminal of each battery with tape.
- **Drop off at recycling centres:** When in doubt, consider dropping off batteries at designated recycling centres or collection points.
- **Educate others:** Spread the word about the importance of proper battery disposal to friends, family, and neighbours.

See our website for more [information on what to put out and where.](#)

Sodden soil, especially clay, compacts much more easily, as the water effectively lubricates the movement of soil particles and allows them to pack more tightly together. Good gardeners know that clay showing surface water is vulnerable and needs not to be worked, trampled or crushed with footfall or machinery. Compacted soil is not only hard for plants to grow in but it can form a cap on the surface or pan below the surface which becomes effectively impermeable to water, so that in future, even moderate rainfall, when the soil needs it for moisture to support life, can end up running off across the surface instead of percolating through the ground to the water table.

Water storage and drainage management, organic matter and flocculation promotion (with lime on clay) can all help improve how well soil copes with inundations of rain. After this winter it's hard not to be aware which areas are prone to flooding and, within our own spaces, gently managing this can be the difference between bountiful vibrant land where water has pooled in ditches and swales, and damaged compacted, soil needing pan or cap breaking and supplementary feeding, and masses of organic matter addition to replace lost top soil.

Whilst we are often short of water in summer, excess rain in winter unfortunately can make this worse not better. Integrated water management is increasingly important to all of us. Balance is, as always, one of the most important factors.

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Garden Tips for March



- Protect new spring shoots from slugs with barriers
- Where needed prepare to apply nematodes for slugs once soil reaches 5 degrees C
- Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs - if in doubt plant bulbs 3x size of bulb deep
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- Top dress containers with fresh compost
- Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
- Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
- Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
- Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
- Prune bush and climbing roses
- Review if you need to improve drainage anywhere in your property

Jo Coffey

Poem of the Month

My dentist scrying

he squints into his magnifying lenses, stares
into the embroidery and lace

of intimate engineering
as he might at the stained cells

of human evolution
or the shimmer of a bluebottle's wing,

at the intricacy of creations encircling his life,
as sheer as the atom-thick skin

of an onion: there are confusions to explore,
exuberant dances in life's halitosis.

Colin Crewdson



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MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB



Pickleball at the Memorial Hall

Introductory and general play sessions

These will be held on the following dates/times in March

Weds 4th intro session-2pm to 3pm. Free tea and cake after at the Book Swap!

Wed 4th, 11th, 25th 7.30-9pm

Thurs 18th 8-9.30pm if Tractor Club is on the 18th

Fri 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th 10-11am

Places are restricted to just 6 people per session. Places need to be pre-booked by email to dticehurst@icloud.com or WhatsApp 07875359563. £2 a session.

First come, first served. Wear comfy clothing and trainers/plimsoles. Equipment is provided.



Jo McDougall

Chartered Physiotherapist, MCSP, HCPC reg.

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Celebrating our values and talent!

As we reach our half term break, I reflect on a busy half term – it is always the term when children make some big jumps in their progress, it is a delight to see and what we're all about of course.

It's not all about hard work in the classroom – our educational visits have begun with our KS2 classes visiting the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Exeter Mosque. These experiences enhance the curriculum, plus children love going on a trip! The bus is usually the best bit!!

This time though the children really enjoyed their visit to the mosque, they were warmly welcomed by the Iman and showed around. It was a spiritual occasion, children enjoyed the peace and being in a holy building.

Our thanks go to Exeter Mosque for welcoming us. It is important to give children these experiences – they support British values as well as our own values. In a world where tolerance and respect can be lacking it is our job to help children understand these values.

We continue to welcome members of our community into school: as well as a little team of reading helpers we will be welcoming some gardening help. We are very grateful!



We finished the half term with a celebration of our talent, our house captains hosting Morchard's Got Talent. It was awesome! The children were so courageous and absolutely shone on the stage! I firmly believe that school should be all about making memories and having some fun; it makes our approach to learning that bit more positive!

Hannah Bancroft
Academy Head



School News



TWO MOORS WAY 50TH ANNIVERSARY WALKS & CELEBRATIONS FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026

This May marks the Golden Anniversary of Devon's famous long-distance walking trail – and this wonderful route runs right through the middle of Morchard Bishop!

Our village is roughly halfway on the 102-mile route between Ivybridge on the southern edge of Dartmoor and Lynmouth on the north Devon coast. It's a fabulous walk, crossing Dartmoor, Mid Devon and Exmoor: three markedly different landscapes, each with its own special qualities. Walking the entire route is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the history, geology, archaeology, flora and fauna of this magical county, visiting picturesque villages and hamlets along the way.

And the Two Moors Way (TMW) fulfils 'coast-to-coast' ambitions too: in 2005 it was linked with the Erme–Plym Trail to create Devon's Coast to Coast walk, 117 miles between Wembury on the south coast, and Lynmouth on the north.

Anniversary plans

In 2016 (40th anniversary) a new edition of the guidebook was published and the TMW website launched, with accommodation and transport information and online shop. The Two Moors Way Association (TMWA) also revitalised the passport-and-stamp scheme.

In 2026, the 50th anniversary is being marked by a series of circular guided walks, run by Exeter & District Group of the Ramblers.

There will be two linear walks on 29 May, meeting for tea at the Memorial Hall – and we would love you to join us!

Walks are free to attend, but pre-booking is essential. To register your interest, please email jointhebigwalk@btinternet.com; for all other information email info@twomoorsway.org. Visit www.twomoorsway.org to find the full programme.

Walks programme

<i>Saturday 28 March</i>	Lynmouth (Exmoor) c. 11 miles, strenuous
<i>Saturday 11 April</i>	Simonsbath (Exmoor) c. 9 miles, moderate
<i>Saturday 25 April</i>	Holne (Dartmoor) c. 12 miles, strenuous
<i>Saturday 16 May</i>	Withypool (Exmoor) c. 9 miles, moderate
<i>Friday 29 May</i>	50th Anniversary Walks & Event

Two linear walks: Witheridge (north)/Whelmstone Cross (south) to Morchard Bishop, each walk c. 7 miles, moderate

3.30pm Celebratory tea at the Memorial Hall (kindly provided by the WI), with speaker; photo exhibition and TMW merchandise.

Pre-booked bus transport available from MB to start points. NOTE If arranging own drop-off at start point please confirm when booking onto walk.

<i>Saturday 30 May</i>	Drewsteignton (Dartmoor) c. 7 miles, moderate
<i>Saturday 6 June</i>	Ivybridge (Dartmoor) c. 10 miles, moderate
<i>Thursday 3 September</i>	New Bridge (Dartmoor) c. 9 miles, moderate

Two Moors Way Photography Competition

Themes: Spring, summer, autumn and winter

Location: Anywhere on the Two Moors Way

Digital photos: High-res 300dpi original photo files

Even if you've only ever walked the TMW around Morchard Bishop, you may have something to enter! Email your photos to johnrambling@btinternet.com no later than 1 May, including your name, email address, age (if under 18), photo caption (location/season) and what the TMW means to you. The final selection (and winners) will be on display in the Memorial Hall on 29 May from around 2.30pm. TMW prizes to be won!

Reuse, Recycle and Reinvent your old footwear!!

To coincide with the TMW celebrations we would love it if folk could decorate their front doorstep, garden gate or pavement with old boots repurposed as planters! Saturday 30 May sees our Open Gardens event, and so it all fits together nicely. Any boot or shoe can be used – put a few stones in the bottom for drainage and stability, fill with homemade compost or soil and then plant! Make a herb garden (thyme, oregano, mint); or plant ferns and trailing ivy, tumbling tomatoes, or flowers for lovely early summer colour.

