



The MORCHARD MESSENGER

The Independent Village Newsletter

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

No.372 JUNE 2026

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's – at the heart of Morchard Bishop

St Mary's church has been at the heart of Morchard Bishop for over 600 years – although a Saxon settlement and church was centred here also. The church building has given sanctuary and solace to many people over the centuries and continues to do so today; St Mary's is open from 9am to 6pm daily.

Please do visit, sit down to find peace and quiet amongst the ancient stones or appreciate the views from the lovely churchyard towards Dartmoor and Exmoor. The church is on the midway point of the Two Moors Way and walkers are welcome to rest on their journey, with snacks to fuel them on their way!

In common with many old buildings, the years of Devon weather are taking their toll and St Mary's is in the process of initiating a large restoration and renewal project which will see the building fit for the next 600 years of community use! Please consider becoming a "Friend of St Mary's" to help with our ongoing plans. All the details are on our website:

stmarysmorchardbishop.co.uk

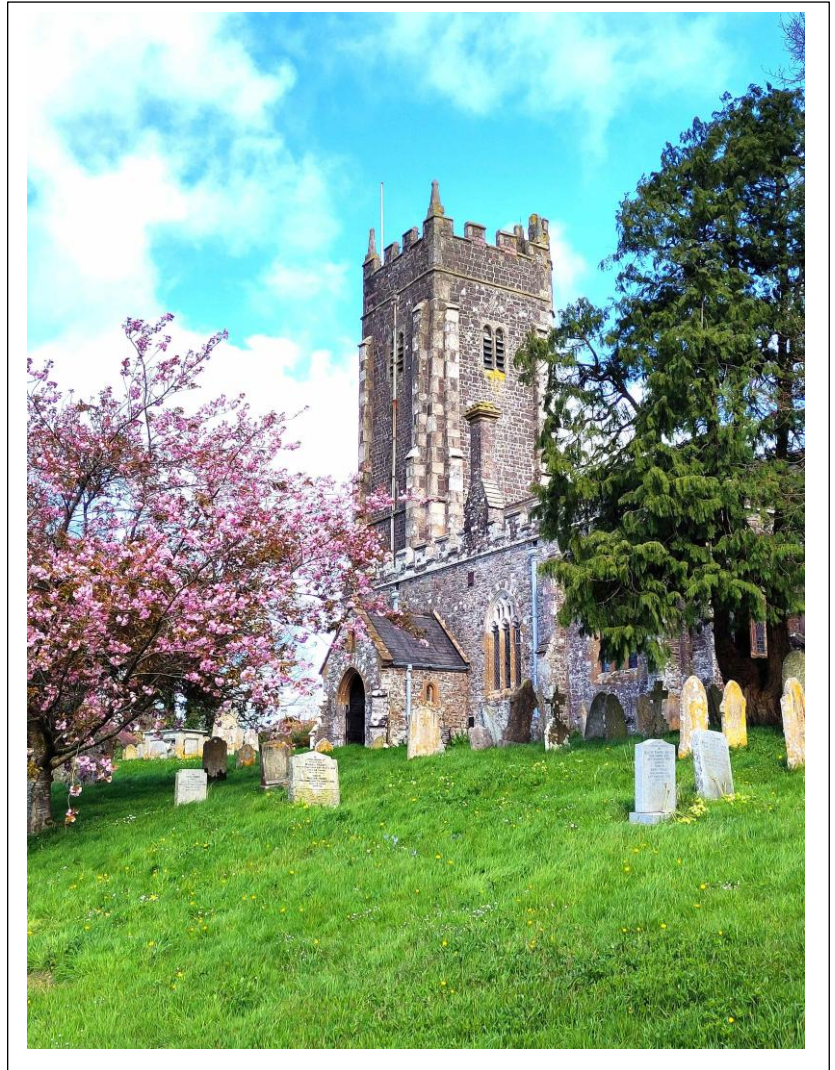
The website gives details of our project, Sunday services including monthly family services, fundraising, bellringing activities and other events going on in the church. Our next event is a Midsummer Music event:

Pimms n Pipes in the Pews 7.30pm June 20th

Peter Gilks will be entertaining us with a short programme of light hearted music, organ playing and songs. Afterwards there will be Pimms or apple punch to enjoy watching the midsummer sun setting.

God Bless you all,

Robert Vere



JUNE 2026 DIARY

If you'd like details of your event or meeting to appear in the July 2026 Diary, please let Sue Eaglen know by June 12 at sue_eaglen@fastmail.co.uk or message Sue on 07854 745791. You may also like to use the section below to publicise a future event.

St. Mary's: All welcome at our services.

7th 10.30am Morning worship

14th 10.30am Holy communion

21st 10.30am Family service

28th 10.30am Morning worship

3rd Sunday Joint Bible Study at Emmanuel.

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.

Book Swap: Wed, June 3, 15.00 – 16.30

Parish Walk: Usually 4th Sat of the month, 11.00 start at the Memorial Hall

June Bowling fixtures see Page 9

Morchard Bishop Sports & Social Club month's events, please see Page 4

Future Events

Sat, July 4, 15.00, Theatre: The Tempest, Morchard Bishop Playing Field

Sat, August 1, Vintage Rally & Fun Day

Mon	1 & 8, 15, 22, 29 1	9.00 – 10.00 19.00	Mat Pilates Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall
Tues	2 & 9, 16, 23, 30	10.00 – 11.30 14.30 – 15.00 15.45 – 16.30 16.30 – 17.15	Coffee Morning Pre-school ballet Intermed ballet Intermed Modern	Emmanuel Memorial Hall
Wed	3 & 10, 17, 24 3 3 & 10, 17, 24 3 & 10, 17* (see Thursday 18 th), 24	10.30 – 11.15 14.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 16.30 17.30 – 19.00 19.30 – 21.00	Chair Pilates Pickleball Intro with refreshments at Book Swap Book Swap Brownies Pickleball	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Memorial Hall
Thurs	4 4 & 11, 18, 25 4 & 11, 18, 25	10.00 - 15.00 incl. lunch 12.00 – 15.00 incl. lunch 16.00 -16.30 16.30 – 17.00 18.35 – 19.30	Can't sew, won't sew Singaround Junior ballet Junior modern Mat Pilates, mixed ability	Emmanuel London Inn Memorial Hall Memorial Hall

Sponsored This Month by St Mary's Church

Fri	5 & 12, 19, 26	13.30 – 14.30	Visiting Post Office	London Inn
Sat	6	Entries 9.00 – 10.00 Judging 10.00 – 11.30 Public viewing 14.00 13.30 – 16.30 approx. Set up 13.00 Buyers 14.00	MAKE, BAKE, GROW & WOOF! Flower & Produce Show Blue Cross Fun Dog Show Car Boot Sale	Playing Fields Playing Fields
Wed	10	14.30	W.I. Visit to Ten Acres Vineyard, Winkleigh.	
Fri	12	11.30 19.00	Carers' Club Prime Club	London Inn Emanuel
Sat	13	09.30 – 11.30	Coffee Morning, Table Top & Produce Market – Jo Eames	Memorial Hall
Wed	17	12.00	Over-60s Lunch	London Inn
Thurs	18* <i>if pickleball not held on 17th</i>	19.30 – 21.00	Pickleball	Memorial Hall
Fri	19	19.30	Edge Club	Emmanuel
Sat	20	10.00 – 11.30 19.30	Coffee Morning -Frances & Stephen Pipes & Pimms in the Pews	Memorial Hall St. Mary's
Sat	27	10.00 – 11.30 11.00	Coffee Morning – Heals + Jo S. Parish Walk	Memorial Hall Meet Memorial Hall

NOTICEBOARD

Copy for Publication in THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

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

15th June 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 ¼ 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

JUNE OPENING TIMES

Mondays – CLOSED

Tuesdays – All dates open for Pool practice & Bridge 7.30pm.

Wednesdays – All dates may be open for Ladies' darts practice.

Thursdays – Men's darts practice.

Fridays – 5th Village Darts open from 7.30pm

Saturdays – 6th – Flower & Produce Show and Charity Bike Ride in aid of Air Ambulance. Normal opening times from 7.30pm.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED OUR EGM & AGM OVER THE LAST MONTH. YOUR SUPPORT WAS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

This is a rough guide which may be subject to change please contact morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com for more information if needed or go to our Facebook page for updates.

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

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

THANK YOU

Kathy Alder would like to say thank you to everyone who send condolences, cards and flowers on the very sad loss of Nathan, her grandson. It was very much appreciated.

Darts Update

We played the annual Trophy and plate competition on Good Friday with a record number of entrants. I would like to thank everybody who participated and made it a fantastic evening. I ran two football cash draws with the winner of the £20 card being John Bolt, and the winner of the £40 card was Charles Parkhouse.

Onto the main event of the evening, we have a new name on the Trophy. Callum Vanstone who plays football for our local team beat Matt Grant in the final. As for the plate winner, this was won again after last year by Steve Frost, who beat Bob Manns in the final which went all the way. Congratulations to all those who played and made it a very good night for the Club.

Now for details for this year's Friday night dart league. It will be starting on June 12th and will run every other week until mid December. If you are new to this, it don't matter if you cannot make every dart night because you play catch up on the nights you are there. I will need to know who wants to play by June 5th so that I can produce the schedule of fixtures.

If you are new to this and have any questions please email me and I will try and help you. My email address is ricejulian@icloud.com.

Thank you
Julian Rice

Hele Lane Methodist Chapel, Black Dog

Fourth Friday Feast community lunch

Friday 26th June 2026 at 12.30pm

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

Sustainable Morchard would like to thank all those that made the Plant Swap such a success; everybody who brought plants, those that made donations, the people who made cakes and biscuits, and donated prizes for the raffle, and especially the helpers that put the event together.

Not only did we have Vegetables, Herbs, Ornamentals and House plants, we had bird boxes for sale, wonderful produce from Dave at Blackberry Lane, and free gardening books donated from the village Book Swap. It was also good to see lots of new faces attending.

This year was the third year running we have held the plant swap, and by far the most successful both in the number of plants that was brought and taken away, and the donations received.

All the money raised will go towards future events in the village organised by Sustainable Morchard.

If you are interested in what we do then please email: watsonsinxx@gmail.com and we will put you on the mailing list.

Thank you again from the team at Sustainable Morchard.

Parish Planters

The parish planters have been seasonally refreshed with a variety of plants available from our very own local Lydcott Nursery. The selection used in the memorial planters are listed below; the boundary planters will have a similar variety, again all from Lydcott.

Plants, subject to availability, can be bought through Church Street Stores, who stock a variety of Lydcott plants, or larger orders (£50+) can be placed directly with Robert at Lydcott. <https://www.lydcottnursery.co.uk/>

If you wish to volunteer for the watering rota please contact David, the parish clerk.

Plants used at the war memorial planters for summer 2026

Salvia roemeriana 'Hot Trumpets'

Salvia patens

Calabracoe 'Cabaret Dark Blue' 'Cabaret Dark Rose' &

'Cabaret Bright Red'

Nemesia 'Lady Lucy'

Begonia 'Illumination Apricot Shades'

**Bacopa* 'Snowtopia'

(* this is actually *Chaenostoma cordatum* but uses *Bacopa* as its trade & common name).

Jo Coffey

St Mary's Morchard Bishop

Open Gardens and Allotments

Saturday May 30th
10 am – 6pm

Start point for programmes including map
at

Memorial Hall

Entry to gardens via programme

£6/adult £2/child over 5

Refreshments available all day in the Hall

Bacon baps, scones, cakes, tea, coffee etc

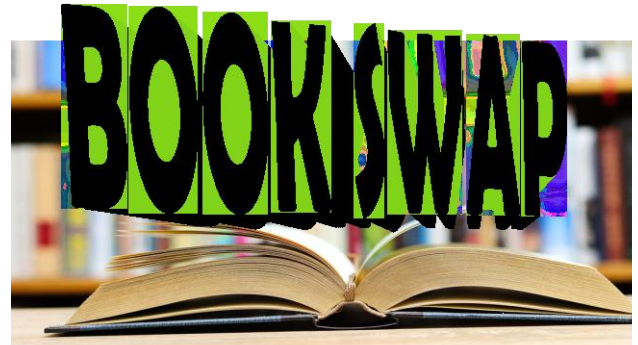
Plants for sale in Hall and in some gardens

Tabletop stalls also available

Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE

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!!!



**Morchard Bishop Playing Field
Association**

Vintage Rally and Family Fun Day 2026

Saturday August 1st 12pm onwards

**Planning meetings will be held on
Mondays at the Clubhouse from 7pm.**

27th April 25th May 29th June

**We would love to see some new faces at
our planning meetings!**

Come along and offer your support

Friends of St Mary's

Midsummer Music

Pipes and Pimms in the Pews

730pm June 20th

St Mary's

Morchard Bishop

**Come and enjoy a light-hearted
programme of music and songs in the
church followed by Pimms or apple
punch whilst watching the sun setting
for midsummer**

Donations at the door

Bluebell walk scuppered by ferocious winds



Our May meeting had to be cancelled at the very last minute due to the rotten weather which was unfortunate as the bluebells were at their peak in the woods – a great blue carpet. However, some ladies did walk in their own time over the next few days to enjoy the peace and beauty of a Devon woodland.

We all piled into the Hall instead and had a lively meeting discussing the next week's MorFest where the WI are in charge of the "Cocktails, Cakes and Coffee" stall for the event; our discussion was fuelled by delicious cakes and cream tea. The WI are very adaptable and have many talents!

Our next meeting is a trip to Ten Acres Vineyard in Winkleigh which should be fun (and hopefully better weather) Wednesday 10th June 2.30pm.

All our meetings are advertised in the Messenger and also on the Noticeboard opposite the shop. We welcome new members at any time.

Wendy Vere

Over 60's Lunch & Get Together

The next Over 60's Luncheon at the London Inn will be on Wednesday 17th June at 12.30pm.

The menu will be Roast leg of Pork with Apple Sauce, Vegetables and Roast Potatoes followed by Lemon Cheesecake.
Tea/Coffee

The cost is £12.00 inclusive.

Regular and new members will be warmly welcomed in the London Inn.

If you would like to join in please fill in the slip below and return it to me by Tuesday 16th June or email me at mandytapp@talk21.com or phone me on 01363 877459 or just pop in to me at Harries.

Regular members please let me know if you are unable to attend, thank you.

Name-

Tel No:

Mandy Tapp



JUNE EVENTS

Friday 5th 7 30.pm Music Sarah McQuaid

Saturday 4th July 3.00.pm Theatre The Tempest

Morchard Bishop Playing Field

The performance of Shakespeare's The Tempest is at multiple village venues in mid Devon throughout June and early July.

These include Lapford, Sandford, Shobrooke and Kennerleigh as well as Morchard Bishop and Crediton.

Further information for all events can be found at our web site www.creditonartscentre.org or the Summer Brochure available throughout the retailers in Crediton

St Boniface Concert Society

Crediton Parish Church

Thursday 11th June 7.30

Gerard Flotats (cello) & Julian Chan (piano)

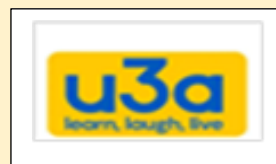
Works by Beethoven, Janacek and Barber

Sunday 21st June 3.00

The Delphine Trio (clarinet, cello & piano)

Works by Beethoven, Leighton, Fruhling and Psathas

Crediton & District Third Age Trust



Next Meeting: 17th June 2026
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

A Rose by any other name –
our fascination with the Rose

A Talk by Dr Justine Newland

Venue: Boniface Centre Cost: £2.00

Morichard Bishop Show Day and Car Boot Sale

Saturday June 6th 2026

Flower and Produce Show	Blue Cross Fun Dog Show	Car Boot Sale
 <p>We hope that as many of you as possible will enter a class or two at this show held in marquees on the Playing Field!</p> <p>Entry to all classes in this show are free of charge.</p> <p>Classes to include: Roses, peonies, sweet peas, herbs, Broadbeans, rhubarb, salad items etc Berries, cherries, currants.</p> <p>Victoria Sandwich, shortbread biscuits, bread, traybake, cheese straws, fruit cake [men only!], quiche.</p> <p>Knitted item, embroidered item, quilted item, felted item, crocheted item, sewn garment</p> <p>Children's classes include: Animal made from a vegetable or fruit, decorated cupcakes, decorated recycled item, a photo taken in Morichard.</p> <p>Entries in the tent by 10am Judging 10-11.30am Public access from 2pm Prize Giving 4.00pm 'ish</p> <p>Schedules will be available from May 1st by email or at the shop and pub dticehurst@icloud.com rixeycottage@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Raising money for the Blue Cross Charity, we hope that our village canines will be entered into our Fun Dog Show! Open only to dogs living in the Parish, classes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Waggiest tailWiggliest bodyKindest eyesMost handsome dogMost beautiful bitchCutest puppy under 12 monthsBest rescue dogBest rescue bitchBest veteran dog/bitch over 10 years old <p>Dog judge would most like to take home</p> <p>Helpers will be needed to run the show with the Blue Cross volunteers.</p> <p>Classes probably between 1.30-4.30pm</p> <p>Schedules will be available from May 1st by email or at the shop and pub dticehurst@icloud.com rixeycottage@gmail.com</p>	 <p>The Playing Field Association will be running their Spring Car Boot Sale alongside the two Shows.</p> <p>Tea/coffee and cakes will be on sale all afternoon in the Pavillion.</p> <p>Sellers set up from 1pm Buyers from 2pm</p> <p>Enquiries to toni@bayhouse.myzen.co.uk</p>

Morcharad Bishop Bowling Club

June home fixtures

What could be more relaxing than a pleasant afternoon watching a bowls match? Everyone welcome to come and support our players.....on...

Wed 3rd v. Taunton Deane 2.30

Tues 9th v. Holsworthy. 2:00

Wed 10th v. Axminster and Marina 2:30

Fri 12th v. Bideford 6.30

Sat 13th v. Tiverton Canal 2.30

Mon 15th v. Holsworthy. 2.30

Mon 22nd v. Hatherleigh 2.00

Wed 24th v. Exonia 2.30

Mon 29th v. Okehampton 2.00

Tues 30th v. Crediton 2:00

Don't forget that the club is always looking for new players. Come and have a go. Tuesday evenings from 6:00.

Bowls provided. We just ask that you wear flat shoes.

Pickleball at the Memorial Hall



Introductory and general play sessions

These will be held on the following dates/times in June.

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

Wed 3rd, 10th, 24th 7.30-9pm

Thurs 18th 7.30-9.30pm if Tractor Club is on the 17th

Fri 5th, 26th 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/plimsols. Equipment is provided.

MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB

Devon & Exeter Football League Division 2



April/May Results

18th April Beer Albion 2 Morcharad Bishop 2
(Adam Bell 1 Samuel Rice 1)

25th April Dawlish Utd 5 Morcharad Bishop 0

2nd May Morcharad Bishop 4 Tedburn St Mary 0
(Billy Conabear 1 Seb Roche 1
Liam Tucker 1 Adam Bell 1)

7th May Morcharad Bishop 8 Exeter University 2
(Ben Betts 3 Adam Bell 2 Seb Roche 1
Jack Webber 1 Jake Tapp 1)

9th May Tedburn St Mary 5 Morcharad Bishop 3
(Ben Betts Seb Roche Liam Tucker)

**End of season report in July's
Morcharad Messenger..**

**In the meantime a BIG thank you to all our sponsors
and supporters of Morcharad Bishop Football Club, we
could not do it without you all.
Enjoy the summer.**

**End of Season Presentation Night with Meal
on Saturday 18th July London Inn
Anyone is welcome to join us.**

**For full details please contact
Dawn on 07851043766 or
afcmorcharadbishop@outlook.com**

News from your Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 11 May 2026, late this month again due to the first Monday of the month being a bank holiday.

The evening commenced with our Annual General Meeting where Simon Baker was elected our Chairman and Dawn Parkhouse our Vice-Chairman; other responsibilities remained the same as last year. Following elections, we were able to reflect on the past year's activities. Some of these achievements go unnoticed, such as the drainage laid into the car park by the school – had you noticed it hadn't flooded this year? Other activities are more noticeable such as the Vehicle Activated Speed sign, the felling of the diseased cherry tree by the bus shelter and the planting of a new crab apple tree to replace it.

At the end of the Annual Parish Meeting the Chairman presented Les Partridge with a trophy to celebrate that Les had been a Morchard Bishop Parish Councillor for 30 years.

We then moved onto the regular monthly meeting.

The Parish Council spent £1,543.97 from the main account, nothing from its Reserve account and £859.97 from the Footpaths account. The items of expenditure over £100 were; £1104 for a Security Team at MorFest, £125 for the Morchard Messenger sponsorship including a colour front page, £156 for our Payroll Services and £859.87 for work to our footpaths.

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

26/00397/FULL Revised Drawings	Conversion of barn to self-build dwelling and construction of a new vehicular access.	Land and Building at NGR 276997 107128 Polson Hill, MB
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The Parish Council were concerned about egress from the site onto Polson Hill and felt that it was potentially very dangerous. Added to the fact that this building was outside of the agreed development area for the Parish, the Parish Council again objected to this planning application.

Our District Councillors particularly mentioned the new Crisis and Resilience Fund which was being managed by Mid Devon District Council. The purpose of the Fund was to offer rapid, flexible support alongside access to advice on income, debt, housing and wellbeing.

Various items of correspondence were considered by the Parish Council including the Keep Britain Tidy campaign against dog fouling.

The Parish Council have become impatient with Devon County Council Highways Department and so are going to privately engage a firm to jet out certain drains in the village to try and avoid some of the flooding we saw last year. Car parking along The Green stopping larger vehicles being able to pass was also raised as a concern. The Parish Council are also going to engage a clock repairer to service the village clock in the church tower and restore the chimes.

I hope that by the time you read this you will be reflecting upon what a wonderful time you had at **MorFest** that so many of us have put a lot of time and effort into.

Our next meeting is on Monday 1st June at 7.00pm in the upper room of the Memorial Hall – all are welcome.

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



Les Partridge presented with 30 years' Service Award

*Left to right:
David Parker, Caroline Partridge, Les Partridge, Simon Baker, Steve Keable, Dawn Parkhouse*



Left to right:

Back Row: Helen Tuffin, David Grant, David Gillbard, Sarah Gillbard, David Parker, Caroline Partridge, Les Partridge, Simon Baker, Steve Keable, Andy Hankins, Dawn Parkhouse.

Front Row: Sarah Vere, Debbie Ticehurst, Sheila Sinclair, Stephen Leese

Photos: Alan Quick, Crediton Courier



Monday 31 August 2026, Parish Hall

Sandford Summer Show planning is hotting up – it's all that sunny weather!

We need lots of produce entries from both novice growers and seasoned professionals. Whether it's fruit, flowers, tomatoes, beetroot, onions, herbs, the longest runner bean or the freakiest vegetable, there is something for everyone. Get your copy of the entry form to see the many categories you can choose to enter.

If you have some spare plants, garden or house varieties, we would love to have those to sell on our plant stall. Just bring them along on the day.

Crafters, artists, photographers and cooks can join the competition with their best efforts. Age is no bar – there are categories for everyone!

Competition entry forms available at Sandford Community Stores or via email sandfordsummershow@gmail.com

Growers – may the weather be with you!

FORCE Cancer Charity

The annual Nello cycle ride is always on the final Sunday in June. So get **Sunday June 28th 2026** in your diary!

As always, it'll start and finish at Topsham Rugby Club near Exeter with the choice of 60 or 100 mile routes around beautiful Devon countryside – and a bit of Somerset! It's not a sportive. It's not timed. It's a fantastic charity ride that has raised around £1.4million to support people in Devon affected by cancer.

The food stops are legendary and there's mechanical support and first aid cover throughout.

It may already be in your club's diary and you may have members taking part.

But if not, we'd love you to join us this year for The Nello 2026 and we have set ourselves a significant fundraising target for the event.

More and more people are being diagnosed with cancer every year and that means a growing demand for support from FORCE. We already support thousands of local people dealing with a cancer diagnosis and expect to see an extra 150 patients and family members in 2026. To support them we need to raise an extra £127,500.

And we believe our Nello cyclists are the very people we can rely on to rise to that challenge.

We'd be proud to have you as part of The Nello in 2026 and we want to thank you for your support of this unique event.

We'd be so grateful if you could share the details around your club and beyond.

You can enter online via the FORCE website - <https://forcecancercharity.co.uk/nello/>

The Nello
BIKE RIDE FOR
FORCE Cancer Charity

**SUNDAY 28th
JUNE 2026**

60 or 100 mile routes

Medal for all finishers

Start & finish at Topsham Rugby Club

SIGN UP NOW!

bikedirect



LOOKING FOR A CAKE?

CAKES & BAKES BY KAT

I aim to create unique, bespoke creations for all occasions based on your requirements at an affordable price.

Fully Insured ✓
5* Food Hygiene rating ✓

Please contact me for more information

email: cakesnbakesbykat@gmail.com
Or find me on Facebook: Cakes & Bakes by Kat



SIGNATURE CARE
• 07496003627 •

Compassionate care
You Can Trust ♥

Providing reliable, respectful and personalised care in the comfort of your own home.

CARE WITH DIGNITY, KINDNESS & RESPECT

SERVICES I PROVIDE

- Personal Care**
Bathing, dressing, grooming and more
- Companionship**
Friendly conversation and emotional support
- Meal Preparation**
Nutritious meals tailored to your needs
- Medication Reminders**
Prompt and reliable support
- Shopping & Errands**
Collecting shopping and running essential errands
- Light Housekeeping**
Keeping your home clean, tidy and comfortable
- Support with Daily Routines**
Helping you maintain independence and wellbeing

WHY CHOOSE ME?

- ✓ Caring, kind and dependable
- ✓ Flexible hours to suit your needs
- ✓ One-to-one personalised support
- ✓ DBS Checked
- ✓ Experienced and trustworthy
- ✓ Respecting your independence and choices

My Promise to You
To provide high-quality care that helps you or your loved one feel safe, valued and supported every day.

GET IN TOUCH
07496003627
Get in touch today – I'm here to help.
Serving local areas with care you can trust

SUPPORTING YOU, Every Step of the Way

SHARING LOCAL AREAS WITH CARE YOU CAN TRUST

BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES EXCEPTIONAL CARE



GREAT WALL OF CHINA Adventure Trek

9th–17th October 2027

Our Charity:
By taking part in this trek, you will be supporting local people and their families affected by cancer.

FORCE Cancer Charity provides free support and information to anyone affected by cancer at our Centre in Exeter and at local community hospitals.

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Devon County Council Crisis and Resilience Fund

A new Crisis and Resilience Fund is now in place to support low-income households in Devon who face sudden financial difficulty. The fund replaces the Household Support Fund, which ended in March 2026. It is not a direct replacement. Instead of automatic payments, the new fund offers targeted support for low-income households experiencing an unexpected financial shock, such as a sudden loss of income or an essential cost they cannot afford. It also aims to work with those households to build longer-term financial stability.

Support includes crisis payments for people in immediate need, including help for low-income households that rely on heating oil. It also covers housing support, replacing district council discretionary housing payments, alongside financial advice and wider support to help people avoid future crises.

Anyone facing sudden financial difficulty can contact Mid Devon District Council to find out how to access their local Crisis and Resilience scheme, <https://devon.cc/crf>, or they can speak to Citizens Advice Devon at www.cabdevon.org.uk.

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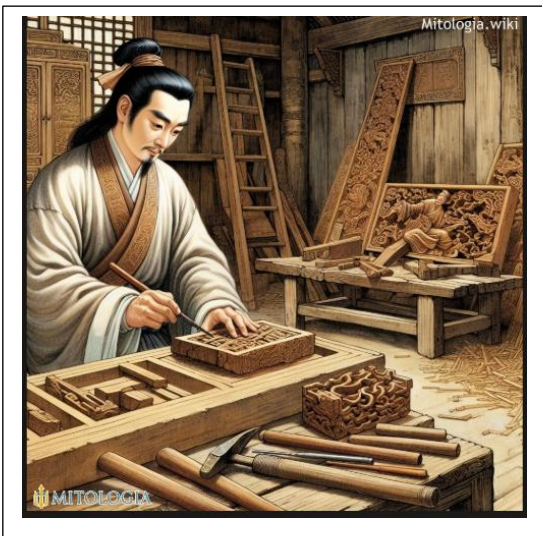
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An Old Saw

You remember how Elmer, the flying monk of Malmesbury, was inspired by Daedalus? Well, I was going to cruise through the writing this month with some background to this Greek aviator and his enjoyment to respect health and safety warnings, unlike his erstwhile son, Icarus. The problem was that, as I was reading up on the earlier life of the world's favourite labyrinth builder, I came across an episode where he falls out with his nephew, variously called Perdix or Talos, because the younger engineer, having invented the saw, looked set to eclipse his mentor.

At this point I was all set to make this month's FTC about Talos, since he sounds quite cool and I was interested in his conception of such an essential tool. A bit too interested. To get more of the Talos backstory I searched on the inventor of the saw... and found Lu Ban.



Far away from Greece, Lu Ban was born in to a wealthy and connected Chinese family, trained with a disciple of Confucius and was soon getting so much work that he started looking for ways to lighten the load. For a while he and his team were constructing a palace for King Yuan of Zhou, who, having obviously had some previous experience with building contractors, threatened them with death if they didn't have it completed on time. One day whilst climbing a mountain to chop down some timber, Lu Ban's hand was cut by the leaves of some grass. Surprised at the pain, Lu Ban examined the offending vegetation. How could something so soft and bendy cause bloodshed? He was intrigued to see that the leaf had a denticulated, or toothed, edge. Like all good Chinese inventors, he paid no heed to personal danger and ran the edge of the grass blade across his skin deliberately. As I'm sure you can guess, he was impressed by the ease with which the serrations tore through his skin, promptly recreated the concept in metal, cut the work time in half and saved himself and his colleagues from an uncomfortable termination of contract.

According to the stories, Lu Ban also invented the carpenter's square, the plane, chisel, shovel, grappling hook, naval battering ram, a siege engine called The Cloud Ladder, and a "wooden bird" that could fly for days at a time. He was so innovative that it was contagious and his wife, seeing him toil in all weathers, invented the umbrella to keep him dry or cool depending on the season. Lu Ban became so revered amongst carpenters and engineers that he transcended folklore and became a saint, or even a god, to some.

So now I am conflicted because I can't help but see the parallels with, not only the Greek tale of Daedalus, but also my favourite Scandinavian myth, Wayland the Smith. All three are the greatest artificers of their region; all three are placed in thrall to a tyrannical king; all three construct flying devices. Naturally my storytellers head is buzzing with questions. Are their stories connected? Do they have a common root? Was Lu Ban, the earliest and most well documented of the three, the inspiration for the other two? Am I going to have to buy more books? And of course, Is there an even earlier version out there somewhere?

The one thing we do know however, is that none of the brilliant inventors mentioned above invented the saw. Bronze saws have been found in various locations dating to between one and three thousand years before any of our heroes are supposed to have lived, and serrated flint tools have been found dating back to over thirty thousand years before that. I'm a bit disappointed in these great inventors; it seems that, like our medieval monk, they were inspired to their historical leap by someone else's previous work, but unlike Elmer, they failed to credit the source.

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

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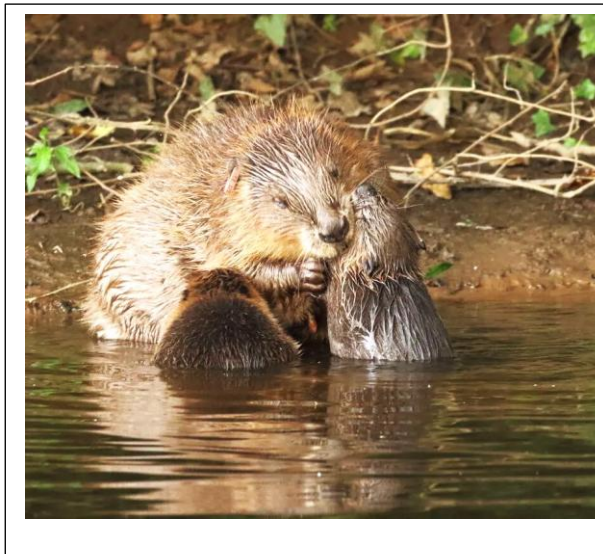
Beavers on the Otter

*There was also a Beaver, that paced on the deck,
Or would sit making lace in the bow:
And had often (the Bellman said) saved them from wreck
Though none of the sailors knew how.*

Fit the First: (Hunting of the Snark) by Lewis Carroll

For over a decade, Devon Wildlife Trust have been working on restoring a part of our rural ecosystem that creates and improves wetland habitat, a change that has been benefiting both wildlife and people - that change is the return of the beaver. Where their work slows water flow, it reduces erosion, where it creates wetland pockets, it eases flooding, pooling helps pollutants settle. Where pools form behind their dams, amphibians, fish, birds and plants all have the potential to flourish.

Long thought extinct in the UK, the first beavers were observed on the River Otter around 2008. Initially there was concern, especially when



it looked like they were going to not only survive, but breed. Instead of knee-jerk removal though, it was agreed to study their behaviour and impact first before condemning them.

From 2015 to 2020 there was a trial monitoring their impact and how to reduce any issues or concerns caused. The beavers were captured, health screened and rereleased as two family groups with further genetic diversity added later. Importantly all stakeholders had input as the scheme progressed, not just those speaking for the wildlife, or concerned about the natural environment, but people who had to work alongside the beavers, people on whose land they were living. It turned out there was no need to remove them, they were definitely on balance beneficial, not unreasonable given they were originally part of environment, just as otters are.

In 2020 the River Otter beavers went from being a trial to recognised as resident wildlife, a successfully reintroduced native animal, part of the natural balance. A bit more balance and biodiversity is something our rivers are in dire need of after years of negligence and abuse by water companies (check out Dirty Business on Channel 4 if you doubt this) and the many other challenges they face. Their value may not have been initially obvious but they demonstrated that they fitted. In 2022 their status was changed from extinct native species to once more being a resident native species.

By February 2025 the news was even better as the existing colonies, including the River Otter beavers and others, were recognised and plans were put in place to help reintroduce them, under carefully considered licences, in other areas which will benefit from their presence. Given the inordinate damage we have done to the country's waterways, from building on flood plains, to recurrent dumping of untreated raw sewage, and the increasing levels of industrial and medical pollutants, this is hopefully one of many future steps we can take towards restoring some level of health to our essential waterways.

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Why are some countries more developed than others?

A simple question with complex answers. Indeed, if the answer was simple, it could be argued that many poorer countries would be better off than they are. Furthermore, there is no agreed solution to the problem of unequal development, and such solutions as they are proposed are often politically-charged.

However, different countries with different geographies may have different development prospects. For example, a country rich in mineral resources is more likely to become rich in economic terms than a country with few mineral resources.

By looking at one Less Developed Country, it is possible to illustrate some of the geographical issues hampering development.

Malawi in South-east Africa is squashed in between Zambia and Tanzania to the North, and Mozambique to the South. Being landlocked means that any goods coming into or leaving the country have to travel through another country or be transported by air, which is expensive. Most imports and exports arrive or depart using a 800 km single track railway to the port of Nacala in Mozambique. This is slow and unreliable, as well as being expensive.

85% of Malawi's population is rural - 85% is the World record (by contrast just 15% of the UK's population is considered rural). Malawi's rural population is isolated due to poor roads and poor infrastructure. Getting agricultural produce, for example, to market is fraught with difficulties – dusty roads in the dry season, muddy roads in the wet season.

Malawi's issues are exacerbated by climate change. Africa, as a whole, is expected to suffer more as a result of climate change than any other continent. Water shortages will become more frequent as higher temperatures will result in greater evaporation. This may be partly offset by more humid atmosphere, but the extra rain is also expected to be more intense, resulting in rapid run-off and increased flooding and soil erosion. Variable rainfall and increased drought will cause food shortages. Annual rainfall has been falling since 2000, truncating the rainy season. In 2012, intense rains reduced Malawi's maize harvest by 7%, and made 10,000 families homeless.

Malawi is experiencing rapid population growth. In 1970 its population was just 4.6 million, today it is 23 million. It has a youthful population structure, with 45% being under 25 years of age. Although this creates a highly dependent population of 10 million that needs feeding, it will also result in a large number of people of working age in ten years' time who, as well as generating wealth through work, will also create a demand for home-produced goods.

As Malawi's population grows, and as the country develops, environmental degradation will increase. The rapid growth in squatter settlements with no sanitation results in contaminated rivers. Air pollution increases as dust, industrial smoke, car exhausts, bush fires and tyre burning all result in poor health.

As Malawi becomes more developed, environmental issues should lessen, and the rapid rise in population numbers will slow as children become an economic burden and not an economic asset.



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Seasonal recipes for June

As we enter early summer, seasonal produce comes into abundance. Home grown fruit and vegetables in gardens and allotments look amazing and hopefully taste as good too! Strawberries, raspberries, courgettes, broad beans and peas

Easy Strawberry Mousse



400g strawberries, 100g caster sugar, 300ml double cream

Step 1.

Choose four of the best-looking strawberries and set these aside to finish the mousse, then hull and roughly chop the rest. Tip these into a blender or food processor along with the sugar and blitz until smooth.

Step 2

Whisk the cream to stiff peaks. Reserve roughly 4 tbsp of the strawberry purée in a small dish, then fold the rest through the whipped cream until it turns an even shade of pink. Divide the reserved purée between four small serving glasses or ramekins. Spoon the mousse over the top, then chill for at least 1 hr. *Will keep chilled for up to a day.* Just before serving, halve the reserved strawberries and use these to decorate the mousse.

Lemon, lime and courgette cupcakes



Pre-heat the oven to 175 degreesC

12 cupcake cases in a muffin tray

Cake

150g self-raising flour
150g caster sugar
150g Courgettes [grated]
Sunflower Oil (4 tbsp)
3 Medium Eggs
Zest of a lime and a lemon

TO DECORATE

Tub of Cream Cheese
Icing Sugar (2 tbsp)
Lemon/lime Zest

Method

Place all of the cake ingredients into a mixing bowl/mixer. Whisk them all together until light and fluffy. This may take 4-5 minutes. Divide it between the 12 cupcake cases. Bake for 18-20 minutes. Will be golden brown and firm to touch. Try not to open the oven before 18 minutes as the cake will collapse its rise. To decorate, put the soft cheese in a bowl and beat with a wooden spoon to soften. Sift the icing sugar on top and add the zest. Mix together until well blended. Spread a little soft cheese topping over each cake and sprinkle with lemon zest. Your cakes are now ready to eat and enjoy!



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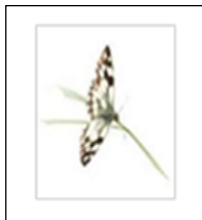
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Morchart's Weather

It has been dry and sunny overall, a little windy maybe, but good weather for planting and sowing. Talking of which, everyone you talk to has a different opinion about when to sow seeds or plant potatoes.

One nameless member of our community was heard to say that if you can sit on the soil with your bare bum and not suffer, then it's the right time to plant seed potatoes. Now I have never seen him - or anyone else for that matter - actually doing this, and I am not sure I'd really want to. I put my seed potatoes in by mid-April and they are already pushing through.

Temperatures have held up and I hope we have seen the last of the frosts. The fruit blossom has now 'set' so it should be good from now on.

I have already had to water the young seedlings as the rainfall has been sparse and the wind very drying. The garden is now full of insects and young, recently fledged birds, so there is a lot of activity. The bees are especially active.

The only thing I am unsure about is the strange peach-like depressions on the far side of my potato patch.....

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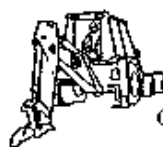
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Garden Tips for June



- Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds
- Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas
- Mulching compost on the surface feeds the soil and helps preserve moisture
- Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes
- Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes
- Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside
- Mow lawns once a week - consider leaving patches of grass to grow long and flower for the benefit of insect life
- Plant out summer bedding
- Stake tall or floppy plants
- Prune many spring-flowering shrubs
- Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch
- Top up ponds from water butts if needed

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- **Sprained joints/Ligaments** eg Ankles, Knees, shoulder
- **Pulled muscles** eg calf, thigh,
- **Sports Injuries** eg rotator cuff, tennis elbow, Achilles Tendonitis.
- **Hip pain** eg gluts pull, sciatica, groin strain.
- **Rehab** after injury and operations eg Fractures, Knee replacement, ACL repair, Rotator cuff repair, Hip Replacement.....
- Help with general **mobility problems**.
- **Pilates** and appropriate exercise programmes .

Contact details : mobile – 07597 160558

: home – 01363 877803.

: email – jomcdphysio@gmail.com

: web site - jomcdougallphysio.com

Poem of the Month

Return to Tangier

Flat sea, harbour wall,
the ferry's last journey a couple of hours.

Here, on the metal deck, the air's balmy,
mixed with stinks of engine oil

and diesel exhaust, the engine's quieter.
I'm comfortable here with my thoughts,

nothing to disturb this pre-arrival
equilibrium. (*'Dis'Equi'Librium' a new cocktail
drink*

for my bar?) The town lies in deep shadow
against the sun and its glittering shield

of harbour water, a blazing pulsing
laser of light. *What have I learnt?*

That the harbour cranes are sentries, rusting
futures,
charred black scaffolds.

Colin Crewdson

Morchurch Bishop

DOG WALKING & HOME VISIT SERVICE

Friendly, reliable dog care right here in the village.

- Small, sensible group walks (max 3 dogs)
- 30 minute or 1 hour walks
- One-to-one walks available
- Pop-in visits for feeding, company & letting out



Are you out for the day, busy with work, or simply need the help?

Please get in touch to chat about what you and your dog need.



Call Vanessa on 07815637458



The Buddha Barn is a tranquil space dedicated to yoga and wellbeing just outside of Morchurch Bishop. Liane is a fully qualified and insured yoga guide and soundbath practitioner.

Weekly schedule:

• Tuesdays

- 9:45 - 10:45 - yoga flow, West Middlewick Farm
- 19:00 - 20:00 - yoga flow, The Buddha Barn

• Thursdays

- 10:00 - 11:00 – yang & yin yoga flow, The Buddha Barn

We love partnering with local wellbeing professionals and other small businesses, to bring you special events during the year, including: yoga with animals, yoga and Tai Chi and Reiki-infused soundbaths.

Please check our website for more details, or get in touch to be added to our WhatsApp group for updates.

Phone & WhatsApp: 07534 317742 - **Email:** Liane@buddhabarnltd.co.uk

Website: www.buddhabarnltd.co.uk



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School News continued – packed with action...



Activities galore at the School



It has been a short but very sweet half term in school, but, as always, packed full of wonderful experiences for our children. This time of year is always such a beautiful time at Morchard, we spend time outside in our grounds, making the most of the wonderful weather! Field play is a big hit with the children!

This half term we have seen our Year 6s reach a milestone in school, completing their SATs exams. They really showed our school values and tackled them with determination. Congratulations Year 6!

Our other year groups have been busy developing their French speaking skills, making periscopes, weaving, sewing, understanding what it means to trade responsibly, exploring life under the sea, plus many more learning opportunities. Next week Oak Class go to London for their residential trip, it is very exciting. We will share some photos with you upon our return.

Hannah Bancroft
Academy Head



More pictures overleaf!