



The MORCHARD MESSENGER

The Independent Village Newsletter

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

No.376 OCTOBER 2026

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY BEECH HILL COMMUNITY



Another summer on the hill

An update from Beech Hill Community

It has been another very busy summer at Beech Hill Community, with a series of events attracting a large number of visitors. The main event, in June, was a gathering for similar housing co-operatives around the South West which was attended by more than 60 people. The aim of the gathering was to discuss issues of mutual interest, such as finance and fund-raising, decision making, building resilience, handling conflict, ageing in community and working with volunteers. The event is the first step in building a regional communities network for mutual support and communication.

Each year Beech Hill also hosts three international volunteer fortnights, where participants offer work in exchange for accommodation and meals. The work is varied, but mainly involves gardening and grounds maintenance. A recent group, of 11 people, included families from Spain and Germany. Two long-term volunteers, Glenn and Hedia, also stayed at Beech Hill. They had spent many years living at Auroville, a huge community in southern India, and Glenn showed a fascinating film about reforestry work at Auroville.

The Beech Hill campsite is also going from strength to strength, with a steady increase in bookings. The community took part in a special event in May to mark the centenary of the Two Moors Way long-distance footpath, which passes directly past the Beech Hill gates. Community members Paul and Gauri enjoyed making gallons of lemonade for participants on a celebration walk from Witheridge to Morchard Bishop.

The paddock at Beech Hill offers extensive camping space, a camp kitchen, solar shower, compost toilets and a firepit. It is also proving popular for events, and there have been several afternoon gatherings for Ukrainians living in the South West, with barbecues and music.

Community Experience Weekends have also been well attended. These provide an opportunity for people to experience communal living at Beech Hill, taking part in a workday, sharing meals and enjoying discussions.

As part of the community's outreach programme, members of the parish council were given a talk and a guided tour of the site. Beech Hill also sent a team to a national inter-communities gathering and volleyball tournament at Redfield community in Buckinghamshire in the summer, and were delighted to win the event.

Beech Hill, on the road from Morchard Bishop to Black Dog, currently has 11 Co-op members, and has just welcomed a family of four new residents. Accommodation ranges from single rooms to large flats. Co-op members meet each week to discuss a range of issues involved with running the community, and there are sub-groups for outreach, finance, gardens and maintenance. There are neighbours living in several courtyard properties.



To find out more about Beech Hill Community, see the website <https://www.beechhillcommunity.com/> or <https://diggersanddreamers.org.uk/community/beech-hill-community/> or email beechhill@gmail.com.

To book space in the paddock, or a workroom, email bookingsbeechhill@gmail.com

Visit your local website www.morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk/homepage

OCTOBER 2026 DIARY

If you'd like details of your event or meeting to appear in the November 2026 Diary, please let Sue Eaglen know by October 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

4th. 5.30 Harvest Festival, Harvest Supper, donation for *Tools with a Mission*

11th. 10.30am Holy Communion

18th. 10.30am Family Service

Mon 19th, 7.30 pm, Licensing service of our new team vicar Rev Fran Allison at Lapford church

25th. 10.30am Morning Worship

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.

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 October 7, 15.00 – 16.30, Memorial Hall

Dance (Inter & Junior) in October with Rachael Kemp Tuesdays & Thursdays but not at half term. Please contact Rachael if you need further information. **November dance times/dates** will be in the Diary.

Church Tidy-up, 9.30 at St. Mary's

Future Events

Sale in aid of Ukraine & Moldova, Nov 7, 10.00 – 11.30, Memorial Hall

Christmas Bazaar, Nov 27, Memorial Hall

Togs & Toys, Nov 7, Emmanuel

Thurs	1	10.30 – 15.00	Can't Sew, Won't Sew, <i>bring & share lunch</i>	Emmanuel
		12.00 – 15.00	Singaround incl. lunch	London Inn
	1 & 8, 15, 22, 29 – may be booked up	18.35 – 19.30	Mat Pilates	Memorial Hall
Fri	2 & 9, 16, 23, 30	13.30 – 14.30	Visiting Post Office	London Inn
Sat	3	9.30 – 11.00	Togs & Toys	Emmanuel
		10.00 onwards	Apple Pressing Debbie & Stephen	Memorial Hall
Sun	4	Come anytime 9.30 – 11	Breakfast Church	Emmanuel

Sponsored This Month by Beech Hill Community

Mon	5 & 12, 19, 26	9.00 – 10.00	Mixed ability Pilates	Memorial Hall
		14.00 – 16.00	Table Tennis – Contact Karen 07926 171275 .	Emmanuel Hall
		19.00	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall
Tues	6 & 13, 20, 27	10.00 – 11.30	Coffee Morning	Emmanuel
		19.30	Bridge	MBSSC
Wed	7 & 14, 21, 28	10.30 – 11.15	Chair Exercise	Memorial Hall
	7	14.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 16.30	Pickleball intro, <i>tea & cake after</i> Book Swap	Memorial Hall
	7 & 14, 21	17.30 – 19.00	Brownies	Memorial Hall
	7 & 14, 28	19.30 – 21.00	Pickleball	
Fri	9	11.30	Carers' Club	London Inn
		19.00	Prime Club	Emmanuel
Sat	10	9.30 – 11.30	Coffee Morning & Produce Market – Carol, Hilary & Debbie	Memorial Hall
		9.30	Churchyard Tidy-up	St Mary's
Mon	12	19.00	Footpaths/P3 Meeting	Memorial Hall
Wed	14	14.30	WI meeting <i>Chair Pilates</i>	Memorial Hall
Fri	16	Doors open 18.30	MBFC Bingo	Memorial Hall
		19.30	Edge Club	Emmanuel
Sat	17	10.00 – 11.30	Coffee Morning – Bowls Club	Jo E & Carol
Wed	21	12.00	Over-60s Lunch	London Inn
Thurs	22	19.45 – 21.00	Pickleball	Memorial Hall
Sat	24	10.00 – 11.30	Coffee Morning – FOMBS/Toddlers Stephen & Frances	Memorial Hall
Sat	31	10.00 – 11.30	Coffee Morning – Flower & Produce Show - Debbie & Stephen	Memorial Hall
		17.00 onwards	Halloween Light Party – <i>call in for a "treat"!</i>	Emmanuel

Copy for Publication in THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

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

15th October 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, although names can be withheld on request.

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 ¾ page are £7 a month

Adverts up to 1 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

OCTOBER OPENING TIMES

Mondays – CLOSED

Tuesdays – BRIDGE & POOL – ALL DATES

Wednesdays – 7TH LADIES' DARTS PRACTISE.

Thursdays – 1ST, 8TH, 15TH & 29TH MEN'S DARTS.

Fridays – 2ND, 16TH & 30TH VILLAGE DARTS

Saturdays – 3rd FOOTBALL. PLEASE SEE FACEBOOK PAGE & NOTICEBOARD FOR OTHER DATES IN OCTOBER.

Normal opening times from 7.30pm.

Sundays – CLOSED

IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER AT THE SOCIAL CLUB, HELPING BEHIND THE BAR FOR A FEW HOURS, WE NEED YOU !!!!!

PLEASE CONTACT
mbssc.secretary@gmail.com

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

Bus Service 369 (Dartline)

Note changes –

369 no longer serves the RD&E hospital.

13.55 from MB goes via **Black Dog** and **Kennerleigh** to Crediton & Exeter
09.37 arrives in MB via Black Dog.

Outward

Morchard Bishop (Greenaway):
07.12, 09.40, 11.50, 13.55, 16.12
Saturday variation 07.25

Crediton High St: 07.46, (07.54), 10.14, 12.21, 14.29, 16.44

Crediton Train station /Redlands:
07.51, (08.00), 10.19, 12.26, 14.34, 16.49

Exeter City Centre (Sidwell St):
08.19, (08.25), 10.42, 12.47, 14.55, 17.19

Return

City Centre (Sidwell St Stop 40):
08.35, 10.50, 12.55, 15.05, 17.30

Crediton Train station/Redlands:
08.59, 11.13, 13.18, 15.30, 17.57, (17.55)

Morchard Bishop (Greenaway):
09.37, 11.48, 13.53, 16.10, 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

Cat up electricity pole

I would just like to apologise to all of you living in Morchard Bishop for the Power Cut on Saturday morning 12th September.

My cat was stuck at the top of the main isolation pole for Morchard Bishop so the National Grid men had a difficult situation made worse by this. So had to turn more people off than if he hadn't been up this actual pole.

I would like to say huge thank you to Sonia Bellfield for finding him up there and informing me. She was amazing and I can't thank her enough. After two days of worrying where my cat was.

I would also like to thank the three men and the lady call handler from the National Grid who were all amazing. The lady call handler kept me updated all through the incident with times of arrival of the three men. And sent them very swiftly. She also called me back at the finish of her shift to make sure my cat was ok as there was a high chance of him being electrocuted.

The three men also kept me informed all through the incident with the safety procedures being carried out and reassured me the best they could in the awful situation.

And thank you to the Yendells at Wood Barton for the access to the pole, and to all the villagers who went out looking for my cat whilst he was missing for those two days - you really are a lovely set of people.. That's why I have loved living in this village for the past 16 years, it really is a caring village.

Kind Regards from a very Thankful cat owner.

Karen Pantling

Churchyard Tidy Up 2026

We are looking for volunteers!

**SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2026
AT 9.30am**

We are holding our annual 'Churchyard Tidy Up' on the morning of Saturday 10th October at 9.30am.

It would be great if you can come and volunteer to help tidy our Churchyard. There are plenty of tasks to be tackled, such as pruning, weeding, tidying of hedges and paths and around gravestones and much more. Our contractor, Phil, already does a terrific job in keeping our churchyard mown and will advise us on jobs to be done.

If you are able to help and can bring along any of the following: a wheelbarrow, buckets, rakes, brushes, secateurs, shears, hedge trimmers etc. it would be greatly appreciated.

In return for your efforts, there will be refreshments and a chance to catch up and chat.

Please just turn up on the morning, it's amazing what a difference can be made to your Churchyard in just a couple of hours.

Thank you.

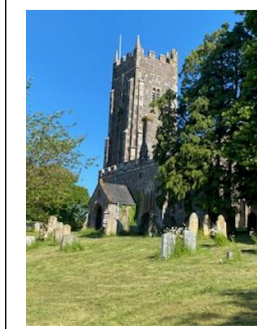
The Volunteer Committee.

If you have any queries beforehand please contact:

Tracy Mellor

Churchyard Secretary

tracy.mellor99@btinternet.com



Vintage Rally and Fun Day 2026

The MBPFA Rally and FunDay was a great success...THANK YOU!

We had the most lovely weather, the sun was shining, ice creams were flying off the shelves, burgers and hot dogs, teas and cakes, jacket potatoes all served up by teams of volunteers to keep everyone fuelled up for the day. The bar was open for the stronger stuff and the marquee filled with craft and produce for folk to browse. The ferret racing was ever popular (even if some of the ferrets preferred to snooze rather than race down a drainpipe..) and the welly-wanging and egg throwing providing more hilarity for all. The woolly animals from the care farm were a great hit with old and young alike and of course the vintage vehicles and bikes gave plenty of opportunity for reminiscences in the sun.

The event is the major fundraiser for the Playing Field recreation ground and it would not happen without a huge amount of time given by volunteers so Thank you to you all!

£6139.10

An incredible amount raised to help with the running costs and maintenance of our wonderful grounds. We are very lucky to have such excellent facilities in Morchard Bishop; villages twice the size of us only have half of what we have: updated safe play area, football pitch, bowling green, pavilion/social club..

Please use all of these facilities, they are for everyone!

Meet the new Vicar – Rev Fran Allison



I moved to Devon when I was 17 and have spent most of all of my adult life living and working in this beautiful part of the world. For more than ten years I lived around Okehampton and North Tawton, and during that time I worked with the Methodist Circuit as their Pastoral Coordinator and with West Devon CVS and as a lay hospital chaplain at the RD&E.

I love being a priest. I love people of all ages, and getting to know people as they are. For me, ministry is about being alongside people and sharing in the ordinary joys, challenges and conversations of life. Along with encouraging the church to think of how it can reach out to others with the gift of faith.

I love the outdoors! I have a deep love for this part of Devon and its countryside, and I find something of God's Spirit in beauty.

If you're ever looking for something to have a natter with me about, both me and my husband Mat love music and I collect records and am always happy to talk music. I also have a dog called Boomer Boodikaboo, who I'm sure some of you will get to know too!

It is a great privilege to become your priest, and I'm really looking forward to getting my wellies back on and getting to know you all. It may take me a little while to master the geography and find my way around all the churches and communities, but I can't wait to make a start.

My licensing is on the 19th [October in Lapford Parish Church], and I would love you to come and join us if you are able. In the meantime, please know that I am praying for you, for our communities, and for all the churches I will have the privilege of serving.

Rev Fran

Sustainable Morchard

Sustainable Morchard now have 300 re-usable pint and half pint plastic glasses free of charge for village-wide events as well as parishioners' private parties.

We only ask for 50p to cover the cost of broken or lost glasses, though any other donations are welcome.

All donations are used to fund future Sustainable Morchard events.

For further details please contact **Steve Watson** at watsonsinxx@gmail.com



Emmanuel Methodist Church

We have a wheelchair at our premises that we are happy to loan to anyone on a short-term basis.

We also now have a walker donated to us that is available for anyone needing it after an operation or short term until they can obtain their own. Borrowed at your own risk.

Contact Pauline Nott on 07927 698910 or email Pauline.nott@btinternet.com



'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.

Autumn Dates

Saturday 5th September : 9.30 - 11am

Saturday 3rd October : 9.30 - 11am

Saturday 7th November: 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

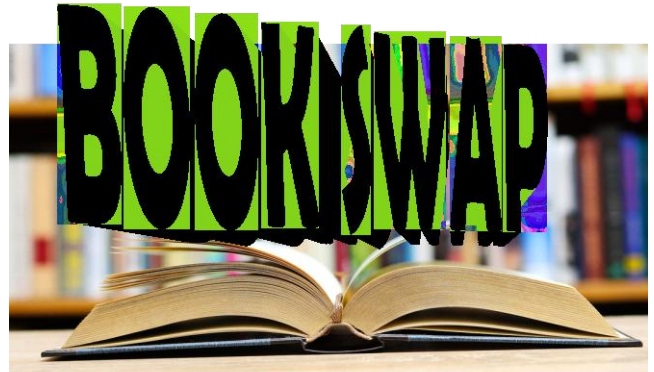
or via the QR code





Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Wednesday 7th October
3.00 – 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!!!



in aid of Ukraine & Moldova

Saturday 7th November
10.00 – 11.30

Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Cakes, Scones, Preserves, Bric a brac, books etc



Please come along and support this really good
cause to make a difference. All money raised goes
directly to help the people of Ukraine and Moldova.



MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB

Devon & Exeter Football League

Division 2



OCTOBER FIXTURES

Saturday 3rd October Witheridge (H) 3pm k.o

Saturday 24th October **Feniton (A) 3pm k.o

** Bill Slee Cup Match

Light refreshments on sale during match

RESULTS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Saturday 29th August Morchard Bishop 4 Lypstone 3
(Adam Leat 2 Josh Doe 1 Liam Tucker 1)

Saturday 5th September Heavitree 5 Morchard Bishop 3
(Adam Leat, Billy Conabeare, Ben Betts)

Saturday 19th September Cullompton 6 Morchard Bishop 2
(Ben Betts, Liam Tucker)

For all updates on club fixtures please visit the Devon
& Exeter Football League Website.

www.defleague.co.uk

or Facebook Morchard Bishop Football Club or the
Football Club Noticeboard.

Please support your local team

BINGO...Friday 16th October 2026

Full details please see main advert in this Messenger.

Morchard Bishop Table Tennis Group

Fancy a game of Table Tennis? New players of any ability
welcome.

Starting Sept 14th we play in the Emmanuel Hall on Mondays
between 2pm and 4 pm, tea and biscuits provided.

Please contact Karena for further info:

07926 171275

Pickleball at the Memorial Hall



Introductory and general play sessions

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

Weds 7th intro session-2pm to 3pm. Free tea and
cake after at the Book Swap!

Wed 7th, 14th, 28th 7.30-9pm [Tractor Club on the
21st]

Thurs 22nd 7.45-9.00

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.

Over 60's Lunch & Get Together

The next Over 60's Luncheon at the London Inn will
be on Wednesday 14th October at 12.30pm.

The menu will be Cottage Pie with a selection of
Vegetables and Roast Potatoes followed by
Raspberry Meringue Roulade
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 13th October
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

News from your Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 7 September 2026.

The Parish Council spent £550.20 from the main account: the item over £100 was a new battery and pads for one of the defibrillators at £408; nothing was spent from the Parish Council's Reserve account and nothing from the Footpaths account.

There were two planning applications for the Parish Council to consider:

26/01092/FULL SUPPORTED	Erection of a livestock building (749.6 sq.m)	Land at NGR 279821 / 106512 Moor Farm Morchard Bishop
26/01171/DPO	Application under The Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 to seek to discharge the terms of a section 106 agreement pursuant to planning permission 14/01954/FULL	Harescombe, Morchard Bishop

With regard to the second application, following discussion the Parish Council confirmed that the obligations in relation to this building needed to continue to be compliant with the Mid Devon District Council Agricultural Ties policies.

All Councils across Devon have spent a lot of time over the past year discussing and preparing for Local Government Reorganisation, however, on the afternoon of the Parish Council meeting, news was received that Central Government, on legal advice, have now paused the whole reorganisation. So, for the time being, everything remains the same with three tiers of Council; Devon County, Mid Devon District and Morchard Bishop Parish Councils.

The Parish Council continue to chase Devon Highways for updates on road furniture, signage, drains and pothole repairs. Devon Highways had put in a request for poles to be erected around the village on which we can mount the vehicle activated speed sign but no date has been given for when this work will commence; similarly Devon Highways have put in requests for some of the missing fingers on signposts to be replaced but no date has been given for this work. On the drains, we have progress in that a drain vehicle has spent two days in the village clearing 60 drains. Our next stage will be to bring in our own contractor to put cameras down the drains to check that pipes are clear between drains and to flush them out if not. Before that, the Parish Council will have the ditch behind the bungalows in Chulmleigh Road cleared of debris so that flood water can easily move away. With pothole repairs, the Highways agency has made a good job of patching various areas in the village, however, our County Councillor tells us that there is an under-reporting of rural potholes – so if you see any – PLEASE report them on the "Report a Problem" page of the Devon Highways site. See the article below as to how to do this.

The Parish Council discussed the alteration to the 369 bus service no longer stopping at the Royal Devon University Hospital. The Clerk was asked to write to Dartline to express the Council's deep concern and ask for this service to be reinstated at the earliest opportunity.

The Parish Council expect to be invited to a meeting soon about putting Electric Vehicle Charging into one or two car parks in Morchard Bishop.

For those of you with any apples to juice – there are substantially fewer this year – I look forward to seeing you at our annual Apple Day on Saturday 3 October from 10.00am.

HOW TO REPORT A POTHOLE

Go on-line and type into your search engine "Devon Highways", Click on "Report a Problem" and then click on the Icon Pothole. (Note for a pothole to be repaired it needs to be 40mm deep with at least one vertical edge and greater than 300mm wide.) Read the information that appears and scroll down to the blue box "Start now". There are then further Yes/No questions to answer (I'm sure designed to reduce the number of reports), however, keep persevering and continue to read the further information that appears.

Click on the blue box "Continue". This will open a map – enter into "Location search" either a post code of the area in question, or a road or village name. You can then drag the map around and click on the map to enlarge it as many times as you need to identify the place. Click on the precise spot where the pothole is located. This will bring up a box "Report pothole here", click on the box and this will bring up a further box where you can report details of the pothole – size and hazard etc.

Next you have the opportunity to upload a photograph – which generally seems to improve the chances of Devon Highways fixing the pothole quickly.

After that click next and a series of boxes come up for you to enter in your name and e-mail address so that they can acknowledge your report. – Click on Submit and the pothole is reported.

You can do this for any pothole you wish to report anywhere in Devon and you can report as many potholes as you wish.

Good luck and thank you for reporting potholes.

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 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

Morchard's Weather

I was right! It was raining as you were reading my last report. Admit it! It's been good late summer weather since, with rain here and there and the gardens and lawns have begun to recover nicely. The actual weather data is not so interesting this month, so I began to look at grass itself.

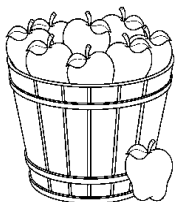
It's only been around for 30 million years, which is relatively recent. No dinosaur ever walked across a grassy field. There are 160 grass species in the UK (12,000 globally), all of which keep evolving with the climate. And they are so resilient. Our lawns and the local fields have gone from a crispy brown and somewhat dead looking back to a rather healthy looking lush green in a matter of days. In fact, the grass wasn't really dead - it just went to sleep because of the lack of water. The growing point remained alive just beneath the surface, protected from the searing heat (which is also why it can survive close grazing by animals and regular cutting by agricultural machines). And as soon as the moisture returns, the plant wakes up again and sends up fresh new green shoots. So grass is pretty cool really and we just take it for granted. Well at least I found that all rather interesting and no Celsius to Fahrenheit conversion was required!

Stephen Leese

Halloween can be a 'tricky' time for some, so if you're planning on going out 'trick or treating' on October 31st then be sure to call in at **Emmanuel** for a 'treat'!



Hot Chocolate to warm you up and a goody bag of treats will be available for all children.



Morchard Bishop Apple Day

Saturday 3rd October from 10.00am

at the Memorial Hall.

Following on from the success of the last four year's Apple Days, by popular request we are holding the day again.

Bring along your harvest of apples – we will have a shredder and juicer for you to turn your apples into Apple Juice

Start saving your plastic milk or juice bottles as they are ideal to take the juice home with you – and if you have a lot of juice you can freeze the juice in these.



Donations towards the cost of hiring the equipment requested

Brunch will be available

September's WI meeting

September boat trip

Eleven of us had booked to go on a Stuart Line cruise along the Jurassic coast from Exmouth to Sidmouth and back and we had the most perfect weather – sun shining, a gentle NW breeze and a good tide so the skipper could take us very close in to the sea stacks at Ladram Bay, the kittiwake colonies and along the beach at Budleigh.

We could see the Marines shooting range (fortunately not firing at the time!) and the needle sculpture at Orcombe point – made from the types of local stone that make up the Unesco heritage site which stretches from there (Triassic period) to Chesil Beach (Holocene). This means that this stretch of coastline covers an incredible 250 million years! The slanting strata in the cliffs were so clearly visible in the sunshine and the commentary was excellent.

The crew of the Pride of Exmouth were lovely and helpful, serving snacks, drinks (even wine and gins!) and then to round it all off a delicious cream tea in true Devon WI style, ie cream on first....we would encourage anyone to go on one of the Stuart Line cruises, it was such a lovely afternoon and we learnt a lot about our local coastline.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday October 14th 2.30pm** in the Hall – **Chair Pilates with Ruth Chambers**. This meeting will be of benefit to all so please come along even if you are not a WI member, you will be most welcome. The WI is so much more than drinking tea and eating cakes (as you can see!).

Wendy Vere



Devon Wildlife Trust

Make a beetle bucket



You will need

- A bucket, trug, or other durable, upcycled container



- A small craft knife



- Stones



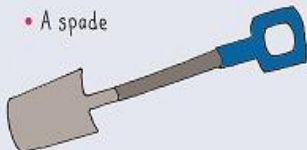
- Bark chips and/or leaves



- Small logs (that will fit in your container when upright)



- A spade



Fill a bucket with rotting wood and leaves and make the perfect home for all sorts of beetles and other insects. Making your beetle habitat in an old plastic container means you can easily find it again to top up or examine the contents (make sure to replace everything straight away after examining).

- 1 Safely cut small circular holes (around 3cm wide) in the sides and bottom of the bucket for beetles to enter and exit.



- 2 Dig a hole just larger than your bucket and sink it into the ground.



- 3 Place some large stones at the bottom of the bucket, then stand some small logs upright on top.

These will rot and make lovely spots for female beetles to lay their eggs.



- 4 Fill the rest of the bucket with bark chips and/or garden leaves, leaving around 10cm at the top to fill with some soil dug from the ground.



- 5 Top the soil with a couple more logs to tempt in beetles – from above or below!



If you'd rather not use plastic, you can simply make your beetle 'bucket' in a hole in the soil.

Perfect for smaller gardens!

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2021

The next collection for Ukraine and Moldova 1st Nov - 7th Nov

We will again be collecting items for cr2ee [a well established charity in Exmouth] who regularly take lorry loads of clothes, bedding, toiletries, etc. to Moldova and now Ukraine. With the war continuing there is a **much greater need of further supplies**. If you are able and would like to help please drop items off at the home of Chris and Carol at Kantara, Church Street (opposite Church Street Stores) or in the box outside Church Street Stores. Items can also be taken to the Coffee Morning on 7th November at the Memorial Hall

Clothes, bedding, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, [not bath] Sanitary wear, incontinence pads, medicine, everyday tinned and packet foods, tinned meat, coffee, tea, sugar, salt. All food [not # glass] must have a shelf life of at least 6 months. [Anything near a sell by date can jeopardize the whole load hence the requirement.]

If you wish to give a financial donation to benefit Ukrainians as well as Moldovan people, and also help with cost of fuel for the lorries, this can be made either by: Bacs to Christian Response, Barclays Bank 20 30 47 A/C no 2090244 or by cheque, to cr2ee and send to; Hugh Scudder, Braida Garth, Staplake Lane, Starcross, EX6 8QT.

If you have any queries please contact Carol and Chris Hutchings on 01363 877259.

Thank you for your support.

Ukraine

christian response to eastern europe



Empty Shelves Empty spaces

These photographs show the impact of Russia's continuing missile attacks on Ukraine.

Recent attacks have damaged critical infrastructure, disrupted transport and supplies, and left communities struggling to keep shops and essential services stocked. With limited air-defence and fewer interceptor missiles available, more Russian missiles are getting through.



For people in Ukraine, this is not just about empty shelves. It means uncertainty about when the next delivery will arrive, whether essential goods will be available, and how families will manage another day of war.

As a UK voluntary charity supporting people in Ukraine, we see the consequences of this war at close hand.

Ukraine is fighting to keep its freedom.
Its people have not given up, and neither should we.

Please continue to stand with Ukraine and support those who are facing this reality every day.

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Authorised by the UK Charity Commissioners: Registration Number 1062623

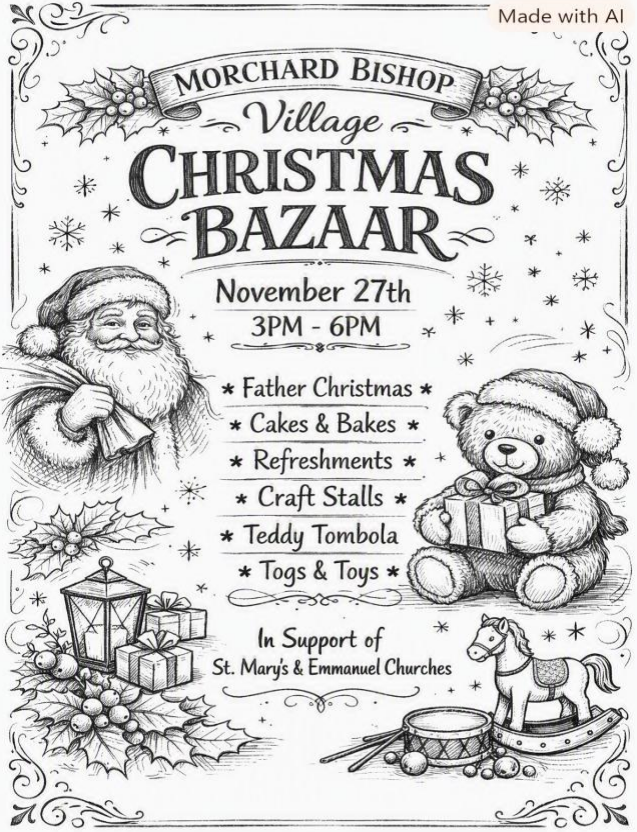
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EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Thursday 1st

Jazz on the Green Music and Food 7.00pm

Thursday 8th

Blade Runner 2049 Film 7.30 pm

Saturday 10th

Let us take you to Paris Music 7.30pm

Friday 16th

Reg Meuross Music 7.30pm

Thursday 29th

Sorry Babe Film 7.30pm

Friday 30th

It's not where you start Theatre 730pm

Credition & District Third Age Trust



Next Meeting: **21st October 2026**
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

The History of Halloween -
a musical presentation

a Talk by Aidienne Hesketh

Venue: Boniface Centre Cost: £2.00



Creative Textiles Fayre

10th & 11th October

Cheriton Bishop Village Hall, 9.30am - 4pm

Creative Textiles Exhibition

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Know when to keep your child at home

A new term is a good time to familiarise yourself with the symptoms of common illnesses:

*it's fine to send your child to school or nursery with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#) if they are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. But if your child has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better, and the fever has resolved

*if they have [diarrhoea and/or vomiting](#), they should stay home for at least 48 hours after the last episode

*it is no longer recommended that children and young people are routinely tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

*if your child has the symptoms of [measles](#) and has not had both doses of the MMR or MMRV vaccine, they should not attend school until 4 days after their rash started.

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Two Howloween Tales

I have written quite extensively about werewolves over the years. You may have noticed that tales of human/canine transformers are almost exclusively concerned with men.

Almost.

Since Halloween is around the corner, here are two of the three exceptions I have found:

The Maiden Transformed to a Werewolf is a Danish ballad. It takes a while to get around to the transformation of the title, the action opening with the birth of its protagonist and the almost inevitable death of her mother in the second line (If you have the slightest suspicion you might ever be in a folksong then avoid being a mother at all costs). Her dad observes a pretty good period of mourning and then brings home a smiling bride who instantly becomes a harsh step-mother. The eight year old girl is first changed in to a small pair of scissors and is used to cut cloth. However, the maids and matrons are very pleased with her so the step mother changes plan and turns the girl in to a sword. Yes, a sword. She goes to work in the battle's storm but becomes popular with both squires and knights who are proud to bear her blade in a gilded sheath. Naturally this goes down with the step mother as well as if she'd covered her crispy pork in snot instead of parsley sauce*.

It is here that our plucky maiden gets cursed for a third time, this time as a werewolf who has to go and live in the woods and glens. This third transformation, the others having failed to cause the misery and suffering required, comes with additional caveats: the girl must remain a werewolf until she drinks her brother's blood, which will be tricky because she doesn't have a brother.

Another eight years pass while our harassed youth struggles to get by in the forest, and kills "many a gallant man" along the way. The step mother becomes pregnant and when she is near term, rides to the church for one of the festivals (It's not specified but I think, since a werewolf is involved, we can imagine it as All Hallows Eve). As she is leaving, the step daughter, in wolf form, leaps out from behind a rock, drags her off the horse, performs a toothy caesarean section with neither anaesthetic nor replacement blood, and runs off with the child.

After a very small bite on the little toe and a swift sip of her (half) brother's vital fluid she is restored! She finishes the ballad by handing her baby sibling to the church and goes off to live as a nun.

There is also the Irish story of the three Daughters of Airitech, who were forest dwelling members of the fair folk that went out in wolf form at Halloween to cause all sorts of trouble slaughtering the livestock and running amok; their tough, magical, wolf skins protecting them against all manner of weapons.

One year however, when they are loping through the woods they hear beautiful music. Soon they find a fire, and by it a bard, playing the harp and singing. He tells them that this year, instead of trying to fight them, the people have decided to bring them a tribute, as much as they can eat of calves and lambs and pigs. All they have to do is wait here and all the food they can imagine will be theirs, meanwhile he, Cas Corach, will sing to them. Cas Corach is a bit famous; Imagine a bunch of young women just off for a night of violent crime, suddenly running in to Harry Styles or Ed Sheeran casually cooking a sausage in their local park, who then proceeds to offer them a private concert and a free feast.

At the end of the next song he says that it is a shame they can't hear the music properly as it is made for human ears. It's as if Harry or Ed has just asked them if they want to take off their coats and make themselves comfortable. The daughters of Airitech lay aside their wolfskins and lie down to listen as the music, now even richer and more mellifluous, flows over them. When they are deeply relaxed, fully enchanted, Cas Corach lets a chord hang, leaps up, grabs the wolfskins and runs. The girls arise to follow but find they are now surrounded by the warriors of Cailte mac Rónáin, nephew of king Fionn mac Cumhaill. Without their wolfskins the Daughters of Airitech were defenceless against steel, so the people of Connacht are no longer troubled by wolves at the Samhain festival.

May your autumn festivities be equally free from savage beasts, and for that matter, troublesome relatives.

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

The Travelling Talesman
www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk

* Stegt Flæsk, Crispy pork in parsley sauce, is a Danish national dish, equivalent to fish and chips or Yorkshire pudding and gravy. Snot would ruin it.





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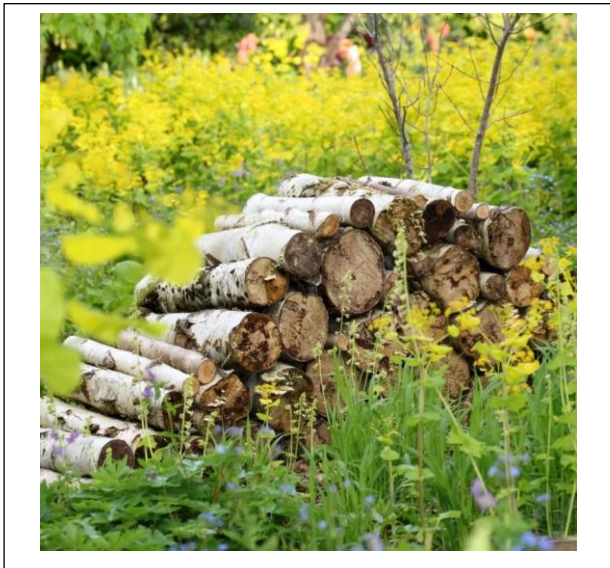
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***"I'd like to sow the barren spots with all the flowers of earth,
To leave a path where those who come should find but gentle mirth;
And when at last I'm called upon to join the heavenly throng
I'd like to feel along my way I'd left no sign of wrong. "***

- The Gentle Gardener by Edgar A Guest 1881-1959

Our most immediate portion of the natural world and countryside is contained within our gardens. Absolutely, there are larger semi-wild lightly managed areas like the moors, there are nature reserves often dedicated to protecting specific endangered species, and there are many fields of farmland hedgerows and banks with varying degrees of nature supported in them. (As of 2022 the top three land use groups were 'Agriculture' (63.1%), 'Forestry, open land and water' (20.1%), and 'Residential gardens' (4.9%)). For the majority of us the part of the natural world that we have direct control over, that's our gardens. Agriculture often does its bit but understandably has priorities which sometimes conflict, where our leisure or productive use can often find it easier to work alongside the natural world.



Thankfully there is a growing trend of gardening for nature. Maybe it started with the realisation that we've nearly lost our iconic Mrs Tiggiwinkle, and the hedgehog street campaign to get people to create small access points between their gardens for foraging nocturnal pincushions; maybe it's the joy of seeing butterflies and moths in their varied colours on the wing appearing from the transformative magic that is a chrysalis. It is normal now for seeds and plants to be marked as "great for pollinators" as we try to keep the many wasps, flies, bees, beetles and butterflies who rely on nectar all fed. Increasing numbers of people factor in "sharing with wildlife" their productive gardening and allowing a portion of their fruit to be eaten by hungry birds, and in return the birds often also keep the insects who have historically frustrated gardeners in check. As people start to realise how important the tiniest midges are to swift and swallow populations as well as bats, some people keep still water in their gardens to help supply food. The interconnectedness is starting to be recognised, the necessity of treading lightly and supporting

natural systems not trying to completely rewrite them is becoming increasingly understood.

What can be done now after the exceptional baking summer of heatwaves and droughts? Whilst tidying the garden this autumn you may find more dead material than usual as the drought claimed a number of casualties. Not everything that lost its leaves early will be dead though, and not everything, if anything, that is dead is useless. It is all still part of the ecosystem that is your garden. Our garden plants struggled this summer, but so did insect populations, and as a consequence, bird and bat populations, so the more habitat we can leave for insects who did survive to shelter over winter the better. This doesn't mean you have to leave everything standing dead as it is, but if you can secrete little mounds or bundles of plant matter at the back of borders or under hedges and have accessible compost heaps so that insects and small mammals, like hedgehogs, can make use of them, and with the compost heap, you get to return the goodness to the garden at a later point.

Whilst the temperatures drop off, whenever there's not regular rain water for insect life (plant saucers filled with pebbles so they don't drown are ideal) will help support them. More help comes from reviewing which plants did well in your garden this year, and which were most popular with wildlife, and planning more for the future. After this summer some may be tempted to choose desert planting, but bear in mind many of those plants live on free draining sand, and good planting needs to cope with winter as well as summer, and much of Devon has water-retentive clay which can be sodden for much of winter. One of the best ways to help improve drainage on clay which holds too much water for too long, is to add organic matter: all those dead plants that have now been processed by various factions of the insect life you left them out for.

Jo Coffey

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On the benefits of globalisation

Last month's piece described the phenomenon of globalisation. It offered no view on whether or not globalisation was to be welcomed. This month will outline the benefits of globalisation, while November's entry will examine the drawbacks.

The main driver of globalisation is economic, and so many of the benefits are economic.

In the same way that a company can maximise its profits through specialisation and economies of scale, so too can a country. Obvious examples of this can be found with agricultural produce, for example Indonesia can produce pineapples more cheaply than the UK as it doesn't have to invest in glasshouses and the creation of an artificial climate. Other countries benefit from cheap labour or an abundance of raw materials. By specialising, total global production of any named good can be maximised, thereby increasing the world's wealth. Such benefits can be facilitated or policed by global organisations such as the World Trade Organisation, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The use of trade barriers such as tariffs go against the idea of free trade and so undermine the effectiveness of globalisation. Such trade allows us to experience a much wider range of goods.

Economic growth caused by globalisation increases competition, lowers prices and creates employment. These, in turn, reduce poverty. The profits made by Transnational companies can be ploughed back into the business, used to pay shareholder dividends, or pay taxes which governments can spend on projects beneficial to its citizens.

Globalisation, in its purest form, should encourage international co-operation. The Green Wall Project is an African-led initiative to combat desertification. It involves countries with territory in the Sahel, a belt of arid and semi-arid lands south of the Sahara. Although it will not meet its target completion date of 2030, it still aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land and create 10m 'green' jobs. It has already sequestered 250m tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Other examples of shared knowledge, scientific and technological breakthroughs include medical advances, the International Space Station and the Human Genome Project.

Countries often come together and share resources in times of crisis such as an earthquake, famine or climate change. The August floods in the Trishuli valley of Nepal illustrate how the international community overlooks political and cultural differences to offer aid and expertise. Australia, Sri Lanka and the UK, among others have given financial aid, while others such as Taiwan, South Korea and India have offered technical assistance such as search and rescue teams.

Exposure to other cultures through travel and mass media result in a better understanding of other nationalities, as well as enriching our own lives. Our diets and choice of cuisine have been greatly broadened by globalisation; our musical experiences are augmented by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Bob Marley and even Jason Donovan. Instant global broadcasting of major events means that we can enjoy the Olympics and the Bolshoi Ballet live in the comfort of our homes.

Paul Ticehurst

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5 tbsp golden syrup
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda

Butter the base and sides of a 20cm non-stick square cake tin. (If your tin isn't non-stick, butter, then line with baking parchment).

Melt the sugar and golden syrup in a deep saucepan over a low heat, stirring. Don't let it bubble until the sugar has dissolved completely.

Once melted, turn up the heat and bring to a simmer. Cook until you have an amber-coloured caramel (this won't take long, but if you have a thermometer, it needs to reach 150C, so it doesn't get sticky when stored). As quickly as you can, remove from the heat, add the bicarb and beat with a wooden spoon until it's all absorbed and the mixture is foaming. Immediately scrape into the tin, but be careful, as the mixture will be very hot!

Leave to cool for 1-1½ hrs until the honeycomb is hard – it will continue bubbling in the tin as it cools. Break into chunks before packaging.



MERINGUES

4 egg whites, 225g caster sugar, 1 tsp vanilla extract[optional]
Heat oven to 140C/120C fan/gas 1. Line 2 baking sheets with baking parchment.

In a clean bowl, whisk the egg whites until very stiff – the whites should stand in stiff, not floppy, peaks when the beaters are lifted out. Once you have reached this point, pour in roughly half the sugar [and the vanilla extract] and whisk again until the mixture becomes very thick, firm and shiny. Add the remaining sugar and whisk again until thick, firm and shiny. If you like meringues with soft, mallowy centres, just add 1 tsp cornflour and 1 tsp white wine vinegar to the mix along with the sugar.

The meringues can be spooned onto the trays or, to be fancy, they can be piped. Coloured stripes are made by painting food colouring lightly onto the inside of the piping bags before filling.

The meringues will spread slightly as they cook, so leave enough space between each one. Bake in the oven for 1 hr, turning the heat down to 120C/100C fan/gas ½ after 30 mins. Leave the meringues in the oven, with the door shut to cool. Overnight is perfect but 1-2 hours should be fine.

Remove from the oven – they should peel easily away from the parchment. Can be made up to a week ahead and kept in an airtight container, or frozen for up to 3 months, between layers of parchment, in an airtight container. Serve with whipped or clotted cream and fresh fruit.





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Garden Tips for October



- Divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants
- Cut back perennials that have died down
- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into a greenhouse or conservatory
- Plant out spring cabbages
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
- Prune climbing roses
- Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year
- Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas
- Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf
- Apply a last round of nemaslug before the temperatures fall too far- the fewer overwintering and breeding slugs, the less slug damage in spring

Jo Coffey

Devon & Cornwall Police

Basics for good cyber hygiene

- *Keeping your devices updated (please don't run an unsupported, out-of-date operating system).
- *Enabling automatic updates wherever possible.
- *Using strong, unique passwords.
- *Where available, enabling multi-factor authentication, also called two-step verification (this is a MUST for your email and social media accounts).
- *Regularly backing up your important files.
- *Always being cautious of unexpected or unsolicited contacts (including voice calls, emails, texts, WhatsApp messages, and specifically anything including links, attachments, or downloads).
- *Never sharing sensitive information, including passwords, PINs, financial details, or verification codes.



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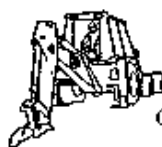
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Briar Hill neolithic: a stain in the earth

Pushed further into the land of ghosts
dissolved by rain

in the beginning we thought you might
not hear what we had to say

the acid soil burnt off all the words
in the summer dust there was only a whisper.

Iron age Celts on the hill assembling mighty
earthworks and a hard trampled road

to the sun's resting spoke louder of gods
and goblins in solemn stories and frights

but little in your baffling age of numbers
light and noise leaves time for the listening.

High on expectation, low on reliability
the wind rattles the oak leaves on the hillfort banks

valleys hold tenacity, perseverance, floods –
the weather resentful, bleakly westerly –

the road curves down into a wet distance.

There's a scuff of disturbance on the slopes,

interferences, a quarry. Shivers ripple across their limbs
but the trees hold only the cold of shadows

and the ice of the architect's pen

as it cuts strategic lines through our past.

Colin Crewdson



Keep Warm this Winter



Worried about energy price cap increases? Or struggling in a cold and hard to heat home?

Get free energy advice and support from ECOE Advice, an award winning Devon charity helping residents save money and stay warm in their homes.

Set your heating controls

Set it to come on just before you get up and switch off just before you go to bed.



Hot water bottles!

Stay warm with a hot water bottle or electric blanket, but don't use both at the same time.



Close the curtains

Tuck them behind the radiator and shut the doors to rooms you use most to keep the heat in after it gets dark.

Warm food & drinks

Have regular hot drinks & eat at least one hot meal a day if possible. Eating regularly helps keep your energy levels up.



Prioritise one room

Which room do you spend most of your time in? Prioritising this room will keep your overall heating costs down, as you won't be trying to heat your whole home.

Layer clothes to keep warm

Layer clothes, and keep your feet warm with rugs, thermal socks & slippers.



Draught-proof your home

Use draught-proofing strips, which you can find online or in DIY stores, to improve the seal of your window frames, and cover wooden floors with rugs & carpets.

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School News

A great start to the new year!

A warm welcome back from Morchard Bishop Primary School.

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and see our children bounce through the doors with such enthusiasm and excitement for the year ahead! There has been a real sense of energy and positivity around school, as the children have settled back into routines, reconnected with friends and embraced the opportunities that a new school year brings.

Our learning is already well underway, with curiosity shining through as children ask questions, explore new ideas and get stuck into their learning. It is lovely to see our school values of kindness, courage, curiosity and resilience being lived out each day.

A very warm welcome to all our new families joining the Morchard Bishop community. We are delighted to have you as part of our school family and hope you quickly feel at home with us.

There is lots to look forward to over the coming months, and I am excited to see all that our children will achieve. Here's to another happy, successful and memorable year together!

Hannah Bancroft
Headteacher



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We are looking for a Teaching Assistant (with mealtime duty)



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Scale Point 3 **£12.85ph** (38 weeks per year) for the MTA role.

This particular role is a fixed term appointment linked to EHCP funding to support pupils with SEND across the school, supporting children in class. We are looking for an individual who has experience of working in school and supporting children with SEND and generally in their learning. CPD will be provided along with support from outside agencies.

We offer you the support of clear systems, protocols, expectations and structures to help you to succeed. You will need to show initiative, creativity and demonstrate the aptitude to work as part of a successful and growing team to improve the life chances of our pupils and make every child feel 'special'. We want you to come and join our happy, positive team where our consistent vision is that through collaboration we will live out our values of kindness, curiosity, courage and resilience.

We are looking for someone with a strong, sensitive and caring approach to children's needs, who is able to be an effective communicator and think creatively. You will need to show a high degree of initiative and be solution focussed.



Ideally, you will:

- Provide a sensitive and nurturing approach to children's needs
- Be able to build positive relationships with children, staff and parents
- Have excellent English and Maths skills
- Be willing to work as part of a team and have a good sense of humour
- Be able to use your own initiative when required
- Have experience in a similar role in a school
- Have prior knowledge and experience of working with children with special educational needs
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