



THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

THE INDEPENDENT VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

www.morchardbishop-pc.org.uk/morchard-messenger/

No.357 MARCH 2025

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY MORCHARD BISHOP BOWLING CLUB

News from the Bowling Club

After a damp, miserable winter, MBBC is looking forward to the start of the 2025 season. We feel sure the sun will shine and that we shall enjoy a full season of friendly and competitive matches along with our usual internal fun competition days. Opening day will be around the middle of April. Do watch out for the date and if you have pondered over joining us, let 2025 be the year you do. If you have not played before, there is a very low joining fee. You will be made very welcome.



Over the years, MBBC has enjoyed much success. Members have played locally, across Devon and Nationally.

Opening Day 2024 – Richard plays the 1st Bowl of the season.



In 2024 our President was Richard Tapp. He did a splendid job and had Parkinson's UK as his charity. Henry Cruwys will be our 2025 President and he is looking forward to his year in office.

Nora Tapp Cup Day 2024



Tiverton Cup match 2024.



MARCH 2025 DIARY

If you would like details of your event or meeting to appear in the **APRIL** diary then please let Pauline Chater know by **March 12th** cupaulinechater@gmail.com or phone 01363 877096. You may also want to plan ahead and send in details for our future events section.

St Mary's All are welcome to our services

Sunday 2nd: 10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 9th: 10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 16th: 10.30 Family Service 18.00: Joint Bible Study at Emmanuel

Sunday 23rd 10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 30th Mothering Sunday Service 10.30

Emmanuel

All are welcome at our services. Morning Services usually start at 11.00 with coffee from 10.30. There is a joint Bible Study Group at 18.00 on Sunday 16th Visit www.emmanuel-morchard-bishop.org for detailed information about services, Sunday School for primary aged children, youth clubs and other events

Sat	1 1/8/15/22/29 1	10.00-11.30 19.30 19.30	Coffee Morning- Seed Swap Sustainable Morchard MBSSC Bar Skittles, Darts, Pool Comedy Evening- Johnny Cowling	Memorial Hall MBSSC Memorial Hall-
Mon	3/10/17/24/ 31 3 3/31	09.00 -10.00 10.10 -11.10 19.30 19.30	Basic to Intermediate Pilates Basic to Intermediate Pilates Parish Council Men's Skittles	Memorial Hall Contact Becky Cunningham ivegotyourback@gmail.com Memorial Hall MBSSC
Tues	4/11/18/25 4/11/25 4/11/18/25 4/11/18/25	9.30 -11.30 14.15-18.45 19.00 -20.00 19.30	Cafe Emmanuel Dove Dance Academy Zumba Duplicate Bridge/Pool	Emmanuel Lessons in Memorial Hall Memorial Hall MBSSC
Wed	5 5/12/19/26 5/26	15.00 –16.30 17.30 19.30	Library Book Swap Brownies Ladies' Darts	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall MBSSC
Thur	6/13/20/27 6 6 6/13/20/27 6/13/20/27 6/13/20/27	09.30-10.30 10.00-15.00 12.00-15.00 15.45-18.15 18.30- 19.30 19.30	Toddler Group New Born to 4 Can't Sew, Won't Sew Pennymoor Singaround Dove Dance Academy Basic to Intermediate Pilates Men's Darts	Pre- school Emmanuel – Shared Lunch London Inn Lessons in Memorial Hall Memorial Hall MBSSC

Sponsored This Month by Morchard Bishop Bowling Club

Fri	7/14/21/28 7	13.30 -14.30 17.30 -19.00	Visiting Post Office Max and Mike's Street Food	Inside London Inn War Memorial
Sat	8 8	09.30 19.30	Produce and Table Top Sale Sustainable Morchard	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Upper Room
Wed	12	14.30	W.I. Skittles	London Inn
Fri	14	19.00	Prime Youth Club – Primary Age	Emmanuel
Sat	15	10.00-11.30	Coffee Morning - Brownies	Memorial Hall
Tues	18	19.30	Sustainable Morchard -Talk about swifts, Edward Jackson	Memorial Hall
Wed	19 19	12.30 19.30	Over Sixties Lunch Tractor Club	London Inn: To book a place contact Mandy 877459 mandytapp@talk21.com Memorial Hall
Thur	20	19.30	Pennymoor Singaround Folk music and songs - free	London Inn Skittle Alley jonshapley@hotmail.com
Fri	21	19.30	Edge Youth Club – Year 7 upwards	Emmanuel
Sat	22 22 29	10.00-11.30 13.00-17.00 10.00-11.30	Coffee Morning-Parish Council Craft Fair Coffee Morning -Bowling Club	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Memorial Hall

Future Events For Your Diary

- Morchard Bishop Sports and Social Club SIX NATIONS RUGBY 14.30 on Sunday 9th and Saturday 15th (if there is sufficient demand)
- “Makers Market” Craft Fair Saturday 22 March (see p.14)
- VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration: Thursday 8th May (see p.15)

NOTICEBOARD

Bus service 369

Outwards:

(Witheridge The Mitre Inn: 6:57)

Morchard Bishop (Greenaway): 7.20

(7.30 Sat), 9.50, 11.55, 13.55, 16.05

Arrive: Crediton Train Station/ Redlands:

7.59 (8.06 Sat), 10.27, 12.31, 14.31, 16.43
(16.41 Sat)

Exeter RD&E: 8.36, (8.39 Sat) 17.14

Exeter City Centre Sidwell St (Stop 19):

8.26, (8.29 Sat), 10.50, 12.51, 14.51,
17.04

Sidwell St (stop 40): 10.52, 12.53 (12.55
Sat), 14.53

Return:

Exeter RD&E: 17.15 (Last bus ends at
Witheridge)

Exeter City Centre Sidwell St (Stop 40):

8.50, 11.00, 13.00, 15.05, 17.35

Crediton Train Station/ Redlands: 09.12,

11.22, 13.21, 15.27, 18.02

Morchard Bishop (Greenaway): 9.46,

11.54, 13.52, 16.02, 18.36

Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

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

Bookings - Contact Jo Eames

jo_eames@hotmail.com

01363 877407

General - Contact Anton Heal

antonheal@yahoo.co.uk

07970 227753

Produce / table top booking –

Contact Jo Trask

jotrask@icloud.com

01363 877381

or **Robert Moore** 07455 896589

robert@lydcottnursery.co.uk

MORCHARD BISHOP SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

(Bar open to all members when open.
Annual Membership £2)

MARCH OPENING TIMES

MONDAYS – 3RD & 31ST MENS SKITTLES

TUESDAYS – ALL DATES POOL & BRIDGE

WEDNESDAYS – 5TH & 26TH LADIES DARTS

**THURSDAYS – 6TH, 13TH, 20TH & 27TH MENS
DARTS**

FRIDAYS – ALL DATES CLOSED

**SATURDAYS – PLEASE SEE CLUB
NOTICEBOARD OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
DATES FOR MBFC HOME GAMES IN
MARCH. NORMAL OPENING HOURS FROM
7.30 PM.**

SUNDAYS – CLOSED

**WE WILL BE SHOWING 6 NATIONS RUGBY
IF THERE IS ENOUGH INTEREST ON 9TH AT
2.30 PM & 15TH AT 4.30 PM. SEE SC
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES.**

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. £2 PER YEAR
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MEMBER OF THE BAR STAFF.**

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**Contact details
JULIE 07851 582286**

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Opening Hours:

Sunday & Monday: 8.30am-12noon

Tuesday- Friday: 8.30am-5pm

Saturday: 8.30am- 2pm

01363 877826

www.facebook.com/churchstreetstores

Matthew & Clare

Copy for Publication in THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

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

15th March 2025

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
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Morchard Bishop EX17 6SF

Phone: 07926 625120

Associate Editor
Christine Faunch

ADVERTS

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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

Please send or email your draft to the
editors (details above)

LETTERS – MESSAGES – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ukraine and Moldova Quiz Sheet



Many thanks to all who bought the quiz sheet. We raised £200 for Christian Response To Eastern Europe which is a local charity supporting people in Ukraine and Moldova. Of the 30 sheets that were returned, 4 people got all the answers correct so a draw took place at the Chapel Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall to determine the winners. Congratulations to the winners who were: 1st Prize Lee Friend, 2nd Prize Pauline Guscott and Alna Walker (relative of Annie Robinson) who received a consolation prize.

The correct answers were as follows:

A. Missing Link

1. away 2. life 3. rock 4. meal 5. pile 6. fund 7. crop 8. step 9. bill 10. crew
Fruit elderberry

B. Initial Letters

1. The Chelsea Detective (accepted The Chinese Detective)
2. The Missing (accepted The Murders) 3. Father Brown
4. Line of Duty 5. Whitstable Pearl 6. The Brokenwood Murders
7. Wallander 8. Unforgotten 9. Agatha Raisin 10. The inspector Lynley Mysteries

C. Cryptic Clues Christmas

1. Crackers 2. Noel 3. carol service 4. 5 gold rings 5. mulled wine
6. silent night 7. frankincense 8. donkey 9. holly 10. mince pies

D. Next in series

1. Year 2. Sunday 3. September 4. Seven 5. Libra

E. General knowledge, all answers end with ough

1. Gough 2. Flamborough 3. sourdough 4. cough 5. Waugh
6. furlough 7. Gainsborough 8. Gladys Pugh 9. rough 10. borough

F. Words

1. bed 2. pot 3. can 4. end 5. fan 6. man 7. air 8. tip 9. win
10. his

G Anagrams sports

1. badminton 2. skate boarding 3. lacrosse 4. football 5. water polo
6. cricket 7. volleyball 8. ice hockey 9. rugby league
10. boxing

H Ditloids

1. Seven wonders of the world 2. 18 holes on a golf course 3. 360 degrees in a circle 4. 7 colours of the rainbow 5. 5 toes on a foot
6. 12 Knights of the round table 7. 64 squares on a chessboard
8. 12 days of Christmas 9. 26 miles in a marathon
10. 3 steps to heaven.

Arthur Copeland

Clare Copeland and family would like to thank all those friends and neighbours who attended Arthur's recent funeral and to many more people from Morchard Bishop for their support, cards, condolences and kind thoughts at this difficult time.

Thanks also for contributions and donations to Hospiscare Exeter. They gave such marvellous care and attention throughout Arthur's illness.

Thanks too to Sarah, Emma and Carrie at the London Inn for providing the refreshments following the funeral.

We are lucky to live in such a caring community. Arthur will be very much missed.

Clare Copeland

Join our local Crafters and Makers for the Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall Makers' Market on 22 March 2025 at 1 p.m.

Including a local charity table, popup workshops and prebooked workshop.

Homemade hot food on offer from 1pm till 3pm. Hot drinks and cakes till 4.45pm. Items to takeaway on the day. Ample parking, 300 yards.

For information: Facebook Sue Pym, or
Email s.c.b.catering@googlemail.com.

See also p.14 for more dates

Dog Mess on Private Drives

While most dog owners act responsibly by removing their pets' excrement from paths, verges and roads, there are, regrettably, some individuals in the village who falsely think it is acceptable to let their dog foul even private driveways and grassed areas in front of houses.

Colin Andrews

TODDLER GROUP




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Jack : 07904225234
Ricky : 07712177710

New Service to Morchard Bishop

Tuesday mornings

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Friday Evenings

Between 4-8pm



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: **email** – jomcdphysio@gmail.com

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Parish Footpaths and Bridleways

If you spot a problem with a public right of way, please contact:

clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk

to let the team know where and what the problem is.

Village Walk

Every fourth Saturday we will be holding a **Village Walk** meeting at the Memorial Hall between 10.30 and 11.00am with the aim of introducing walkers to some footpaths they may not have tried before.

All are welcome to join us including well behaved dogs on leads.

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Spring Awakening Music Festival Brings Three Weeks of Live Music to Credition

A brand-new music festival is coming to Credition this spring, promising three weeks of incredible live performances in venues across the town.

Credition Arts Centre and the Credition Heart Project present the Spring Awakening Music Festival, running from Thursday 13th March to Sunday 6 April, bringing together a diverse mix of rock, folk, jazz, classical, opera, bluegrass and more. This exciting new festival aims to celebrate the town's vibrant musical talent while welcoming outstanding artists from across the UK and beyond.

Highlights include:

Friday 14 March – Lady Maisery (Holy Cross Church)

Saturday 15 March – Blackheart Orchestra (Credition Arts Centre)

Friday 21 March – Acoustic by Candlelight (St Lawrence Chapel)

Saturday 22 March – Credition Youth Orchestra Rising Stars (Congregational Church)

Thursday 27 March – Exeter Opera Company – Orfeo ed Euridice (Credition Arts Centre)

Friday 28 March – Four Choirs Concert (Methodist Church)

Saturday 29 March – Ashley Hutchings & Blair Dunlop (Holy Cross Church)

Sunday 30 March – Xogara / The Owl Light Trio (Credition Arts Centre)

Friday 4 April – Eduardo Martin & Ahmed Dickinson Cardenas (Credition Arts Centre)

Sunday 6 April – Revival: The Music of Gillian Welch & David Rawlings (Credition Arts Centre)

Tickets available: www.ticketsource.co.uk/creditationartscentre.

Beyond the main concerts, music lovers can enjoy music workshops, scratch performances, busking and open-air gigs.

The festival kicks off with an exciting launch event on Thursday 13th March at 7pm at Holy Cross Parish Church, presented by Credition Heart Project and Credition Arts Centre. The evening will feature a special screening of the Coen Brothers' 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?'. **Tickets are £5** and a bar will be open throughout the 14th March with a stunning performance by Lady Maisery, a trio of multi-award-winning artists - Hannah James, Rowan Rheingans, and Hazel Askew - whose music offers a powerful blend of tradition and innovation. Known for their mesmerizing harmonies and storytelling, they bring tales of sisterhood, resilience, and the joy of song to life. Expect an evening of spellbinding music and a heartfelt celebration of folk traditions all in the magnificent setting of the Holy Cross Church, Credition.

Explore the full programme in the *Spring Awakening* brochure or visit the Credition Arts Centre website at: www.creditionartscentre.org.

MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB

Division 4 Devon & Exeter Football League



March Fixtures

As of going to press we have not been given any fixtures for March for updates please see below.

January/February Results

**January 18th - Morchard Bishop 8
Upottery 0**

(Chris Andrews Josh Coles 2 Anthony Clement Billy Conabeare 2 O.G 2)

**January 25th - Lyme Regis 0
Morchard Bishop 4
(Chris Andrews Adam Leat 3)**

**February 8th - Hemyock 2
Morchard Bishop 6
(Adam Leat 2 Tony Radford Billy Conabeare Alan Woodcock 2)**

Light refreshments on sale during the match

For all updates on fixtures please visit
The Devon and Exeter Football League Website

www.defleague.co.uk

Facebook Morchard Bishop Football Club or the
Football Club noticeboard.



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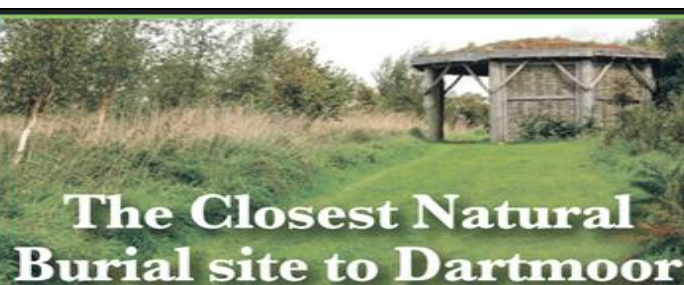
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Kick Start Art - a New Art Project for Children

Crediton Heart Project is proud to announce a new and exciting community art project. The project is called Kick Start Art and is for all school aged children living in Crediton and its surrounding villages. It is led by Linda Williamson, a recently retired teacher who worked in local schools for the past 30 years.

Linda and the Crediton Heart Project are passionate about art and started this project to inspire and enthuse children to create art, try some new techniques, learn about a range of artists and most importantly to have fun and enjoy the process!



For any of you who enjoyed the TV shows *Take Hart* or *Art Attack*, the idea is similar: each term, Linda will set an art challenge. She will share the challenge with Queen Elizabeth Academy and all of its feeder primary schools, who will then share the information with the children and their parents. Schools, parents and children can access all of the information, resources and ideas on the Heart Project's website: <https://www.creditoninandaround.co.uk/kick-start-art>.



The website includes teaching videos, links to artists and resources to support the project. This term's project is Still Life. Children are encouraged to watch Linda's video to get ideas and hopefully they will be inspired to create their own still life.

If they wish, the children can enter their artwork into the termly competition which will be judged by Linda and a group of QE Key Stage 4 students. The winners will receive prizes and their work will be displayed around the town, on social media and on the Heart Project website.

Why don't you visit the website and learn more about the project, learn about the mascot, Dan and the project logo, discover how they were designed by QE students and, finally, try to encourage our young people to pick up a pencil or paintbrush and take part!



RECITAL

Saturday 12th April 2025, 4.00 pm

Soprano - Sarah Baillie

Accompanied by Jonathan Rawles

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News from your Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 27th January 2025.

The Parish Council spent £1,090.78 from the main account, nothing from its Reserve account and received £3,000 for Major works into the Footpaths account. Items of expenditure over £100 were £1,000 annual grant to the Morchard Bishop Churchyard committee.

The Parish Council considered two planning applications:

24/00009/LBC SUPPORTED	Listed Building Consent for the erection of an attached greenhouse.	4 Wood Lane, Morchard Bishop
25/00045/HOUSE SUPPORTED	Erection of single storey extension	Bishopsleigh Cottage, Black Dog, Crediton

Again, there was a lot of Correspondence to consider such as: a request to investigate areas in the village where there was no internal house mobile signal due to the landline providers moving more people from analogue to digital; road closures; a request for a grant; whether to move the domain of the Parish Council website and registering Council owned land.

You may have noticed that a lot of finger posts leading to the village have lost their fingers. Devon County Council will not replace these signs and so if they are to be replaced, the Parish Council will have to pay for them. We have received a quote of £2,595 to replace all the fingers that are missing. Before we make such a large payment which inevitably could add to your precept next year, may we offer an amnesty for anyone that has picked up any of these signs to place it in the “cardboard collecting” shed in the car park of the London Inn and save us having to pay for so many.

The Parish Council renewed its Governance Documents. They also commenced arrangements for marking the 80th anniversary of V.E. Day on 8th May 2025.

The Parish Council are looking at organising a big Summer event this year and are seeking your ideas – see an article elsewhere in this magazine and let us have your ideas.

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.org.uk/>

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

Contact Details for the Parish Council:

David Parker: 01363 877008 / 07794 362591 clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk

David Parker
Parish Clerk

Advance Notice of upcoming Events and Activities in the Village

- Our spring car boot sale is on Sunday May 11th. Sellers arrive 1pm, buyers at 2pm. Refreshments.
- As you may have already seen on Facebook, the Playing Field Association are starting to hold monthly working parties to do jobs in the play area ready for the better weather. These will be on Saturday mornings from 10-12pm on the 3rd Saturday in each month. We are especially hoping that the parents of the children who use the play equipment will come up to assist. Volunteers will be fed and watered. We are about to spend a huge amount of money buying extra pieces of equipment so it will be good to get a group of interested parents involved in the maintenance .
- The AGM for the Playing Field Association will take place on Monday April 14th at the Sports Club, 7pm start. Village organisations will be contacted shortly inviting them to nominate a member to be a Trustee of the PFA.

Debbie Ticehurst

Jenny Swan

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Bonfire and Laser Show

An extra-large cheque for the value of £7,342.85p was presented to the Morchard Bishop Primary School by members of the local Parish Council, following a hugely successful fundraising Bonfire and Laser Show last November.

Mr Sam Butler, the Head Teacher who received the cheque, expressed his thanks on behalf of the whole school and the children joined in with songs and huge thank you cards. The money is to go towards a pathway leading from the school to their own kitchen garden, where the 96 children at the school learn all about growing vegetables, which are then prepared in the school's own kitchens.

Mr Butler said:

"The school is overwhelmed by the generosity of the local people whose donations have led to this amazing result. It will be so much easier to get to the gardens and more children will benefit if access is possible without wellingtons."

For the Parish Council, Mr Simon Baker, one of the lead organisers of the event, commented that the council wants to try and organise a community event each year with different local recipients in mind.



Sarah Gilbard, whose land adjoining the London Inn in Morchard Bishop was used for the bonfire, said:

"The event was so amazing the way it brought people together not only from our village, but also from surrounding areas. It was so much fun to do and be part of and we are especially pleased about the amount of money we were able to raise for our school and the children".

Stephen Leese



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22 Mar · 31 May · 26 Jul · 27 Sept · 29 Nov

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Gardening tips for March



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

Jo Coffey



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*3rd Thursday of every month, 18:00 - 19:30 - candlelit yin yoga session, flowing into a deep relaxation soundbath

*3rd Saturday of every month, 10:00 – 11:00 – up-lifting yet relaxing soundbath

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VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY EVENT FOR MORCHARD BISHOP

**RESIDENTS of Morchard Bishop
please make a date in your diaries
Thursday 8th May 2025**

When VE Day dawns on 8th May 2025 it will be 80 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. Years of carnage and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets to celebrate peace, mourn their loved ones - and to hope for the future, but not forgetting those still in conflict.

The 80th anniversary will provide our nation, and our friends around the world, with an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark and terrifying period. To commemorate this important time, **Morchard Bishop** will be participating in VE Day 80, a celebration that will take place on **Thursday 8th May 2025**.

It will be an opportunity for us all to remember the enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad and to joyously celebrate, as people did 80 years ago, the arrival of peace in Europe.

We will remember the members of the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy from many countries who gave their lives or returned home injured in body and mind, the hard-working women and men who operated the factories, mines, shipyards and farms, ARP wardens, police officers, doctors, nurses, fireman, local defence volunteers and others who toiled selflessly on the home front during difficult times.

Thursday 8th May 2025, along with many other villages, towns, parishes, we would like you to join in the VE Day 80th celebrations, so we do hope that you will take part providing you with the opportunity to pay your personal tribute to those who gave so much to ensure we all enjoy the freedom we have today. We will let you know further details of how our village will be taking part, and how we can all help and get involved, please see in April's Morchard Messenger for full details.

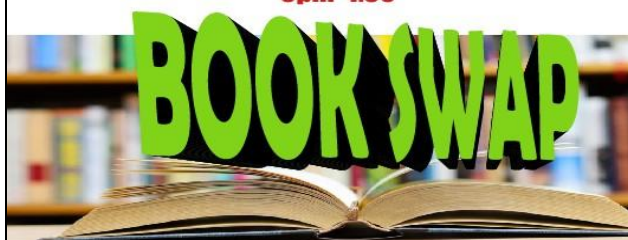
We cannot shake their hand, or thank them but we can remember them.

Morchard Bishop Parish Council



VE DAY[®]
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8 MAY 2025

**Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall
Wednesday 5th March
3pm-4.30**



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Sandford Summer Show

After a hugely successful return last year, Sandford will again be holding a Summer Show in 2025 on Sunday 10 August in Sandford Village Hall.

All welcome to enter the competitions!

Now is the time for all you keen gardeners to be thinking about sowing seeds and growing lots of flowers and vegetables to enter. For the crafters, artists and photographers among you, now is the time to plan your creative project to show in the competition.

Entry forms will be available as hard copy in Sandford Stores or via email from sandfordsummershow@yahoo.com. We will keep you updated on when these are ready but categories will be the same as last year.

More updates to come, but remember you are all the stars of the show and we look forward to seeing you produce your very best!

On behalf of the Sandford Summer Show Committee

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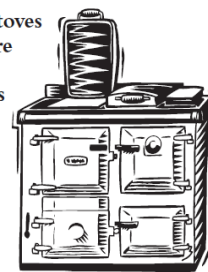
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The Impacts of Climate Change in the Arctic

The Arctic region comprises the northernmost parts of eight countries that lie inside latitude 66.5 degrees north of the Equator, including Canada, Alaska (USA), Russia, Greenland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. These are the areas that experience 24 hours of darkness during mid-winter. Average January temperatures are -35 degrees Celsius, and July temperatures -1.5 degrees C.

While average global temperatures have increased by 1.2 degrees C since the onset of the Industrial Revolution, those of Arctic regions have increased by 3 degrees, and average sea temperatures are increasing at the alarming rate of 0.5 degrees C each decade.

There are three reasons why Arctic temperatures are increasing so rapidly: the positive ice albedo feedback; convection; and water vapour. Convection of air in Arctic regions is weak, meaning warmed air stays close to the surface. Stronger convection of air over the tropics means more water vapour is transported to Arctic regions from the south. Water vapour is a greenhouse gas. Thirdly, as ice melts, less energy from the sun is reflected back to space (the albedo effect). The light coloured ice surfaces are replaced by the darker surfaces of sea and rock which absorb more solar radiation.

The most apparent consequence of rising Arctic temperatures is the reduction in ice. Current rates of ice reduction in Arctic regions is 12.2% per decade. The worst case scenario suggests that Arctic ice may have completely disappeared by 2070. Meltwater from Arctic glaciers and ice caps is responsible for 35% of global sea level rises. Rising sea levels in the Arctic means increased coastal erosion, up to 5m per year in some parts of Alaska; and increased flooding of Inuit settlements.

Perhaps the most familiar impact of climate change on the Arctic is the risk of polar bear extinction. Polar bears depend on the ice for hunting seals. During the spring hunting season the polar bears, especially the females, build up their fat reserves. They use the fat to survive the summer months when sea ice reduces during its annual cycle of summer melting and hunting is not possible. Furthermore, the warmer temperatures are having a negative impact on the food chain. Warmer sea temperatures result in reduced biomass of marine plants, thus depriving the smaller fish an important part of their diet. This deletion in food energy moves up the food chain through larger fish and seals, ultimately depriving polar bears. Malnourished bears are at greater risk from disease.

Other environmental impacts include changes in biodiversity as the tree line moves north and to lower altitudes and as alien plants from warmer climes invade the tundra. Alien creatures, such as the spruce bark beetle, destroy coniferous forests and impact negatively on the food chain. Finally, warmer temperatures will increase the incidence and extent of wildfires. Although, in the Arctic these events can be beneficial for some trees, frequent wildfires mean young saplings don't get the chance to mature and develop their natural resistance to fire.

For the Inuit groups living in the Arctic, warmer temperatures mean thinner ice which represents a danger to Inuit seal hunters and fishers. As fishing declines, the Inuit increase the hunting of caribou, which is resulting in a decline in their numbers. Food imported to supplement the Inuit diet is expensive.

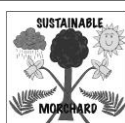
One benefit of climate change in the Arctic is the opening of the northern sea route, linking Europe to the Pacific and Asia. This is now ice-free for more weeks than the historical six weeks.

Paul Ticehurst

TOOTHBRUSH RECYCLING/REUSE

This container is in the cardboard recycling shed in the London Inn car park.

Little steps to BIG changes! Thank you.



Sustainable Morchard

Dates for the Diary:

Saturday March 1st 2025 Morchard Bishop Seed Swap in the village hall (see above).

Saturday May 3rd 2025 Morchard Bishop plant swap in the village hall.

All these events are free though donations on the day are most welcome.

Folk Tales Corner

Stories of Books of Tales of Fables



Sometimes looking for stories can become a quest in its own right. I mean who, having heard of their existence, could resist trying to get hold of a copy of "The Fables of Bidpai"?

A year or so back I was combing through an anthology of Classic Folk Tales From Around The World in search of any tales with bears in, when I came across "The Monkeys and The Bears", a tale from India which was not only perfect for my needs but unusually plotted, rich in character and graphically horrific. It was one of only four stories in this rather hefty tome extracted from the aforementioned Fables of Bidpai, itself a collection of tales apparently related to an ancient Indian king - the titular Bidpai - as a sort of course in moral philosophy. Obviously I wanted more.

The only problem was that my web searches could not find any existing copies of a complete text going for less than a couple of hundred pounds. I was not the only tale hound to have struggled to find this treasure trove either. The original Indian transcript was lost to time before the mid sixteen hundreds, so the earliest existing manuscript is an Arabic copy from 750 CE, which gives you some idea of the great antiquity of the stories themselves. Thankfully, by the time I was telling "The Monkeys And The Bears" as a late night after-show extra for friends in Cambridge and loudly bemoaning the un-attainable nature of the larger work, someone had created a company specifically targeted at people like me called "Forgotten Books" who specialise in reprinting hard to come by volumes. One of my audience did the necessary search and by the time I had returned the monkeys to their bear-free homelands, a reprint of "The Earliest English Version of The Fables Of Bidpai" was on order for me.

It's not an easy book to read. I'm nearly half way through and we have yet to start on the first of the fables. It is a reprint of an 1888 publication which is itself a facsimile of a version from 1570. This obviously gets a preface and an introduction telling the tale of how the publisher, none other than the famous folklorist Joseph Jacobs, hunted down the earlier work and, of course, as much of the story of that book's history as he could find. As he says "It is the English version of an Italian adaptation of a Spanish translation of a Latin version of a Hebrew translation of an Arabic adaptation of the Pehlevi version of the Indian original."

So after 90 odd pages we eventually reach the 1570 version by a Thomas North. He gives us his own personal note "To The Reader". Do we, now, finally get to the stories we came for? No. Obviously the original collection was an anthology and no good scribe could collate a compilation without some explanation, so naturally it starts with a lengthy prologue!

Not only is this prologue a little hard to read due to the inherent pomposity of all academic writers, it has the additional stodge of second hand self-importance through translation, marinated in the verbosity of the middle ages and, just to add some extra unpalatable spice, the brain melting typography of the early printing industry.

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This last layer of unintelligibility comes courtesy of the great expense, and therefore shortage of movable type, which caused early typesetters to substitute a letter they had run out of with another letter that looked similar.

Thus, the famous use of the letter 'f' to replace the letter 's', which we are all familiar with and can generally interpret fairly easily. Mr North's printers however, were prone to shortages of i, j, u, v and more, leading to spellings like "ivftly", for "justly", and worse. At some point I hope I will manage to read the actual fables, and maybe when I've done so I will be able to tell you some!

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

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Quiz night

**Saturday 29 March 2025
Victory Hall, Lapford**

7pm for a 7.30pm start

Teams of 6, £8 a person

Sausage roll, wedges & cakes

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Entries by 24 March to Sue Briant-Evans

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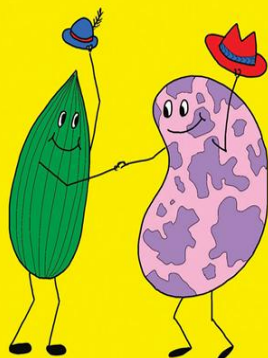
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Sustainable Morchard Seed Share



**Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall
Saturday 1st March
10.00-11.30**

Bring seeds ~ Take seeds
Unusual seed potatoes to try
Tools, Produce, Signwriting, Bird boxes
Get your tools sharpened
(Around a week turnaround for sharpening)
Alongside regular coffee morning

Morchard Weather

January started wet, with 70mm (just under 3 inches) of rain and finished wet with a similar amount. In between though, for about a fortnight, there was hardly any rain. Storms have come and gone with Elwyn and Herminia following Ashley, Bert and Darragh. Last season (23/24), we experienced 12 storms, the most in recent times, up to L for Lilian. So we might be in store for a few more yet this year.

January was mild though, with 14C or 57F being recorded on the 5th and quite a few sunny days and the January worldwide temperature was warmest on record, with further concerns being expressed about climate change.

February 1st was St Brigid's Feast, or the Celtic festival Imbolc, which traditionally marks the beginning of spring as it falls halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

In America they've had groundhog day, where by tradition, if the curiously named groundhog 'Punxsutawney Phil' emerges and sees its own shadow - which it did this year - then winter will continue for six more weeks - not good. However, at the moment we are receiving between two and three minutes per day additional daylight, meaning by the end of the month of February we have about one hour extra daylight.

Now that is positive!

Stephen Leese

Morchard Bishop W.I.

Reminiscence Project



Our February meeting was a departure from our usual format. Izzy spoke to us about a Reminiscence Project that is being undertaken by Crediton Library. This entails interviewing local people about their early lives and how things have changed over the years, so 21 of us sat in a circle and the results were fascinating.

One farmer's wife had met her husband in East Germany when the wall was still up. They were representing the Young Farmers Club of Great Britain and their hosts were amazed at the freedom we enjoyed in this country at that time. Another highly regarded member of the community has lived in Morchard Bishop all her life, which began on a farm in Roborough. When she was two years old her grandfather presented her with her very own Guernsey cow. When she was at school she noticed that a number of pupils would deliberately miss the bus so that they could have a day off. She tried this and was sitting in the kitchen when her grandfather walked in and, assessing the situation, said to her that she could spend her day off cleaning out the pigs and the hens. She never missed the school bus again. When she was around 12 years old she overheard a fellow pupil on the school bus say that her mother had given birth to a baby boy - little did she realise that one day she would marry that baby boy. Another much loved member was born in Manchester where she lived in a terraced house on a cobbled street. In the summer the tar between the cobbles would melt and the only thing that would clean it off was butter.

Our guest of honour used to be the headmistress of Morchard Bishop School around 40 years ago. She said that it was wonderful to be able to give the children spontaneous treats on the spur of the moment. Now, the children would need to take a form home for their parents to sign and they would miss out on that experience.

We have a rich mixture of members: a number of farmer's wives of course, and two ladies who have lived in Morchard Bishop for 66 years. They threw themselves into their community and in spite of bringing up children and going out to work they started clubs and a nursery. Someone that we all know as a hard working member of this community, surprised some of us when she said that she had attended boarding school in Rhodesia. Who knew that we had such an exciting diversity of memories between us, all with widely different starts in life and ending up sitting in a circle together at a WI meeting in 2025.

On February 15th we hosted one of our 3 coffee mornings and in the afternoon at 2pm we hosted the Devon WI quiz - results in the next Morchard Messenger. This year we only had 8 WI's participating in the quiz, whereas in the past we have had more than 20 teams squeezed into the hall.

Our March meeting will be a skittles taster session by courtesy of Sarah and Emma at the London Inn Skittle Alley, to take place at the usual meeting time of 2.30pm.

Sue Pluckwell

Over 60s' Luncheon & Get Together

The next Over 60's Luncheon at the London Inn will be on Wednesday 19th March at 12.30pm. The menu for this lunch will be Sausage & Mash with Onion Gravy & a Selection of Vegetables, followed by Bread & Butter Pudding with Custard, and tea and coffee.

The cost is £12.00 inclusive.

New members are very welcome to join in. If you would like to join in please fill in the slip below and return it to me by Tuesday 18th March 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



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Banana and raisin pancakes

These American style pancakes are a way of using up ripe bananas, and are good when buttered, or served with vanilla ice cream.

You will need:

One medium size ripe banana
One tablespoonful caster sugar
Two generous tablespoonfuls self-raising flour
One egg
One tablespoonful raisins
A few drops of vanilla extract

Mash the peeled banana with a fork and add the rest of the ingredients mixing thoroughly to make a thick batter. Heat a little oil in a frying pan and fry each tablespoonful of the batter until a rich golden brown on both sides.

This amount makes about eight pancakes.

Paul Cleave



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Crediton & District
Third Age Trust



Next Meeting:

19 March 2025

Italian Cooking from the Middle Ages

An illustrated talk by retired headmaster Richard Haigh

10:00-11:00 AM

Boniface Centre, Crediton

Cost: £2.00

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Countryfile

*You are brief and frail and blue-
Little sisters, I am, too.
You are Heaven's masterpieces-
Little loves, the likeness ceases.*

Sweet Violets by Dorothy Parker (1893-1967)

Sweet violets, or wood violets (*Viola odorata*) are easily told apart from the common dog violet cousins (*Viola Riviana*) by their key named quality: their sweet scent. Dog violets have no nose, completely unscented, lovely to look at but nothing to make gay the nose in a posy.

Ideally, since they don't last long when picked and they are far more useful still alive and able to seed, we are checking this scent from the flower still on the plant, which with the plant growing close to the woodland floor, can be tricky, but as it's often at woodland edges and up slight banks, there is hope.

Flowering from March through to May its 5 oval petals are usually a deep blue violet colour and though white or lilac coloured flowers can naturally occur, all stand out nicely against the small heart shaped, slightly hairy, deep green leaves.

Their increasing scarcity is quite possibly down to over picking, but if you can plant a few plants in your garden in a spot they like and resist picking, they will joyfully self-seed around the area, as well as spreading out the parent plant. So as long as conditions are right it will quite successfully come back with a better clump every year, finding new patches to settle in, naturalising nicely under trees and around the edges of borders.

The scent of violets is a sweet and unusual one; folklore said you could only smell them once as they would steal your sense of smell if you did. It sounds like an odd tale from the fairies, but it turns out that the ketone (beta ionone) found in violets and valuable in perfumery, is related to retinol production in some animals and does directly affect olfactory function, stimulating it and then temporarily shutting off function! Research into the effects of adding it to foodstuffs has shown that there are also genetic variations in how we perceive it. There is also much more interesting research out there about the ketone in this little flower!

Away from the science and wonder, though, the violets are still one of the most delicate, beautiful and yet familiar, little flowers.

Roses are red, violets are blue,
You can't smell beta ionone twice - it really is true!

Jo Coffey



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School News

Science, Music and a Farewell



As always, it has been a busy month at the school! The children have accessed a wide range of subject areas this half term but the music and science have really stood out as highlights for the children.



In Oak Class, the children have been looking at the circulatory system and exploring how to ensure that we are looking after our physical health. They have produced some fantastic non-fiction writing that is informing others of their findings. In other science lessons, Chestnut Class have been exploring rocks and fossils and have had lots of hands on experience to explore how different rock types are formed and Willow Class have been dissecting beans to understand how each part is essential to the growth of new plants.

Seeing the children so curious about the world around them is fantastic and will ensure that they continue to learn long beyond the classroom.

In music, the children have been learning to play the glockenspiel in Oak Class and the Tamboo Bamboo, a Caribbean instrument, in Willow. The children have really enjoyed getting to play different instruments and apply their skill to different beats and rhythms.

On a personal note, this will be my final contribution to the Morchard Messenger as the Academy Head of the school, before I move to other schools within the Link Academy in East Devon.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the children, staff and community in Morchard Bishop and am extremely proud of all that we have achieved together during my time at the school.



I am excited to see the continued success at the school and wish newly appointed Academy Head, Mrs Hannah Bancroft, all the best in her new role when she begins after Easter. Mrs Miners will lead the school in the interim period and ensure that the school continues to enable everyone to flourish.

Sam Butler

