



# THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

THE INDEPENDENT VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

[www.morchardbishop-pc.org.uk/morchard-messenger/](http://www.morchardbishop-pc.org.uk/morchard-messenger/)

No.355 JANUARY 2025

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

**The Morchard Bishop**

***Bonfire &  
Pulzar Laser Light Show  
Extravaganza***

*Thank you to our wonderful community  
for the great support*

**Sponsored by Morchard Bishop Parish Council**



## **JANUARY 2025 DIARY**



If you would like details of your event or meeting to appear in the **FEBRUARY** diary then please let Pauline Chater know by **JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup>** [cupaulinechater@gmail.com](mailto:cupaulinechater@gmail.com) or phone 01363 877096. You may also want to send in details of events you are planning in future months.

**St Mary's** All are welcome to our services

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Family Service 18.00 Joint Bible Study at Emmanuel

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Morning Worship

**Emmanuel**

All are welcome at our services. Morning Services start at 11.00 with coffee from 10.30.

Visit [www.emmanuel-morchard-bishop.org](http://www.emmanuel-morchard-bishop.org) for detailed information about services, Sunday School for primary aged children, youth clubs and other events. Joint Bible Study with St Mary's 18.00 at Emmanuel on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 18.00

### **Morchard Library: No January Book Swap. Next Swap 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Thur	2	12.00 –15.00	<b>Pennymoor Singaround Music &amp; Song</b>	London Inn
	2	19.30	<b>Morchard Bishop Sports &amp; Social Club opens</b>	MBSSC
Fri	3/10/17/24	13.30 -14.30	<b>Visiting Post Office</b>	Inside London Inn
	31 3	17.30 -19.00	<b>Max and Mike's Street Food</b>	War Memorial
Sat	4	10.00 -11.30	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Memorial Hall
	4/11/18/25	19.30	<b>Sustainable Morchard MBSSC Bar, Skittles, Darts, Pool</b>	MBSSC
Mon	6	19.30	<b>Parish Council – Budget, Precept, Emergency Plan</b>	Memorial Hall
	6/13/27	19.30	<b>Men's Skittles</b>	MBSSC
Tues	7/14/21/28	09.30-11.30	<b>Cafe Emmanuel</b>	Emmanuel
	7/14/21/29	14.15 -18.45	<b>Dove Dance Academy</b>	Lessons in Memorial Hall
	7/14/21/28	19.30	<b>Bridge</b>	MBSSC
	7/14/21/28	19.30	<b>Pool</b>	MBSSC

***Sponsored This Month by Morchard Bishop Parish Council***

Wed	8 8	12.30 19.30	<b>WI New Year Lunch</b> <b>Sustainable Morchard</b>	London Inn Memorial Hall
Thur	9/16/23/30  9 9/16/23/30 9/16/23/30 9/16/23/30 9/16/23/30	09.30-10.30  10.00 -15.00 15.45- 18.15 18.30 -19.30 19.30 -21.00 19.30	<b>Toddler Group - New Born to Age 4</b> <b>Can't Sew, Won't Sew</b> <b>Dove Dance Academy</b> <b>Pilates</b> <b>Samba Drum Practice</b> <b>Men's Darts</b>	Pre-School  Emmanuel – Shared Lunch Lessons in Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Memorial Hall MBSSC
Fri	10	19.00	<b>Prime Youth Club – Primary Age</b>	Emmanuel
Sat	11	09.30 -11.30	<b>Produce and Table Top Sale</b> <b>Coffee Morning</b>	Memorial Hall
Mon	13/20/27	09.00 -10.00 10.10 -11.10	<b>Basic to Intermediate Pilates</b> <b>Basic to Intermediate Pilates</b>	Memorial Hall:Contact Becky ivegotyourback@gmail.com
Wed	15  15/22/29 15	12.30  17.30 -19.00 19.30	<b>Over Sixties Lunch</b>  <b>Brownies</b> <b>Tractor Club</b>	London Inn: To book a place contact Mandy 877459 mandytapp@talk21.com Memorial Hall Memorial Hall
Thur	16	19.30	<b>Ladies' Skittles</b>	Memorial Hall
Fri	17	19.30	<b>Edge Youth Club – Year &amp; upwards</b>	Emmanuel
Sat	18	10.00 -11.30	<b>Coffee Morning - Brownies</b>	Memorial Hall
Sat	25	1000 -11.30	<b>Coffee Morning – Bowling Club</b>	Memorial Hall

**FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

**\* Weds 8 February: Morchard Library Book Swap**

**\*Sustainable Morchard: Tuesday 18 February Talk about Swifts -Edward Jackson**

**Saturday Coffee Mornings: 1 March – Seed Swap 3 May -Plant Swap**

**\*Football Club: 1 March Comedy Evening – Johnny Cowling**

## NOTICEBOARD

### Bus service 369

#### Outwards:

**Morchard Bishop (Greenaway):** 7.20  
(7.30 Sat), 9.45, 11.45, 13.45, 16.05

**Arrive: Crediton Train Station/  
Redlands:** 8.00 ((8.07 Sat), 10.21,  
12.21, 14.21, 16.41

**Exeter RD&E:** 8.40, 17.13  
**Sidwell St (stop 40):** 8.30, 10.43,  
12.43, 14.43, 17.03

#### Return:

**Exeter RD&E:** 17.20  
**Sidwell St (Stop 40):** 8.50, 10.50,  
12.50, 15.10, 17.30

**Crediton Train Station/ Redlands:** 9.07,  
11.07, 13.07, 15.27, 17.47

### **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](mailto:jo_eames@hotmail.com)  
01363 877407

**General - Contact Anton Heal**  
[antonheal@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:antonheal@yahoo.co.uk)  
07970 227753

**Produce / table top booking –**  
Contact Jo Trask  
[jotrask@icloud.com](mailto:jotrask@icloud.com)  
01363 877381  
or **Robert Moore** 07455 896589  
[robert@lydcottnursery.co.uk](mailto:robert@lydcottnursery.co.uk)

### MORCHARD BISHOP

### SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

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

#### JANUARY OPENING TIMES

**MONDAYS – 6<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> – MEN'S  
SKITTLES.**

**TUESDAYS – ALL DATES POOL & BRIDGE  
FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.**

**WEDNESDAYS – 22ND LADIES' DARTS.**

**THURSDAYS – 2<sup>ND</sup> CLUB RE-OPEN, 9<sup>TH</sup>,  
16<sup>TH</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup> MEN'S DARTS, 16<sup>TH</sup>  
LADIES' SKITTLES.**

**FRIDAYS – ALL DATES CLOSED.**

**SATURDAYS – NORMAL OPENING  
HOURS FROM 7.30 PM.**

**SUNDAYS – CLOSED**

**WE HOPE YOU ALL HAD A PEACEFUL  
CHRISTMAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO  
WELCOMING YOU IN 2025. NEW  
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**JULIE 07851 582286**

### **Church Street Stores**

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Saturday: 8.30am- 2pm

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**Matthew & Clare**

### **Copy for Publication in THE MORCHARD MESSENGER**

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

**15<sup>th</sup> January 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  
letters.

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Hard copy may also be delivered to  
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Adverts up to ½ page are £5 a month

Adverts up to ¼ page are £7 a month

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

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



**LETTERS – MESSAGES – ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**St Mary's Church**

Richard Kapff's letter in the December issue prompted me to think about what the Church of St Mary means to me, and how it could continue to be relevant today.

I am not a church worshipper but have lived in the Parish since 2008 and love the church. Much of its value for me lies in its continuity and place in the landscape - the clock chiming the hours, its history and the peace and calm of walking through the churchyard looking at the memorials of departed families and ancestors of villagers, or sitting near the church door looking over towards Dartmoor. The church also holds some wonderful treasures that are both interesting and historically important. These include the pulpit, the screen, the 18<sup>th</sup> century sanctuary – a rarity - and the late medieval monument – another relative rarity for its period. There is also a fascinating history that includes a meteor strike in the early 1950s, plus the joy of seeing the church decked out at certain times of the year. Last, but not least, there is the atmosphere of tranquility and welcome that greets you when you walk through the door, whoever you are and whatever your creed. In these aspects alone, to me it is a very important part of village life.

I'm sure there will be many others in the village who will have their own associations with St Mary's that are not necessarily related to formal worship and I think that with the appropriate facilities, in addition to its services, St Mary's could hold many activities that tie-in to its broader mission as part of the life of the parish. Historically churches have, for centuries, played host to fairs, rituals and customs that are relevant both to the church year and to its role in the wider community. Modern church events and activities could provide an opportunity for a contemporary take on some of these, as people are becoming more aware of customs and 'heritage' skills that we are losing. Skills events linked to the church calendar could provide the opportunity for activities around the traditional services, such as Harvest festival workshops to learn skills like flower arranging, basket weaving, baking, open to everyone. The Christmas period could be a time to offer wreath-making/festive crafts to be displayed in the church at Christmas, perhaps in the way that the poppy appeal garnered support for Remembrance Sunday. Equally, events and workshops can be themed around aspects of the church fabric, such as the stained glass/screen/memorials.

The history and functional aspects of churches also make them atmospheric places for events such as concerts and music evenings and St Mary's could make a great space for exhibitions. Activities that have worked well for other institutions are hosting memory posts, where people are invited to record and share their memories, in this instance perhaps of living and worshipping in Morchard. These are then archived for posterity, and would add to the rich history of the church and the wider history of the village.

I think the restoration offers an exciting opportunity to hold new activities in the church that would be enjoyable and engaging ensuring the church maintains its relevancy to contemporary village life.

**Chris Fauch**

**PARKINSON'S UK CHARITY**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Parkinson's Charity during Richard's year as President of the Bowling Club.

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and money, especially Gill, who worked tirelessly collecting prizes and looking after the financial side.

Richard was able to send £450 to Parkinson's UK.

**Thank you all**

**Mandy Tapp**

**Pennymoor Singarounds**

The daytime (noon till 3 pm) folk music and song sessions that Pennymoor Singaround run for 10 months of the year on the first Thursday (missing out August and December), which takes place in the bar of The London Inn, is planned to continue in 2025.

From January 16<sup>th</sup> 2025 Pennymoor Singaround will also be running their evening Singarounds in Morchard Bishop, these will be in the Skittle alley of The London Inn, and will run every month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

Both events are open to non-members and regularly attended by a very friendly and easy-going crowd, all welcome.

**Jon Shapley**

Chairman of Pennymoor Singaround.



**Our Amazing Swifts**  
A presentation by Edward Jackson

**Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall**  
**Tuesday 18th February**  
**Doors open at 7.00 pm**  
**for refreshments.**  
**Talk starts at 7.30 pm**

**Organised by Sustainable Morchard**

**TODDLER GROUP**  
At Morchard Bishop Pre-School

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**1:00pm - 3:00pm - OPEN TO ALL**

**Entry £1**

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**HOW IT WORKS ..**

**Bring**

..unwanted clothes, in good clean condition, drop off between 11:30am - 1:00pm (keep your tickets!)

**Swapping**

.. begins at 1:00pm Take away one item for every one you bring, (exchange ticket) plus buy extra items for just £1 each

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Morchard Bishop WI

## **A Festive Feast**

Our December meeting was a Christmas social. Tables and chairs were set out, and Wendy brought bags of foliage, candles, ribbon and secateurs so that we could attempt to make either a wreath or a table decoration. Some of the creations were of a really high standard. Wendy said that she gathered the foliage while walking her dog, but she must have used a tractor and trailer to collect so much, probably helped by storm Darrah.

Hilda, as she always does at Christmas, provided us with a magnificent raffle with many splendid prizes, and we thank her for her generosity. She even read a festive poem. We laid out all the cards to each other on a large table, which we later used for a bring and share tea with a Christmas theme. This was accompanied by mulled wine, and Wendy made some delicious spiced apple juice. All in all, a very enjoyable start to the holiday.

Our January meeting will be a New Year celebration at the London Inn. You know us by now, any excuse to eat.

Sue Pluckwell



# **MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB**

## **Division 4 Devon & Exeter Football League**



### **January Fixtures**

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

### **November Results**

November 16<sup>th</sup> Elmore 0      Morchard Bishop 5  
(Chris Andrews 2 Samuel Rice 1 Alan Woodcock 1)

November 30<sup>th</sup> St Martins 1      Morchard Bishop 5  
Chris Andrews 2 Adam Leat 1 Tony Radford 1 Billy Conabeare 1)

**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](http://www.defleague.co.uk)

Facebook Morchard Bishop Football Club or the  
Football Club noticeboard.

**Please support your local team.**

**We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our supporters and sponsors a very Happy and Healthy New Year. See you all in 2025.**

**M.B.F.C**

## **The Reminiscence Project**

Did you know that Crediton Library are building a collection of memories from people living in Mid Devon? The Reminiscence Project volunteers chat with people at the library, in their own homes, at care homes and anywhere else people feel comfortable. These chats can be about any memories you'd like to share. Typically, we start at childhood and move through key life events, but if there are specific things you'd like to talk about, we'd love to hear them! The chats are audio recorded, transcribed and added to an online collection for everyone to enjoy.

As part of the project, the library also runs a free 'Drop In' on the first Tuesday morning of each month. People can drop by for a chat and a good reminisce. There is usually a set theme to get us started, but conversations can veer off anywhere!

If you would like to sit down over a cuppa with one of our volunteers, to preserve and share your life experiences, or if you are part of a group who would be interested in trying a Reminiscence Group session, get in touch at [crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) or call 01393 772578.

This project has been made possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



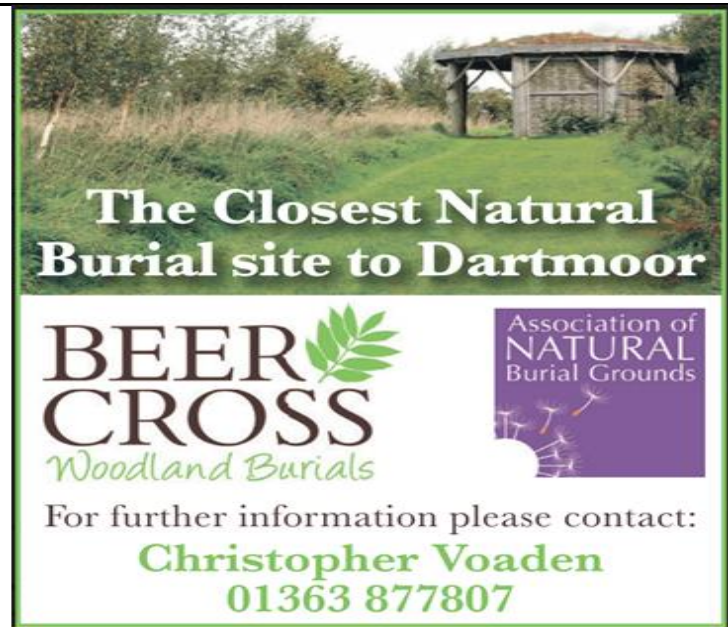
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## **Brucellosis in dogs. What do I need to know?**

### **What is it?**

Brucellosis was eradicated from cattle in Britain back in the late 1970's. More recently, a canine version of the bacterial disease has been seen in dogs imported from abroad, often rescue dogs. In 2023, there were 43 positive cases.

### **What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms may not always be obvious, but include still births or miscarriages in breeding dogs and infertility. The symptoms are almost all related to the reproductive organs of the infected dogs, although other signs, such as premature ageing, swollen lymph nodes, difficulty walking and eye and kidney infections can be observed.

### **How is it spread?**

Like many bacterial diseases, it is spread by close contact with infected dogs, often during breeding and mating. In the UK, most cases involve imported dogs – either dogs imported directly from abroad or dogs in close contact with imported dogs.

### **Am I at risk?**

Canine brucellosis can spread to humans but is exceedingly rare. Vets and dog breeders are most at risk.

### **Treatment**

Brucellosis in dogs is very difficult to treat. Antibiotics may help, but no treatment is 100% effective. Sadly, the most common way of dealing with this disease is to put the dog down. There is currently no vaccine.

### **Which countries are we talking about?**

Canine brucellosis regularly occurs in southern USA, Mexico, Central and South America. Asia, especially China, also has a relatively high occurrence. **In Europe**, countries of concern include Romania, Belarus, Russia, Moldova among others.

### **What do I need to do?**

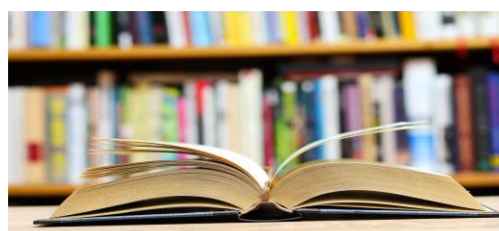
The vast majority of dog owners need do nothing, especially if their dogs have not been imported or have not been mated with imported dogs. If you are concerned, see your local vet. The disease is notifiable to the Animal and Plant Health Agency. Puppies imported to the UK through legal channels go through an extremely rigorous testing programme and must meet stringent health standards, although testing for brucellosis is not compulsory.

Unfortunately, many dogs are imported illegally into this country each year and these are at risk of carrying the disease. If you are considering buying a dog from abroad, please do make adequate enquiries into the origin of the puppy and ensure it is tested for brucellosis before you buy.

## **Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall**

# **BOOKSWAP**

**THE NEXT BOOK SWAP WILL BE WEDNESDAY  
5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 3pm - 4.30pm**



**We have a selection of new books and lots of children's books.**

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## **News from your Parish Council**

**The Parish Council wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year**

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

The Parish Council spent £492.77 from the main account and £31.50 from its Reserve account. Items of expenditure over £100 were £126 for the room hire for Council meetings for July to December, £126.36 for the planting of the Parish Planters and £106.80 for software to run the Parish Website calendar.

The Parish Council considered one planning application that was supported:

24/01680/CAT	Notification of intention to fell 5 Lawson Cypress trees (G!) within a Conservation Area.	6 Corner Close, Morchard Bishop
--------------	---	---------------------------------

A busy evening for the Parish Council when they dealt with a lot of standard items such as correspondence requesting grants and passing on information including information about Brucellosis in Dogs – a separate article has been placed elsewhere in this magazine. The Parish Council are exploring how best to mend the various finger posts that have broken around the village. Work continues on refurbishment of the War Memorial Area and towards setting up an on-line Calendar to list all village events. The Parish Council also finalised arrangements for lighting the tree and the Nativity in the Bus Shelter over Christmas – we hope that you all enjoyed the display.

The major item of business was to consider next year's budget and the precept that we will need to make to allow the Parish Council to continue its work. There was much debate about the level that should be asked for against the services that the Parish Council were able to deliver. The end result was a split vote in favour of raising the precept next year by 6%. At their January meeting the Council would confirm the budget for next year.

The Parish Council also considered the various initiatives they were working on: Apple Day would again happen next year, some printed maps of village walks would be produced, Broadband provision, Roads and the Road Warden scheme and Electric Vehicle Charging. We reflected on the success of the Village Bonfire and Laser Light Extravaganza this year and are now considering a different village event to be held some time next year. – If you have any thoughts on an event you would like to happen next year then please get in touch with the clerk or any of the Parish Councillors and pass on 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](mailto:clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk)

**David Parker**  
*Parish Clerk*

### **Ice and Snow Wardens**

**Ice / Snow Wardens wanted for Greenaway and Rectory Gardens.**

**– if anyone would like to offer their services please contact the Clerk to the Council. David Parker:**

**01363 877008 / 07794 362591**

**[clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk)**

**Road Closure – Chulmleigh Road** will be closed by South West Water between 13 and 17 January and again between 10 and 14 February.

**Parish Footpaths and Bridleways** – If you spot a problem with a public right of way, please contact [clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk) to let the team know where and what the problem is.

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## Gardening tips for January



- Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
- Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
- Remember to leave your habitat piles of twigs and leaves for beneficial insects.
- Disperse worm casts in lawns
- Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rots or drying out
- Prune apple and pear trees
- Start forcing rhubarb
- Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
- Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
- Make a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect against peach leaf curl

Jo Coffey



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COMMITTEE PRESENTS

# A QUIZ Evening

FRIDAY  
JANUARY 31st  
IN

## The Victory Hall

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A Hot Pasty Supper  
(vegetarian option available)  
with Cake

Bring your own booze or  
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for a 7-30p.m. start

To book a team please email  
[sue.briantevans@lapfordparishcouncil.org](mailto:sue.briantevans@lapfordparishcouncil.org)  
Or phone 01363 83763  
by Monday 23rd January.

## The Peoples' Champion!



We have flagged up most pre-Christmas topics; how to budget and not get carried away, being mindful of energy costs and priority payments, being aware of scams... It's probably a safe bet to think what the main problems are going to be for people in the New Year – but perhaps not – maybe other problems will rear their heads, who knows?

Up to the end of November this year, we had helped 10,681 people with 37,067 problems resulting in an uplift in household income of £9,903,474 since 1st April 2024. We shall continue to do what we have always done; give free, impartial, non-judgemental advice and help in total confidence to whoever needs it. We will also continue to campaign for social justice lobbying to make society fairer. The same as we have done for the past 85 years.

We are continually working to make our services more accessible, meanwhile there is a wealth of information on our website [www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk) including our office opening hours, and links to specific areas of advice as well as employment opportunities with our Charity. Our offices close between Christmas and New Year and whilst we will return to work on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, our offices won't open until 4th. January.

As a charity, we need to raise funds to enable us to continue our work and as ever, we need to recruit more volunteers to help us; we are conscious of the fact that we are unable to meet demand for our services.

We are participating in the Christmas Tree Festival in Barnstaple Parish Church and we shall be taking the volunteer experience as our theme so if you are in town, pop in and take a look and if you are inspired to come and join us, check out Opportunities - Rural Devon Citizen's Advice ([www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk/opportunities](http://www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk/opportunities)) for more information.

If anyone is a part of a local group that might like to know more about the work that we do and ways in which we can be supported, do please email [rosanna.teale@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk](mailto:rosanna.teale@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk) it would be lovely to hear from you.

Equally, if any local organisations would like to support us by raising funds or adopting us as the charity of choice, that email address is your first port of call.

Let's enjoy the festive period in our own way and look forward to a new year that brings us the best we hope for.

### Poem of the Month

## Death Watch

*"Out of the crooked timber of humanity, no straight thing was ever made" - Immanuel Kant.*

But their straight bones, steadfast  
on their wooden chairs, would not agree:  
their words true as they could make them,  
stubborn, rejecting the easing slant.  
His Word too of course, the underpinning breath  
of meaning, the light of light shining through  
their plain glass; deeds would follow like cows to the parlour,  
the Word master of all things.

But then, an anarchy of weeds (brambles, docks) spread  
in the fields, a response. A destructive infestation  
gnawed at the fragile timbers of life;  
the straight bones became entangled in a web  
of indecision and make-belief, and new words  
spun their twisted contents out towards the stars.

Colin Crewdson



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## Morchard's Weather – over the years

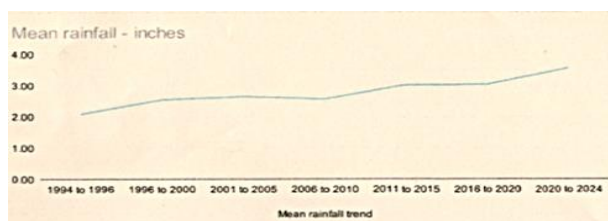
Tony Sparrow has been going out most mornings for the last 30 years to record the rainfall. He has built up a sizeable database which reveals astonishing facts about the rainfall in Morchard Bishop over the years.

The graph below shows annual rainfall in inches from 1994 to the present day. You can see the gradual increase over that time period, which equates to a 41.5% increase. The lowest annual recording was in 1996 at 18 inches (457mm) and the wettest year was last year – 2023, at 47.8 inches (1214mm).



Looking at the average monthly rainfall also shows interesting facts. From the table below, Tony has developed a graph showing the mean rainfall trend from 1994 to the present day.

Mean monthly rainfall trend (inches)		
	Inches	mm
1994 to 1996	2.09	53
1996 to 2000	2.58	65
2001 to 2005	2.66	68
2006 to 2010	2.58	65
2011 to 2015	3.03	77
2016 to 2020	3.05	77
2020 to 2024	3.57	91



This again shows the clear increase in average monthly rainfall in our area, going from 2.09 inches (53mm) per month in the two years 1994-1996, up to 3.57 inches (91mm) per month in the years 2020 to 2024, an increase of over 70%.

Many thanks to Tony for sharing this rather unique data set with us.

And we possibly should be grateful that Morchard Bishop lies on higher ground...

**Stephen Leese**



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### Monthly session schedule:

\*Tuesday nights: 19:00 – 20:00 hrs - yoga flow

\*1st Monday of every month, 18:00 - 19:00 - deep relaxation soundbath

\*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

**Please visit our website for details of special events we have coming up, or get in touch to be added to our WhatsApp group for notifications:**

**Phone & WhatsApp:** 07534 317742 - **Email:** [Liane@thebuddhabarnltd.co.uk](mailto:Liane@thebuddhabarnltd.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.buddhabarnltd.co.uk](http://www.buddhabarnltd.co.uk)

**J.S. BACH**

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Niall Anderson (Christus)  
Alice Beverley  
Carolyn Harries  
Tom Harrington  
Philip Lancaster

Directed by Tina Guthrie

**Saturday 15 February 2025, at 6.00pm**  
**Crediton Parish Church**  
Tickets from Crediton Arts Centre: £12  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/creditonartscentre/st-john-passion](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/creditonartscentre/st-john-passion)  
Children/students: FREE

In support of Second Sight (charity no.1080445)  
There will be a retiring collection.

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## Unpaid carers event in Exeter

If you look after an adult who couldn't manage without your support, Devon Carers is there to offer you support, advice and information.

They can also arrange for you to have a Carers Assessment, which is an important opportunity to discuss your caring situation and identify any needs that you may have so that additional assistance can be provided if necessary.

They're holding an event at the Nightingale Hospital in Exeter on Monday 9 December from 1pm until 4pm where you can pop in and find out more about the support they offer unpaid carers.

[Visit the Devon Carers website for more information about their services.](#)



## Meet your local officers

Local officers will be at Crediton Library on Thursday 16th January 2025 from 10.30-11.30am.

Please come along to ask any questions or ask for advice relating to policing matters. We will be happy to see you.

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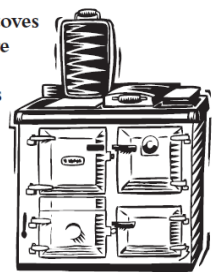
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## **MORCHARD BISHOP PRE-SCHOOL**

Set in the heart of the village, this early years setting offers a fun-filled approach to pre-school education for children aged 2-4 years.

Situated in the grounds of Morchard Bishop Primary School, this purpose-built facility also has access to fantastic outdoor space, and regular visits to school ensure smooth transition to the reception class.

OPEN

9.00am - 3.30pm, Monday - Friday

For full details and to arrange a visit call us on 01363 877328

[www.morchardbishop.thelink.academy](http://www.morchardbishop.thelink.academy)



## **Toddler Group**

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For ages newborn to 4

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- All-ages toys
- Arts and crafts
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**Please note our new e-mail address:**  
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[www.morchardbishop.thelink.academy](http://www.morchardbishop.thelink.academy)

Morchard Bishop C of E Primary School  
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Credon, Devon EX17 6PJ

**Tel - 01363 877328**

### Countryfile

**"Avoset. Der. from the Ferrarese Avosetta or Avocetta, probably literally a graceful bird (dim. of Lat. avis). The name occurs in Willughby (1678) as the "Avosetta of the Italians.""**

-Swann, H. Kirke (1913). [A dictionary of English and folk-names of British Birds](#)

The Avocet is not just a great local beer, and the symbol of the RSPB, it's also a good news story of conservation.

It is still scarce and listed as a bird of conservation concern rated amber, and protected under the wildlife and countryside act 1981, but the avocet, or *Recurvirostra avosetta*, was once extinct in the UK. Habitat destruction (by people) and egg and skin collectors put paid to the once healthy population. Back in the 19th century the blue legged, black and white plumaged, pied avocet was totally lost to the UK.



Pic: Devon Wildlife Trust

The second world war saw East Anglian beaches being closed and flooded, returning them to salt marshes as an invasion defence, which then allowed a few avocets to return from mainland Europe and tentatively populate the area. Their return was supported by monitoring and protection of the birds by some of those who went on to form the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds or RSPB.

There are 4 species of avocet around the world, here in the UK we see *R. avosetta* with the other three each being native to North America, South America and Australasia. The genus name *Recurvirostra* is derived from the Latin 'recurvus' meaning bent or curved back, and 'rostrum' which is bill.

All of them are long legged waders with, unsurprisingly, an upcurved bill they use to sift for their diet of tiny aquatic life. They enthusiastically defend their nests from other birds even though it is just an indentation in the ground lined with a bit of grass; it is still the precious home for their 3 or 4 mottled brown and black eggs.

Whilst just shy of 2,000 birds breed predominantly in the east of the country, in winter the country holds nearer 9,000 birds and they populate further afield including the coast of the south west. Wherever there are mud flats, marshes and estuaries providing pools for them to feed in they are returning. In June 2023 the first breeding avocets in Devon since the 19th Century hatched their first chick at Seaton, so whilst they can now be found in Devon year round, the deep winter is still the best time of year to see good numbers of the in their beautiful pied glory.

**Jo Coffey**

## **Sustainable Morchard**

Here are some dates for the new year:

Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 in the village Hall. A talk about Swifts by Edward Jackson  
Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 Morchard Bishop seed swap in the village hall.  
Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025 Morchard Bishop plant swap in the village hall.

All these events are free though donations on the day are most welcome.  
More information will follow nearer the day.



## **Azyut to Wolf Town**

If we go back to Ancient Egypt in 3,100 B.C.E. (that's 5,100 years ago) it was not called Egypt. The region was a series of separate city-states or "Nomes", generally referred to by historians as The Nomes of Egypt. (Not with a G, with an N. The Gnomes Of Egypt are a heavy metal band). The 13th Nome was the city-state of Azyut. There they worshipped Wapwawet, a wolf headed god. (Having to pronounce names like this are why I don't drink until after the performance).



If you will permit me a slight digression: whilst performing this story at the Castle Tap in Reading, I had just said "a wolf-headed god" when the door opened and a bloke walked in wearing a wolf head mask. The whole audience roared with laughter. "Ladies and gentlemen" I continued smoothly, "the God, Wapwawet!", which confused the guy in the mask quite a lot. He was just wearing it because it was Halloween.



Where were we? Oh yes, in Azyut. At that time the Ethiopians had one of those moments, as nations sometimes do, where they went a bit mad and decided they were going to take everybody else's stuff, so they got heavily tooled up, came northward out of Ethiopia and raged through the Nomes of Egypt, besieging nomes on each side. As they were coming through the mountains a little way outside the city of Azyut, the god Osiris went against them. I'm not quite sure what Wapwawet was up to, god stuff of some sort, but it was Osiris who faced the marauders, apparently on his own. Osiris stood before the ranged hordes of barbaric Ethiopians who laughed and said,

"Yeah? You and whose army?"

Osiris was just thinking, "Actually, I might be a god but there are an awful lot of them!". When at that moment, out of the mountains, regiments of wolves came to Osiris' aid and fought against the invaders.

It was a long battle, it was a hard battle, it was a vicious and savage battle. But at the end of it the Ethiopians turned and fled,

"AAAAaaahhh! Wolves!"

Osiris was so grateful to the wolves that he gave a boon to both survivors and casualties. Those who had lost their lives in the conflict he had mummified and buried in tombs, so that they could reuse their bodies in the afterlife even as human beings do (or at least did in ancient not-yet-Egypt). To those wolves who had survived the conflict he gave the ability to transform themselves and become human whenever they wished.

Afterwards the city Azyut was renamed Lycopolis, which translates as Wolf Town. Or possibly, Wolverhampton.

This story, by the way, is the very earliest written reference to werewolves or human/wolf transformation. A bonus 'Ooooh!' point for this story is that when archaeologists went to dig the tombs near the 13th Nome they found mummified wolves!

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

**The Travelling Talesman**  
[www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk](http://www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk)



**Crediton's community-owned bookshop has big bold ideas in store -  
Hard times on the High Street but The Bookery is determined to grow**

New Community Share Offer

In 2025 The Bookery will celebrate 12 years trading and work benefitting the wider community. The support of our customers, volunteers, shareholders and many local organisations has been critical to the success of the business.

We want to build on that support to:

- # Deliver more community benefit activities including working with schools, older people, families and staging events
- # Engage with more people, gain more members/shareholders and deepen our connection to our community.
- # Develop and invest in the business to increase the surplus from trading to support more work in the community.

As a community business we are permitted to sell Community Shares. We did this in 2012 to raise some capital in order to set up Crediton Community Bookshop (now trading as The Bookery). Shareholders are members of our society (we are a Community Benefit Society) and can have a say in the running of the business.

Our business model is to sell new books, try to generate a surplus, use that surplus, together with the huge energy and commitment that our volunteers bring backed up by our business systems, knowledge and reputation to deliver highly valued community outreach activities.

In order to develop the business and increase our reach within Crediton and the surrounding area we need some capital and that is why we are seeking some new investment. Our target is £40,000.

The sort of things we could do that would strengthen the business and lead to more outreach are:

- Invest in outreach development and grant funding generation
- Increase staffing to assist in delivery of outreach activities
- Increase the quality of resources utilised for outreach activities.

We plan to develop the business to generate more surplus by:

- Improving lighting, signage and display in the bookshop
- Increasing resources to revitalise online book sales
- Investing in software to analyse sales data
- Building our capacity and use of social media to reach more and different people
- Upgrading the kitchen and social area of the Hub

The share offer is open now and will close on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Shares are priced at £20 with a maximum investment of 400 shares.

The share offer prospectus and full business plan is available to potential investors via our website [www.thebookery.org.uk/shareoffer](http://www.thebookery.org.uk/shareoffer)



**Forthcoming events**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Theatre:           Baggage Collection**

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A Brown Paper Bag Production

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**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

**Music:           Caoilfhionn Rose**

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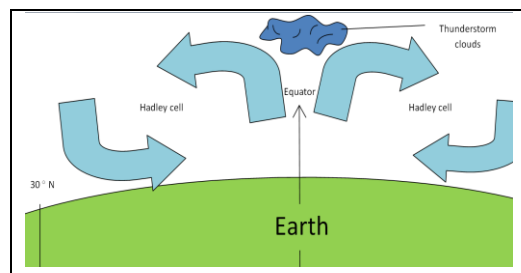
## **It Ain't Half Hot, Mum!**

Last month's article examined the taiga, one of the Earth's coldest biomes, this month looks at the hottest biomes - tropical ones.

There are three tropical biomes, they are all hot: tropical rainforest, savanna grassland and hot deserts. The differentiating feature is rainfall. Tropical rainforests have rain all year round; deserts have little or no rain (<250mm pa); and savanna grasslands have seasonal rain or a wet season. Deserts are defined solely by their lack of rain, not temperature or even sand. Antarctica and the Arctic are cold deserts. It doesn't snow that often in these environments, it's just that the snow that has fallen over the last hundreds of thousands of years has never melted.

The explanation for these three tropical climate zones and their differing rainfall is to be found in the global atmospheric circulation. The hot temperatures can be easily explained by their low latitude. Places near the Equator experience hot daytime temperatures because the sun assumes a high angle in the sky; unlike higher latitudes such as Arctic places where the sun is only ever just above the horizon.

Between the Equator and the North Pole there are three major (air circulation) cells – the Hadley Cell, the Ferrel Cell and the Polar Cell. In each cell the air goes round in circles, albeit squashed circles, rising at one side, spreading north or south at high altitudes, falling the other side and then returning to its starting point at ground level, thereby describing a squashed circle. These three cells are mirrored by three cells in the southern hemisphere.



The cell of interest in the case of tropical climates is the Hadley Cell. At, and near to the Equator, the sun is directly or almost directly overhead all year round. The radiation of the sun heats the ground which in turn heats the air at low levels. This heated air expands, rises and cools. The cooling effect of altitude makes the water vapour condense into raindrops which fall, usually in the afternoon as heavy downpours, often accompanied by thunder (convectonal rainfall). Having risen, this air is pushed north and south of the Equator by the next batch of rising air. The air continues moving north and south, cooling as it does so. As it cools it contracts and becomes more dense. Being heavier than the surrounding air this cool, heavy air sinks back to the ground. This takes place between 15 and 30 degrees north (and south) of the Equator. As the air sinks it warms up and evaporates any water droplets that may appear as clouds. The clouds evaporate giving blue skies and no rain. It is between these latitudes that (hot) deserts can be found. The fallen air is now sucked back along the ground. Cells such as these can occur on smaller scales anywhere on the Earth's surface. It is this movement of air that gives us wind (medics may disagree, but context is all).

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This account explains why rainforests are wet and deserts dry, but not the seasonal rainfall of the savanna. Due to the tilt of the Earth's axis the sun appears to move north and south during the year. It is this movement that gives us our seasons and it is this movement that gives the savanna its wet season.

As the sun moves north (April - June) it takes with it the band of convectonal rain. As the sun moves back towards the Equator (July - Sept.) and into the southern hemisphere ((Oct - Dec) it takes the band of rain with it. These bands are wide, so those areas experiencing rain all year, despite this migration of the sun, are rainforests; those areas receiving rain for part of the year are savanna, and those receiving none are deserts.

To be continued

**Paul Ticehurst**



## **Over 60s' Luncheon & Get Together**

The next Over 60's Luncheon at the London Inn will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30pm. The menu for this lunch will be Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes & Vegetables, followed by Apple Crumble and Custard, and tea/ 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 14<sup>th</sup> January or email me at [mandytapp@talk21.com](mailto: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**



**Lapford  
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## Vegetable casserole

This is a way to use up any excess Christmas vegetables

1 400g tin Butter beans  
1 400g tin chopped tomatoes  
4 oz(100g) celery  
8 oz (200g) carrots  
8oz (200g) celeriac  
4oz (100g) mushrooms  
8oz (200g) swede  
2 red onions  
garlic, paprika, a tablespoonful tomato puree, a bay leaf  
2 tablespoonfuls olive oil.  
Peel and wash the root vegetables and cut into bite size chunks.  
Slice the washed celery and mushrooms.  
Gently heat the olive oil in a large saucepan and add the vegetables, with a clove of crushed garlic, stirring well.  
Add the butter beans, chopped tomatoes, tomato puree, and a teaspoonful of sweet or smoked paprika.  
Bring to the boil, season with salt and pepper, add the bay leaf, pour into a casserole.  
Cook in a moderate oven until the vegetables are tender.  
Serve with crusty bread, jacket, or mashed potatoes.

Paul Cleave



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## Geoff Thatcher

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## Crediton & District Third Age Trust



Next Meeting:  
**15<sup>th</sup> January 10 am**  
Traditional Folksongs of Devon  
Talk by Jim Causley on the folksongs of Devon  
and the surrounding area  
The Boniface Centre, Crediton

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## **BUS TALK – More Morchard Memories from Ian Sterrett**

My mother moved to a thatched cottage in Morchard Bishop in 1956 and I was born a year later. I am told that at the time my mother and my older brother took up residence there were 8 buses daily between Morchard Bishop and Exeter; 5 were double-decker services between Morchard Bishop and Exeter, and 3 single-deckers worked through to & from Witheridge on route 96.

I have to confess, though, that my earliest recollections were that we had one double decker service from the village to Exeter which we called the “early workers’ bus”. It left Morchard at 07:30 and got you to Exeter Bus Station at around 08:25, giving any office or shop worker ample time to get to their place of work. I still have recollections of the old Paul Street Bus Station and waiting in the biting cold for a seemingly endless shuffling of buses and coaches until ours was able to pull up in front of the stand.

The other single decker services were operated from Witheridge to Exeter at 09:30 and 13:45. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, there was an afternoon service operated by an Albion Nimbus to Crediton via Sandford and New Buildings and on Saturday nights, we had an extra bus from Exeter to Witheridge so the locals could enjoy a night out on the town!

The double-decker service was operated by an Exeter crew who then worked a “2” service to Newton Abbot. That was of interest because, joy of joys, on a summer day we might catch this one and stay on the bus all the way to Dawlish for a day by the sea! The three services to/from Witheridge were operated by drivers based at Witheridge (under Tiverton’s supervision). There were, to my knowledge, two or three Devon General buses parked overnight in the Town Square – our own “96” service, the Witheridge – Tiverton service (Route Number escapes me) and the “98” service which operated Exeter – Witheridge via Cruwys Morchard and Rackenford and, to my delight, was usually in the hands of a four-cylinder Bedale-Commer vehicle.

Out of the handful of regular “Witheridge men” on the route, I am ashamed to say I only remember the name of one, yet I can still picture the faces of each. We had “Steady Stanley Beer”, who lived over to Black Dog and supplemented his wages by doing cheap haircuts for us schoolboys, liberally plastering our heads with Brylcreem afterwards! Affectionately known as “Bungee Beer” (something to do with his wartime army service), his bus never exceeded the prescribed 20 mph upon which our timetable had been based.

There was the “Okay Man”, so-called because any request for anything out of the ordinary always drew the cheery response “Okay! I can do that for you!” When I started going to boarding school in Totnes and put two heavy cases in the boot, he would always take the bus off route around the loop at St David’s Station to save me the effort of carrying them across the busy road, knowing full well that his permitted stop was outside the “Jolly Porter”. Who says we didn’t know what “customer service” was in the 1960’s? I’m almost certain his name was Ken.

I remember he had an old Devon General Parcels van which he had bought for £20 at the Okehampton auctions and whenever he came across me riding my pushbike in the rain, would always stop and give me a lift home.

It would be remiss of me to mention the importance of the Devon General Bus to Morchard Bishop without also mentioning “Venners 2 Tours” of Witheridge, a small coach operator. On at least a couple of occasions, the trusty AEC Regal failed and Venners would send Ken Holloway with a blue Bedford Duple coach to drive the route with the DG conducting him over the route and selling tickets with the machine over his shoulder.

Thinking of Ken and his van, the Devon General “Parcels By Bus” service is often forgotten. I don’t know when the service actually stopped, but for people in rural communities, it was often a godsend. Our cottage was being renovated one summer. The decorators’ foreman turned to my mother halfway through sipping his tea and dropped the bombshell “We’re on the last roll of paper missis. I reckon we’ll need two more rolls, maybe three!” Quick as a flash, my mum scribbled down the batch number of the wallpaper and darted out to the phone box. When she came back, she announced “You’ll have your three rolls this afternoon!” Sure enough, when I was sent out to meet the lunchtime bus, there was the “Okay man” taking three rolls of wallpaper out of the cavernous boot for me to carry home! The parcels bay was a large feature of all the Devon General fleet.

**MORCHARD BISHOP MEMORIAL HALL**

**STAND UP**

**COMEDY NIGHT**

**SATURDAY 1st MARCH**

**FEATURING**

**CORNWALL'S NO 1 COMEDIAN**

**JOHNNY COWLING**

**DOORS OPEN 6.45PM - LICENSED BAR - 8PM START**

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## **Dear Morchard Bishop Parishioner,**

**We hope you had a relaxing and joyous Christmas break, and we look forward to 2025.**

2024 was another busy year for your Parish Council and thank you for your support. Each and every voice counts, and together Morchard Bishop has a truly fantastic community; we are blessed with the numerous clubs, organisations, and facilities within our busy village. Don't be shy in 2025, do voice your opinion, suggest things you'd like to see such as the recent bonfire in November; why not join in with a club or society, making new friends and developing hobbies? More details may be found on the Morchard Bishop Parish Website and if there are things missing from there or you would like to see added, please do let one of your Councillors or the [clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk) know.

During 2024 the Parish Council organised the following events:

**D-Day Commemorations; Apple Day; Bonfire and Laser Light Extravaganza; Supporting the Nativity in the Bus shelter and lighting the Green**

The road warden team have secured a plentiful supply of tarmac, and once the weather warms up, we are looking for volunteers to assist. Thank you to all those who have already volunteered to assist in trying to improve our local roads that Highways fail to do. Holding traffic signs, using walkie talkies to coordinate signs being turned, as well as more able-bodied to use the equipment, please do let us know if you are able or willing and when you might have an hour or two.

You asked, we listened, and the Village Bonfire and Laser Light Show Extravaganza took place. This was extremely well supported, over 600 people came. **Held in The London Inn carpark and fields behind, the bonfire was on an industrial scale, and we are very grateful to all the volunteers who collected, donated wood and helped build it.** We are also grateful to The London Inn for allowing us to use the venue, and to the staff and their amazing support in making the evening such a success. A staggering £7250 was raised for the Primary School to enable them to progress with their planned exercise trail to the outdoor growing beds, and we look forward to seeing this implemented this year. **A HUGE thank you must go to the organisers, the committee, the volunteers, and all who supported, attended or donated prizes for the raffle.**

Please do let the Parish Council have ideas for a future 2025/2026 event, and volunteers to help organise - what would you like to see planned for the next village event?

Please remember the Parish Council do have discretionary funds and can access resources, and if you find yourself in an unfortunate situation, or want a listening ear, please don't hesitate, we are here for you.

**A very Happy New Year to all, and we hope 2025 will bring you much happiness,  
your Parish Councillors.**

