



THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

THE INDEPENDENT VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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

No.356 FEBRUARY 2025

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY MORCHARD BISHOP W.I.

Morchard W.I. 98 this year!

Well, here we are, settled into 2025 with Christmas a distant memory. Our WI starts the year in a good position, but any organisation is only as good as its members, and ours is no exception. The President sets the mood, and we have been so lucky with Amanda, who stepped in and saved us from closure, and Wendy, our current President, whose enthusiasm is contagious and will carry us to great heights.

Then there are Kate Bray and Sue Moody who share the jobs of treasurer and secretary. Victoria, who quietly and efficiently magics together a programme for the whole year that everyone will enjoy.

At our very heart is Hilda whose generosity and sense of humour is like a big hug for us all. Margaret, who is at the centre of all things revival and refreshment and we can always rely on Dawn, Angela Searle and Angela Heal to arrange fun, entertainment and generous prizes

All our members are willing to help out in any way they can with raffle prizes, cakes etc. for stalls and social events. With all this positivity we are ready to take on 2025 and anybody who would like to come along for the ride is more than welcome to join us!

Sue Pluckwell



This year sees the 110th anniversary of the first WI meeting in the UK. Morchard Bishop WI is celebrating its 98th birthday this year, making us one of the oldest WIs in the country – we are looking forward to doing something special for when we turn 100! As you can see from the photograph, the WI has always taken an interest in the issues of the day, whether that is highlighting the need to care for our countryside, or campaigning for women and men to be paid equally. We welcome women of all ages, and anyone can come along if they are interested in what we are doing that month, or simply to see if WI might be for them. You are guaranteed a friendly reception and a cup of tea!

We meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 2.00pm, mostly at the Memorial Hall, although if we are doing something different, such as playing skittles or having a bluebell walk, you will find us at the London Inn or visiting a member's farm. Our programme for this year is just being finalised, but we will have a mixture of talks and activities – the list will be on the WI noticeboard opposite the shop. Please drop in and see us if anything takes your fancy or contact us using the contact details on the noticeboard. We would love to see you!

Kate Bray

FEBRUARY 2025 DIARY

If you would like details of your event or meeting to appear in the **MARCH** diary then please let Pauline Chater know by **February 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 with a Baptism 18.00: Joint Bible Study at Emmanuel

Sunday 23rd 10.30 Morning Worship

Emmanuel

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

Visit www.emmanuel-morchard-bishop.org for detailed information about services, Sunday School for primary aged children, youth clubs and other events

Morchard Bishop Sports and Social Club. Annual subscriptions of £2 a year are now due. Please see a member of the bar staff.

Please note that there will be a Morchard Library book swap on WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 15.00-16.30 in the Memorial Hall

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

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 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 | 09.30 | Produce and Table Top Sale | Memorial Hall |
| Mon | 10 | 19.00 | Footpaths P3 Meeting | MBSSC |
| Wed | 12 12 | 14.30 19.30 | W.I. Reminiscences Project with Izzy from Crediton Library Tractor Club | Memorial Hall Memorial Hall |
| Fri | 14 | 19.00 | Prime Youth Club – Primary Age | Emmanuel |
| Sat | 15 | 10.00-11.30 | Coffee Morning W.I. | 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 | 10.00-11.30 | Coffee Morning Parish Council | Memorial Hall |

Future Events For Your Diary

- Football Club:** Saturday 1 March **Comedy Evening -Johnny Cowling**
(**see page 5 for poster)

- Sustainable Morchard Coffee Mornings:** 1 March - Seed Swap
3 May - Plant Swap

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)

FEBRUARY OPENING TIMES

MONDAYS – 3RD MEN'S SKITTLES

TUESDAYS – ALL DATES POOL & BRIDGE

**WEDNESDAYS – 5TH, 12TH & 19TH LADIES'
DARTS**

**THURSDAYS – 6TH, 13TH & 20TH MEN'S
DARTS, 6TH & 20TH LADIES SKITTLES**

FRIDAYS – ALL DATES CLOSED

**PLEASE SEE CLUB NOTICEBOARD FOR
DATES FOR HOME GAMES IN FEBRUARY.**

**NORMAL OPENING HOURS FROM 7.30 PM.
SUNDAYS – CLOSED**

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A MEMBERS-
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Contact details
JULIE 07851 582286

Church Street Stores

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 February 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.

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

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

Postal Service.

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

Colin Crewdson
Wayside Cottage
Frost
Morchard Bishop EX17 6SF
Phone: 07926 625120

ADVERTS

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

Adverts up to ½ page are £5 a month

Adverts up to ¾ page are £7 a month

Adverts up to 1 page are £10 a month

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

LETTERS – MESSAGES – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poppy Appeal 2024

Thank you everyone for your kind contributions to the Poppy Appeal last November, we raised £223.58.

I would also like to thank everyone who was involved with the beautiful display of poppies in front of the Methodist Chapel, it looked amazing.

Katie Pope

Good news (for the Morchard Messenger)

We are very happy to welcome Christine Fauch as new Associate Editor for the Messenger. As the current editor says, it will take the pressure off him, and will share the stress, tangles and boobytraps of Microsoft technology. And also someone to share the blame when things go wrong...

Thank you Christine!

Thank You

I would like to express my gratitude to all who have supported me since my unfortunate mishap on Christmas Day.

I have received so many good wishes, cards, phone calls, visits, flowers, all of which have been much appreciated me and my wonderful family.

Thank you all so much.
I am mending well!

PS
The cat is unharmed!!!

Annie Robinson

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

TICKETS £20 (INCLUDES SUPPER) - ADULTS ONLY

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Food served:

PULLED PORK BAP

stuffing, crackling, apple sauce with roasties

Proceeds to Morchard Bishop Football Club

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

COME AND JOIN US!

THURSDAY MORNING
9:30AM - 10:30AM
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£ Free for All £



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Jack : 07904225234

Ricky : 07712177710

New Service to Morchard Bishop

Tuesday mornings

Before 7.30 am

Friday Evenings

Between 4-8pm



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milk@kellanddairy.co.uk for more information.



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: **home** – 01363 877803.

: **email** – jomcdphysio@gmail.com

: **web site** - jomcdougallphysio.com

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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 16th 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 3rd Thursday.

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

Jon Shapley



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**ATTENTION ALL FLOWER
ARRANGERS!**

The Flower Festival in St Mary's Church, Morchard Bishop will be held the weekend of 21st and 22nd June 2025. If you are interested in arranging flowers please do consider joining with around 15 others to produce a magnificent display in the Church.

You do NOT have to be an expert (though you will not be turned away if you are !!) but just enjoy arranging flowers for all to enjoy and help raise funds for the church.

The theme is to be Fairy Tales. We shall have a meeting at the coffee morning room on Produce Market Saturday, 8th February at 10.30am.

A contribution is made to each arranger to help with costs and June is a good month to raid your own (or other peoples) gardens!

Even if you don't arrange flowers please consider helping at the weekend as we are always looking for people to steward and help with refreshments and the stalls.

Many thanks

Katie Pope (07414869984)



SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday, 12th April, 2.30pm.
Holy Cross, Crediton**

RECITAL with Sarah Quashie - Soprano, accompanied by Jonathan Rawles, followed by Tea and Cake in the Boniface Centre included in £10 ticket on door entry - cash or card.

In aid of the Crediton Church Music Endowment Fund.

MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB

Division 4 Devon & Exeter Football League



February Fixtures

Saturday 1st February: Colyton (A) 2.30pm k.o

Saturday 8th February: Hemyock (A) 2.30pm k.o

Saturday 15th February: Budleigh Salterton (A)
2.15pm**

** Bill Slee Cup

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.

Please support your local team.

Johnny Cowling Comedy Night Saturday 1st March

For full details please see main advert on page 5 in this
Messenger.



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Stuck, Unstuck

Jonathan Freeman Andrade

I'm writing, I'm writing,
I just don't know what to write.
I am thinking, I am thinking,
'What should I write?'
Oh, yes! Oh, yes!
I know what to write...
a poem of me writing a poem!

This poem was sent in by Jonathan Freeman Andrade with the lovely covering letter, below.

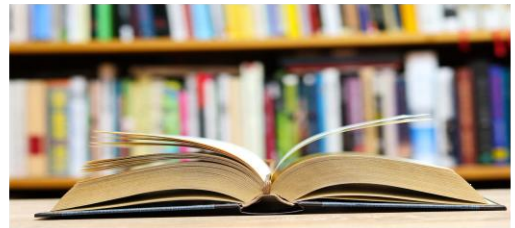
"My name is Jonathan Andrade and I am 9 years old. I love to write poems, and my teacher and parents think my poem called *Stuck, Unstuck* would be perfect for your magazine!

I wrote it about when I was doing my home learning and was not sure how to write a proper poem but then I had the idea of writing about the difficult task of writing a poem. I hope kids and adults who read your magazine will like and relate to it and maybe it will make them smile or think.
Thank you for reading my poem!"

Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

BOOKSWAP

**THE NEXT BOOK SWAP WILL BE WEDNESDAY
5th FEBRUARY 3pm - 4.30pm**



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

We also hope to have a laptop available to help residents with any online applications/renewals etc.

Teas/Coffee and Cakes available

sea level

full moon sways between the masts
the sea treacly black, flexing,
listening between hulls

she doesn't want to talk,
just watches our lives drift by
as the chimney smoke wanders overhead

on its way towards the mountains;
the tide rises, fills the bay of cold rocks,
slips silently over the harbour wall

Colin Crewdson



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News from your Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 6th January 2025.

The Parish Council spent £2,190.81 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 £252 for the external auditor's fees, £267.00 for Grass Cutting for a quarter and £102.85 for cutting the Green at Frost for a year, £140 as a Special grant and sponsorship of the Morchard Messenger, £100 as a grant to Citizen's Advice Bureau, £1,014.50 for the Clerk's salary October to December and £221.28 for the repair of the Snow Plough.

The Parish Council considered four planning applications:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 24/01828/PNCOU INFORMATION ONLY | Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to one dwelling under Class Q | GR 279701 105633 (Rolestone Barton) New Buildings |
| 24/01402/FULL SUPPORTED | Change of use of an agricultural building to ancillary accommodation to dwelling | The Barn, Middle Leigh Farm, Morchard Bishop |
| 24/01738/LBC SUPPORTED | Listed Building Consent for change of use of an agricultural building to ancillary accommodation to dwelling | The Barn, Middle Leigh Farm, Morchard Bishop |
| 24/01814/FULL SUPPORTED | Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 23/00217/FULL (Erection of a rural workers dwelling) to allow revised plans and provide details of material finishes and biodiversity enhancements in line with the requirements of conditions 3 and 6. | Lydcott Nursery, Black Dog, Crediton |

Again, there was a lot of correspondence to receive such as requests for grants and passing on information about changes to the Devon Bus Network, Information from the Mid Devon Annual Meeting of Parish Clerks, Resilience Training and Road Closures.

The major item of business was to agree next year's budget following the setting of the precept at the December 2024 meeting. A balanced budget was agreed.

Work parties were proposed to repair Finger Signs, to cut back the turf around the Village Green and to clean signs around the village. Volunteers to contact the Parish Clerk.

At its meeting on 3rd February 2025 the Parish Council will be considering a village event to be held sometime next year. If you have any thoughts on an event 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

David Parker
Parish Clerk

Ice and Snow Wardens

Ice / Snow Wardens wanted for Greenaway

– 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

Road Closure – Chulmleigh Road will be closed by South West Water 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 to let the team know where and what the problem is.

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.

Jenny Swan

www.bodyfixtherapies.co.uk



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Happy New Year!

Inevitably perhaps, debt and energy are the two key problems people are bringing to us. The cost of living continues to rise, pensioners missed out on winter fuel payments they have come to rely on and energy costs continue to rise. If you are struggling and getting into debt please take action sooner rather than later. Our specially trained debt advisers can help you navigate what seems a minefield and remember, our advice is confidential, professional and totally non-judgemental.

Our website has some useful links and information so check out:

www.citizensadviceetnmwd.org.uk

We are also able to issue fuel vouchers please get in touch to see if you are eligible. Our Advice Line is a free, local number: 0808 27 87 999.

We are delighted to announce that we have new outreaches opening this year so people can access us directly in their own area. In Crediton we are at the Age Concern office in the Lady Mills Centre every Wednesday. Drop-in is available 9.30 am – 12.00 noon and afternoon appointments are available which can be booked via our website. We are at the Cullompton Community Centre on the 3rd. Friday of each month between 9.30am and 12.30pm. The last Friday of each month sees us at Lapford in the Ark Community Café from 10.00am – 2.00pm. Ongoing dates have still to be confirmed at Uffculme and Hemyock however, on 17th. January we will be at Warm Spaces on Square Corner in Uffculme between 10.30am and 3.00pm and we will be at the Blackdown Support Group Building (next to the GP surgery) in Hemyock on 23rd. January from 10.00am – 2.00pm. Details of all our opening hours in Bideford, Barnstaple, Okehampton, Tiverton and Tavistock as well as our other outreach offices are on our website and news of our new outreach offices can be found on social media.

Sadly, we are unable to meet demand which continues to rise as more and more people seek our help. We have an ongoing recruitment campaign to encourage more people to come and volunteer with us. Volunteers make new friends, learn new skills and have the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping people in their community. If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer, please contact : recruitment@citizensadviceetnmwd.org.uk or check out our website for more information. Maybe the New Year is an ideal time to broaden your horizons!



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Changes for disposal of upholstered furniture- reminder

New environmental requirements from 1 December 2024, mean that you are only be able to dispose of your upholstered furniture at one of eight of our specially designated Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

It follows the introduction of new requirements from the Environment Agency which require our recycling centres to have segregated facilities to handle Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS).

WUDS include:-

sofas,
sofa beds,
armchairs,
recliner chairs,
upholstered kitchen and dining room chairs,
upholstered garden furniture,
stools and foot stools,
office chairs,
futon,
bean bags,
floor and sofa cushions.

The HWRCs that are able to accept Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating are: –

East Devon: Knowle Hill in Exmouth

Exeter: Pinbrook Road, Exeter

Mid Devon; Ashley, Tiverton

North Devon: Seven Brethren, Barnstaple

Torridge: Bideford

South Hams: Ivybridge

West Devon: Okehampton

Teignbridge: Brunel Road, Newton Abbot

WUDS cannot be accepted at any other Devon HWRC and residents will need to ensure that they take their WUDS to a site that can accept them or book a bulky collection with their district council who will charge for the service.

Gardening tips for February



- Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover
- Chit potato tubers
- Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches
- Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
- Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'
- Prune Wisteria
- Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
- Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea
- Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses
- Keep supporting wild birds through this hungry time of year - the more regulars you have in the garden the more pests they will eat.

Jo Coffey



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Sustainable Morchard

Adapt or die!

Last month's article explained why we have three tropical climates/biomes. Whilst all three are hot, all three have different volumes of rainfall. Although heat can be an environmental issue for the flora and fauna, it is the rainfall variation that explains the vastly differing characteristics of the three regions.

Tropical rainforest vegetation grows all year round, this helps make it one of the most productive biomes in terms of its biomass*. Vegetative growth is not determined by annual changes in the climate, so unlike the British Isles where most of the vegetation stops growing during the colder winter months, plants and trees in the rainforest grow all year round. Neither are the vegetation's functions determined by annual changes in temperature or rainfall, so a tree may be in bud, flower and shedding leaves all concurrently.

The rapid growth of vegetation in the rainforest has resulted in four distinct layers of the flora, each layer suited to the conditions prevailing at any given height. Some trees emerge above the main canopy, growing to great heights. These trees have evolved to make the best use of sunlight. As the soils are nutrient poor the roots of most plants and trees are shallow. To stop themselves from falling over the emergent trees have developed broad buttress roots at the lower end of their trunks.

Other plants have used the tree trunks and branches to support their growth to greater heights, such as the case with lianas (Tarzan's aerial means of transport through the jungle). Epiphytes grow where branches leave a trunk; they live off air, water and any nutrients that may collect here. On the forest floor the smallest plants will make use of any small glints of sunlight by tracking the light as much as possible.



[Epiphytes](#)

In deserts camels are the best-known animal in terms of how it has adapted to its harsh environment. Primary school children learn about their water storage, long eyelashes and large padded feet.

In desert regions the vegetation has had to adapt to the lack of water. Cacti have dispensed with leaves to reduce water loss (transpiration through pores), the main trunk of the cactus has taken over the job of photosynthesis, hence their green colour. Cacti can store large volumes of water, which they protect from predator animals with tough epidermis ("skin") and vicious thorns.

Other plants and their seeds can lie dormant for years waiting for rain. Tumbleweed gets blown around until it detects water when it will put down its roots and start growing. Desert plants have a very short life cycle as the rainwater doesn't hang around for long.

The savanna is essentially a transition zone between the wet rainforest in the south and the drier deserts in the north. This means the southern parts of the savanna are wetter than the northern parts. There are more trees and shrubs in the southern parts of the savanna than in the north.

The peoples living in these three regions have also adapted to their very different environments, both culturally and economically.

* Biomass is the sum total of organic material (plants and animals) in a biome or any other defined area.

Paul Ticehurst



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*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

Website: www.buddhabarnltd.co.uk

Morchard's Weather

So no white Christmas this time. In fact, it was one of the warmest on record. Here it reached 13C on Christmas Eve. Dry too. In fact, total rainfall in December was low - only 40mm (just over one and a half inches).

The December storms - Bert and Darragh - caused some damage and flooding. We lost quite a few panes from our greenhouse during Bert. Flood alerts were in force again in the first week of January and then there were also a couple of frosty nights following that. The Morchard Bishop snow wardens were active a couple of nights keeping the local roads and pavements clear and safe as some snow fell. Temperatures fell to minus 2C, but compared to further North, we got off lightly.

As I write this, there is the first full moon of the year in the sky. It is known as a Wolf Moon, and this time, unusually, the planet Mars is right alongside it. The Wolf moon is so called - according to legend - because wolves don't hibernate and are very much active during January.

Stephen Leese

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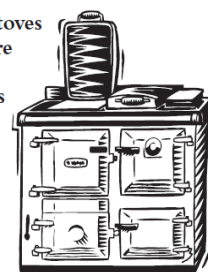
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Situated in the grounds of Morchard Bishop Primary School, this purpose-built facility also has access to fantastic outdoor space, and regular visits to school ensure smooth transition to the reception class.

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9.00am - 3.30pm, Monday - Friday

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www.morchardbishop.thelink.academy



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www.morchardbishop.thelink.academy

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

Tel - 01363 877328

Morchard Bishop Bells ring in the New Year



The bell ringers at Morchard Bishop gratefully accepted the invitation to once again ring in the new year. As is custom, the bells were rung for 15 minutes prior to midnight when they were stopped allowing the clock to strike twelve signalling the start of 2025, after which ringing recommenced.

This year three of our novice ringers, who were spectators last year, joined in with the ringing! Congratulations to Pete Norman, John Charman, and Ceri Jones for stepping up to the challenge.

Also ringing; Michaela Rodd, Les Partridge, Wendy Vere, Bob Robinson, and John Crotty.

Bob Robinson

Sustainable Morchard

Here are some dates for the new year:

Tuesday February 18th 2025 in the village Hall. A talk about Swifts by Edward Jackson

Saturday March 1st 2025 Morchard Bishop seed swap in the village hall.

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.
More information will follow nearer the day.

Folk Tales Corner

Received Wisdom

Many years ago, back in 1988 when I was still a lighting and sound technician come wannabe rock star, my mother suddenly asked me to join her on a day trip. I wasn't busy and was happy to tag along as, although she was unusually offhand about the destination and purpose of our excursion, such trips usually involved coffee and cake at some point. We drove for miles out of Hampshire, through Berkshire and in to Oxfordshire. Eventually we parked by a river and walked along a track, past a couple of old houses until we came to an overgrown plot with a pile of rubble on it. This, apparently, was all that remained of the home my mother had been born in.



The Travelling Talesman
www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk

When standing, it had been a wonderful, Cotswold family house with stone mullioned windows, that had belonged to Christchurch College, Oxford. Occupation was granted to my mother's family "in perpetuity, so long as a [family name] shall live there." Unfortunately my mother's parents died while she was a young girl, she was removed to live with an aunt in Fareham and the house was lost. More recently the house had fallen in to disrepair and was eventually demolished.

The local vicar, concerned about this fine building's demise, had searched through the empty rooms, gathered a box of items he found lying about and then gone to the trouble of hunting down anyone who might possibly be interested in them. This then was the true purpose of our visit. There wasn't much of interest in the box; a worthless ornament or two, some old string. The house had largely been cleared out after my grandparents' death and the majority of the box's contents came from the attic. One item however caught my interest: a book!

Going by the title of "Walkers Golden Reciter", it was an anthology of copyright free poems for use at parlour recitals. Although not yet a storyteller I had dabbled in learning and performing the odd bit of verse so the contents appealed to me. On top of that this tome had clearly belonged to one of my ancestors on my mother's side, who I knew very little about. To go one step further the "Walkers Golden Reciter" had been published in 1888, exactly a hundred years before I held it in my hands, it felt like serendipity.

Alongside masterful contributions from Wordsworth, Longfellow, Byron, Poe and other greats from the golden age of poetry, when writing verse was the rock and roll of the Victorian era, there were numerous one hit wonders from authors now forgotten and delightful offerings from the ever popular "anonymous". I quickly memorised a couple of bits, using them to fill in time on stage if the guitarist broke a string or suchlike, and carried the book around with me hoping for an excuse to get it out and read an item from it aloud.

It may not have been storytelling as I do it now, but it was definitely one of the stepping stones along the way: short, solo, spoken word performances that helped me refine my craft. Certainly it was within a year or so of this treasury coming in to my possession that I did my first gig as a storyteller. I still occasionally roll out "Elegy On The Death Of A Mad Dog" or some of the other gems I gleaned from its yellowing pages, for a change of pace and tone between my more standard fairytale fare.

If our predecessors do watch over us I hope the one who bought this everyday marvel knows how much I appreciate it coming to me, and the part it has played in my journey.

I am also deeply grateful to that vicar who's kind persistence in tracking down a disenfranchised orphan, to share with them something of a family they never really knew, gave me this golden connection to my kinsfolk and a nudge towards my future career.

...here's to living happily ever after, until the next adventure.
The Travelling Talesman www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk

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Forthcoming events February 2025

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <u>Thursday 6th</u> | MUSIC & FOOD: Jazz on the Green ***** |
| <u>Friday 7th</u> | MUSIC: Caoilfhionn Rose ***** |
| <u>Friday 14th</u> | FILM: Nightmare Alley ***** |
| <u>Saturday 15th</u> | FAMILY THEATRE: Little Lotte ***** |
| <u>Saturday 22nd</u> | FAMILY MAGIC: The Great Baldini ***** |
| <u>Friday 28th</u> | THEATRE: Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act ***** |



Householders who want to make their homes more energy efficient but are unsure of what steps to take next can get free impartial advice from trusted local experts at [Energy Saving Devon](https://www.energy-saving-devon.org.uk).

The Energy Saving Devon Advice Service provides personalised consultations, helping residents to make informed decisions about improving energy efficiency in their homes. This could include a free home visit from a local energy advisor to help you understand which energy saving measures are best suited to your home, advice on grants you may be eligible for as well as solutions to issues such as damp and mould, condensation or underheating.

The Energy Saving Devon team will be able to advise you on the suitability of your home for measures such as insulation, energy efficient windows, heating and hot water systems and renewable energy systems like solar panels. Retrofitting these measures can make your home warmer and more comfortable.

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No appointment needed Monday & Tuesday.

All other days appointments are necessary – please use booking app Nearcut or phone to book.

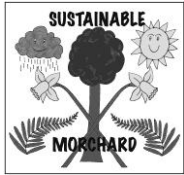


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Sustainable Morchard

What is a seed share and why are we doing it?



A seed share works by people bringing seeds they have saved or have left over, and taking away other peoples' seeds to use. If you don't have any seeds, please come along anyway and take some seeds, grow the plants and perhaps save seeds for next year. We have information about how to save seeds. Pick up a leaflet from the stall, or go to:

<http://www.realseeds.co.uk/seedsavinginfo.html> - they have lots of advice.

Why do we do it? Good reasons for saving seeds include:

- Helps protect biodiversity and keeps the diversity of locally adapted varieties going.
- Maintains and develops growing skills.
- Gets around the National List, which makes it illegal to sell varieties not on the list. This is why we do not charge for the seeds, voluntary donations are only to cover our expenses and go towards future events.
- Seed shares keep seed production local and help resist the privatisation of plant genetic material.
- Seed shares introduce you to other local gardeners and help to develop a sense of community.
- Saving seeds can also save you money! ☺

You can bring vegetable, flower and herb seeds. It would be helpful if you label packets with type, variety and date collected e.g. Tomato Money Maker 2024. Surplus commercial seed packets are also welcome as many older seeds are still viable. Please only bring seeds that are 3 years old or less.

Useful Books

The Seed Savers' Handbook; Jeremy Cherfas et al.

Seedswap: The Gardener's Guide to Saving and Swapping Seeds; Josie Jeffery.

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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)

Over 60s' Luncheon & Get Together

The next Over 60's Luncheon at the London Inn will be on Wednesday 19th February 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 18th February 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.

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A salad for winter

In a bowl mix:

200g (8 oz) diced cooked beetroot

100g (4oz) diced apple

50g (2oz) diced celery

Moisten with one tablespoonful balsamic vinegar, one tablespoonful olive oil, one teaspoonful honey, and season with salt and pepper.

Sprinkle with toasted walnuts.



This is good with crusty sourdough bread and Devon cheese.

Paul Cleave



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Next Meeting:

19 February 2025

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Meeting

[Rome: Foundation and empire](#)

An illustrated talk by Brian Short

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Countryfile



***"First light,
and the birds begin again
their little pink shouts,
their little soft cries
filling the air
with their hunger."***

"The Feeding Hour" - Mary Oliver 1935-2019



There are so many reasons to support the birds in the garden. For many of us it's about enjoying watching them in a more accessible way. For some there is also a sense that we have created an environment where many species have been lost or struggle to maintain their population and by feeding a variety of foods we offer a hand to them in making it through hard times.

There are considerations about year round feeding which mostly comes down to not providing foods which are dry or bulky and may choke or wrongly nourish young chicks (peanuts and fat balls are both dangerous to very young chicks), but if you pay attention to the RSPB and other authoritative sources you can easily do lots to support birds and bring a wide selection to your garden.

The most important aspect of feeding birds is to regularly clean the feeders to avoid spread of disease, which has killed many of our birds in recent years, the benefits of lots of food in one spot brings lots of birds to come in contact with each other in a way they wouldn't usually, and a clean feeder is a much safer feeder. It can also be important to ensure the food is being eaten and any spilt food, or food put out for ground feeders should not be allowed to build up both for bird hygiene reasons and also because an easy constant food source can attract a lot of rats which many people prefer to avoid encouraging too close to the house.

If you want the wild birds to help you manage garden pests you need to minimise all pesticide sprays (except those with the mechanism of soap such as SBPI) poisoning bugs poisons their predators .

Blue tits eat, and feed to their chicks many, many caterpillars and aphids, fly larvae and other soft bodied insects. Nest boxes, foliage cover and peanuts, suet/fat pellets balls or blocks, and sunflower seeds in feeders attract them. Obviously you will have even more blue tits locally if you provide a properly situated suitable nest box.

House sparrows will tuck into ants, wasps, caterpillars, and other insects. Sparrows are in theory ground feeders who prefer cracked corn millet and sunflower seeds, though they are also happy to feast at hanging feeders on sunflower seeds and fat blocks.

Thrushes eat snails and slugs but will also go for flies and wasps. Swallows and martins feast on flying ants and spots to nest will attract them along with open spaces to swoop into and across, crows and rooks may appear to be vandalising lawns by pecking holes in them but they are usually seeking not the earth worms who benefit the garden but the leatherjackets who eat the roots off your lawn, again they like space and open ground. A robin will eat so many other small bugs it's worth losing the odd earthworm to them.

Attract blackbirds with berry bearing bushes or feeding fat balls and meal worms, they usually like bird baths too. They also like heaps of leaves or mulch to forage in for other insects (they can have a tendency to throw bark mulches all over the lawn though). Warblers eat spiders, caterpillars and gnats and like gardens with lots of cover, so shrubs and foliage plants, but they also like fresh water so a birdbath or even a small fountain can be great.

Starlings feed primarily on insects, and their joyous riot of a presence is drawn by fat balls, suet, peanuts, sunflower seeds and lots of perching surfaces, as they often arrive in groups. Starlings are in serious decline and this is especially so in rural areas where they were once strong. They are one of the stronger candidates for human support to compensate for the damage we've done.

Whatever your motivation, well managed bird feeders are a great extra to any garden, or even just fastened to the outside of a window and refilled from inside if your garden access is limited.

Jo Coffey

Celebrations and new Experiences



The end of the Autumn term really was a celebration of all things Christmas! Our carol concert was a huge success with over 240 people watching the show over the two performances. This included some of the residents from Ridge House for the afternoon performance. We are hugely grateful to them for their ongoing support of the school and really value the relationships that are forming between the residents and our pupils.

The children performed a range of traditional carols, hymns and modern Christmas songs as well as sharing poems and bible readings linked to the festive period. As always, it was great to see our children show such confidence when performing and reading in front of an audience. Our school vision focuses on inspiring pupils to flourish and this was a real example of the children living this out. The increased focus on oracy and being able to articulate themselves in a range of situations is really having an impact across the curriculum and more widely into other aspects of the children's lives. We have no doubt that the skills that the children are developing during their time with us will serve them well as they continue their journey through education and beyond.



In other areas of the school, the children in Key Stage One had the opportunity to visit Exeter Gymnastics Club and put all of the skills that they had learnt in school throughout the half term in PE to the test in a professional environment. The children had use of the equipment at the club and were given support and guidance from the coaches at the club. It is so important to continually look to broaden the experiences that the children have access to and see how what they are learning in school can be built upon within our local area.

Sam Butler