



# THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

THE INDEPENDENT VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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

No.358 APRIL 2025 SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY MORCHARD BISHOP MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE

## Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Hello good people of Morchard Bishop! I am sure you will know that I am writing this to you as the Chairman of your Village Hall.

I am pleased to say that the Hall continues to be used a good deal. We have weekly Coffee Mornings, Pilates, Zumba, Ballet and Dance classes, plus Brownies. On a monthly basis; our Produce Market, WI, Parish Council, Sustainable Morchard and Mid Devon Tractor and Engine Club.

Our Book and Jigsaw Swap is proving very popular; we have many excellent popular novels and jigsaws along with tea, coffee and delicious cakes! See more about this in the Messenger.

Also due to our reliable Wi-Fi, Isobel is able to use the Upstairs Room as a work hub most weekdays.

In a few weeks' time we are planning to set up a Pickle Ball group, look out for the dates and times in the Messenger, tuition will be available.



We have another of our popular Quizzes planned for Friday 16th May at 7.30pm and another Big Breakfast later in the year. Bi-monthly Craft Fairs in the Hall on a Saturday afternoon have been arranged independently, beginning on the 22nd March.

I am also pleased to announce that we have been successful in our bid for lottery funding to fit solar panels on the Hall so we will be going green for our 'leccy' in the near future!

Finally I have an ask of you. We are short of a few helpers that we may call on from time to time or to join our Committee. If you feel you could help in any way please contact me, Anton Heal, on 07970227753, or email [antonheal@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:antonheal@yahoo.co.uk); or Jo Eames on 07855790192, or email [jo\\_eames@hotmail.com](mailto:jo_eames@hotmail.com).

We have our **AGM on Tuesday 13th May at 7.30pm** in the Upstairs Room at the Hall, feel free to join us.

**We look forward to seeing you all at our events in the future.**

Many thanks,  
**Anton Heal**

## **APRIL 2025 DIARY**

If you would like details of your event or meeting to appear in the **May** diary, then please let Pauline Chater know by **April 12th** [cupaulinechater@gmail.com](mailto: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 6: 10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 13: Palm Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion

Friday 18: **Good Friday** Walk of Witness 10.00 from St Mary's to Emmanuel

Sunday 20: **Easter Sunday** Holy Communion 10.30 but time to be confirmed – check noticeboard

Sunday 27: 10.30 Family Service

**Emmanuel**

All are welcome at our services. Morning Services usually start at 11.00 with coffee from 10.30. Good Friday Walk of Witness 18<sup>th</sup> April from St Mary's to Emmanuel. 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.

Tues	1/8/15/22/29 1/8/15/22/29 1/8/15/22/29 1/8/15/22/29	9.30 -11.30 14.15-18.45 19.00 -20.00 19.30	<b>Cafe Emmanuel</b> <b>Dove Dance Academy</b> <b>Zumba</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge/Pool</b>	Emmanuel Lessons in Memorial Hall Memorial Hall MBSSC
Wed	23	15.00 –16.30 17.30	<b>Library Book Swap</b> <b>Brownies</b>	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall
Thur	3/24 3 3 3/10/17/24 3/24	09.30-10.30 10.00-15.00 12.00-15.00 15.45-18.15 18.30- 19.30	<b>Toddler Group New Born to 4</b> <b>Can't Sew, Won't Sew</b> <b>Pennymoor Singaround</b> <b>Dove Dance Academy</b> <b>Basic to Intermediate Pilates</b>	Pre- school Emmanuel – Shared Lunch London Inn Lessons in Memorial Hall Memorial Hal
Fri	4/9/25/30 4 4	13.30 -14.30 17.30 -19.00 19.30	<b>Visiting Post Office</b> <b>Max and Mike's Street Food</b> <b>Bowling Club Skittles Evening</b>	Inside London Inn War Memorial MBSSC
Sat	5 5/12/19/26	10.00 -11.30 19.30	<b>Coffee Morning - St Mary's</b> <b>MBSSC Bar, Skittles, Pool</b>	Memorial Hall
Mon	7  7  7/14	19.30  19.00  19.30	<b>Parish Council – Parish Initiatives</b> <b>W.I. Red Earth Group – Talk on Wildlife Encounters, followed by supper</b> <b>Men's Skittles</b>	Memorial Hall  Memorial Hall Speaker: Stephen Powles  MBSSC

***Sponsored This Month by Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall Committee***

Wed	9 9	14.30 19.30	W.I. AGM Sustainable Morchard	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Upper Room
Sat	12	09.30 -11.30	Produce & Tabletop Coffee Morning	Memorial Hall
Mon	14 14	19.00 19.00	Footpaths/P3 Meeting Playing Fields AGM	MBSSC MBSSC
Wed	16  16	12.30  19.30	Over Sixties Lunch  Tractor Club	London Inn: To book a place Contact Mandy 877459 <a href="mailto:mandytapp@talk21.com">mandytapp@talk21.com</a> Memorial Hall
Thur	17	19.30	Pennymoor Singaround	London Inn Skittle Alley
Fri	18	19.30	Friday Night Darts Knockout Club	MBSSC
Sat	19  19	10.00 -11.30  15.00	Coffee Morning – Garden and Produce Morchard Bishop Football Club Home Match	Memorial Hall  Playing Field and MBSSC
Mon	21	15.00	Morchard Bishop Football Club Home Match	Playing Field and MBSSC
Wed	23	19.30	Sports Club AGM	MBSCC
Sat	26	10.00 -11.30	Emmanuel Coffee Morning	Memorial Hall

### **Future Events For Your Diary**

- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall – Sustainable Morchard Plant Swap
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May VE 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - Barbecue – London Inn Field 21.30 Lighting of the Beacon. Organised by the Parish Council
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May Playing Fields Association Car Boot Sale – Sellers: 13.00 Buyers: 14.00
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 19.30 Memorial Hall AGM
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May Quiz Night at 19.30 organised by the Memorial Hall Committee

## NOTICEBOARD

### Bus service 369

#### Outwards:

**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:** 8.26, (8.29 Sat), 17.04

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

#### Return:

**Exeter RD&E:** 17.15

**Exeter City Centre Sidwell St:** 8.50,  
11.00, 13.00, 15.05, 17.35

**Crediton Train Station/ Redlands:** 9.12,  
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](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)

#### APRIL OPENING TIMES

**MONDAYS – 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> MENS SKITTLES.  
14<sup>th</sup> PLAYING FIELDS AGM, 21<sup>st</sup> (EASTER MONDAY), FOOTBALL, HOME, KO 3 PM.**

**TUESDAYS – ALL DATES POOL & BRIDGE.**

**WEDNESDAYS – 23<sup>rd</sup> SOCIAL CLUB AGM.**

**THURSDAYS – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> MENS DARTS.**

**FRIDAYS – 4<sup>th</sup> BOWLING CLUB SKITTLES EVENT. ALL OTHER DATES CLOSED.**

**SATURDAYS: 19<sup>th</sup> FOOTBALL, HOME,  
KO 3 PM.**

**NORMAL OPENING HOURS FROM 7.30 PM.**

**SUNDAYS – CLOSED**

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. £2 PER YEAR MEMBERSHIP.**

**PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE BAR STAFF.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A MEMBERS ONLY CLUB.**

Contact details

**JULIE 07851 582286**

### **Church Street Stores**

#### **Opening Hours:**

Sunday & Monday: 8.30am-12noon

Tuesday- Friday: 8.30am-5pm

Saturday: 8.30am- 2pm

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[www.facebook.com/churchstreetstores](http://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:

**15<sup>th</sup> April 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](mailto: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

Associate Editor  
Christine Faunch

### **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 ½ page are £7 a month

Adverts up to ¼ page are £10 a month

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



## LETTERS – MESSAGES – ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Please Slow Down for Horses

I applaud the vast majority of drivers who pass horses on the roads wide & slow, thank you all for your patience.

Riders are on the roads because they have to be. Horses need exercise and unfortunately off road riding is very limited.

A small minority of drivers don't pass horses wide and slow. They ignore the universally recognised signal of an arm waving up and down, suggesting that they're going too fast.

Perhaps this minority of drivers might think differently if half a ton of horse crashed through their windscreen? All it takes is a bird flying out of the hedge and that half a ton of horse stops walking along steadily, launches itself into the air, crashing through the windscreen, crushing both its rider and the driver of the passing car.

Please take a quick look at this notice and consider passing horses on the road at a speed of 10 miles an hour, giving them as much room as possible.

**Charlotte Squire**

### Devon Air Ambulance Fundraising



This is a belated 'Thank you' message to everyone who sent cards, called around and made contact following my roofing accident in January last year. The contact and support from

everyone was truly amazing and for sure aided my wellbeing and recovery.

Thank you everyone.

I am very pleased to say the healing to my vertebrae, pelvis and ribs has gone well and I'm now almost back to full working capacity. I obviously need to be mindful of certain jobs which need doing, my body soon lets me know when it is being challenged! I am extremely grateful and thankful for the prompt and professional service given by the emergency services who came out on the day, for the care and treatment given at the time and in the following days, it was exemplary.

We wanted to do some fundraising for the Devon Air Ambulance, our boys, Jonathan, Gavin & Oliver have taken charge of this by all entering to run the Plymouth Half Marathon on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May in aid of Devon Air Ambulance.

Please see below for the sports giving page, all donations gratefully received electronically or to me in person.

<https://sportsgiving.co.uk/sponsorship/entry/1397000>

Thank you.

**Alan Down**

### Next Year's Parish Council Fundraiser

Last month, we reported on giving the Primary School a huge cheque for money raised during our Bonfire and Laser show, held in November.

The Parish Council would like to organise a similar event - but maybe something different for this year.

So far, the ideas we have had include:

- a music festival towards the end of the summer holidays;
- a food and drink festival - all sorts of local produce - also in late summer;

and we would really like to put on something the whole village can enjoy and wants.

So we are asking you for ideas. What sort of event would you like to see the Parish Council organise?

What are your thoughts about the suggestions - do you have others? We really want to hear what you think..

Please email us with your suggestion at:  
[morchardbishop3@gmail.com](mailto:morchardbishop3@gmail.com).

You can also call Stephen on 07562 258875 if that is easier.

We'll report next time about the suggestions we have received.

*Remember - this is your village and your Parish Council - so please let us know what you would like to see.*

**Stephen Leese**

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

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Ricky : 07712177710

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**Friday Evenings**

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This will be our last recipe from Paul Cleave for Sustainable Crediton. From next month we'll be featuring recipes from Debbie Ticehurst.

### Prunes in Port

Something different for the store cupboard!

You will need:

- 250gm/8oz stoned prunes (Agen prunes if you can get them)
- 25gm/1oz brown sugar (Muscovado is best)
- a cinnamon stick
- a bay leaf
- port



Place the prunes, bay leaf, and cinnamon stick in a preserving jar, and add brown sugar. Cover with port, seal, date, and label the jar.

Store for at least six months before using.

These are good to serve with fresh pineapple, or ice cream, and their rich flavour makes an unusual accompaniment to roast pork.

**Paul Cleave**



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## **Friday Nights Darts Class of 2024**



Since last June, every other Friday night we have been holding a Darts Competition at Morchard Bishop Sports Club.

Our presentation night was held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. The winner was Mr Rodney Moore. Each participant was awarded a cash prize and our thanks go to Julian, Charles and Dawn for running the competition. As well as darts it's a great social night please join us - you would be welcome.



On the same night Morchard Bishop Sports & Social Club also held their amazing Christmas Draw. Every draw ticket bought goes on prizes and we start selling them from June.

Our next get together is **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April (Good Friday)** this is for the chance to win the Knockout Cup, where the current champion Mr Graham Saffron, will be defending his title.

All are welcome - you do not have to be a Michael van Gerwen or a Luke Littler - start your Easter weekend with a game of darts in good company. All we ask is for you to be there for 7.30pm for your registration.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Dawn Parkhouse**

## **MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Division 4  
Devon & Exeter Football League**



### **April Fixtures**

<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Upottery (A) 3pm k.o</b>
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Colyton (A) 3pm k.o</b>
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Elmore (H) 3pm k.o</b>
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April (Easter Monday) Dunkeswell (H) 3pm k.o</b>	

### **February/March Results**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> Morchard Bishop 3 Lyme Regis 1**  
**(Chris Andrews 2 Adam Leat 1)**  
**March 9<sup>th</sup> Cullompton 2 Morchard Bishop 6**  
**(Chris Andrews 3 Alan Woodcock 1 Adam Leat 1 Liam Tucker 1)**

**Light refreshments on sale during the match**

**Please support your local team.**

**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.**

**THANK YOU...to everyone who attended our  
Johnny Cowling Comedy Night,  
your support is very much appreciated.  
M.B.F.C.**

\*\*\*\*\*



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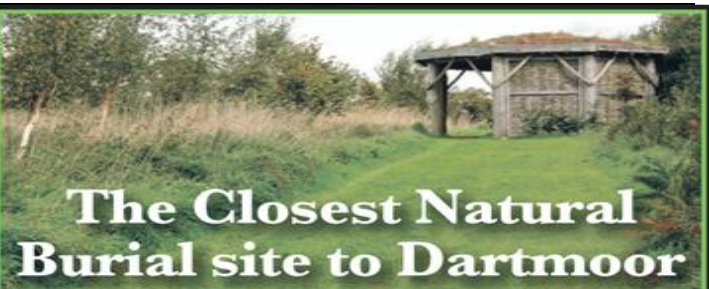
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### GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

*Hear the story of Easter read as we walk through the village, stopping at different locations.*

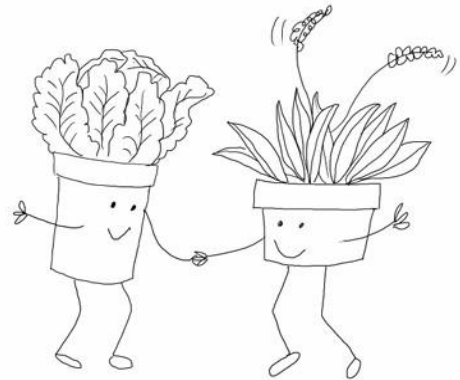
All meet at St. Mary's

**10.00am**

Finishing at Emmanuel for  
Coffee and Hot Cross Buns



## Sustainable Morchard Plant Share



**Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall  
Saturday 3rd May  
10.00-11.30**

Bring plants ~ Take plants  
Meet fellow growers!  
Blackberry Lane Produce  
Alongside regular coffee morning

## PALM SUNDAY

*13<sup>th</sup> April  
@ 11am*

Coffee &  
Easter treats  
from  
10.30am

Activities for  
Primary aged  
children

## EASTER CELEBRATIONS *at Emmanuel*

### EASTER DAY CELEBRATION

*Sunday  
20<sup>th</sup> April @ 11am*

*Revd. Peter Brown*

Easter eggs for all children!



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Email: [enquiries@middevonpestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@middevonpestcontrol.co.uk)





## **News from your Parish Council**

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

The Parish Council spent £117.62 from the main account £8.04 from its Reserve account and nothing from the Footpaths account. There were no items of expenditure over £100.

The Parish Council considered one planning application:

24/00246/FULLY SUPPORTED	Construction of new vehicular access	Lydcott Nursery, Black Dog
--------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------

Again, there was a lot of correspondence to consider, some of the subjects were: The Mid Devon District Council has put out a call to landowners asking them to contact them with any sites that they would be prepared to sell for housing; an Invitation to join the “North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group”; Keep Britain Tidy Campaign confirmed that the Great British Spring Clean would take place between 21 March and 6 April 2025.

It is hoped that the warm weather is around the corner and the pot hole repair material will be warm enough to set in the pot holes – so if any of you have a little time you could spare to assist with repairing potholes please get in touch with either Sarah Gillbard or David Parker.

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

The Parish Council reviewed its assets and their maintenance. Most items appeared in fair order, maintenance was arranged for any items that needed it.

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

If you want to read the full minutes of Parish Council meetings, they are available on the Parish Council noticeboard on the London Inn Skittle Alley. They can also be read on the Parish Council Website: <https://www.morchardbishop-pc.org.uk/>

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

Contact Details for the Parish Council:

David Parker: 01363 877008 / 07794 362591 [clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@morchardbishop-pc.org.uk)

**David Parker**  
Parish Clerk

### **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.

Every fourth Saturday we will be holding a **Village Walk** leaving the Memorial Hall at 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.

### **Affordable Homes at Belstone View**

For those wishing to be considered for one of the six affordable houses (shared ownership) on Belstone View, the new housing development on Chulmleigh Road, please note that you must register with Devon Home Choice to be considered. <https://forms.devonhomechoice.com/QuestionnaireStart.aspx?qid=298>

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**Torridge, North,  
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### Increased Council Tax Bill

All our bills are creeping up and Council Tax increases are also anticipated. There are, however, several options to potentially reduce Council Tax bills.

If you're an adult living alone, your bill can be reduced by 25%. Simply notify the council that you are living alone and the date that became effective. You will be entitled to the discounted rate from that time even if it was some time ago.

Some people are 'disregarded' when calculating Council Tax. This includes under-18s, full-time students, long-term hospital patients, people with severe mental impairments and many more.

[Check if you can pay less council tax - Citizens Advice](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/check-if-you-can-pay-less-council-tax/)  
(<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/check-if-you-can-pay-less-council-tax/>)

If everyone in a home is disregarded the bill will be reduced by half. If everyone in a home is a student or severely mentally impaired there will be no Council Tax to pay. If you live with an adult who isn't disregarded but who is on a low income or receives certain benefits you might be able to get a 'second adult rebate.' [Getting a second adult rebate on your council tax - Citizens Advice](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/check-if-you-can-get-second-adult-rebate-on-your-council-tax/)  
(<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/check-if-you-can-get-second-adult-rebate-on-your-council-tax/>)

If you or someone you live with is disabled and your home has been adapted, you can ask to be placed down one band. Ask your Council about Council Tax Reduction for people on low incomes. They will ask questions about your income and circumstances; if you are eligible, they will reduce the amount you have to pay. There are also different rules that apply when you've reached State Pension Age. [Check your State Pension age - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age)  
(<https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>)

A 'discretionary reduction' is available whereby your council can reduce or cancel your Council Tax if you can provide evidence that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay your bill. If you don't get this you can still appeal to a valuation tribunal who, if they agree with you, can order the council to reduce or cancel your bill [Applying for Council Tax Reduction - Citizens Advice](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/applying-for-council-tax-reduction/)  
([https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/applying-for-council-tax-reduction](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/applying-for-council-tax-reduction/))

You can always contact us on our AdviceLine, 0808 27 87 999 (free and local), or via our website [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or call in at one of our offices. Opening hours are also on our website.



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**THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025**

***the 80th Anniversary***

***V.E DAY in***

***Morchard Bishop***

**8.00am** The V.E 80 Anniversary  
Proclamation to be read at the War  
Memorial Cross

**6.45pm** onwards the evening event  
will take place in the fields of The  
London Inn

please bring along a chair or  
blanket to sit on if required.

**BBQ**

The church bells will be ringing

**9.25pm** The V.E. 80<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary  
Tribute to be read.

**9.30pm** from St. Marys church  
tower we will be lighting the Beacon  
We hope you will join us

**MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH  
COUNCIL**

## **Gardening tips for April**



- Keep weeds under control
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- Tie-in climbing and rambling roses
- Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors
- Start to feed citrus plants
- Increase the water given to houseplants
- Feed hungry shrubs and roses
- Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- Prune fig trees
- Divide bamboos and waterlilies

Jo Coffey



## **Transform Your Home & Garden**



### **Serving Morchard Bishop & Surrounding Areas**

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Sustainable Morchard

## **The impact of climate change on Africa**

Africa is the world's second largest continent extending 8,000 km from north to south. It includes a wide range of climates including the three tropical climates (hot desert, savanna grasslands and tropical rainforest). It is the second most populated continent, with the most youthful population. Education levels are poor with 34% of 15-24 year olds unable to read.

Africa has warmed up by 1 degree Celsius since 1900, but this increase is not uniform across the continent. Kericho, in Kenya for example, has seen maximum temperatures increase by 3.5 degrees since 1985.

Extreme weather events are becoming more common and more intense, with rainy seasons, on which rain-fed agriculture depends, becoming increasingly unreliable. It is this exposure of farming to changes in climate that contribute to the continent's vulnerability. In 2023, 19 countries were listed as experiencing water scarcity. Low agricultural yields for farmers fuel rural-urban and international migration as farmers' incomes fall.

Africa's problems are exacerbated by its debt crisis. By increasing its production of cash crops countries can try and reduce their financial commitments. However, this can result in deforestation which in time leads to more surface run off causing flooding, soil erosion and a lowering of the water table.

As rainfall patterns alter, farmers will make more use of irrigation, lowering water tables until they are beyond the reach of wells and boreholes. Overwatering in hot sunny climates results in mineral-rich water being drawn to the surface. As this water evaporates it leaves behind a hard crust of salt which renders the soil infertile.

Shortages of water will lead to more conflict between countries as they compete for water (river) resources. At a local level, water shortages will force people to rely on poor quality water which will increase the incidence of waterborne diseases such as cholera. These diseases will put pressure on the countries' healthcare systems, diverting governmental and aid monies.

As humidity, and where rainfall increases, the spread of disease will also occur, it is anticipated that the area affected by malaria will double in size putting 7.2 million people at risk.

Africa is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth, it contains 20% of all known plant, mammal and bird species, and 17% of all amphibians and reptiles. Fragile habitats will not survive climate change with 20-50% of species facing extinction.

Low lying African countries are particularly susceptible to coastal erosion and flooding. 20 million people in Nigeria live in the coastal zone, while 90% of Gambian households are said to be at risk. Rising sea levels increase the rate of coastal erosion as well as flooding coastal areas. Salty sea water will percolate into rock, making groundwater supplies salty and unfit for human consumption and agricultural use.

Africa has 18.3% of the World's population, but only contributed 3.9% of the World's carbon dioxide emissions in 2021. By way of comparison the UK has 0.86% of the World's population and emits 5% of World carbon dioxide emissions.

**Paul Ticehurst**

### **Morchard's Weather**

So, we have just had a fortnight without rain and the rain we had today - the 12th March - was not worth mentioning. This is not overly unusual as February can often be dry - in 2023, only 6mm rain fell in the whole month. Unusually, I've been watering the garden, but then we have had frosts as well. The first week of March we had frost most mornings, but really nice sunny days as a high pressure system held over the UK



On the third of March I registered a low of minus 2C and then on the 9th March a high of almost 17C. In March, we also reach the spring equinox, when hours of day and night are equal - a moment of temporary balance. In some way it marks the transition between the long winter months and the forthcoming warmer days of spring and summer.

The morning of Friday, 14th March, early risers were treated with views of a lunar eclipse around 6am low on the horizon, when the moon became a deep blood red as it moved into the Earth's shadow.

The daffodils along the road verges are telling us though that Spring is almost here. Buds are budding, songbirds are singing and hares are haring around - if you are lucky enough to see one.

**Stephen Leese**

## Mobile "Not-Spots"

Even if you don't know what a 'not-spot' is, many of you will have certainly experienced one and we have them here in Morchard Bishop. You have a nice new shiny phone in your hand and you are trying to look up something on the internet, or message your friends, when nothing happens because you have no mobile signal. It's frustrating and extremely variable. Here in Morchard, there can be a signal out by the bowling green but not at the pub in the centre. Wood Lane is very patchy.

Within mid-Devon District Council, there is an initiative to find out exactly where the not-spots are locally in villages like ours. Armed with this information, they will put pressure on the large phone providers to improve their services, especially in rural locations.

So again, we need your help. Tell us where you have no signal within the village. Try and be precise. Do you have a signal in your home but not outside? Or the other way around? If we can collect a lot of data, it will raise our chances of getting an improvement to our mobile phone services. Send your comments and not-spots locations to [morchardbishop3@gmail.com](mailto:morchardbishop3@gmail.com) and we'll pass it all on to Mid-Devon.

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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](mailto:Liane@thebuddhabarnltd.co.uk)

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### Toddler Group

Morchard Bishop Pre-School

**From 8th September  
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9.30 – 10.30**

For ages newborn to 4

- Staff supervised
- All-ages toys
- Arts and crafts
- Healthy snack-time
- Sing-songs and....

Chat, tea and a warm welcome for grown-ups

**Please bring fruit for snack time!**

**Please note our new e-mail address:**

[adminmorchardbishop@thelink.academy](mailto:adminmorchardbishop@thelink.academy)

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

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

**Tel - 01363 877328**



### 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**

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

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Wed CLOSED	Sat 8.00 – 2.00

No appointment needed Monday & Tuesday.

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



## **The Elephant**

The news spread that a man had come to the town with a very strange creature called an elephant.

Since he had arrived in the night, no one had seen the beast, though its weird calls had echoed through the dark streets, adding to the mystery. This was in the days before internet searches, David Attenborough documentaries, photography, books or paper, so the people could not even go to the library to find out what an elephant was and the local wise men were no better informed than they were.



The Travelling Talesman

[www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk](http://www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk)

These wise men were quite perturbed to find there was something they did not know, so they gathered themselves and set off to interview the stranger and become acquainted with his curious pet.

The visitor, being a person of means, had obtained permission to erect his own accommodation upon the green. This took the form of a large striped marquee. On arrival at the green the wise men made the necessary polite approaches and offers of gifts, so they were soon invited into the tent. Inside it was divided into several sections by the use of curtains or drapes attached to the ridge pole and the two uprights that held up the canvas. The stranger was very courteous, serving them drinks and food and making conversation, enquiring as a traveller might about the town and how things were done there. He could, however, see their impatience to move on with their intended business of the night. Making the excuse that the animal was resting and would be disturbed by the sight of the flaming torches, he conducted them very carefully through the heavy black drapes at one end of the structure in to a lightless enclosure, offering that they could at least familiarise themselves with the marvel by touch.



Spreading out in the gloom they were soon gasping with delight as their hand encountered something in the darkness, this was followed by a low rumble and the tourist suggested that they leave the animal to her sleep. Back in the lighted area another round of rich hospitality was brought out and as the wise men settled upon the lavish furnishings, their host enquired what type of beast they thought the elephant to be.

The first wise man to speak had taken hold of the trunk and thus opined that the elephant was clearly some form of snake. The second spluttered that this was preposterous since it had hair! He had caught the tuft of her tail. The third, who had dropped to the floor to crawl in the absence of light, was sure they must both be wrong and that an elephant was much more like a tree, being formed of a single vertical pole, for he had laid his hands upon a leg. The fourth, astonished at his colleagues' utterances having grasped an ear, proclaimed the elephant to be some sort of land-based ray or possibly a massive bat. The fifth, who had walked face first into the elephant's side, assured them that none yet had got the measure of the creature but he, having experienced it on nearly his whole body with hands stretched out either side, could categorically state that it was in fact a wall: rough, flat and unyielding.

They argued for a while before turning to the sixth, who for his part had encountered a tusk. He would not be drawn for a while but when pressured finally exclaimed that he was sure the others had been in a different room from him for, while several agreed to a general coarse texture if not the shape to which it applied, *he* had held something round, hard, smooth and curved. After a brief bout of sniggering from the assembled intelligentsia, they at last turned to the animal's owner to confirm who was right.

"Well" he said with a gentle smile, "All of you were accurate to some extent, yet all of you were wrong to think that your friends were not equally correct. Had you agreed that you were all reporting a partial truth you would have been a lot closer to the whole."

And with that he pulled back the curtain.

...here's to living happily ever after, until the next adventure.  
The Travelling Talesman [www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk](http://www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk)



## **Morchard Bishop Sports and Social Club**

The above club would like to invite everyone to our

### **AGM**

On Wednesday 23rd April 2025 at 7.30PM  
Meeting at the above premises, Wood Lane, MB. EX17 6PE

We are a members only club but if you would like to attend  
You will be made most welcome.

Membership at present is £2 per year, 1st Aug to 31st July.  
Current members will be receiving an email from us in  
the next few days.

There will be a chance under A.O.B. to ask questions if  
you wish.

For more info email me, Angie Brimilcombe, at  
[morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you there  
Angie Brimblecombe Chairperson



### **Forthcoming events April 2025**

**Fri, 4<sup>th</sup> April; 19.30-21.30**

**The Bridge**

**Ahmed Dickenson Cardenas and Eduardo Martin**

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup> April; 15.00-18.00**

**Revival: The Music of Gillian Welch and David  
Rawlings**

**Local favourites Etchechuria, Pauper's Fortune and  
The Wee Free men join together**

**Sat 12 April; 19.30-21.30**

**It is I, Seagull**

**Lucy Mellors - Fusing Opera and Comedy**

**Sun 13 April; 16.30-18.00**

**Tongues/Savage Love**

**Two plays by American playwright Sam Shepard  
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**The Last Thursday Picture Show, launching the last  
Thursday in April and thereafter every month  
Run by sisters Jo and Cate Davey from Films for  
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**First film is acclaimed Indie Movie *Rye Lane*  
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**Morchard Bishop Playing Field Association**

## **Annual General Meeting**

*You're invited!*

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April,  
7:00pm**

**at the Playing Field Clubhouse  
top of Wood Lane, Morchard Bishop, EX17 6PE**

Annual accounts available by request for advance scrutiny,  
for a copy or any other queries: email [mbplayingfield@gmail.com](mailto:mbplayingfield@gmail.com)



**: Morchard Bishop Playing Fields Association**

Or speak to Bob and Toni Robinson, Bay House, Chulmleigh Road, tel 877523

Join us on the  
**20<sup>th</sup> April**  
COFFEE & HOT CROSS  
BUNS  
from 10.30am  
with  
Revd. Peter Brown  
Easter eggs & Easter activities for all children!

Countryfile

## **The benefits of Gardening and Nature on Our Health and Wellbeing**

*"Illnesses do not come upon us out of the blue. They are developed from small daily sins against Nature. When enough sins have accumulated, illnesses will suddenly appear."*

— Hippocrates

Human beings are part of nature and are healthier when they have a connection to it. Whether that be by working all day with wildlife animals or plants; spending weekends in our garden; going for long walks in the woods or playing with the family on the beach; being in the natural world (as opposed to manmade environments), surrounded by it and engaging with it, stopping and focussing, does us good. Even reading about it and immersing our imagination in it has some benefits. If you can't get out into it for whatever reason (and even if you can) then books about it can bring it all in to you, from rainbows of flowers to rugged coastlines, way up to 8,000 feet above the earth, riding with sleeping birds, down to all kinds of subterranean hidden spaces.

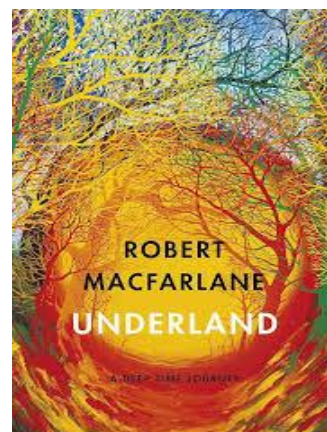
Most people who have learnt about gardening over the last six plus decades will have come across Dr Hessayon's ... *Expert* series of books - some of the most accessible guides ever written on just about every area of gardening. It is fortunate he covered so many areas before we lost him, aged 96, this January. One of the reasons gardening is so beneficial is that it is a pursuit which encourages us to stop rushing and multi-tasking and give our focussed attention to something natural, to other living beings very different from us, outside ourselves, enabling us to connect with them and do so in an increasingly informed way.

Other books can supplement this (or even replace it for those of us who are limited in our access to it) and cover other areas of the natural world, aspects we aren't trying to manage, just observe. A beautiful illustrated gift of an historic wildflower guide can bring moments of complete engagement, filling the technical specification of the plant with new depth and joy by examining the wonderfully hand coloured illustrations in detail.



With a more practical modern, but still beautiful, approach William Keble Martin, the famous author and illustrator of the 1965 book *Concise British Flora in Colour*, is still the go-to guide for getting to know and identifying our native wildflowers. It was written just up the road in Great Torrington when he was 88. Of even more local interest, he also authored *Flora of Devon* (1939).

Digging deeper, Robert Macfarlane's *Underland* (2019), explores sea caves and geology bringing them to awe-inspiring life, whilst soaring high, *Crow Country* by Mark Cocker (2008), is set in Norfolk, though anyone in Morchard would be likely to recognise the crows and rooks which lead the book's flight to and from the different roosts.



More recently Helen Macdonald has secured her reputation as a great nature writer with *H is for Hawk* (2015) and *Vesper Flights* (2021), the title of which is taken from the amazing sleeping habits of swifts. The collection of essays reflects not just on swifts but on many different areas of the natural world and our relationship with it, transporting the reader in its lyrical flow and fierce clarity of understanding.

Returning to earth and closer to home again, David Kennard's 2004 book, *A Shepherd's Watch*, takes us into another, even more interwoven, interaction with the natural world, as he draws the reader into a year in the life of a North Devon sheep farmer.

Whichever it is that calls to you, and whether it's an audio book or print, books can fill you with nature and the natural world always should be a part of us, as we are of it. How can we be whole without it?

*"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles."*

— Anne Frank

**Jo Coffey**



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

The next Over 60's Luncheon at the London Inn will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30pm. The menu for this lunch will be Chicken Breast in a Cream of Mushroom & Madeira Sauce with Vegetables & Roast Potatoes, followed by Fresh Fruit Pavlova, and tea/coffee.

The cost is £12.00 inclusive.

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

If you would like to join in please fill in the slip below and return it to me by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 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.

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## **WI Annual Quiz and Skittles Taster Session**



Our very talented quiz team came second out of ten teams in the heat of the WI annual quiz held in Morchard Bishop. They qualified for the final which was held at Longdown on Saturday March 8th. There they came about half way on the score board, a brilliant achievement as the questions were exceptionally challenging.



Instead of our usual meeting in March we had a skittles taster session in the London Inn skittle alley. This was great fun and the experienced skittlers put us in our place.

The April meeting will be our AGM where we assess the past year and pay our annual subscription. We will have a bring and share tea and maybe some games, such as bingo, or bingo whist.

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Next Meeting:  
16 April 2025  
10.00-11.00

**Tourism in Devon and Its Problems**

Talk by Sally Everton

**Boniface Centre**

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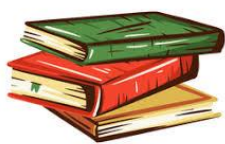
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# BOOK SWAP

**Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**3pm-4.30**



Since the demise of the Mobile Library Van the Village Book Swap has proved very popular; the tea/coffee and cakes likewise! We have a wide range of genres and many recently published titles. In our store we have a good stock of books which we swap in to change our selection. We also have a good range of Children's Books for all ages from toddlers to David Walliams fans!

We welcome grown-ups and pupils on their way home from school. For the jigsaw aficionados we have a great selection which you can take home.

As so many everyday things are 'going online' and we have Internet at the Hall, we would like to offer some support/tuition to anyone who is finding this all confusing! To this end if anyone has a working laptop or tablet they no longer need we would be very grateful to give it a new home!!

Lastly we are pleased to say that we have the Crediton Courier visiting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April as they have heard of our success! We look forward to seeing you too!!



**Jo Eames**



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School News

## **Sports, Festivals and World Book Day Celebrations**



They spent an afternoon talking to the children about reading and sharing their favourite books – there was a lot of talk about football too!

On World Book Day itself, we enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book characters. There were a huge variety from wizards to Willy Wonka, Rupert the Bear to Paddington Bear. We received a lovely email from a village resident, commenting on how much they enjoyed seeing the children all dressed up as they walked to school.



The last month has been another busy period in Morchard Bishop Primary School. There have been a wide variety of opportunities for the children ranging from sporting events, with our KS1 children attending a dance festival in QE, to song writing workshops with Oak Class working alongside visitors from the Devon Music Hub.

A real high point of the month has been the celebration of World Book Day. We are always looking for ways to promote a love of reading and we were extremely privileged to welcome Pierce Sweeney and Ben Purrington from Exeter City Football Club.



The children had a fantastic day taking part in a wide variety of book related activities including making hats for a favourite book character and joining with other classes to share favourite books together.

As part of the celebrations, we enjoyed a visit from local book shop 'The Bookery'. Each year they select a set of their Top Titles for children, which include a wide range of books from picture books to non-fiction. They shared extracts from the books for the children to enjoy and we are very grateful to FOMBS who, once again, brought a copy of all 24 books for us to keep and enjoy in school.

It has been wonderful to see the buzz of excitement for books and reading and as a school we will always look to instill a love of reading in our children.

**Nicola Miners**