



THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

THE INDEPENDENT VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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

No.359 MAY 2025

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY EMMANUEL METHODIST CHURCH

The Hope of Easter

Happy Easter everyone! Spring is a wonderful time to be greeted with buds, blossoms, birdsongs, and longer days that stretch into evening light. For Christians, Easter is more than a celebration of Springs's renewal or just another holiday on the calendar. It is *the* defining moment of our faith—the day when the stone was rolled away, the tomb was found empty, and Christ rose in victory over sin and death. It's the moment that changes everything. As St. Paul writes, "*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile*" (1 Corinthians 15:17). But He has been raised—and that is the glorious hope we proclaim.



The hope of Easter is not a vague optimism or sentimental tradition. It is rooted in the historical reality of Jesus Christ's resurrection, and in the life-transforming power that flows from it. It is the assurance that death does not have the last word, that sin has been conquered, and that through Christ, we are made new.

In a world often overshadowed by fear, conflict, and uncertainty, the resurrection of Jesus stands as a bold and unshakable declaration: *God has not abandoned us*. He enters into the depths of our suffering, bears the full weight of our sin, and rises again to offer us life—abundant and eternal.

For Christians everywhere, Easter is a time to celebrate this victory, to welcome afresh God's grace and forgiveness, to

speak a message of hope and peace in a world filled with darkness and despair, and to renew our calling as resurrection people. It's a time to remember that we don't just worship a crucified Saviour, but a risen King. And that changes not only our Sunday worship but our everyday lives.

Easter reminds us that hope is not naïve—it is bold, defiant, and indomitable. It looks at the brokenness of the world and still says, "*Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.*" It's what enables us to keep loving our neighbours, serving the poor, and standing firm in faith—even when the world feels dark.

So, this Easter season, let us gather with joy and reverence and give thanks to God for Jesus our Risen Hope. Let us proclaim with confidence that Jesus is alive. And let us carry that resurrection hope into our homes, our communities, and our world—living as people who know that hope is alive, and the grave is not the end of the story.

From the empty tomb flows a river of life, joy, and hope. May we drink deeply from it this Easter—and may that hope overflow into every part of our lives.

Have a wonderful Easter. Christ is risen!



Revd. Peter A. Brown
Superintendent Minister, Ringsash Methodist Circuit

MAY 2025 DIARY

If you would like details of your event or meeting to appear in the **June** diary, then please let Pauline Chater know by **12th May** 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 at our services

Sunday 4: 10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 11: 10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 18: 10.30 Family Service 18.00: Joint Bible Study at Emmanuel

Sunday 25: 10.30 Morning Worship

Future Events For your Diary

Saturday 21 June 10.00 – 18.00 St Mary's Flower Festival

Sunday 22 June 10.00 – 16.00 St Mary's Flower Festival

Friday 15 August 80th Anniversary of VJ Day. Parish Council are planning events.

Emmanuel

All are welcome at our services. Morning Services start at 11.00 with coffee from 10.30. Joint Bible Study Group with St Mary's 18.00 on Sunday 18. Visit www.emmanuel-morchard-bishop.org for detailed information about services, Sunday School for primary aged children, youth clubs and other events.

Big Breakfast Sunday 4th May from 09.30

BOOK SWAP: MAY 7 and first Wednesday of the month 15.00 – 16.30 at The Memorial Hall.

PARISH WALK: MAY 24 and fourth Saturday of the month 11.00 starting from The Memorial Hall

Thur	1/8/15/22 1 1 1/8/15/22 1/8/15/22	09.30-10.30 10.00 -15.00 12.00-15.00 15.45-18.15 18.30- 19.30	Toddler Group – New Born to 4 Can't Sew. Won't Sew Pennymoor Singaround Dove Dance Academy Basic to Intermediate Pilates	Pre-school Emmanuel – Shared Lunch London Inn Lessons in Memorial Hall Memorial Hall – Contact Becky Cunningham ivegotyourback@gamil.com
Fri	2 2	13.30 -14.30 17.30 – 19.00	Visiting Post Office Max and Mike's Street Food	London Inn War Memorial
Sat	3 3/10/17/24/31	10.00-11.30 19.30	Coffee Morning- Plant Swap Sustainable Morchard MBSSC Bar Skittles, Darts, Pool	Memorial Hall -Bring Plants, Take Plants MBSSC
Sun	4	09.30	Big Breakfast	Emmanuel
Mon	5/12/19 5 5/12/19/26	09.00 -10.00 19.30 18.30 onwards	Basic to Intermediate Pilates Parish Council AGM Roll Up and play Bowls Open to all	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Bowling Club
Tues	6/13/20/27 6/13/20 6/13/20/27 6/13/20/27	9.30 -11.30 14.15-18.45 19.00 -20.00 19.30	Cafe Emmanuel Dove Dance Academy Zumba Duplicate Bridge/Pool	Emmanuel Lessons in Memorial Hall Memorial Hall MBSSC
Wed	7 7/14/21	15.00 -16.30 17.30	Library Swap Brownies	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall

Sponsored This Month by Emmanuel Methodist Church

Thur	8	08.00	VE Day 80th Anniversary Proclamation	War Memorial
		18.45	Evening Event & Barbecue	London Inn Field
		21.25	Anniversary Tribute	
		21.30	Lighting the Beacon	St Mary's Church
	8	19.30	Men's Darts Final – President's Shield Cup	MBSSC
Sat	10	09.30	Produce and Table Top Sale	Memorial Hall
Sun	11	13.00 Sellers 14.00 Buyers	Playing Fields Association - Car Boot Sale	Playing Field
Tues	13	19.30	Memorial Hall AGM	Memorial Hall
Wed	14	14.30	W.I. Bluebell Walk & Cream Tea	Moor Farm
	14	19.30	Sustainable Morchard	Memorial Hall Upper Room
Thur	15	19.30	Men's Darts Averages Play Off	MBSSC
Fri	16	14.00	Widowsons' Bikers Club	MBSSC
	16	19.00	Prime Youth Club – Primary Age	Emmanuel
	16	19.30	Quiz Night organised by Memorial Hall Committee	Memorial Hall
Sat	17	10.00-11.30	Coffee Morning – Toddlers & FOMBS	Memorial Hall
	17	19.00	Widowsons' Disco	MBSSC
		19.30	Bar Open for Members of Social Club	MBSSC
Wed	21	12.30	Over Sixties Lunch	London Inn: To book a place Contact Mandy 877459 mandytapp@talk21.com
	21	19.30	Tractor Club	Memorial Hall
Thur	22	19.30	Pennymoor Singaround Folk music and songs - free	London Inn Skittle Alley jonshapley@hotmail.com
Fri	23	19.30	Edge Youth Club – Year 7 upwards	Emmanuel
Sat	24	10.00-11.30	Coffee Morning -Parish Council	Memorial Hall
	24	11.00	Parish Walk	Meet outside Memorial Hall
	24	14.00-17.00	Bowling Club Fun Afternoon Free, everyone welcome	Bowling Club
Sat	31		No Coffee Morning	
	31	13.00- 17.00	Craft Fair	Memorial Hall

NOTICEBOARD

Bus service 369

Outwards:

Morichard 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

Morichard Bishop (Greenaway): 9.46,
11.54, 13.52, 16.02, 18.36

Morichard 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

MAY OPENING TIMES

MONDAYS – Closed

TUESDAYS – All Dates Pool & Bridge

WEDNESDAYS – Closed

THURSDAYS – 8TH – Men's Darts Final President's Shield Cup. 15TH – Men's Darts Averages Play Offs.

FRIDAYS – 16TH – Widowsons' Open From 2pm

SATURDAYS – 17th Widowsons' Disco. Normal Opening Hours From 7.30pm. Please See Club Noticeboard or Facebook Page for Dates for MBFC Football Fixtures in April.

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

ANGIE 07510 961814

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 May 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

Morichard Bishop EX17 6SF
Phone: 07926 625120

Associate Editor: Christine Faunch

ADVERTS

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

Adverts up to 1/8 page are £5 a month

Adverts up to 1/4 page are £7 a month

Adverts up to 1/2 page are £10 a month

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

LETTERS – MESSAGES – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Poole

Anne, Andy and Nikki wish to offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone for all the cards, flowers, kind words and offers of help and support we have received since the sad and sudden loss of Brian.

Seeing so many of his friends at the church and at the reception afterwards made it such a memorable, even happy, though sad occasion for us.

Brian would have loved it.
Thank you all so much.

Anne Poole

Thank you!

Can I say a heartfelt thank you to the kind dog walker who found a 13mm socket and thoughtfully dropped it off at the garage on Polson Hill recently?

I had dropped it inside the engine bay of our car while changing the battery, where it vanished from view. Adrian very kindly let me take it straight into the garage where we put it up on a ramp, removed the guards underneath and had a good search for it but we still couldn't find it. I've been a bit worried ever since that it could find its way into some moving part, potentially causing quite a bit of damage. It must have fallen out on the way to the garage and it's a huge relief knowing it's no longer in the engine bay.

Thanks to your honesty and sharp eye, it's now safely back with the rest of the 46 pieces in the set it came from and I'm incredibly grateful.

It's a lovely reminder of the kind and considerate people in Morchard. Thank you again.

All the best
Mike Smith

Morchard's Weather

I thought about writing simply "It has been dry!", but you all know that already. No wellies in sight with the dog walkers. Between 26th February and 28th March, I measured no rain. There were heavy showers in Crediton, but not here. Through early-April, we have not had much more, although it is raining now (13th).

So just how extreme is this? Well, we can all remember the first lockdown, which was late March/April 2020 and we had very similar, warm sunny weather then.

Data from Exeter Uni shows that in this region, this April has had both the highest max temperature at 22.2C (72F) and highest average of 11.3C (52F) during the last 5 years. Rainfall for the six week period March to mid-April was just 6.6mm (quarter of an inch). Last year during the same period, 206mm (8.1 inches) of rain fell. I remember writing simply "It was wet" at the time.

The first Swallows were seen over Morchard on 3rd April and there has been an influx of Chiff-chaffs (that's just how they sound), so spring has definitely sprung. The Swifts won't arrive until May. Most garden birds are now breeding and some here are already feeding young. And now with this rain, how is it that the weeds grow faster than my vegetable seedlings?

Stephen Leese



Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Notice of AGM

Tuesday 13th May

7.30pm

**In the Memorial Hall
Please come and support us.**




TODDLER GROUP
At Morchard Bishop Pre-School

COME AND JOIN US!

THURSDAY MORNING
9:30AM - 10:30AM
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Jack : 07904225234

Ricky : 07712177710

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: **home** – 01363 877803.

: **email** – jomcdphysio@gmail.com

: **web site** – jomcdougallphysio.com

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THURSDAY 8th MAY 2025

the 80th Anniversary

V.E DAY in

Morchurch Bishop

8.00am The V.E 80 Anniversary Proclamation
to be read at the

War Memorial Cross

by Parish Councillor Mr Stephen Leese

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.

The LONDON INN will be open

BBQ

The church bells will be ringing

9.25pm The V.E. 80TH Anniversary Tribute to
be read.

by Mr Jim McDougall

9.30pm from St. Marys church tower we will
be lighting the Beacon

all children to be accompanied by an adult.

We hope you will join us
**MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH
COUNCIL**

Sustainable Morchurch

PLANT SWAP

**We are holding a plant swap on the 3rd of May in
the village hall.**

What is a plant swap?

A plant swap works by people bringing plants they have spare/left over, and taking away other people's plants. If you don't have spare plants please come along anyway and take some plants home with you.

Any plants will do: house plants, garden plants, vegetables or herbs - though please label your plants.

Also stay for a tea/coffee and chat with other gardeners.
All plants are free, we only ask for donations to go towards organising other events.

Why are we doing it?

Good reasons for having a plant swap include:

- Plant swaps introduce you to other local gardeners and help to develop a sense of community
- Maintains and develops growing skills.
- Helps protect biodiversity and keeps the diversity of locally adapted varieties going.
- Can also save you money!

If you are interested in the work Sustainable Morchurch is doing or have any ideas for future projects please come along to our meetings, they are held in the village hall once a month, the dates are published in the Morchurch Messenger.

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**"...it's not a pet, Sir, hawks are not pets."
Or when folks stop me and say, "Is it tame?"
Is it heck tame, it's trained that's all.
It's fierce, and it's wild, an' it's not bothered about anybody,
not even about me right. And that's why it's great."
— Barry Hines, A Kestrel for a Knave 1968**



Anyone who travelled by car in the '70s will remember the sight of kestrels hovering, pointed winged, over the verges. A long journey on big roads was a guarantee to see them, beating the air to sit still, using their sharp eyesight, then plummeting onto an unsuspecting vole below. We unwittingly created a great habitat in those unpeopled grass slopes for small rodents like voles, and in doing so greatly supported the kestrel population.

Others may be familiar with them from the movie "Kes", or from GCSE English study of "A Kestrel for a Knave", the literary source for the film. The film takes its title from the medieval law that a male servant or serf could own no bird but a kestrel. Kestrels have been our most populous raptor for centuries, but also, it was capable of catching nothing much larger than a vole or a mouse.

Some may know the name windhover, or its other colloquial names: windcuffer (Orkneys); windsucker (possibly related to Swedish work "fokka", to thrust or push). The name kestrel may come from the word crecelle - a bell carried by lepers. Ornithologists however are also likely to be familiar with *Falco tinnunculus* - the latinised name: *Falco* is from scythe, referring to its claws, more than its tendency to scythe the air; and *tinnunculus* suggesting little shrieks or ringing, echoing the bell.

Between 30 and 40cms tall, they are chestnut brown with blackish spots above, buff with smaller dark streaks below. The males sport a blue-grey cap and tail, whilst the females have more pronounced blackish markings and a barred tail. They like open land, fields, heaths, scrubland and marshes; they nest in cavities, so it is well worth providing a suitable nestbox if you would like to see them around more.

Before their omnipresence in the '70s kestrels were at one point very badly affected by organochlorides such as DDT, but with their control/ban have fortunately recovered. They have 4 or 5 brown speckled eggs in each clutch, and usually 3 or 4 will make it through the month's incubation and the month of brooding. Therefore, so long as suitable habitat and food is available, they do have the potential to rebound a little better than many birds of prey, so long as the hazard harming them is promptly dealt with.

In the UK numbers are again fluctuating worryingly with a significant decline leaving only 40% of the earlier population (1995-2022) putting them firmly back on the UK Amber list for conservation. Most worryingly it is not yet clear why we appear to be losing our kestrels in the UK when their numbers are still stable in mainland Europe. Are we creating more secondary poisonings with rodenticides? Are we destroying nesting sites? Are they being directly persecuted? What is happening in the UK that is making it so inhospitable for one of our iconic native species, a bird with records running back into history, a bird so strongly linked to the English common man compared to its success in Europe?

More information on kestrels:

<https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/birdfacts/kestrel>

<https://www.hawk-conservancy.org/conservation-research/uk/kestrel-monitoring/>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/kestrel>

Jo Coffey

Morchar Bishop Bowling Club

Home fixtures for May

All welcome to come and watch.

Sat 3 rd	v. Tiverton	2:00pm
Mon 5 th	ladies v. Torrington.	2:00pm
Wed 7 th	men v. Wellington	2:30pm
Thurs 8 th	v. Okehampton	6:30pm
Sat 10 th	v. Byeways	2:30pm
Wed 14 th	men v. Phear Park	2:30pm
Fri 16 th	men v. South Molton	6:30pm
Tues 20 th	v. Crediton	6:30pm
Wed 21 st	men v. Tiverton	
	men v. Wellington	2:30pm
Fri 23 rd	ladies v. Braunton	2:00pm
Fri 30 th	men v. Great Torrington	6:30pm

News from your Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 7th April 2025. They were sorry to have received the resignation of Steve Watson both as a Councillor and our Chairman. Steve has been a dedicated and energetic Chairman driving many initiatives forward and he will be missed.

Following Steve's resignation, a Notice of Election had been posted but as no request for an election had been received the Council were free to co-opt a suitable candidate.

We spoke to two members from Friends of Morchard Bishop School (FOMBS) about any progress with the proposed track between the school and the garden. Three quotes had been received all of which were much greater than either FOMBS or the Parish Council thought reasonable, and we agreed to work together to find a suitable solution.

The Parish Council spent £1,092.85 from the main account, nothing from its Reserve account and £55.00 from the Footpaths account. The items of expenditure over £100 were £297 for grass cutting for a quarter and £748.01 for the Clerk's Salary for the quarter.

The Parish Council considered two planning applications:

25/00451/FULL SUPPORTED	Erection of front porch; rear single storey extension and terrace; new garage and formation of new vehicle access	6 Corner Close, Morchard Bishop, Crediton
25/00483/FULL SUPPORTED	Erection of an Agricultural Building	Land at NGR 277315 109204 Lane End Farm, MB

At this meeting the Parish Council said goodbye to our County Councillor Margaret Squires who was standing down after many years representing Sandford and Creedy Ward both at District and County Level. The Parish Council expressed their gratitude for all that Margaret has done for the Parish over the years.

The Parish Council considered the vexed subject of parking around the village in this instance particularly along The Green. The Parish Council request that you all park with consideration for others in order to allow wider vehicles to pass. There had been instances where larger vehicles could not reach Old Rectory Gardens, and this could be dangerous if emergency vehicles were prevented from getting through. Whilst writing the Parish Council would also request that drivers to and from the Playing Fields and Sports and Social Club drive slower.

The Parish Council agreed to make a grant of £100 to Hospice Care.

A meeting of the pot hole repair crew will be called in April to work out a programme of repairs – 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.

The Parish Council also discussed the V. E. Day Commemoration, details elsewhere in this magazine.

The Cherry Tree on the Green by the bus shelter will have to be taken down before it becomes a danger to the public and permission to fell the tree is being sought from the Conservation Officer.

Work continued to highlight the problems with digital telephone changeover and the problems with contacting emergency services during power cuts.

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** 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>

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.

David Parker
Parish Clerk

Contact Details for the Parish Council:

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



Debbie's Diner

Cost-saving recipes from one main ingredient.
TAKE ONE.....PACK OF MINCE



Basic Ragu Ingredients: one pack of beef mince [or pack of veggie mince], 1 carrot, 1 large onion, 1 tin of tomatoes, garlic to taste, Salt & pepper, dried or fresh mixed herbs

[Other veg can be added too eg mushrooms, red peppers, sweet potato, celery, parsnips. The more veg, the healthier it will be.] Quantities can be doubled for larger families/appetites!

One pack of beef or vegetarian mince can be used to make a basic ragu [meat or veggie sauce]. This can then be used to create several meals with the addition of a few other store cupboard/fridge ingredients. Batch cooking saves money and time as dishes can be frozen for later use.

1. Preheat a non-stick frying pan.
2. Dry fry the mince to brown it. [This reduces fat content as excess fat can be drained off. Don't put it down the sink as it will solidify and block your drain!]
3. Finely chop the onion, wash and chop the carrot. [other veg can be added too eg celery, peppers, parsnip. Perfect for using up leftover veg]. Add the chopped veg into the browned mince. Stir thoroughly. Cook for 5 mins on a medium heat before adding the tin of tomatoes. Add water [or red wine] to the tin and swirl it around to get the remaining tomato juices. Add the diluted juices to the pan. Stir it all together and add garlic, seasoning and herbs. Simmer on a low heat for 20 mins to cook the veg.

This Ragu can now be used to make:

1. Spaghetti Bolognese-boil a pan of water. Add your pasta once it has boiled. Cook until almost softened. Drain and serve with some of your Ragu. Add Parmesan cheese.
2. Lasagne-layer the Ragu with a mixture of crème fraîche and cheese, then dried lasagne sheets. Repeat and finish with a layer of the 'cheese sauce' and grated cheese. Bake for 30mins at 180C.
3. Cottage Pie- wash potatoes, chop or slice finely. Place in water, bring to the boil then simmer until cooked. Drain water. Add butter, a dash of milk and seasoning. Mash until smooth. Place the Ragu into an oven proof dish. Cover with the mash. Spread it to cover. Grated cheese can be added too. Bake for 30 mins at 180C

Debbie Ticehurst



Morchar Bishop Memorial Hall
WEDNESDAY 7th May
3pm - 4.30pm



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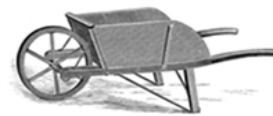
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Gardening tips for May



Protect tender plants from late frosts (or don't plant out until it's safe)
Franklin's night is the local marker of last frost: 19/20/21 May
Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (after Franklin's)
Water early and late to get the most out of your water, avoiding
daytime evaporation
Recycle water when possible and make sure water butts are clear and
collecting well
Regularly hoe off weeds
Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
Mow lawns weekly - keep a balance of short and long areas
Mow edge and path on larger no-mow areas supporting pollinators and
looking good
Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges.
Where possible treat hedges as nesting habitat: don't trim until
September
Prune forsythia, weigelia straight after flowering to encourage fresh
growth for next year's blooms
Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-
flowering bulbs
Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs
Plan how you are going to support beneficial insects this year:
Create food sources and nesting habitat so they can help you in your
garden.

QUIZ NIGHT



With snacks and nibbles



Friday 16th May

Morichard Bishop Memorial Hall



7.30pm



Teams of up to 4 people

£5 per person

Please pre book your team see below & BYO



£60 prize to Winning Team

Please contact Jo 01363 877407 or Anton 01363 877406

jo_eames@hotmail.com

antonheal@yahoo.co.uk

Morchard Bishop WI

A Busy Month at the WI



The WI has had quite a busy April. There is a group of Mid Devon WI's called the Red Earth Group, and every 6 months we all get together for an evening meeting and take turns to host it. Our turn came around on Monday April 7th. Our committee did the most amazing job. They transformed the village hall into a beautiful banqueting space for the 81 ladies who were our guests. We had never seen the tables look so attractive, especially lit by the April setting sun. Each guest was given bee friendly seeds to plant, and a chocolate rabbit under their coffee cup.

The flower arrangements were awarded to the lady on that table who had been a member of the WI for the longest.

There was also wine and soft drinks for everyone. Our speaker was wildlife photographer and film maker, Stephen Powles, who also judged our photograph competition. Supper was a choice of homemade soups and rolls, followed by various homemade desserts and coffee. The evening ended with a raffle.

Just two days after this event was our AGM where we reminisce over the past year and pay our subs for the next one. We thank our officers for all their hard work and make any changes necessary. We had a competition and a quiz and a bring and share tea. We have had to bid a fond farewell to Victoria who has quietly and effortlessly devised our programme of events for 2025, so we will need to organise next year's programme amongst ourselves.

Our May meeting takes place on the farm where our President lives, and we will have the chance to go on a beautiful bluebell walk and enjoy a bring and share tea.

Sue Pluckwell



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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

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Sustainable Cities 1

The UN's 11th Sustainable Development Goal is to "make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

In 1960 33% of the world's population lived in urban areas; by 2023 this figure had grown to 58%. The process whereby the proportion of people living in urban areas compared with rural areas is called urbanisation. This term can be a little confusing and is often confused with urban growth which is defined as an increase in an urban area's population along with its physical area. In raw numbers the population of the world's urban areas has grown from just under 1 billion (1960) to just under 5 bn (2023).

One of the issues with these kinds of figures is the definition of an urban area. Different countries define urban settlements in a variety of ways. The most common method uses population numbers. Sweden, for example, defines an urban area as any settlement that has more than 200 people, while Japan demands that a place has 50,000 people. Other places need other criteria to be met, for example India requires at least 75% of the male population to be engaged in non-agricultural activities as well as a population of at least 5,000.

These problems with defining urban areas between countries mean different organisations have different values for levels of urbanisation. The European Commission and The World Bank along with other respected organisations give the level of world urbanisation as 80%. World population is expected to peak in 2084 at just over 10 bn. Close to 9 bn of these may live in cities.

This rapid urbanisation is driven by two main factors: rural-urban migration; and high rates of natural increase. People living in rural areas are "pulled" to cities by the temptation of "bright lights", i.e. regular work, high wages and greater opportunities. These in-migrants tend to be aged 18-35 and whilst mainly male, are soon followed by partners and children. This means that cities have youthful populations with high birth rates and low death rates.

Delhi in India is projected to add an additional 17.4 million people to its 2015 population of 26 million in just 20 years. The city authorities will need to provide food, housing, energy, employment, education and healthcare, amongst a long list of needs. Clearly, such demands are beyond the means of city authorities in less developed countries of the world.

Failures to meet people's basic needs results in much malnourishment, sickness and disease, pollution, crime, homelessness, and underemployment (the situation whereby people share the labour of one job between many - unemployment is not an option in countries with no social security). The results of large-scale migration mean that the UN's 11th Sustainable Development Goal is unlikely to be attained. Sustainability is not just about minimising impacts on the environment, it is about ensuring people can earn a living and are involved in their societies, especially decision-making. In those cities where the migrants' dreams are not realised many will live in squatter settlements and slums, while working in the informal job sector.

Paul Ticehurst

Supporting Swifts in Towns and Villages



Sustainable CREDITON

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Please use the Public Phone box (occasionally)

The Parish Council reminds us that the telephone kiosk near the War Memorial needs to be used if it's not to be declared redundant and carted away by BT. A minimum of 53 phone calls must be made from a public payphone every year if it is to be kept in operation, according to BT guidelines.

A recent newspaper article caught the eye of our Parish Clerk when a journalist wrote about the residents of a small village in Norfolk who realised they were about to lose their phone box and hastily made enough calls to keep it going. It doesn't take much, so let's preserve it for whoever might need it.



The K6, pictured here, was the first red telephone kiosk to be used extensively outside London, and thousands were installed from 1935.

Geoff Thatcher

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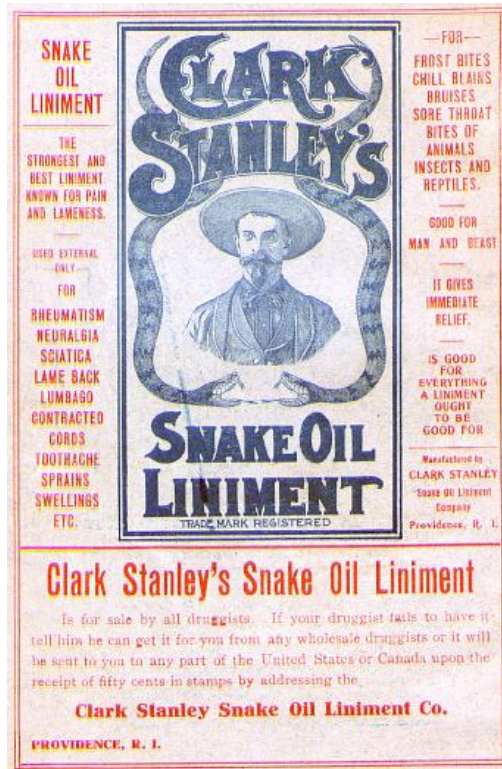
Folk Tales Corner

Snake Oil

At last year's Valhalla Viking Festival someone handed me a small bottle of red liquid with the title "The Blood Of My Enemies". The label was professionally made though and I was impressed at the level of effort that someone had put in to creating this one line gag. It was, of course, devoid of blood of any sort and in reality contained a mildly alcoholic raspberry cocktail. On further investigation I discovered the rear label had a full set of caveats, a real ingredients list, and some promo blurb for a company who print and attach whatever custom labels you like to small bottles of relatively harmless liquid. Pretty soon I had invented a new walkabout character to pitch to festivals and events: an



old style medicine show, complete with cases of "Snake Oil". I thought I'd do a bit of research...



In the days before the regulation of medicinal substances, pretty much anyone could sell pretty much anything as a cure for pretty much everything; and they did. The most famous amongst these was one Clark Stanley who began travelling around America's Wild West in 1893 selling his "Snake Oil Liniment" which claimed to cure everything from rheumatism to toothache and lumbago to a sore throat. Professing that he got the recipe from a Hopi medicine man and his liniment was manufactured from rattlesnakes, Stanley made a great show of slitting open a rattler and throwing it in to a vat of boiling water; impressive but of no relevance to arthritis.

As successive legislation came in to ensure that customers got what they had paid for, salesmen hawking universal panaceas came under increasing scrutiny. While reports that Stanley's Snake Oil did nothing gathered momentum and scientifically proven medicines began to hit the market, new consumer protection agencies came in to being with powers to investigate the contents of a medicament. Stanley was convicted in 1917, fined \$20, and "Snake Oil Salesman" entered the language, referring to the dishonest human element of the equation, but over time the salesman part has, like Stanley himself, quietly snuck off and we've been left with "Snake Oil" as a term for a dodgy product.

Which is a shame because, back when America was the land of opportunity and welcomed people from all over the world to build its infrastructure,

engineers from China worked on the railways. At the end of a hard days' track laying they would treat their aching joints with a preparation made from Chinese water snakes, whose fat contains high concentrations of omega oils, which actually made it quite effective. When they shared this ancient Oriental remedy with their western colleagues everyone was duly impressed and Snake Oil became highly desirable.

Thankfully, whilst exploiting the popularity of this original preparation, Stanley failed to include a modicum of water snake, or even a hint of the rattle snake adipose that he asserted was his active ingredient. Had he done so he might have been able to carry on his unscrupulous trade, not that it would have made his concoction work because the American rattler has none of the necessary fatty acids in its blubber. It was not the failure to deliver relief for any ailment at all, let alone the vast variety that appeared on the bottle, that got him punished, but the fact that not one molecule had ever had anything to do with a serpent of any nationality whatsoever. When it was tested it turned out Stanley's fabrication contained only mineral oil, beef fat, red pepper and turpentine.

Despite the negative connotations, there are numerous products available now that go by the name of Snake Oil, some of which really do contain oil that comes from squamates... and some of those are actual Chinese water snakes. I probably won't be creating that character after all, there're rather too many Snake Oil salesmen around at the moment already.

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

The Travelling Talesman
www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk

“Awful April”

It's been dubbed “Awful April” as increases in energy, water, broadband and council tax kick in. Increasing numbers of people are finding it harder to cover basic living expenses.

Some people qualify for benefits payments but don't realise it. Our advisers can run a simple benefits check. Call our local AdviceLine on **0808 27 87 999** – it's a free call. You can access email and video advice via our website <https://www.citizensadvice.tnmwd.org.uk> and details of our office opening hours and drop-in availability are also there. People of working age on low income may be eligible to claim, or those of State Pension age with little or no income, people who are sick or disabled and carers may still be eligible to claim so it is worth exploring the possibility.

Our last Advice Column focussed on getting help from the Local Authority with council tax and they may also be able to help with energy, water bills, food or other essentials through their Household Support Fund (welfare assistance). If you have children and are on a low income or claiming certain benefits, you may qualify for free school meals, transport to school or help with the cost of uniform. It is always worth shopping around for cheaper deals on broadband, energy or considering having a water meter installed. It's a case of trying to increase income and/or reduce outgoings.

Here at CA TNMWD, we have specially trained energy advisers who can talk to you about ways of reducing energy costs and we can provide energy vouchers to those who qualify.

When things are tight, having a budget is even more important. Tools and calculators | MoneyHelper (<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/tools-and-calculators>) has some helpful guidance and Debt and money - Citizens Advice (<https://citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/>) also has lots of useful links and information.

When budgeting, 'priority' debts i.e. rent/mortgage, Council Tax and energy bills have to come first as missing these payments can have the most serious consequences. Then review debts such as credit cards or payday loans. We have specially trained debt advisers who can help people manage debt and we are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It is important, however, if you start to fall behind on payments, to contact the organisation or company involved as soon as you can to try and see if you can come to some kind of arrangement.

Unsurprisingly, demand for our services is increasing and accelerating as more and more people are impacted by rising costs. If you would like to help us support those people, how about volunteering with us? You don't need to be any kind of professional specialist as we provide full training and ongoing support. You'll not only be helping your local community, you will have an opportunity to learn new skills and make new friends. Take the first step and contact recruitment@citizensadvice.tnmwd.org.uk we would love to hear from you!



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A PERSONAL INVITATION TO THE MORCHARD BISHOP BOWLS CLUB FUN AFTERNOON

FUN GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK*

Morchard Bishop Bowls Club is running a Fun Afternoon on **Saturday 24th May**. The aim of the afternoon is to introduce the sport to new players.

It will be a very informal session with no dress code bar flat-soled shoes where possible.

The afternoon will run from 2.00 pm until 5.00 pm with players dropping in and out at any time that suits them.

We shall provide the woods and some basic tuition in a friendly game format. We shall also provide refreshments including a cream tea.

*** It is a free event - no cost!**

Help children to unlock the joy of reading with a visit to “The Bookery”

Many of us can name some famous authors of children’s books, but there are so many other wonderful writers around and The Bookery can help you explore them.

Recent research from the National Literacy Trust provides evidence that Reading for Pleasure and nurturing a love of reading in a child’s free time is vital for a child’s development, well-being and to equip them with the reading skills they need to thrive at school and beyond. The joy of reading is not an extra frill, but a vital ingredient for children’s learning and happiness.

Staff at Crediton’s award winning, community owned, independent book shop will help you find the right book to suit a child’s age, reading ability and interest. Each year a team of experienced teachers, teacher trainers and librarians curate a collection of recently published TOP TITLES of fiction and non-fiction books for Primary children, including dyslexia friendly books for reluctant readers. There are funny books, adventure books and graphic novels: something for everyone!

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Pauline Chater



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Over 60s' Luncheon & Get Together

The next Over 60's Luncheon at the London Inn will be on Wednesday 21st May at 12.30pm. The menu for this lunch will be Steak & Ale Pie with Vegetables & Roast Potatoes, followed by Strawberry & Cream Trifle, 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 20th May or email me at

mandytapp@talk21.com

or phone me on 01363 877459

or just pop in to me at Harries.

Regular members please let me know if you are unable to attend, thank you.

Name- -----

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Next meeting: 21st May 10 – 11am at the Boniface Centre

“The British Honours System,
 and some lesser-known Awards”
 A talk by Ashley Jones
 Cost £1.50

Kevin Osborne

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Transform Your Home & Garden



Serving Morchard Bishop & Surrounding Areas

Looking to refresh your home or garden? Ollie is here to help! Offering top-quality home and landscaping maintenance and refurbishment services, Ollie is your local expert for making your space beautiful and functional.

Services Offered:

- Landscaping: Lawn care, garden design, planting, pruning, and more.
- Home Maintenance: Repairs, painting, decorating, and general upkeep.
- Refurbishments: Interior and exterior renovations.

Why Choose Ollie?

- Reliable & Trustworthy Service
- Personalised Solutions to Suit Your Needs
- Local Expertise with a Passion for Perfection
- Competitive pricing

Contact Ollie Today!

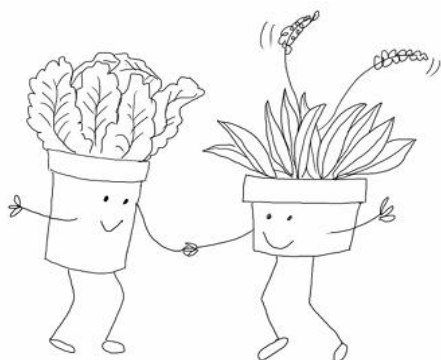


Call/Text/WhatsApp - [07710709098](tel:07710709098)

Transform your home and garden with a professional touch.

Book your free consultation now!

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

MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB

Division 4

Devon & Exeter Football League



May Fixtures

Saturday 3rd May Starcross Dons (A) 3pm k.o

Thursday 8th May University of Exeter (A) 6.30pm
k.o

March/April Results

March 22nd Morchard Bishop 5 Univeristy of
Exeter 1
(Chris Andrews 4 Adam Leat 1)

March 29th Morchard Bishop 2 St. Martins 1
(Chris Andrews Alan Woodcock)

April 5th Upottery 1 Morchard Bishop 4
(Adam Leat 2 Jack Webber 1 Alan Woodcock 1)

April 12th Colyton 1 Morchard Bishop 7
(Chris Andrews 3 Adam Leat 1 Liam Tucker 1 Jack
Webber 1 Josh Doe 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
Facebook Morchard Bishop Football Club or the
Football Club noticeboard.



A varied and exciting term!

The run up to Easter has seen a wide variety of activities both in and out of the classroom for the children of Morchard Bishop. Children in KS2 have taken part in a number of PE events including gymnastics and a handball competition, where children from Chestnut class were proud winners. Our younger children have been investigating a range of topics, including weather and plants. As part of the science curriculum, they have been growing beans and watching their development. They have now been planted in the school garden where the children will continue to look after them and will hopefully have beans to eat later in the year!

As a school we continue to build on our links with St Mary's Church and enjoy engaging with the congregation as a part of Family services.



At the most recent service, the children shared how we teach RE in school and the way it helps them to consider their world view.

Music has stood out this term with Oak Class being part of a song writing project. With the support of Devon Music Hub, they wrote a song about the changing weather in Morchard Bishop, which they enjoyed performing to the whole school! Meanwhile our instrumentalists joined with other local schools to form a Future Musicians Orchestra.



There were 98 children from beginners to students who play in county ensembles – it was an incredible experience and looks likely to become an annual event.

The final day of term brought the excitement of the 'Egg vehicles' competition, with children creating a vehicle that could safely transport an egg down a ramp and travel the longest distance. There were a huge variety of design ideas, and it was a fun and exciting way to end the term.

Looking forward, we are excited to welcome our new Academy Head Hannah Bancroft. She will take up her new role at the start of the summer term.



Nicola Miners