

# THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

THE INDEPENDENT VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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

No.362 AUGUST 2025

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB



**The Morchard Bishop Sports and Social Club** has been going from strength to strength over the past year. Credit goes to our team of volunteers who work hard, some behind the scenes with maintenance and stock replenishment, and others who run the bar during events, as well as the management committee. The excess profits we raise through the Club go to the Morchard Bishop Playing Fields Association to support their work.



We have a number of teams based here, including darts, pool, and skittles – and we continue to support the football club with their home games. There is also a weekly Bridge Club. Congratulations to the pool team, the skittles team and the football team who all won their leagues, and to the ladies' darts team who came second in theirs – we are very proud of you all! The Club is a private members club, but membership is only £2 per year. We are family friendly and love to see your well-behaved four-legged friends too! Memberships for the next year are due from 1<sup>st</sup> August. Members are also able to hire the club for private events.

We host various community events throughout the year, including the football club's Bingo, quiz nights and supporting the annual Village Fair Day. The next quiz is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – further details in this and next month's Messenger.

If you have any queries about the club please contact Angie (Chair) [morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com) or Megan (Secretary) [mbssc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:mbssc.secretary@gmail.com) – or check out our Facebook Page. We look forward to seeing you soon!



## **AUGUST 2025 DIARY**

If you would like details of your event or meeting to appear in the **September** diary, then please let Pauline Chater know by **12<sup>th</sup> August** [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.

During August many of the groups meeting in the village, take a break. **THERE IS NO OVER SIXTIES LUNCH IN AUGUST.**

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

Sunday 3: 10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 10:10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 17: 10.30 Morning Worship 18.00: Joint Bible Study at Emmanuel

Sunday 24: 10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 31: 10.00 Mission Community Eucharist, Coldridge Church

**Emmanuel**

All are welcome at our services. Morning Services usually start at 11.00 with coffee from 10.30. Joint Bible Study Group with St Mary's 18.00 on Sunday 17 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

**BOOK SWAP: Wednesday August 6: 15.00 – 16.30 at The Memorial Hall.**

**PARISH WALK: Saturday August 16: 11.00 Starting at the Memorial Hall**

**\*\*\*\* GRAND DRAW ADVANCED PINK TICKETS FOR FUN DAY ON 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST – REMEMBER TO RETURN THE STUBS AND PAYMENT FOR THE PINK TICKETS TO: Church Street Stores, Bay House (Chulmleigh Road) or Wisteria House (Opposite Chapel)**  
**\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\* WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES TO FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW. Forms and entry money can be dropped off at: Church Street Stores, Wisteria House or Rixey Cottage**

Fri	1/8/15/22/29 1	13.30 -14.30 17.30 – 19.00	Visiting Post Office Max and Mike's Street Food	London Inn War Memorial
Sat	2  2/9/16/23/30	12.00  19.30	Vintage Rally and Family Fun Day MBSSC Bar Skittles, Darts, Pool	Playing Field Bar at MBSSC open at noon
Mon	4/11/18 4	From 18.00 19.30	Roll Up and play Bowls Parish Council	Bowling Club - open to all Memorial Hall
Tues	5/12/19/26	10.00-11.30	Café Emmanuel	Emmanuel
Wed	6	15.00 – 16.30	Book Swap	Memorial Hall

Wed	6/13/20/27 6	19.30	<b>Ladies' Darts practice Deadline for entries to Flower and Produce Show</b>	MBSSC Details in July Messenger
Thurs	7/14/21/28	19.30	<b>Men's Darts Practice</b>	MBSSC
Sat	9 9	09.30 – 11.30 14.00	<b>Produce &amp; Table Top Sale Flower and Produce Show</b>	Memorial Hall Playing Field
Mon	11	19.00	<b>Footpaths Meeting</b>	MBSSC
Wed	13	14.30	<b>W.I. Croquet and Tea</b>	Hollacombe Farm
Sat	1	11.00	<b>Parish Walk</b>	Starts at Memorial Hall

## **News from the Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall**

We are thrilled to say that our very successful Book Swap which happens on the first Wednesday of each month will have been running for a year in August. To mark this we are offering complimentary Tea\Coffee and Cakes on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 3pm – 4.30pm. Please come along and join us!

We have been able to have solar panels and a battery fitted to the Hall. Already we are seeing a difference in our electricity costs. This will help us maintain our affordable hourly rental costs.

We have updated our Audio Visual System and in the winter we are hoping to hold Film Nights with refreshments.

Our Pickleball court has been marked out in the Hall and for those who have not yet tried this very popular sport, we will be holding some introductory sessions over the next month. For more information contact Debbie Ticehurst (dticehurst@icloud.com)

Other upcoming events over the autumn\winter include the return of the weekly Coffee Mornings at the beginning of September, a Race Night, a Quiz, Christmas Fayre and possibly Bingo!

For all these events watch out for posters and information in the **Messenger**.

### **Future Events**

**Sunday Sept 7th** Car Boot Sale at the Playing Field.  
1pm sellers and 2pm buyers.

**Friday 26 September:** Quiz Night at Morchard Bishop Sports and Social Club

### **Sustainable Morchard Future events**

- **August 2<sup>nd</sup>** at the Playing Fields Vintage car Fayre – we shall have a table in the Marquee with interesting artifacts and a transport question for you all!
- **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September** We plan to hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Village Meeting on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September in the Memorial Hall. Please come along and help define what Sustainable Morchard should be working on for the future..
- **Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>** has a second visit planned for our local wild life expert Stephen Powles who last year gave a very entertaining talk on Tawny owls. This time it will be on **Otters: Coming to a River near You**.

## 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 the club is open  
Annual membership £2 per adult

### AUGUST OPENING TIMES

**Mondays** – all dates closed

**Tuesdays** – all dates open for pool practice from 7.30pm

**Wednesdays** – All dates Ladies' darts practice from 7.30pm

**Thursdays** – All dates possibly open for men's dart practice, please enquire beforehand.

**Fridays** – 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> open for Friday night darts comp.

**Saturdays** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Fair Day open noon till 6.30pm. All dates open from 7.30pm

This is a rough guide which may be subject to change please contact  
[morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com)  
for more information.

### **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](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> August 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 ¼ page are £5 a month

Adverts up to ½ page are £7 a month

Adverts up to ¾ page are £10 a month

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



## LETTERS – MESSAGES – ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Robert Hutchings

Chris, Carol and family would like to say a big thank- you to all who sent cards, kind messages and supported us during the past few months since Robert's accident and subsequent death on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Also those who came along to the Thanksgiving Service at Emmanuel on Saturday July 12th. It was so lovely to see so many of you who were there because of Robert. He thoroughly loved meeting and socialising with you all in and around the village. A big thankyou.

Thankyou .

Chris and Carol

### Pickleball at the Memorial Hall



### Introductory sessions

These will be held on the following dates/times in August:

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm, 2-3pm, 7-8pm and 8-9pm

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, 1-2pm

Weds 13<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm and 8-9pm

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> 10-11am

Places are restricted to just 6 people per session. Places need to be pre-booked by email to [dticehurst@icloud.com](mailto:dticehurst@icloud.com). First come, first served. Wear comfy clothing and trainers/plimsoles. Equipment is provided.

### Over 60s' Luncheon & Get Together

Just to remind you all that there is no Over 60's in August.

Take care, and have a lovely summer, see you all again in September!

Mandy Tapp

### MORCHARD BISHOP

### Flower & Produce Show



Saturday 9th August, 2pm

**MORCHARD BISHOP PLAYING FIELD**

There will be a refreshment stall at The Pavillion

Schedule and entry form in this issue

**Admission: Adults 50p, Children Free**

### JOANNE HARRIS COMING TO CREDITON!

**The Folklore Library & Archive**, a small registered charity based in Crediton, is delighted to announce that it is hosting bestselling author Joanne Harris MBE at The Boniface Centre, Crediton, on Saturday 6 September at 7pm. (Doors open 6.30pm). Joanne will be talking about her latest book *Vianne*, the prequel to her 1999 novel *Chocolat*. To make the event a true celebration of chocolate, we're inviting Devon's independent chocolatiers to sell their wares at the event, and The Bookery will be handling book sales for us. Tickets are £10 from Crediton Library, or via [bit.ly/joanneharriscrediton](http://bit.ly/joanneharriscrediton).

We're really excited to be bringing someone of Joanne's status to Crediton!

**Tracey Norman**  
Project Manager

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

**COME AND JOIN US!**

THURSDAY MORNING  
9:30AM - 10:30AM  
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EX17 6PJ

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Ricky : 07712177710



W.I.

## Creating a garden for wildlife

Our July speaker was an old friend, Gavin Haigh. He last spoke to us 13 years ago on the "Trials and tribulations of being a surgeon", a job that he had for 50 years. This time his subject was "Creating a Wildlife Garden", based on the fact that if you give wildlife what it needs, it will come to you.

He has created a wildlife garden at Tiverton Hospital which must bring a lot of comfort to patients. The main ingredients to attract wildlife are a pond, stinging nettles where butterflies lay their eggs, trees, hedges, water and woodland margin. In this beautiful area some of us may have access to some of these features.

On Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> some of us attended the memorial service of a much loved member, Janet Symons. She became President at least once and was unfailingly kind and inclusive. She also did a lot for St. Marys Church. Many members of the WI created beautiful flower arrangements for the church window sills.

Janet's family did her proud on what was a joyous occasion to celebrate her full and interesting life. We were treated to a lifetime of stories and anecdotes, such as the time she rode her pony upstairs to her bedroom.

Next month, one of our members has very kindly invited us to her farm for a croquet taster afternoon. In my experience, a game that looks easier than it is.

Sue Pluckwell



Join us AT THE...

Admission: Adults £2 Children 50p

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- Ferret Racing
- Barbeque
- Face Painting
- Inflatables
- Entertainment
- Prize Draw
- Sports Club Bar
- Cakes & Refreshments

For further information on booking stalls etc, please contact Bob Robinson - E: mbplayingfield@gmail.com T: 07761 281155

All proceeds in aid of Morchard Bishop Playing Field Association, registered charity no. 277053

Devon CC

## Re-using left-over paint

If you're a householder and you have cans of useable left-over paint gathering dust in your shed or attic, you can now take it to one of Devon's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) for others to use.

The idea of the new Community Repaint scheme is simple; if you have any useable paint, perhaps left over from a home improvement project, why not make some extra room and take it to a recycling centre?

Community RePaint is a UK-wide initiative that makes paint available to others; all they have to do is collect it. It's a simple, effective way to reduce waste, to support sustainability, and help local residents, charities and community groups access affordable decorating materials.

The scheme is now available at every one of our recycling centres except our facility at Torrington – if you have any questions, please ask a member of staff at one of our recycling centres.

MORCHARD BISHOP SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

**QUIZ NIGHT**

First Prize £50 cash

**FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**7PM FOR 7.30 START**

MEMBERS CAN RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIPS (£2) ON THE NIGHT

This event is for members & their guests only  
please let us know if you have any food intolerances or if vegetarian

TEAMS OF 4 ONLY PLEASE  
Anyone over 12yrs will be classed as one of your team  
Booking IS essential

Please contact Angie Brimilcombe to book in a team or for any other information.  
[angiebrim99@gmail.com](mailto:angiebrim99@gmail.com)  
Tel 07510961814

Our address is  
Wood Lane, Morchard Bishop EX17 6PE  
Thank you in advance for your support

More information will be in the September messenger



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## **News from your Parish Council**

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

The Parish Council spent £227.32 from the main account, £195.76 from its Reserve account and 611.10 from the Footpaths account. The items of expenditure over £100 were £195.76 for work to the Devon Air Ambulance Landing Lights, £132.18 for Planting the village planters and £611.10 for work done on our footpaths.

There were no planning applications for the Parish Council to consider.

By the time you read this, the new Parish Council website should be live – do take a look on [www.morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk](http://www.morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk) we hope that this will become a tool that you all use for local information and communication. Have a look around it and let us know what you think. The Parish Council are very grateful to Stephen Leese for all his work to get this ready. On the Website is a list of local businesses, this list is in its infancy, please take a look and if your business is not listed, do let me know and I will arrange to include you. The page will also be used to communicate with local businesses, at the moment it gives you the chance to subscribe to the free Mid Devon Business e-newsletter.

There seems to be an increasing amount of information being sent through for Parish Councils to consider including various grants which we pass on to those we think would qualify.

The Activities Co-ordinator at Ridge House has asked us to enquire whether any one from the Parish would be interested in reading with or to the residents and also whether anyone would be interested in helping some residents plant up some empty planters – If you think you could help with either of these calls for help, then please do let me know.

The Parish Council considered the various reports of flooding in the village on 13 June 2025 and will chase Devon Highways to clear the drains and gullies.



### **FEEL-GOOD SUMMER GIVEAWAY!**

Get ready to add a little sunshine to your summer  
— our FORCE Summer Draw is officially open!

#### ***3 amazing prizes up for grabs:***

Whether you're dreaming of a tasty treat, a beach day, or something special with friends and family, there's a prize with your name on it...

Tickets are just £1.00 each and every entry helps support local people affected by cancer through at  
**FORCE.**

Enter now, spread the word, and bring some extra joy to your summer!

**Draw closes: 29th August 2025 at 11:59am**

[www.forcecancercharity.co.uk/summer-draw/](http://www.forcecancercharity.co.uk/summer-draw/)

When the Cherry Tree on the green was felled it confirmed the view that it was rotten and therefore dangerous. The Parish Council have chosen a new mature Cherry Tree to be planted in its place which we hope will give our residents and visitors pleasure for many years to come.

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

### **Morchard's Weather**

It has been hot and sunny!



So let's stop complaining and drink plenty of water and eat ice cream.

Enjoy the summer. It'll soon be over...

**Stephen Leese**



## ***~ Debbie's Diner ~***

### **Take one ingredient.....eggs**

Eggs are the ultimate convenience food. They are packed with protein needed for growth, maintenance and repair of body tissue. The yolk contains crucial fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E&K. They are a rare source of choline which aids brain function and heart health. An average egg contains only 72 calories.

We traditionally buy chicken eggs but duck, goose, quail and even emus produce edible eggs. Eggs labelled as 'from caged birds' are produced by a chicken kept in a cage the size of the Morchard Messenger. They may be cheap, but they are both nutritionally and morally poor. 'Free -range' is better but even here there are unscrupulous producers whose birds are kept in cramped sheds with little or no access to the outside. Local free-range eggs are best especially if you know that they spend all of their days outside behaving naturally. Black Dog Eggs sold widely and Bugford Bounty eggs [lay-by egg stall in Bugford or our monthly produce market] are laid by chickens who have an 'eggcellent' lifestyle.

Eggs have an air sac within their shell. The older the egg, the bigger the air sac. To test the freshness of an egg, simply drop it into deep-ish water. If it sinks, it is fresh. If it floats it is old and past its best. If it hovers towards the bottom it is fine.

A hard-boiled fresh egg will be harder to peel compared with an older egg as the membrane under the shell is more defined as the egg gets older.

How to separate an egg yolk from the whites- various methods eg crack the egg into a bowl and use your hand to scoop the yolk up from underneath. Be gentle so the yolk doesn't pop. Or...tap the egg on the edge of the bowl that you want the whites to go in, to crack the shell. Use both thumbs to prise the shell open but tip one hand higher than the other. The gloopy egg white will drop out into the bowl whilst the yolk will remain in the lower half.

### **Meringues**

Ideally you will make your meringues in a clean, glass bowl. Egg whites don't whisk as well if the bowl is greasy or plastic. 3 large eggs need 175g of caster sugar. Preheat the oven to 120 degrees [fan] or 140C.

Separate the egg whites as described above. You cannot get any yolk in the whites so a steady hand is crucial. If any eggshell drops in, don't worry...use another piece of shell to fish it out with. Keep the yolks in a bowl to make lemon curd or mayonnaise.

Using an electric whisk, whisk the whites until they hold soft peaks [when you lift the beater up the meringue comes with it but it then folds over]. Now continue to whisk whilst adding the sugar, one tablespoon at a time. The foam will thicken and become glossy. When all the sugar is added the meringue should be thick enough to not fall out of the bowl when you tip it upside down!



To make a pavlova, spread the meringue onto a lined baking sheet and shape it so the sides are higher than the base.

To make a pretty individual meringue, spoon the meringue into a piping bag and pipe a large shell. To make a less aesthetic one, simply dollop the meringue onto the baking paper using a spoon, spreading each one out. They will all taste the same!

Bake them for one hour then turn the oven off. Keep the oven door closed as it cools down. Leave it for at least 4 hours or, better still, make it in the evening and leave it in there, door closed, overnight. Fill them with cream and fruit for a delicious dessert.

### **Lemon curd**

This will take you 10 mins to make and is delicious. To make 2 x 200g jars.

Zest and juice 4 lemons into a heatproof bowl resting on a pan of simmering water. Add 200g of caster sugar and 100g of butter. Stir until the butter has melted. Using a fork or whisk, stir in the 4 egg yolks. Whisk gently over the heat until the mixture is the consistency of custard. It should be smooth and lump-free. Pour the curd into sterilised jars via a sieve to catch pips and zest. They will keep in the fridge for 2 weeks.

Tips: take only the yellow part of the lemon skin off. The layer underneath [pith] is white and tastes very bitter.

Before zesting or juicing any citrus fruit, roll it around on the work top to loosen the fibres.

You will get lots more juice from it.

Sterilise the jars by washing them in hot, soapy water. Rinse then dry them in the oven for 10mins at 120C. Remove rubber seals and clean them in boiling water.



**News from your local  
Citizens Advice**



**Beware Parcel Scams!**

Parcel delivery scams are becoming increasingly common and harder to spot. Ones involving texts and emails are known as phishing scams and aim to trick you into giving away your personal information and financial details so your bank account and money can be accessed.

One way scammers do this is by enticing people to click on links which can lead to fake websites in the hope that this information will be entered. While scammers can pretend to be from any parcel delivery company, they may choose Royal Mail because it's the largest delivery company in the UK so the chances of scammers contacting someone who receives parcels from Royal Mail is higher.

These scams be in the form of a text, an email or a phone call. There are also reports of 'Something for You' cards which Royal Mail leave when a delivery is attempted but there is nobody at home.

Here are some tips to help you stay vigilant and spot the signs of a parcel delivery scam:

- If you're waiting for a parcel and get a message that asks you to pay to get it, or reschedule the delivery, it's usually a scam.
- Don't click any links or attachments in the text or email. Delivery companies won't ask you to pay them this way.
- Scammers often pretend to be from an organisation like Royal Mail and try to get you to click on a fake version of the genuine website.
- To check if a link is genuine, hover your mouse over the link without clicking on it, or press and hold on the link on a mobile device. You should then see the address the link goes to.
- Check the address carefully; many fake addresses can at first sight appear to be the real thing
- Beware of spelling or grammar errors or generalised greetings rather than your name
- Don't feel pressured to act; you can always contact the genuine company directly and ask if they have been trying to contact you.

Royal Mail has a useful page on its website. <https://www.royalmail.com/help/scam-examples> and Citizens Advice has helpful advice on what to do if you think you have been scammed.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/what-to-do-if-youve-beenscammed/>

**Rosanna Teale**

**Poem of the Month**

**Hen house**

*You are chemical in here  
comfortless smells, dark warmth  
ammonia, hard packed pillows  
milk neck. The pecking order has changed.*

*You are chemical in here, eyes whispering  
edges, edges bent edges,  
straight sharp edges, cages.  
Squashed down on his legs, folded*

*neatly, he squawks, fearing the other chickens.  
The nurse who dreams of ears  
oozing wax and other substances mutters  
seeing waterfalls, cascading interactions, cellular*

*responses - just dripping beaks -  
the tide brings the wind with it  
they dance their duet on the sun-streaked sands  
under pirouetting gulls. Oh, Doctor,*

*sweating formulae and fatigue  
swinging in, scowling, scares the fowls  
performs a diagnosis  
on the eggbound shapes.*

*Vipeholms Sjukhus, Lund*

**Colin Crewdson**

**Mid Devon Council**

**Council Tax Reduction Scheme  
2026 -27 Consultation**

We're looking at how we can make Council Tax support fairer and more helpful for people of working age in Mid Devon – and we'd really like to hear your thoughts.

Each year, we review our Council Tax Reduction scheme – that's the discount some people can get if they're on a low income. This year, we're planning some changes to how it works for working-age people (if you've reached pension age, your support comes from a national scheme, so this won't affect you).

We want to:

- Give more help to households with the lowest incomes
- Make the scheme more stable and consistent for people who get support
- Make sure all adults in a household are contributing something towards the bill

Consultation is open until 5<sup>th</sup> October.

## Morichard Bishop Memorial Hall

### BOOKSWAP IS ONE!



**COMPLIMENTARY  
Tea\Coffee and Cakes**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August  
3pm - 4.30pm

## Gardening tips for August



- Prune Wisteria
- Don't delay summer pruning fruits trained as restricted forms
- Deadhead flowering plants regularly
- Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater
- Collect seed from garden plants
- Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready
- Once you harvest your main crop potatoes plant first earlies for a Xmas treat
- Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries
- Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
- Keep ponds and water features topped up (ideally with water from your rain water butt)
- Feed the soil with green manures

Jo Coffey

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TODDLER  
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school holidays

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welcome

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**Summer**

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Return entry forms to Sandford Stores by midday Thursday 7 August





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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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## **Sustainable Cities 4.**

Cities around the world are setting goals to make urban living more sustainable. These goals cover a wide range of “green” criteria. Depending on the criteria chosen it should be possible to identify a league table of sustainable cities - cities that are already doing many things to be labelled green or otherwise. According to one world list, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Stockholm are the three leaders; while in the UK the top three are Cambridge, Exeter and Bristol.

The criteria used can include: sustainable lifestyles, pollution emissions, infrastructure, the built environment and access to open spaces. Cities may excel in one or more of these but fail in others, thus making comparisons between cities problematic. Likewise, identifying the least sustainable cities is fraught with difficulties. Nevertheless, Jeddah (reliance on oil and gas) and New Delhi (population density) frequently top this list; while Nottingham, Sunderland and Birmingham top the UK list due to low recycling rates, poor air quality and limited green spaces. It can be difficult for cities to deal with pre-existing issues, with costs and competing demands for resources being mitigating reasons for lack of action.

There are some outstanding examples around the world of cities working hard to improve life for their inhabitants. Sometimes these initiatives are top-down, being driven by government legislation; others are bottom-up, being driven by the initiative of local people.

Top-down projects can provide quick fixes and impact a lot of people, but can also have negative consequences also impacting many people. Vision Mumbai, for example, was an ambitious project outlined by American global management consultants McKinsey, in which four core targets were identified: demolish slums and provide cheaper housing; improve water, sanitation and health care; improve rail, bus and road transport; and boost economic growth. By 2007, 200,000 people had moved home, with 45,000 homes demolished and replaced with flats with piped water and sewerage systems. By 2015, 72 new trains had been introduced and the platforms at stations raised to improve the safety of passengers. Air quality was much improved with LPG replacing coal and low benzene petrol; checks on fuel-tampering have eliminated the use of polluting low-grade fuels; and higher taxes on older polluting road vehicles.

However, the project lacked input from the local people - this is an aspect of sustainability which is often overlooked. In this example, Vision Mumbai overlooked the communities that had developed in the slums and the fact that people had developed their own economy, albeit largely informal jobs. The residents living in the slums had spent time and money upgrading their homes and didn't consider the new flats an upgrade with their high rents and split communities. What they really wanted was service provision such as sewerage systems, water and electricity and to stay in their homes.

The rubbish generated in Cairo has for decades been collected and sorted by a group of people (c. 60,000) called the Zabbaleen (“the garbage people”). Each family specialises in the collection of one type of rubbish (paper, rags, electrical wire etc.). The materials are then sold on, processed or hand-made into crafts. Pigs are kept to eat food waste. This industry provides income for 40,000 people. In 2003, the Egyptian government out-sourced rubbish collection to foreign companies. This has resulted in a potential drop in recycling efficiency from 80% to 20%.

The Zabbaleen continue to operate in competition with the foreign companies, and are much preferred to these foreign companies.

**Paul Ticehurst**

**The Crediton Heart Project**  
Keeping the heart in our communities  
Charity No. 1189549

# Summer Arts Festival

**2nd - 9th August**

**Creative workshops & performances for all ages**

Contact [info@creditonheart.org](mailto:info@creditonheart.org)

**Creative Workshops Programme**  
at Crediton Arts Centre  
East Street, EX17 3AX  
See programme on reverse

**Film & Music Programme**  
at Newcombes Meadow, Four Mills  
Crediton Congregational Church

**Outdoor Cinema**  
Sunday 3rd Aug from 7pm-11pm  
Food available

**Arts in the Park**  
Saturday 9th August 10am - 4pm  
A free day of creative activities in Newcombes Meadow

Book tickets at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-crediton-heart-project](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-crediton-heart-project)

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Folk Tales Corner

## **The Bridge over the River Why**

One of the beauties of folk tale is also one of its problems. The simplifications that happen over time, the trimming out of unnecessary detail, the leaving unsaid of things that "everybody knows" - all of which help to make a story more action packed and fluid - can, for an audience with different cultures and assumptions about the context, open up apparent plot holes or generate unintended surreality.

In a widely known tale\*, Molly Whuppie repeatedly visits, robs, and escapes a giant by traversing a river on the "Bridge of one hair", which the Giant cannot cross. A thread blew up recently on story-tellers' Facebook when someone asked why the giant doesn't simply break this bridge and prevent Ms. Whuppie from returning. The responses were of course many, varied and creative, with the most common being that the one hair used for the bridge was magical and therefore too strong for the giant to break. This strength would of course support the giant's weight and allow him to use the bridge, so I'm not immediately sold on that idea.



There is a collected version which supports the magical hair theory in that, at her first escape, Molly plucks out a hair of her own and uses it as a bridge, but the storyteller abandons this motif after the first escapade and has Molly leap across the cataract from there on, strongly suggesting an accidental interpolation from some other tale. One Irish variant has a bridge with two hairs, which requires specific skill to negotiate. This sounds far more practical and physical, a river crossing that locals can use but interlopers fall foul of. It may sound a bit extreme to us, but I am briefly minded of a documentary I saw once where a woman in bright silks, carrying a tall earthenware vessel of about 15 litres capacity on her head, hands by her side, casually strolled along a single rope over a deep chasm with a torrent raging beneath as if it was perfectly normal, because for her it was. And now I'm wondering about the interface between the Gaelic for rope/chord/thread and the English for hair. With no other references to go on, I'm inclined to view the naming of the crossing less literally and more as a translation error or bit of local colour for a simple rope bridge.

Giants have accrued an air of lawlessness, with a curious mix of oppressor and outsider but all supernatural beings are governed by rules. There are prohibitions on witches regarding running water; trolls regarding daylight etc. Giants are frequently subject to complex webs of restrictions and obligations, which, it has to be said, they observe with far greater honour than the protagonists in the majority of stories. In the Norse mythological cycles Gods and Giants frequently play games, have riddle matches, set each other tests or tasks, in which jeopardy gets elevated with the wager of their heads, or suchlike. The Gods invariably bargain or cheat their way out of paying if they lose: The Giants mostly admit their defeat and accept their fate graciously. When folk tale Giants set impossible tasks for wondrous rewards, usually with threats of death and ingestion, they generally pay up when the protagonist magically completes the assignment. Now, I'm not going to try and turn this around to make Molly into the baddy, the giant in her story did try to kill and eat her, so her protracted pilfering is not entirely without justification; my point is that Giants would appear to be, by nature, more inclined to stick to the rules than humans, Gods and heroes.

In Molly Whuppie, the Giant has a castle and at least three magical items (until Molly nicks them), it is entirely possible he is the king of the particular forest the three Whuppie sisters are abandoned in at the beginning of the tale. The river clearly marks the edge of the lands in which the Giant has any jurisdiction. The rope bridge is not only beyond the Giant's sphere of control but it is a facility for the wider society and damaging it will come with repercussions. Although this Giant may be happy enough to eat three small humans trespassing on his land (well it is a time of famine, this is why the Whuppie parents dumped their kids), he may still find the blatant destruction of parish property a line he is simply unable to cross.

Baring the unlikely discovery of an earlier and more explicit variant, we will never know. Thus, all the possibilities have equal validity... and several may even be true at the same time, which is another one of the beauties of folk tale.

\* Several versions can be found in Scotland and Ireland as well as Hungary and elsewhere. Many different spellings of her name exist and are all valid.

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

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

Countryfile

## **Water for Wildlife**

*"I will show you fear in a handful of dust,  
But also the healing of water's thrust."* TS Eliot "The Wasteland"

In the warm weather, it's always helpful to leave water out for wildlife: plant saucers with pebbles in to allow insects like bees and butterflies to land and drink without drowning. Pet dishes allow valuable garden friends like hedgehogs to quench their thirst between snacking on slugs and bugs. Bird baths allow thirsty sparrows, finches or robins to perch and drink and bathe, cleaning dusty feathers and cooling them down. These are small short term measures though.



We have spent decades tidying up nature, making tracks even so mud puddles don't form, regimenting plants and draining boggy areas and harvesting peat. As well as intentionally changing it, the by-products of our population growth and industry have polluted and destroyed more than our fair share of rivers, wetlands and even minor wet areas. We are starting to see the very real problems with loss of habitat this creates and we all benefit whenever we add back support for our wildlife.

Initially it might seem draining a muddy ditch is a good idea as it will reduce midges, but reduce the midges and you starve the swifts, swallows, warblers and robins for whom they are the start of the food chain, the krill of the sky; starve their population into collapse and then when mosquitos start to take off, there's no-one to keep them under control, even we benefit from keeping the balance and enhancing wildlife habitats.

If you can have a pond, or a boggy patch, a water feature or especially water retention structures like a swale, in your outdoor space, you can boost all kinds of wildlife by doing so. We can't all have streams or rivers, lakes or larger water features, but everyone can do something even if it's a saucer with pebbles and water. In any water feature You do need to make sure there is a way for creatures which accidentally fall in to escape, a gently sloping surface with enough grip, that whilst sodden from their dip they can still scramble out, but beyond not using poisons on the wildlife, adding water it is one of the very best things you can do to support the natural world and help keep our countryside rich and abundant, balanced and healthy.

**Jo Coffey**

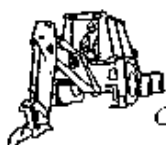
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## **Fun for All Ages at the Crediton Heart Summer Arts Festival - 2nd to 9th August**

Looking for fun things to do this summer? Look no further! The Crediton Heart Project's Summer Arts Festival is back, with its family-friendly programme of activities and shows, many of them free, promising something for everyone.

Running from 2nd to 9th August, the Heart Project has teamed up with Crediton Arts Centre and the Turning Tides Project to deliver their 4<sup>th</sup> Summer Festival, offering eight days of creative workshops, film screenings, theatre and music events across four venues.

The programme starts on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August with a fun day of outdoor music workshops, performances and food at the Four Mills Garden (near Crediton Station) and continues on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August with a free open air screening of the musical *Wicked* in Newcombes Meadow.

The Festival then moves indoors for five days of creative workshops at the Arts Centre, when you can try your hand at all sorts of crafty activities from drama to mask making, pottery to felt flower making, crafting willow to making robots! It is hoped that parents and carers will have as much fun as their children by joining in the activities.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August there will be a matinée screening of the delightful *Paddington in Peru* at the Arts Centre and on the 7<sup>th</sup> a concert at the Congregational Church, when talented local musicians will showcase a wide range of musical styles.

The festival culminates on Saturday 9th August with *Arts in the Park* - a fantastic day of free activities in Newcombes Meadow, including street theatre, live music, circus skills, craft and drumming workshops, a craft fair, plus delicious food and drink stalls to keep you fuelled throughout the day.

For more details and to book tickets visit <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-crediton-heart-project>

*The Crediton Heart Project is a local charity, working to keep the heart in our communities. They are hugely grateful for support from Crediton Town Council, the Arts Council, the National Lottery and Devon County Council.*

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Next meeting:

**20<sup>th</sup> August 2025 10:00 am- 11:00 am**

**Otters: Coming to a River near You**

A talk by Stephen Powels

Venue: Boniface Centre

Cost: £1.50

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## **St Mary's Flower Festival 2025**

The 2025 Flower Festival weekend of the 21st and 22nd June was a great success thanks to all the hard work put in by many people over the two days. First of all, a huge thank you to the arrangers including the children, without whom this Festival could not have happened. Who would have thought so many amazing and original arrangements could have been thought up, such interesting and clever ideas.

Then, of course, all the others who helped in so many ways, the catering teams, the stalls, the stewarding, the music in the church, all need quite a few volunteers to make it all work so well and the many others who worked quietly behind the scenes. Impossible to name them all individually, but thanks to Two Moors Accounting, Bow Garden Centre and Tucker Country Store for donating the Raffle vouchers, to Lydcott Nursery for loaning the plants for decorating the screen and providing the plants for the Plant Stall. Robert Vere who put together a very enjoyable church service to round off the weekend. Dee Warren and Hilary Jones kindly drew the winning draw tickets for the raffle; the following were the winners:

£20 Garden Voucher Donated by Two Moors Accounting – Joy Carrington

£10 Tucker Country Store Voucher – Nicola Myers

Cream Tea Voucher from Bow Garden Centre – Claire P

At the time of writing this the amount made for the Church was £1260.26

Many thanks to all who visited and so generously donated, which goes towards keeping the lovely old church going and which many will use during their time in this lovely village in Devon.

Thank you all,  
**Hillary Jones, Tracy Mellor and Katie Pope**







## Enjoying the Summer term!

I would like to start our piece this month by expressing my gratitude for the welcome and support I have received as the new Headteacher at Morchard Bishop. It is exciting to be working in a school community so rooted in village life and I look forward to furthering this next year. For now it is time to reflect on the super year the children have had! Their school reports are all printed and ready to be sent home, we send them with pride. They have all worked very hard and made super progress. Many happy teachers here!

The past few weeks have been very busy with sports days, residential trips, trips to Rosemoor Gardens and we finish with our fabulous play Peter Pan and our Leavers Service next week. Our year 6 children are ready to fly their Morchard Bishop nest, and they are more than prepared for the next adventure that awaits them.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to returning to school in September all raring to go.

**Hannah Bancroft**

