

East Budleigh with Bicton Parish News



Red Legged Partridge (in search of a Pear Tree?) Photo: David White



*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
to all our Readers*

Issue: December 2023/January 2024

Available online at
www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/east-budleigh-parish-magazine



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Christmas view from the Vicarage ...

Dear friends,

It is a little-known fact that Christmas was invented by the record company Polydor to promote sales of Slade's now anthemic "Merry Christmas everybody".

Well, OK, it wasn't. Apparently, it was this Jewish agitator guy who annoyed the authorities so much that the Romans and their Jewish collaborators decided to get together and conspire to have him killed. And what a way to go! The death penalty for sedition (agitating against the state) was a form of execution so cruel that even the Romans eventually banned it. Being nailed to a cross and allowed to drown in your own blood after enduring a terrible flogging, and then normally being left up as bird food while you decomposed.

This uppity carpenter from a dusty backwater of the Roman empire certainly rubbed some people up the wrong way. He never wrote down a single word, and never organised any means of carrying on his message. So how come over 2000 years after his birth we still celebrate his birth? By rights we should never have heard of this man! Just another criminal executed by the occupying power that was Rome.


But we do. In fact, He is so important that Western nations even number our years from the time we understand he was born – 2023 years ago in fact. The cultural mainstays of our calendar are concerned with the events of his life.

He may not have ever written a word himself, but trillions of words have been written about him. We do not have a clue as to what he actually looked like, but he has been depicted in images, books and films countless times – Why?

Perhaps He is exactly what followers of his say he is. Not just a wandering Jewish carpenter with a lot to say for himself, but something more...much, much more. The mouthpiece, the arms and the feet of God himself, being born on earth with a vital message of love and peace for all mankind.

Happy Christmas!

Martin

 <p>Pastoral Care</p>	<p>If you know of anyone vulnerable or living alone - whether they come to church or not - who would appreciate being contacted, please phone the Raleigh Mission Community Pastoral Team Leader - Jenny Steele on 443133 or Lynda Bunting from All Saints, East Budleigh on 446731.</p>
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As mentioned last month, work continues apace on the installation of the pathway lighting system at the church with various permissions being granted in order for a planning application to be put in. We are hoping it will be granted in the early part of the New Year with installation shortly after that.

In the meantime, Christina Dickinson has kindly offered to host a 'Christmas Coffee Morning Bring and Buy' fundraising event for the Friends of All Saints, on the morning of Saturday 9 December, between 10 am and 12 noon at Brook Cottage in Hayes Lane. Do drop in for a cuppa, with a view to either bringing something we can sell to raise funds, or to buy a little Christmas treat. Look out for posters!

With a view to next year, we are hosting a talk at 7 pm on Friday 9th February 2024 by Mark Lovatt who will give a presentation about his part in the Round the World Yacht Race.

And ... the news you have all been waiting for thanks to some very kind offers of help, we have been able to gather a small team of volunteers who are prepared to give their time and skills to join us and help organise the Scarecrow Festival next year. It will be held over the weekend of 8/9 June 2024 so please do put the date in your new diary and start stashing some bits and pieces away for your next inventive scarecrow idea! We will be meeting in the New Year to start planning.

There is always room for more volunteers so if you feel you could commit to helping us and you are free over the weekend of 8/9 June 2024 we would love to hear from you. Contact us either in person (Jenny Hill, Christine Newall, Christina Dickinson, Charles Abram, Lawrence Booth, Maria Malinowska, Angie Canning or Jess Hill) or by email to friendsofallsaintschurch.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

Lastly, January will be the first month of the next 200 Club year. Please see the application form opposite. Just £12 will get you an entry in each month of 2024 with the opportunity to win £40, £20 or £10. Giving someone a ticket for the year could be a great Christmas Present!!

With best wishes for the festive season from the Friends Committee.

Christmas Carol Service at All Saints
Christmas Eve 24th December 6pm
All Welcome!

From the Register: October 22nd. Baptism of James Stephen Lynch.
November 4th. Wedding of Katrina Drew and Steve Williams.

Christmas Flowers: If anyone would like to contribute towards the Church flowers in memory of a loved one this Christmas please contact Sue Pyne 444144.

If you enjoy arranging flowers you would be most welcome to join at any time.

Friends of All Saints 200 Club Raffle

The Friends of All Saints, East Budleigh, invite you to join our 200 Club Raffle with a chance of winning a monthly cash prize (£40 first, £20 second and £10 third prize). We hope you might find it fun to be in with a chance to win back your annual investment and maybe more or, perhaps, you might like to buy tickets as gifts for friends or family!

Just send your name, address and telephone number together with payment to the address below:

1. with a cheque for £12 for the full year 2024 made payable to 'PCC All Saints East Budleigh' or
2. Tick the box to confirm payment by direct bank transfer (BACS). The account details are:

Account Name: PCC All Saints East Budleigh

Sort code: 30 94 36

Account Number: 00601276

Reference: 200 Club



NAME:

ADDRESS:

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E-mail address:

Signature:

Return to: Angela Canning, Membership Secretary of the Friends of All Saints Church
East Budleigh, c/o Stores Cottage, 14 High Street, East Budleigh, EX9 7DY

200 Club Winners

1st - E Pye 2nd - L Wensley 3rd - M Seddon

Next edition of the Parish News

Because this is a double edition, the next issue of the Parish News
will be in February 2024

Please send contributions to ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk
by 6pm on Friday 19th January 2024



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East Budleigh with Bicton Women's Institute

Our meeting in November saw us learning about Tai Chi, and then having a go, under the direction of Sam Forder. He had a lovely calm attitude, and got us all doing breathing exercises and some simple moves.

Our next meeting in the Village Hall is on Thursday 14 December at 2pm. This is our Christmas meeting with bring and share food, and some "Music for Christmas" from Brian Lawless.

We finished our poppy wreath in time to be laid at the War Memorial in East Budleigh on Remembrance Sunday. Now we are working on decorations for a Christmas Tree to be displayed at the Christmas Tree festivals in Salem Chapel in East Budleigh, 2-3 December and at the Temple Methodist Church in Budleigh Salterton 8-12 December.

Our January meeting is on Thursday 11th and will be a board games afternoon which should be great fun.

Our meetings are on the second Thursday of each month in East Budleigh Village Hall at 2pm and finish around 4pm. We also meet up for a sociable coffee morning in a local café once a month. We are always happy to see visitors, so do come along and enjoy a meeting with us.

If you want to find out more about our WI then please contact our President Diana Humphreys by phone 07768 529352, email eastbudleighwithbicton@devonwi.org.uk, or look at our website: <https://eastbudleighwithbictonwi.org>.



The Women's Institute Wreath

Photograph: Penny Kurowski

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East Budleigh Remembers

Photos: Peter Bowler and Maria Malinowska

Our Churchyards...

Evergreen Elegance: The story of the Christmas tree

The first known Christmas tree in England was placed at Queen's Lodge in Windsor in December 1800 and marked a new chapter in the history of festive traditions. The story is a blend of royal influence, cultural exchange, and the evolving customs of the holiday season.

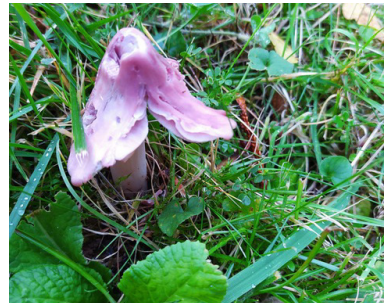
The introduction of the Christmas tree can be traced back to Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George III. Queen Charlotte was of German descent, and in her native Germany the tradition of decorating evergreen trees during the Christmas season was well established. The Christmas tree became a centrepiece of the royal celebrations, and it was adorned with candles, ornaments, and other festive decorations. While the royal family's celebrations remained relatively private affairs, the presence of the Christmas tree at Queen's Lodge soon sparked public curiosity.

However it wasn't until the mid-19 century, with Prince Albert's importation of spruce firs from his German homeland, that the Christmas tree really caught on. The spread of this royal tradition was catalysed by periodicals such as the Illustrated London News, Cassell's Magazine, and The Graphic, which annually depicted the lavish trees gracing the royal household. The tradition soon captivated the nation – spreading to ordinary households. It became a symbol of Christmas celebrations for people of all backgrounds and merged with other seasonal customs, including the Yule log and mistletoe, to create the festive atmosphere we now associate with Christmas. Today beautiful Christmas trees are a cherished part of Christmas in many places around the world.

The Churchyard Working Party will have a Christmas tree in the Salem Chapel exhibition - our thanks go to Rosie Conner for leading on this project.

Wildlife

We have been going to the Churchyards regularly to check on the numbers of fungi species and are seeing fungi in different areas of the Churchyards. We have seen a ballerina wax cap for the first time. This pinkish fungus has a cap like a ballerina skirt - unfortunately some of our other wildlife (slugs?) have been enjoying eating this specimen!



Churchyard Working Party

Friday 17 November - 10 volunteers took on and completed the tasks on the list.

The next three month's Churchyard Working Party dates are Friday: 15 December 2023; January and February 2023. All are welcome so come and join us and we will find a task to suit you - we supply tools. We start around 10.00 and finish between 12.00 and 13.00 with a coffee break at 11.00 ... biscuits and/or cake as well!

Our Churchyards....

If Fridays don't work for you but you would like to help, please let us know and we can find you a suitable task or two.

The Graveyard Shift

The term "graveyard shift" has become part of modern vocabulary, signifying a work shift that takes place during the late hours of the night, typically from midnight to early morning. However, this seemingly mundane phrase carries a historical weight, originating from the duties of watchmen and caretakers who safeguarded graveyards during the night.

Cemeteries and churchyards (and other types of burial grounds) have always been regarded as sacred grounds for the departed. In previous times, to ensure the sanctity and security of these final resting places, watchmen were employed to patrol the grounds and keep a vigilant eye. They were tasked with deterring intruders and protecting the deceased from potential harm or desecration. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the demand for cadavers for medical research and anatomy lessons led to an illicit trade in corpses. Body snatchers, also known as "resurrection men," would dig up fresh graves to meet this demand. So, the watchmen's role extended beyond protecting the sanctity of the resting souls; they also became the first line of defence against the body snatchers.

In addition, in medieval times, churches were not only places of worship but also served as important community centres, repositories of valuables, and shelters during times of danger. They needed constant protection for this reason too.

Beyond mere practicality, the term "graveyard shift" also carries symbolic connotations. Night-time has long been linked with mystery, contemplation, and introspection. The notion of watchmen patrolling the grounds in the quiet of the night added to the sense of reverence and enigma surrounding the "graveyard shift."

As societies transitioned into the industrial age, the concept of the "graveyard shift" extended beyond graveyard security. Factories, mills, and other industries adopted continuous production schedules to meet growing demands. Shift work became essential to keep operations running 24/7, and the term naturally carried over to describe the late-night work hours of factory employees.

Today, while "graveyard shift" is used to describe late-night work schedules, its historical connections to graveyards remind us of the vigilance associated with those who once safeguarded these sacred spaces under a moonlit sky.

Do visit and enjoy the Churchyards – wonderfully welcoming, peaceful places for quiet contemplation and mindfulness, and a haven for wildlife ... and photography.

Penny and Paul Kurowski. Tel: 01395 742942; churchyard.as@rmcommunity.co.uk.



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Wildlife Photographs - David White

Clockwise from top left:

- Coot
- Lesser black backed gull
- Jay
- A pair of wigeon
- Grey phalarope - a rare visitor to the Lower Otter
- Curlews
- Green sandpiper over wintering in our local brook





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East Budleigh Community Shop

Newsletter No. 158 - December 2023 and January 2024

CHRISTMAS GOODIES

We are really pleased to stock the wonderful Georgie Porgie Puddings. You can buy them now all over the country and but they are still made by George and his team, just down the road in Budleigh Salterton! Alongside your traditional Christmas Pudding we have them flavoured with cider and Westcountry apples, lemon and Pimms, orange and Cointreau and the gorgeous chocolate orange and Baileys. They come in 3 different sizes from the individual serving 5oz to a nice medium 16oz to the large family 32oz size.

A reminder to everyone to get your order for Arthurs Butchers to us as quickly as possible now and certainly before December 8th to guarantee your delivery.

We have lovely Christmas cards, wraps and bags and a great “make your own hamper” sets which include a cardboard “hamper”, ribbon and cellophane wrap – and, of course, we have lots of ideas for items to fill them – from preserves and chutneys, to biscuits and chocolates. So, whoever you are aiming to please with a gift, we will do our very best to help you out!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING

Sunday, 24th December	8 - 12
Monday, 25th December	CLOSED
Tuesday, 26th December	9 - 12
Then normal hours until	
Monday, 1st January	9 – 12
Then back to normal hours again!	

CAROLS AT THE SHOP



Do come and join us outside the shop for our Christmas Carols on Monday, 18th December at 6.00 pm with lots of mince pies and mulled wine.

NEW FROM SANDFORD ORCHARD!



Our lovely local cider makers have been busy creating their latest award-winning varieties and, after a taste test by some suitable volunteers, the decision was made that we had to stock them! They are pretty strong ciders, coming in at between 6.7% and 8.4% but they have all gone down a storm at the world cider awards.

For something really special “The General” is their longest matured cider and was recently voted “best tannin-led cider in the world” at the International Cider Challenge! They sit nicely beside Sandford’s current lines of flavoured ciders, which are always popular – and would make a lovely locally sourced Christmas gift!

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and

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Saturday 9th December

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CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS SIR WALTER RALEIGH COMMUNITY PUB

Christmas Eve – 12pm -3pm & 5.30pm – 10.30pm

Food 12pm - 3pm – Normal Menu

Christmas Day – 11am -2pm

No food available

Boxing Day – 12pm -3pm & 5.30pm – 11pm

No food available

Wednesday 27th- 12pm -3pm & 5.30pm – 11pm

Food 12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 9pm - Normal Menu

Thursday 28th– 12pm -3pm & 5.30pm – 11pm

Food 12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 9pm - Normal Menu

Friday 29th– 12pm -3pm & 5.30pm – 11pm

Food 12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 9pm - Normal Menu

Saturday 30th – 12pm -3pm & 5.30pm – 11pm

Food 12pm - 3pm – Normal Menu

6pm - 9pm – 5 Course Set Menu (Details to follow)

New Year's Eve – 12pm -3pm & 5.30pm – 1pm

Food 12pm - 3pm – Sunday Roast Menu

New Year's Day – 12am -3pm

Community Lunch (Details to follow)

Tuesday 2nd January - 12pm -3pm & 5.30pm – 11pm

No food available

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

**6PM CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 2023**

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
3PM SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
9.30AM MONDAY 25 DECEMBER 2023
ALL SAINTS CHURCH - ALL WELCOME**





Drake's School Winter Craft Fair

Photographs: Peter Bowler

East Budleigh in Bloom

Saturday 18 November saw a very good gathering in the Village Hall for our AGM and fascinating talks and video about Frank Farr.

Thanks to all the research and hard work from Graham, Helen, Mike and Kathy. We all enjoyed an intriguing insight into East Budleigh over the last 100 years. Frank's Patch, as it is now known, was obviously a social hub and focal point for the village as well as selling some locally grown fruit and vegetables. What a character!

Christmas is just around the corner and EBiB are displaying a "tree" at Salem Chapel on 2/3 December. Not much "in Bloom" at this time of year but lots of seed heads and berries to help with the design!

Happy gardening and a Merry Christmas from us all.

If you have any queries please contact the secretary, Jon Roseway, 01395 488739.



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EAST BUDLEIGH & BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

We saw more flooding during October, when our sandbags were much in demand. The Parish Council has an Emergency Plan for many forms of emergency, which you can access on the website www.eastbudleigh.org.uk. We also have a list of Volunteers, with a WhatsApp message-board so that the Co-ordinator can keep key people informed. N.B. There is a list of Emergency Numbers on all the Parish Council noticeboards, in the Visitors Information Point and on the website.

The Council has taken part in a detailed survey, contributing information on our neighbourhood planning activity and intentions, which will be used to inform decisions for the Local Plan.

Unfortunately two young Rowan trees were hacked down during some strimming on the bank at the top of Wynards Road. The Clerk has taken this up with EDDC and asked for replacements. As always details of our activities are recorded in the Minutes of our meetings and displayed on the website and in the Visitors Information Room.

A Happy New Year to you all! Judith Venning clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk

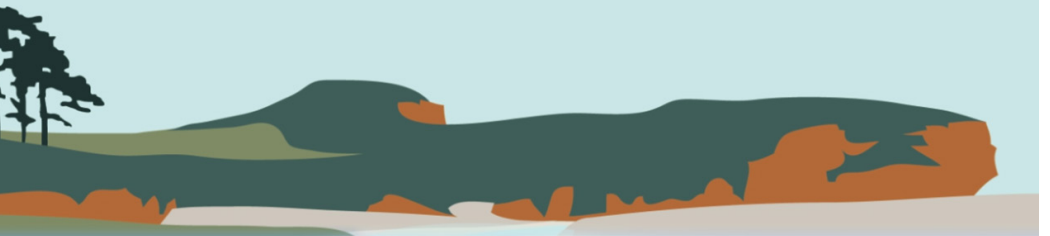
The Budleigh Youth Club, Moor Lane, Budleigh Salterton

is open for Years 6 and 7 every Thursday during term time. It's a fabulous place for your children to hang out, with lots of activities and a wonderful group of volunteers who run it, it's also only £1!

Further details and information on how to sign up can be found on their website
www.budleighventurehall.co.uk/youth-club.html

If there are children from Otterton and East Budleigh who do not have transport, we may be able to help. Please get in touch.

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Image by *Jan Creffrey Art*

Roger Conant Club

Looking forward the Club has taken first steps to organise an 'Elizabethan Evening' which is now set to take place on 18th May next year. The venue will be the Village Hall in East Budleigh. Everybody from East Budleigh and the surrounds is invited and we hope for a full house. Guests wearing a costume from the 17th Century will be most welcome, but 'dressing up' will not be obligatory. Full details of the menu, entertainment, cost etc. will appear in the February issue of this Magazine. We are delighted that the East Budleigh History Society will partner us in this event.

Up to now the focus of the Club has been on Roger Conant who became famous for his achievements in America. Further research by Ian Blackwell and Michael Downes has revealed that two close relatives of Roger Conant, both called John Conant, rose to prominent positions in this country.

The elder John Conant, Roger's brother, was born and baptised in All Saints Church East Budleigh in 1585/6. He became a member of the Dorchester Company and formed a strong bond with the founder, Revd. John White. Both John Conant and Dr. White were constituted by parliament as members of the 'Assembly of Divines', which set standards for aspects of the Presbyterian faith in England and America.

Roger Conant's nephew, the younger John Conant, was born in Yettington and baptised in Bicton Church in 1608. A truly great scholar, he became Rector of Exeter College, Oxford in 1649, Regius Professor of Divinity (1654) and Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University (1657). A painting of John Conant has recently been restored by Exeter College and we have established contact with the College archivist to inform him of our interest in 'the Conants'.

The more we look, the more extraordinary it is that so many persons of distinction were born and raised in this Parish in the late 16th/early 17th Century, not least members of the extended Conant family.

East Budleigh with Bicton Relief in Need Trust

The East Budleigh with Bicton Relief in Need Trust has funding available to support residents of the Parish in need of financial support. In the past, we have helped individuals with technology requirements, hardship caused by the cost of travel and other needs which would support education.

The funding could also be used for hardship cases in the community. However, the individual must be a resident or work in the Parish of East Budleigh with Bicton.

The trustees meet twice a year in March and October; however requests for funds can be made at any time, and every request is discussed and agreed/declined by our committee of trustees. Every application is treated confidentially.

If you would like more information, please contact the secretary of the charity,
Fran Mills raleighmc@gmail.com Tel 01395 568732

East Budleigh History Society

The East Budleigh History Society met on Monday 13 November at 1.30pm at the Sir Walter Raleigh pub.

The meeting reflected on Our Remembrance Heritage event. The informative displays, poignant music and the Local Heroes talk on the East Budleigh war casualties were all well received.

The meeting confirmed arrangements for Our Christmas Trees Heritage event on Saturday/Sunday 2/3 December 10am to 3pm or when doors close. Contributions of Christmas Trees are so far confirmed from Drake's School, All Saints Church, East Budleigh Parish Council, the Craft Group, the SWR pub, the WI, the Handbell Choir, the History Society, the OVA, the Friends of All Saints, Square Circle, the Flower Arrangers, the Bell Ringers, the EB Heritage Centre, EB in Bloom, the Roger Conant Group, the EB Shop and the Yoga group as well as some individuals!

Set up times are confirmed Wednesday/Thursday/Friday and takedown Monday/Tuesday. Festive refreshments including mulled wine will be available and 'Salem Chapel in the Snow' Christmas cards will be on sale. Other displays will include a train set and a dolls house.

Future events may include a 1930s tribute and an Elizabethan evening in May in the Village Hall, the latter proposed by the Roger Conant Club - see opposite.

Good news! The Historic Chapels Trust have offered to extend the license to operate as a Heritage Centre in Salem Chapel by 12 months to end December 2024 whilst they prepare the prospectus to invite potential new owners for the Chapel.

Village Hall Refurbishment Project Update

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all those who came to our open evening in November to give feedback on our ideas for the Village Hall. Your input is much appreciated. We are hoping to apply for planning permission early in the New Year. Fundraising efforts will also begin then, as well applications for grants from charitable trusts. Therefore, 2024 is set to be an exciting year for the Village Hall and the community!

We will update you again in the next Parish News which is due to be published in February.

All that's left for us to do now is to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

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Drake's C of E Primary School

We had lots of fun celebrating Bun Day in East Budleigh. This annual tradition sees the vicar throw buns down to the school children and is something that the children love to be a part of.



We have a busy

month ahead with our Christmas performance of 'The INN-Spectors' and a trip to Exeter Northcott Theatre to see the pantomime Dick Whittington. The children are looking forward to their Christmas lunch and our Christmas Service.

A huge thank you to everybody that volunteered on our 'Love our school' day. Lots of time was spent tidying the garden, collecting leaves, treating the Book Nook, sanding and painting doors and walls, making a mud kitchen and lots lots more!

If your child is due to start school in September 2024 then we would love to welcome you to our amazing school. The deadline for applying for reception 2024 starters is 15th January 2024. Please contact the office and make an appointment to come and have a look around. In the meantime, have a look at our Facebook page and website.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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school



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Volunteer Wanted!

RSPB are looking for a volunteer to help with ongoing conservation management at Black Hill Quarry on the edge of Woodbury parish and alongside Bicton common, where they are using traditional breeds of livestock, both Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies, to help with conservation management and grazing.

This would entail a visit once a week on a rota, with other volunteers, to check the health and welfare of the animals (just five), give them some feed and possibly check some of the boundary fences. Training in animal care and things to look out for will be provided.

This would be an opportunity for someone to help out with ongoing management of the site and to go behind the scenes of a restoration award winning quarry that does not have any public access.

If you feel that this might be of interest to you then please either call the RSPB nature reserve office on 01395 233655 and ask for Toby, or drop an email to aylesbeare.common@rspb.org.uk.

All change on Aylesbeare and Harpford Common as 2023 draws to a close, with all the livestock involved in the heath's management on the move. Many thanks go to our 30-strong herd of cattle that have been on the commons since June. These cows are now back on Dartmoor, with 21 Dartmoor/Exmoor Ponies having mobilised for their return to Aylesbeare from various sites throughout Devon. 6 Exmoors are back from nearby Manor Common, 4 have come in from RSPB Withycombe Raleigh Common in the south. 11 Dartmoors have also returned from their summer holiday in the Blackdown Hills, with the RSPB Aylesbeare team assisting in the management of the turbaries owned by Stockland parish council.

2023 has been a difficult year in terms of flooding, with this article being penned just off the back of storms Babet and Ciaran, both of whom brought huge amounts of rainfall to the Otter River catchment. The flood of May the 9th (where over 30mm of rain fell in just 2 hours!) must also get a special mention, particularly as a demonstration of the kind of weather events that will become more frequent in a warming world. As weather systems increase their ability to hold and discharge more rain, these flood events highlight the importance of managing land sympathetically for wildlife. The wet heathlands and mires of Aylesbeare Common and the wider Pebblebed Heaths help decrease surface runoff and erosion, and to slow the flow of water; their peaty soils act like sponges and the heathland vegetation – of dwarf shrubs, grasses and trees – holds rain above the ground. It is intensively managed farmland or housing.

Good news comes from the growing number of tree planting schemes becoming available to local parish councils throughout East Devon and the wider county. We were invited by Newton Poppleford parish to get involved with their tree planting project in February, which they were able to do with funding from East Devon District Council and the AONB. This was facilitated by Keith Rennells and the ParkLife Southwest initiative to improve tree cover within the village. 16,500 trees were also planted in Devon last winter through the Emergency Tree Fund granted by The Woodland Trust. And the Devon Wildlife Trust continue with their 'Saving Devon's Treescapes' initiative to help combat the loss of ash trees in the landscape due to ash dieback. Furthermore, down at the Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP), the breach of the embankment has finally taken place and the transformation of that area is truly inspiring and something to look forward to watching establish year on year: the possibilities for birdlife and other wildlife on the estuary now are extremely exciting.

In other good news, 2023 brought terrific hay yields on RSPB managed grasslands. We still have hay bales available for sale, with delivery or collection in time for Christmas. If interested, please get in touch at the email address below.

RSPB Aylesbeare would like to give a special thanks to our weekly volunteers whose work has been integral to the management of the reserve this year, as ever. Our work is varied, not always sticking to standard work party fodder, and it changes throughout the year. There is room for all sorts of skills, and ideas. So, if you are looking for a new activity for the new year and want to contribute to the conservation of Aylesbeare Common and the RSPB's wider mission to secure a viable future for the UK's wildlife (and you enjoy working in the outdoors and getting stuck in) then come down to a volunteering session. Work parties happen on Wednesdays and Thursdays every week, (or a more laid back monthly session on a Sunday), please email for further information.

Happy Christmas!

Michael S, Residential volunteer - aylesbeare.common@rspb.org.uk

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OVA Walks Programme for December 2023

Please check the OVA website (www.ova.org.uk) on the day of the walk, in case of last-minute changes. Make bookings (where requested) with the walk leaders.

Friday 1 December – 10.00am – 5.3 miles

'Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton'

Meet: Woodbury Village car park (free)

We will walk from Woodbury village on a circular route via Woodbury Salterton with a stop for coffee.

Walk Leader: Sarah Westacott 0770 6078143

Friday 8 December – about 7 miles. About 3.5 hours

'Sid Valley Ring East'

Meet: Sidbury Church (OS 115, SY 129 917) Park in the car park behind the village hall (OS 115, SY 128 919) or take Stagecoach bus 9 from Sidmouth arriving 10.04am

We will walk the eastern half of the Sid Valley Ring, which uses quiet lanes and footpaths to take us from the lovely village of Sidbury eastwards and visits Dunscombe and Salcombe Regis with a couple of coast path sections before arriving at the seafront at Sidmouth.

Bring a flask for a coffee break. We should arrive in time for a picnic lunch on the seafront or you can find something at one of the many eateries in Sidmouth. Buses return hourly to Sidbury for those who left a car there.

If you plan to arrive by bus, please let walk leaders Penny and Paul Kurowski know, and we will wait for the bus! 01395 742942 or 07792 619748 or pandp@kurowski.me.uk

Tuesday 12 December – 10.00am – 9 miles. About 5 hours

Walk 12: 'Twelve Walks in the Otter Valley'

Meet: Otterton Green (OS 115, SY 081 852)

Otterton, Colaton Raleigh, Northmostown via Dotton, Muters Moor, Peak Hill, Ladram. Bring packed lunch.

Walk Leaders: Iain Ure and Dee Woods 01395 568822 / 07597 921007

Tuesday 19 December – 10.00am – 5 miles. About 3 hours.

Walk 2: 'Twelve Walks in the Otter Valley'

Meet: Otterton Green (OS 115, SY 081 852)

Otterton, White Bridge, Lime Kiln, Budleigh, Old Railway, Clamour Bridge. Bring a packed lunch.

Walk Leaders: Iain Ure and Dee Woods 01395 568822 / 07597 921007

Tuesday 2 January – 10.00am – 6 miles. 3 hours.

'A New Year walk'

Meet: The shelter beside the Longboat Café, Budleigh Salterton promenade (OS 115, SY 0691 8192)

Start the year as you mean to carry on with a good walk! We shall wend our way through the backstreets of Budleigh Salterton and come out onto West Down and the golf course. Then we head north to the old railway cycle track, which takes us to Littleham. After passing through the caravan park, we can enjoy the delights of the coast path on our way back to the start. Optional lunch at the Brook Kitchen.

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway 01395 488739 / 07887 936280

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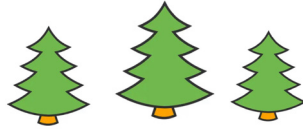
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Our Christmas Trees Heritage

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Budleigh Salterton Lions Club

Budleigh Salterton Lions Club and Drake's Primary School in East Budleigh arranged a litter pick around the village on 19th October and a beach clean on 2nd November. Unfortunately the beach clean had to be postponed because of storm Ciaran.

For the village litter pick the Lions were joined by the children, teachers and parents, one of whom contacted the Lions afterwards and said "thank you for organising the litter pick, the children loved it!"



Lion President Richard Allen said "we are always pleased to loan out our children's litter picking equipment to the local Schools. The children were very keen and soon found various bits of rubbish and litter. It just goes to show that as Greta Thunberg, the Swedish environmental activist, once said "no one is too small to make a difference"!

The children in the School are keen to promote the importance of keeping our environment rubbish free so the children will be designing posters to encourage people to do just that.



Budleigh Salterton Lions Club have offered to sponsor the environmental poster competition and provide art materials for the School as prizes. The winners will be announced in December.

Lion President Richard Allen said, "We are delighted to have the opportunity to sponsor this poster competition. The children are passionate about keeping their environment litter free and we are keen to help them in any way we can. I'm really looking forward to seeing the posters around the village!" If you would like to get involved and make a difference in the local community please contact us. Membership to the Lions is open to men and women aged 18 and over. If you would like to know more please contact us via our website www.budleighlions.com.

Photos with permission of Drake's School.



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Churchwardens -

Marilyn Hobbs 01395 488739
John Neligan 01395 442781

RMC Administrator

Fran Mills 01395 568732
raleighmc@gmail.com
The office at St Peters church is open;
Wednesday 10-12
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday please
phone between 9-1

Parochial Church Council - Secretary -

Fran Mills 01395 443397
pccsecretary@rmcommunity.co.uk

Treasurer -

Maria Malinowska 07773 218582
pcctreasurer.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

Bellringers Captain -

Alan Murdoch 01395 445230

Organist -

Geoff Aplin 01395 442951

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Parish News

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Services in the Raleigh Mission Community

Date		Time	St Peter's	All Saints	St Michael's
December 2023					
Sunday 3rd	Advent	8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 3rd		9.30		Holy Communion	
Sunday 3rd		10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 3rd		11.00			Morning Prayer
Sunday 3rd		18.00	Advent Sunday Service		
Tuesday 5th		9.30		Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 6th		9.30	Holy Communion		
Thursday 7th		9.30			Morning Prayer
Sunday 10th		8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 10th		9.30		Holy Communion	
Sunday 10th		10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 10th		11.00			Holy Communion
Sunday 10th		18.00	Choral Evensong		
Tuesday 12th		9.30		Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 13th		9.30	Holy Communion		
Thursday 14th		9.30			Morning Prayer
Sunday 17th		8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 17th		9.30		Holy Communion	
Sunday 17th		10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 17th		11.00			Holy Communion
Tuesday 19th		9.30		Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 20th		9.30	Holy Communion		
Thursday 21st		9.30			Morning Prayer
Sunday 24th	Christmas Eve	8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 24th		9.30		NO SERVICE	
Sunday 24th		10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 24th		11.00			Holy Communion
Sunday 24th		15.00			Christingle
Sunday 24th		17.00	Christingle		
Sunday 24th		18.00		Carol Service	
Sunday 24th		23.00	Holy Communion		
Monday 25th	Christmas Day	8.00	Holy Communion		
Monday 25th		9.30		Holy Communion	
Monday 25th					Holy Communion
Tuesday 26th		9.30		NO SERVICE	
Wednesday 27th		9.30	NO SERVICE		
Thursday 28th		9.30			NO SERVICE
Sunday 31st		8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 31st		9.30		Holy Communion	
Sunday 31st		10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 31st		11.00			Morning Prayer

Please Note: there is no service at All Saints at 9.30 on Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

Date	Time	St Peter's	All Saints	St Michael's
January 2024				
Tuesday 2nd	9.30		NO SERVICE	
Wednesday 3rd	9.30	NO SERVICE		
Thursday 4th	9.30			NO SERVICE
Sunday 7th	8.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 7th	9.30		Holy Communion	
Sunday 7th	10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 7th	11.00			Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9th	9.30		Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 10th	9.30	Holy Communion		
Thursday 11th	9.30			Morning Prayer
Sunday 14th	8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 14th	9.30		Holy Communion	
Sunday 14th	10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 14th	11.00			Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	18.00	Choral Evensong		
Tuesday 16th	9.30		Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 17th	9.30	Holy Communion		
Thursday 18th	9.30			Morning Prayer
Sunday 21st	8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 21st	9.30		Holy Communion	
Sunday 21st	10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 21st	11.00			Holy Communion
Tuesday 23rd	9.30		Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 24th	9.30	Holy Communion		
Thursday 25th	9.30			Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th	8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 28th	9.30		Holy Communion	
Sunday 28th	10.00	Holy Communion		
Sunday 28th	11.00			Holy Communion
Tuesday 30th	9.30		Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 31st	9.30	Holy Communion		
February				
Thursday 1st	9.30			Morning Prayer

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