

East Budleigh with Bicton Parish News



Aid to Ukraine

Issue: April 2024

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April view from the Vicarage ...

Dear friends,

I have given assemblies to local schools on both St. David and St. Patrick just recently but what of our own English patron saint St. George?

St. George's day occurs every April 23rd and at first sight you wonder how on earth that happened. George of Lydda was a 5th century Greek from what is now a part of modern Turkey called Cappadocia and he was a Roman soldier who was executed for refusing to renounce his Christian faith.

As a military martyr he became extraordinarily popular internationally in both East and West, and is also venerated across the Muslim world, so a more international saint it is hard to imagine. He has been the patron saint of England since 1348 when he was chosen to be so by Edward III.

The most famous image of St. George is of him fighting a dragon. That legend started in the 11th century and apparently took place in what is now Libya.

Our flag which is the flag of St. George, a red cross on a white background, originated first in Genoa in Italy and appears as part of many other flags.

So basically, we have representing our country an international saint who transcends religious traditions and national boundaries. I suppose Edward wanted a "military saint" to represent us and it is probably how this otherwise obscure saint became so popular to so many people.

His origins may be obscure, and his death is even less clear. There is a tomb in Lydda, just south of Tel Aviv, that purports to have his remains - though the Muslim world claims to have had his remains in a Mosque in Mosul, Iraq, but this mosque was destroyed by Islamic State in 2014.

So England's patron saint is the most international saint that has traditionally appealed to diverse peoples and religions and so, in a funny kind of way, is quite befitting a modern Britain that increasingly reflects that demographic.

Happy St. George's day!

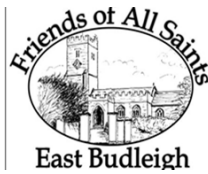
Martin



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.

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Planning for the **Scarecrow Festival** to be held over the weekend of **8/9 June** continues and we meet again soon to confirm some of the arrangements that need to be made.

We can confirm that we have a sponsor for the Scarecrow Festival Duck Races this year. The 'Roger Conant Duck Races' will be held on both the Saturday and Sunday. The Roger Conant Club have kindly funded the prizes and will add some touches to the races to increase awareness of this important historical figure from East Budleigh's history.

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, Charlie Abram, Maria Malinowska, Angie Canning or Jess Hill) or by email to friendsofallsaintschurch.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

In other news, we continue to work on the plan to replace the exterior lighting around the church and church hall so that it will be reliably lit and a safer place to venture in the darker winter months. These things take time it appears, gathering all the right ecclesiastical and legal planning permissions to go ahead!

Don't forget that you can join the Friends **200 Club** any time during the year. Please see the application form opposite if you are interested. **Just £9** will get you an entry in the draw every month for the rest of 2024 with the opportunity to **win £40, £20 or £10**.

All Saints Church East Budleigh - Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC met in February and discussed a range of matters:

Following recent heavy rainfall both the church and church hall suffered leaks through the roof. Thanks to Paul Kurowski for being proactive and dealing with builders and quotes etc. Emergency repairs have taken place and the PCC met again at the end of March to discuss the quotes and how to progress the necessary works.

Discussions around working towards the Church of England's plan to reach Net Zero by 2030. Both the church and church hall have undergone energy audits and we are looking to complete some of the lower cost items such as energy efficient lightbulbs and door draught excluders (see also page 27).

Resetting the sound system in church which was affected by the water leak.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which is the Church of England term for an annual general meeting, is due to take place after the usual morning service on Sunday 19th May. The service starts at 9.30 and the APCM will probably start soon after 10.30am. Everyone is welcome.

PCC Report continued ...

A fundraising event to help with the costs of maintaining the church yard was discussed for early in the summer, with an intriguing connection to our churchyard...

And plans for a volunteer tea party to say thank you to everyone who contributes in any way to the ongoing daily life of operating, maintaining and enriching the building and activities of All Saints - see page 10.

Christine Newall

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 £9 for the rest of 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:

PHONE:

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

February: 1st - Mrs J Smith 2nd - Miss A Pyne 3rd - Mr C Yeats



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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 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

CHURCH MATTERS

The PCC has arranged for the annual Church Spring Clean to take place on Saturday, 27th April starting at 10.00am.

We are appealing for volunteers. You do not have to be a member of the congregation. Just come along with a duster and the rest will be provided, including some mid-morning refreshment, and, of course bags of goodwill.

We aim to complete by 1.00pm. The more we are, the quicker we will finish: it can actually be fun.

So please come and join us: you can stay for as long or short a time as you wish: whichever, you will be made very welcome!

So, in advance, thank you.

John Neligan Churchwarden

Next edition of the Parish News

Please send contributions for the May Issue
to ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

by 6pm on Friday 19th April 2024

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East Budleigh in Bloom

Sadly, the violas have mostly given up the ghost. The wet weather has served them poorly. The odd planter where they have survived and flourished are the ones which are in full sun, when it deigns to shine!

We have had an interim plant of the School baskets which, hopefully, will give us a good bit of colour for Easter and through to our May planting. The daffodils in the cart have been a joy and, despite the wet and the wind, have raised their heads again.

We have tidied the herb bed and will put in some more French tarragon and parsley soon. Any donations of spare herbs that you might have will be gratefully received. Please keep thinking about the plant sale on 18 May when seeding, splitting and growing for the summer.

Happy Easter from us all and enjoy your Spring gardening.

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

Photo: Rosie Conner



East Budleigh Church Hall

Available to hire for functions and activities.
Please contact:

Richard Slade 01395 443609
or church office 01395 443397

VOLUNTEERS AFTERNOON TEA

All Saints church will be holding a Volunteers' Afternoon Tea on Sunday 19 May 2024 to say thank you for all the hard work which makes All Saints such a thriving community today. The Afternoon Tea will be served at 3pm in the Church Hall.

The invitations are currently being sent out to each activity group with the request to let us know how many would like to attend, ideally by end April. Any details of specific dietary requirements would be most helpful too. (There will be no charge for this event.) If you are a volunteer and do not receive an invitation to the Afternoon Tea by end March, please contact Maria on 0777 321 8582.

We look forward to catching up on the 19th of May.
On behalf of the PCC All Saints East Budleigh

Our Churchyards...

Churchyard Working Party

Many thanks to Jon Roseway, who led the working party for us on March 15th, and to the other hard-working volunteers.

The next three month's Churchyard Working Party dates are Fridays: 19 April, 17 May, and 21 June. 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!

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 Golden Carpet

As you wander through the quiet pathways of lanes, churchyards or woodlands, you will notice delicate yellow flowers unfolding in the gentle embrace of spring. These are the beautiful lesser celandines.

Scientifically known as *Ficaria verna*, celandines belong to the buttercup family and are native to Europe and parts of Asia. With their glossy petals and heart-shaped leaves, these bright flowers are a welcome sight as they fill the air with a sweet, honey-like fragrance. Their early arrival provides an important source of nectar for bees and butterflies as they emerge from hibernation.

Our Churchyards...

Folklore has it that lesser celandine can be used to predict the weather. There is some truth in this as they close their petals in cloudy weather and before rain. The leaves are high in vitamin C and in the past were used to prevent scurvy.

William Wordsworth was such a fan of the lesser celandine, he wrote an ode about it:

There is a Flower, the Lesser Celandine,
That shrinks, like many more, from cold and rain;
And, the first moment that the sun may shine,
Bright as the sun himself, 'tis out again!
When hailstones have been falling, swarm on swarm,
Or blasts the green field and the trees distressed,
Oft have I seen it muffled up from harm,
In close self-shelter, like a Thing at rest.

The first part of the poem, The Lesser Celandine, by William Wordsworth (1770-1850).

Whilst the celandines may be over by the time you receive this Parish News, there will be lots of other flowers to enjoy.

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.

If you have family laid to rest at All Saints, please can you help to keep the churchyard a special place and join the Churchyard Parish Giving Scheme.

To contribute, please call 0333 002 1271 and ask for the All Saints EB Churchyard Scheme no. 150 615 005/A to arrange a direct debit.

You can make a donation on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Perhaps an annual donation on their birthday or yours, or even at Christmas.

All Saints churchyard is a haven of solace and it is our turn to ensure it stays that way.

Thank you from the PCC, All Saints East Budleigh



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East Budleigh's Andrew Canning has travelled with several convoys to deliver materials and aid to Ukraine, and writes below about his most recent experience, which highlights the extreme situation of the people of Ukraine, and the small but significant part Andrew and his colleagues, and the people of East Budleigh, have played in helping them.

AID TO UKRAINE

I am SO grateful to the many folk from East Budleigh and elsewhere that have donated either cash or material goods to the cause for which I volunteer in collecting and delivering much needed aid to Ukraine. The Ukraine Freedom Company (UFC) is a not-for-profit company, not a charity, that was established shortly after Putin invaded Ukraine in 2022. The founder, Tim, a childhood friend of my wife, Angie, is a former Royal Marines Officer and later SAS Reservist, who was moved to do something very practical to aid Ukraine.

16 UFC convoys have now delivered aid to Ukraine, reaching out to delivery close to the front line in Eastern Ukraine. I've been on four of them. Aid delivery has been to military units, hospitals and local communities so desperately in need of help. Aid has had many forms but has generally consisted of medical supplies, military and civilian clothing (especially for winter warfare wear), generators and a plethora of equipment that has been donated including wheelchairs, crutches, dental kit, hospital beds, dried food, hydration powders, childrens' play equipment, and scores more things. The vans are packed when they leave UK shores, with 2 volunteer drivers in each wagon, to maximise driving hours. Until Ukraine that is, when harsh curfews are implemented to help thwart dark-time operations by Russian special (or not so special) forces.

Delivering aid is a significant, albeit limited, contribution to the Ukrainian war against Putin. People often ask what life is like in Ukraine right now. I've been to and stayed in many of the major cities: Kiev, Lviv, Dnipro, Odesa, Vanitsya. Life continues, much as I believe it did in the big cities in the UK during WW2. Mothers take children to school, go shopping and visit the parks for fun. Shops are pretty well stocked. Traffic still abounds as I imagine might be normal outside of war.

But air/missile raid sirens are not normal in most societies. Taking cover in air raid shelters is not normal. Nor is the expectation that Putin's aggression may impact your weekend. Some buildings are destroyed, roads unuseable. Driving through Ukraine, a vast country, is a further reminder that the country is at war. Each village and town has cemeteries marked with the new graves of those recently killed in the conflict. All are marked with expansive floral tributes, photos of the deceased, and with the Ukrainian flag at the graveside.

The people are hugely friendly and appreciative of UK support. But the youngsters know that they well be called up to fight soon. Scary for them.

All cash donations to the UFC fund the trips (ferries/trains/food & accommodation etc.) and is not used to purchase aid supplies.

Our last delivery to Odesa in February was a hugely appreciated one. The aid was duly delivered to the Ukrainian front line just after we left. Last week we heard that our contact Sergiy and his team, the recipients of our aid in Odesa, had all been killed in a missile strike on the city, along with many other civilians in the area.

Should you wish to donate to help sustain the UFC aid delivery efforts to a country still very much still in need, the details are below.

UFC - Sort code: 08-92-50 A/c number: 68823151

Thanks!
Andrew



Photos by Andrew Canning. Above: a cemetery with flags for the many recently fallen. Top: A bombed block of flats in Dnipro. Cover photo: Andrew Canning (left) and the UFC convoy team handing over aid to intended recipients in Kyiv.



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Wildlife Photographs by David White

- Clockwise from top left:
1. A pair of teal;
 2. Black tailed godwit;
 3. Cormorant with breakfast!
 4. Gadwall drake;
 5. Bar-headed goose;
 6. Snipe

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BUDLEIGH SALTERTON LIONS CLUB

Last Thursday 7th March was World Book Day. To celebrate this Lion Richard Allen, Immediate Past President of Budleigh Salterton Lions Club, presented Bicton College with a set of seven Wild Tribe Heroes Books.

The Wild Tribe Heroes books are a collection of gentle and engaging true stories about animals that find themselves in trouble when their lives are affected by plastic pollution, climate change or habitat loss. Follow each one of the heroes to see what happens, how they are saved and what we can do to help them!

Lion Richard also gave a presentation to a group of learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), about the Budleigh Lions Club, Lions Clubs International and how young people aged 8 - 18 years old can get involved with volunteering and serving the local community.



The Lions Young Leaders in Service Awards encourage, guide, mentor and recognise young people (aged 8-18 years) for their community service. On completion of their hours of service, the young people awarded will receive a certificate, a letter of congratulations from Lions Clubs International (MD105) British Isles, and a Young Leaders in Service pin. There are three levels of award: Gold (100+ hrs); Silver (50-99 hrs); Bronze (25-49 hrs). Any young person interested in the scheme should contact Richard via www.budleighlions.com

Bicton College is part of The Cornwall College Group which offers the widest range of specialist vocational training for everyone in the region. It is the largest education and training provider in the region, with over 15,000 learners each year, 2,000 of whom are studying a university programme.

The Study Programme has been developed because the College wants to help everyone leaving school become well prepared for the workplace and higher education. The aim is to broaden the students' experience; combining a specialist qualification, with skills including English and mathematics as well as preparation and participation in employability. For learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), this is an essential part of Preparing for Adulthood. The College promotes independence as much as possible within the study programme, resulting in bespoke approaches to supporting each individual.



Membership of the Lions Club is open to men and women of all ages. Please get in touch by visiting www.budleighlions.com



APRIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT SIR WALTER RALEIGH COMMUNITY PUB

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EAST BUDLEIGH HERITAGE CENTRE

The East Budleigh Heritage Centre committee met on Monday 26 February to plan the EB Heritage events for 2024.

Governance: Following the success of last year, the Historic Chapels Trust has granted EB Heritage Centre a 12-month extension of its Licence Agreement for Salem Chapel. The new Licence Agreement is pending signature by HCT subject to formalising the Safeguarding policy. The meeting voted to adopt and signed the Safeguarding Policy offered by Acre for village halls. Three further directors completed appointment forms to become directors of EB Heritage Centre Ltd. Issues relating to policy on fire risk, food preparation (microwave), alcohol licence and first aid were reviewed.

Website: The draft website was welcomed and further work will be undertaken on formatting and the history content.

Chapel Structure: The meeting was dismayed to note that there was no evidence of any work year to date on either the soaking wet underfloor between the entrance doorways (probably causing the subsidence) or the woodworm treatment. Subsequently HCT confirmed that they had accepted a quote from the maintenance contractor to undertake works to the guttering to redirect the water into the down pipes at the sides of the building to discharge into the french drains. Some floorboards will be raised to aid the drying process. The moisture levels need to be addressed first before the woodworm can be treated. Fumigation is not an option for the building as there are bats confirmed to be using the roof space.

Chapel ownership: Discussions with Friends of Friendless Churches is ongoing although they are looking at other HCT chapels before Salem. The FFC trustees meet in March. There have been no responses from local contacts approached about the future of Salem Chapel.

2024 Events: Plans are well underway for Our Crafting Heritage event on Easter Saturday 2-5pm. The rota was well supported. Set-up for the event will be on Good Friday 11am-1pm and on Saturday 1-2pm. Despite good efforts, there will be no music event in April. In May the local schools will be invited to display their artwork.

The main summer exhibition, Our Smuggling Heritage by the EB History Society is being planned.

The Heritage Centre will open in September for the national Heritage Open Day. The Centre's registration for this event is required by April. A photography exhibition is planned with invitations to submit photos of a favourite tree. In December, back by popular demand, will be Our Christmas Trees Heritage event.

EAST BUDLEIGH WITH BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has three vacancies which we are anxious to fill. If you wish to support your Parish, assist with keeping the village facilities in good order and giving your opinion on planning matters, then please get in touch with the Clerk for further details, or talk to a Parish Councillor.

It will give you the opportunity to learn how Yettington, East Budleigh, Bicton and Kersbrook are cared for. Have a look at the Parish Council website which is full of information on all our work: www.eastbudleigh.org.uk .

We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month and have just moved our meeting times to 6.00 pm to avoid clashing with other events in the village.

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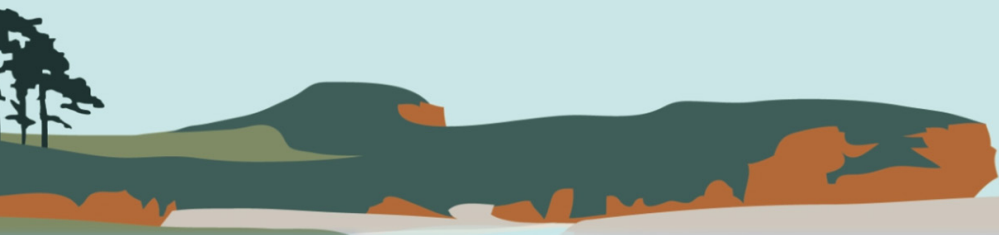
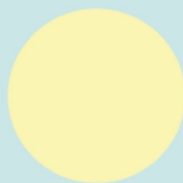


EAST BUDLEIGH MAY FAIR



Bank Holiday Monday 6th May
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 the village to the Mayfair at East
 Budleigh Village Hall.
 BBQ, drinks, ice cream, games and
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Newsletter No. 161 - April 2024

STILL SISTERS CRAFT GINS



We met this lovely company at the trade show in Exeter in February and we are delighted to say that we will be stocking a range of their beautiful gins, rum and cocktails. Started by two sisters in Frome, Somerset, these gins are both delicious to taste and gorgeous to look at - so ideal for a gift or to have on your shelf (and to drink of course!) and for a nice change. They also come in some fantastic flavours such as watercress, rhubarb and ginger, elderflower or watermelon.

KANDY KITCHENS CREATIONS

First seen on Dragons Den, we met the team from Kandy Kitchens at the trade show too. They do a range of super simple ingredients to quickly whip up a batch of soup, risotto or baked creations. All measured for you - just add water or wet Ingredients such as margarine, oil or eggs in the baked goods. It's a great idea for taking away with you, camping or just to make a quick supper at home.

The cake and cookie tubes are a fab idea for baking with the kids over the holidays or sending as an unusual but fun gift!

The tubes are completely compostable and lots of products are gluten free and vegan. We will have a selection available but do feel free to look at the whole range and ask us to stock your favourites.

GEORGIE PORGIE'S PUDDINGS

Finally - We all love Georgie Porgies Christmas puddings, Well now we have his delicious range of steamed sponge puddings - in individual portions or family sized! A few seconds in the microwave (or slightly longer in a steamer) and you have a fantastic light sponge pudding. In all your favourite traditional flavours; jam, treacle, ginger, spotted dick, chocolate, lemon curd, mince pie or sticky toffee.... Which will you choose first? And all made just down the road in Budleigh Salterton... so you're really doing your bit to support a local business!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was great to see over thirty members at our Annual General Meeting on 26th February where the accounts and reports for the year 2022-2023 were approved. These now go to the Financial Conduct Authority with our Annual Return.

After a small financial loss last year through rising overheads and energy costs, the Loyalty Card bonus has been reduced to £5, but a new Coffee Loyalty Card has been introduced and is proving very popular. Members voted to keep the reserve to fund equipment repairs and replacements, which may be needed.

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What did you do to save the planet?

This is a very good question. I wonder how you would answer it, perhaps if asked by a grandchild?

In February 2020 the Church of England voted to achieve carbon net zero by 2030. This recognised that the global climate emergency is a crisis for creation and a fundamental injustice. The Church needed a plan setting out how to get to net zero carbon. That plan, called the Routeplan, was approved in July 2022, requesting high energy users within the Church to draw up a programme of actions. The plan covers cathedrals and churches, schools and colleges.

As you can imagine, All Saints East Budleigh is not a high energy using church. Nonetheless, we have been working specifically since October 2020 (and generally before that date) to understand what steps we can take on the path to achieving carbon net zero. The practical path guide covers four main areas: buildings, heating and lighting, people and policy, and offset.

Our ancient building requires regular maintenance of the roof, gutters and windows to check water ingress. We have a contract with West Access who inspect the roof and gutters twice a year. You may have seen them abseiling down the church - much safer than ladders and less expensive than scaffolding. The insulation of pipes and roof spaces, including the church hall, is rudimentary and is on our current radar for improvement. Inside the buildings, the use of rugs, cushions and fabric wall hangings can help create warmer spaces, and control heat loss and draughts. We are looking at a draught excluder for the main door currently.

Reducing carbon emissions means a focus on heating and lighting. Where possible a switch to 100% renewable electricity is advisable. This is available through the Church of England's Parish Buying Scheme's Energy Basket which uses the bulk buying power of the Church to obtain competitive prices for both natural gas and green electricity. The pricing is fixed annually so there is an annual opportunity for a church to join. Our electricity contracts are currently with Scottish Power on favourable fixed rates and we will be looking to join the Energy Basket when those contracts expire.

The Church of England does not expect us to switch from gas heating to an alternative immediately, but to move away from gas when installing a new heating system. It is challenging as air or ground source heat pumps provide only low ambient heating, and hydrogen heating is still 15 years away. Fortunately the All Saints gas heating system has maybe 15 years life remaining before we have to make a change. Meanwhile we set timers for heating and are exploring how we can heat smaller spaces, maybe with heat cushions.

Replacing lights and floodlights with LED lighting is an easy win. Work has been ongoing to achieve this and we are hoping to complete this year. Smart meters for electricity have been requested to better understand and help monitor energy usage. The church gas meter with Scottish Power and the church hall gas meter with British Gas are both smart meters already. A more long term project may be to consider installing solar panels on the church hall roof, which is south facing and not obscured by buildings or trees. The Friends of All Saints are focused on installing solar lighting in the churchyard which will be a great step forward.

The people and policy recommendations cover energy decision making. The first step is to know what your carbon footprint is, so how much energy is being used to heat and light the buildings, in order that you can plan how to reduce it and measure the reduction. The Church of England provides an online Energy Footprint Tool which has been completed for All Saints church and hall for the last four years. The next step is to appoint an energy champion and write an energy efficiency procurement policy. To gain a more precise energy picture, All Saints has recently taken advantage of subsidised Energy Audits under the Parish Buying umbrella for the church and church hall. The Energy Audits are fresh off the press and are being reviewed by the PCC.

Finally, once the carbon footprint has been measured and all feasible carbon reductions made, then the plan is to offset any remaining carbon through climate stewards or such schemes to plant more trees. In conclusion, you can always do more to save the planet tomorrow but do make a start today.

Maria Malinowska, Treasurer, All Saints Church

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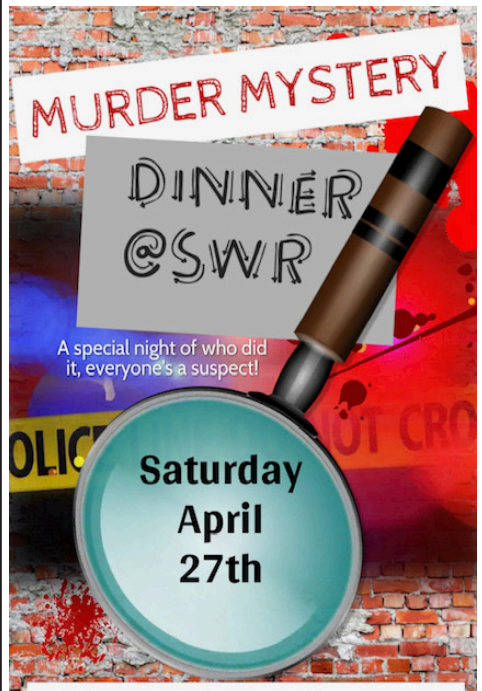
Join moth expert Paul Butter to discover some of the moths that make RSPB Aylesbeare common their home. All ages welcome – very suitable for children.

www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/aylesbeare-common

Booking is essential

Contact: savingspecialspecies@gmail.com or

Ruth Worsley, Nature Engagement Coordinator, 01297 489741



EAST BUDLEIGH WITH BICTON WOMENS' INSTITUTE

At our March meeting we enjoyed a chocolate tasting. We learnt a lot – there is so much variety, just with plain, milk and white chocolates of different brands.

Our next WI meeting in the Village Hall is on Thursday 11th April at 2pm. We will be having a talk from one of the Exeter Red Coat guides, who will talk about the coming of the railway.

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 (or occasionally a lunch) in a local café once a month. We are always happy to see visitors, so do come along and enjoy a meeting with us – you may decide to join!

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>.

Celebrating 40 Years of Service with a Special Afternoon Tea.

Budleigh Salterton & District Hospiscare would like to thank East Budleigh with Bicton W.I. for organising and hosting a wonderful Leap Year Afternoon Tea at East Budleigh Village Hall on 29 February, to raise funds for the charity as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations.

Over 60 guests all enjoyed the warm and friendly atmosphere, along with a wonderful array of home baked fayre and endless cups of tea! Through the hard work of the ladies of the W.I and kindness of all who attended, the event raised more than £480.

The charity relies on the support and generosity of the local community to continue to provide end of life services for patients of the Budleigh Salterton Medical Centre and Woodbury Surgery, and so is very grateful to all those who organised and attended the event.

For more information about Budleigh Salterton & District Hospiscare, please visit www.hospiscarebudleigh.org

EAST BUDLEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

The East Budleigh History Society met on Monday 18 March 2024 at 1.30pm at the Sir Walter Raleigh pub. Following extensive research on local smuggling stories, the meeting gathered the essence of the exhibition and planned the display boards.

What tales there are to tell! From the secret passages to where the contraband was stashed, from the boats which brought in the illegal trade by dead of night, to the customs officers who were outwitted, from the rich display of hot booty to the characters who ran the smuggling - the lord, the vicar and the smuggler sailors! Excellent illustrations too which bring the whole story to life. Our Smuggling Heritage will run on Sunday afternoons from July to mid September, precise dates to be confirmed, at the EB Heritage Centre in Salem Chapel.

The next meeting of the East Budleigh History Society will take place on Monday 29 April at 1.30pm in the SWR pub.

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This past Winter has been one of the most demanding that I can remember. Well back in 1998-99 I recall it being a unseasonably wet Winter, but this past six months has proved to be a real wet one. This has had a big impact on our work and being able to deliver our ambitious Winter work programme - the guys have been real stars and have pulled out all the stops to achieve all that we wanted. Our three residential volunteers, Michael, Alice and Paul have turned up every morning with smiles on their faces ready to face another day of Heathland management work. Staff including Fiona, Gary and Vlad have all again been there to help deliver the programme. If you want any reviews of waterproofs that are suitable for rigorous working, then give us a shout!

Michael has secured a job on Exmoor with the Park Authority, carrying out some repeat survey work for the summer, which will help to complement his existing skill set. Well done Michael. The other bit of staff news is that after 16 years 10 months, Vlad will be hanging up his boots; he's going to be retiring from the day to day work with RSPB, but has expressed an interest in keeping involved with pony welfare, lookering and moving, along with taking a lead on our hay making - we have more species-rich grass fields now so this is a bigger part of the management. We all wish him the best for his next chapter. Meanwhile I need to start the recruitment process to get someone in to assist with the ever-increasing amount of work that we appear to be undertaking.

We have been busy wrapping up the last of the Winter management tasks, including both surveying of our roadside trees and carrying out any remedial work, which after the number of storms that we have experienced this Winter is quite significant.

I was approached by the Devon Wildlife Trust, 'Upstream Thinking Team' to see if we could help out with some 'NFM' work. NFM I hear you say? 'Natural Flood Management' - something that is very close to a lot of our hearts. We have helped to provide the team with materials to help to slow the flow in the upper Otter catchment. We made them 120 brush bundles that are going to be installed into both streams and rills to help hold the water back. These have been installed in late March, so hopefully by this coming Summer any unseasonal heavy rain will be helped to stay in the higher reaches of the catchment.

Our final bit of Winter survey work took place in March with a further snipe survey taking place across the wet heath areas. This turned up 110 individuals - slightly less than earlier in the year, but still good numbers for March. Our winter bird transects have been complete, a fortnightly walk around the reserve on a set route recording what we see and hear - thanks to our volunteers that assist with this. Then our last of the season Hen Harrier watch will take place at the end of March, a national scheme that we participate in. Unfortunately this year we had very low numbers with just two individuals seen in October 23, but as they say a nil return is good to know.

Anyway, that's a bit of a summary, so lets now hope for a dry Spring where our important heathland species will be able to flourish. If you get the chance get out on the heath to enjoy the wildlife and the views!

Toby Taylor

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OVA Walks Programme for April 2024

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.

Tuesday 2 April – 10.00am – 7 miles. 3.5 hours

'Budleigh to Sidmouth by the coast path'

Meet: Lime Kiln CP, Budleigh Salterton (OS 115, SY 0732 8212) by the new footbridge.

From Budleigh Salterton we follow the coast path all the way to Sidmouth and hope to get some wonderful views along the way. This walk is normally done in summer and the landscape with have a different feel to it in early April. There is only one stiff climb, but the path may be slippery in places at this time of year. We will break for coffee at Ladram Bay and finish up at the bus triangle in Sidmouth.

There will be time for relaxing or even shopping in Sidmouth before catching the hourly bus back to Budleigh Salterton.

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway 01395 488739 / 07887 936280

Thursday 18 April – 10.00am – 6.5 miles. 3 hours

'Back in time for lunch at the beach'

Meet: At the steps to the right of the entrance to Budleigh Salterton free car park opposite the Public Hall. (OS 115, SY 061 820). If the car park is full there are usually spaces available across the main road on Westfield Road.

A circular walk via Dark Lane, Shortwood Common and East Budleigh. We should have some good views. There will be a coffee stop so bring a flask. We have the option of stopping for lunch along the sea front or heading back to the start. There may be some short, muddy sections, if wet.

Walk Leaders: Heather and Michael Fereday 01395 446796 / 07484 627312

Wednesday 24 April – 10.00am – 7.5 miles. 5 hours

Booking required (shorter variant available)

'Three Churches and there's Nobody In(n)'

Meet: Christow Car Park (toilets available) (OS 110, SX 837 851) It takes about 45 minutes from East Budleigh. Please share cars if possible.

We will visit 3 wonderful medieval churches with a lot of original features and walk along quiet lanes and paths in peaceful countryside with great views on a clear day.

We start at Christow, visit High Ashton and should be at Doddiscombsleigh by lunchtime – bring a picnic or try the Nobody Inn pub for lunch and/or drink. We then walk back to Christow with a couple of surprises on the way. If you prefer a shorter trip, then you can save 2.5 miles of walking by taking the bus from Doddiscombsleigh to Christow (Country Bus 360 at 13.51, arrives Christow 14.02). Some steep hills!

Please book with the walk leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski – 01395 742942 / 07792 619748 or pandp@kurowski.me.uk

Thursday 2 May - 10.00 am – 5.9 miles – 3 hours.

'Bluebells (hopefully) & magnificent views of West Dorset and the coast'

Meet: Wootton Hill forestry car park. (OS 116, SY 355 968) what3words: Training / Knees / Presenter

From the A35, take the B3165 Crewkerne road at Hunters Lodge. Travel for at least 2 miles then turn right at Portobello X (two white gates/fences just after turning), then you are on the right road for the car park.

The walk is around Chapernhayes, Wootton Fitzpaine, Coney's Castle, Fishpond Bottom, Wootton Hill. Bring a flask as there will be a coffee stop

Walk Leaders: Paul and Fran Dike 07977 057546 / 01297 20695

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Pebblebed Heaths receives Heritage Fund grant

Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust (PHCT) will deliver an exciting project to make the Pebblebed Heaths NNR accessible for all.

More than £190,000 has been granted by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help deliver the Pebblebeds For All project. The total value of the project exceeds £340,000, with a contribution from the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust of over £150,000.

Pebblebeds For All will provide resources to connect individuals, groups and businesses to the special qualities of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR), enabling them to build and reaffirm, strong and meaningful relationships with the unique heritage, habitats and wildlife.

The award funds a new Community Engagement Ranger, who joins the team in April, to help provide new opportunities for anyone to take positive action for nature and a Countryside Ranger Apprentice, for someone keen to begin their conservation career.

The project will engage with underrepresented groups, extend volunteering opportunities and establish a Youth Ranger Scheme. Additional resources will also be invested to create a culture of responsible enjoyment for all, so local people feel connected, confident and skilled to play their part to ensure the unique heritage is protected today and for the future.

The Pebblebeds For All project works on the well-established conservation premise that those who understand their local wildlife and habitats are much more likely to help protect them. The project will enhance understanding and skills, strengthening local pride in these nationally important heath and wetland areas and underline the vital role The Pebblebed Heaths NNR plays in supporting the health, social and economic well-being of people across East Devon.

A great way to keep in touch with all the work of the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust is to become a Friend of the Commons. Membership is free and you'll receive email updates direct to your inbox with news, information and events to get involved in both the Pebblebed Heaths and Otter Estuary, including the new Pebblebeds For All project. Visit www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk to learn more and sign up.

The successful completion of the Lower Otter Restoration Project was celebrated on 14 March.

The highlight of a busy day of celebrations with invited guests and hundreds of local people was a performance by local primary schools of a specially commissioned song the Song of the Otter River (see page 37), documenting the rivers journey both through the landscape and through time.

Kate Ponting, Community Engagement and Countryside Learning, Clinton Devon Estates

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Song of the Otter River

The river it rises in the Blackdown Hills, and flows 30 miles to the sea.
It's powered the mills and watered the land, for many a century.
As it weaves its way south, to the river mouth, it's fed by the streams either side.
'til it finds its way, past village and farm, and by Budleigh Brook meets the tide,
So flow, river, flow
Through the wind and the rain and the snow
Let the river run wild and free on its way to the rolling sea.

Lord Rolle made plans to build up the banks, to drain the marsh and the mire.
And there they stood for two hundred years, though the waters grew steadily higher.
As the river was tamed and the land reclaimed, cattle grazed where boats once sailed,
still the floods got worse and the waters spread and the banks began to fail.
So flow, river, flow
Through the wind and the rain and the snow
Let the river run wild and free on its way to the rolling sea.

Then came the time to change again, the need to do something bold,
So the work began to regain what was lost, to return to the floodplain of old,
First the land was cleared, and channels laid, the marshes were restored
Then the paths and roads and bridges were built, so the valley was free to explore.
So flow, river, flow
Through the wind and the rain and the snow
Let the river run wild and free on its way to the rolling sea.

There are some who mourn for what was lost, who yearn for the status quo,
There are those who want to count the cost, though the trees in their thousands will
grow.
and the fish will swim, and the birds will fly, and nature will sing its song,
As the river flows into the sea, and the circle of life rolls along.
So flow, river, flow
Through the wind and the rain and the snow
Let the river run wild and free on its way to the rolling sea.

Redshank and shelduck, and dipper and teal, Moorhen and godwit and rail.
Will fly back here for many a year, to weather the storm and the gale.
Where the beavers swim and build their dams, And the sparkling kingfishers dive,
And the herons and curlews, geese and swans make us happy to be alive.
So flow, river, flow
Through the wind and the rain and the snow
Let the river run wild and free on its way to the rolling sea.
So flow, river, flow
Through the wind and the rain and the snow
Let the river run wild and free on its way to the rolling sea.

Words by Paul Painter



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SCAN ME



The children from Brixington Primary Academy are surprised to find a famous visitor in the church during their tour of All Saints!
Photos by Peter Bowler, and with thanks to Michael Downes.



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Raleigh Mission Community Service Times April 2024

Date	Time	St Peter's	All Saints	St Michael's
April 2024				
Tuesday 2nd	9.30		Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 3rd	9.30	Holy Communion		
Thursday 4th	9.30			Morning Prayer
Sunday 7th	8.00	Holy Communion BCP		
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	
May 2024				
Wednesday 1st	9.30	Holy Communion		
Thursday 2nd	9.30			Morning Prayer



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or email

sunderlandcook@btinternet.com

HOME MAINTENANCE

most repairs to the home

Peter Read

07476 882353

Painting internal and external

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and will help if we can.**

peterread11@hotmail.co.uk

Who's who in East Budleigh & Bickton

Vicar - Rev'd Martin Jaques -

01395 443473 / 07795025016

Churchwarden -

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

pcc treasurer.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

Bellringers Captain -

Alan Murdoch 01395 445230

Organist -

Geoff Aplin 01395 442951

Church Hall Bookings -

Richard Slade 01395 443609 or

Church office 01395 443397

Parish News

Stephen Jones

ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk



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