

# East Budleigh with Bicton Parish News



National Hedgehog Day - 2nd February  
Photograph: Karen@The Hog Shack

Issue: February 2024

Available online at  
[www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/east-budleigh-parish-magazine](http://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/east-budleigh-parish-magazine)

## New Year view from the Vicarage ...

Dear friends

The decorations are down. The tree is now atop a pile of others in Lime Kiln car park and the Christmas celebrations already seem like a distant memory. A new year and a new start is what we all hope for but when we look out of the window at the grey skies and turn on the TV news, nothing has changed. Wars are still raging, natural disasters are still happening, and our financial position is exactly the same as it always was, only worse because of our overspend in December.

What we really need is be the change that we are looking for ourselves. Nations, peoples, religions, cultures are all made up of individual human beings and a very old Christian prayer goes something like "Dear Lord, change the world for the better and start with me". I suppose that is the basis for the practice of making new year resolutions, but we are all aware that these are very hard to keep and fall away quite quickly. That is because they are usually all concerned with our habits that we want to change but we lack the motivation to keep going with all these resolutions.

Of course, as a believer you can call on help from the divine Spirit to help you make the change by starting from the inside out. Changing physical habits starts by changing your spiritual outlook. This is what Alcoholics Anonymous noticed and acted upon many years ago.

Once you understand that you are not on your own and have a helper infinitely more insightful, wise and powerful than yourself it gives you the moral strength to make the outward changes that are needful according to God's priorities and not your own.

His priorities for yourself is that you grow in all the virtues collectively known as the fruits of the Spirit. They are many and various but Saint Paul helpfully lists the priorities he has for you. "By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things."

Happy New Year,

Martin

### Parish News Editors

Our thanks are due to Lawrence Booth for editing the Parish News for the last two years, having taken over from Christine Newall, who was in the driving seat for eleven years. The current editor will do his best to follow in the illustrious footsteps of his predecessors.

**Please continue to send your contributions to [ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)**

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## February view from the Vicarage ...

Dear friends,

The most significant events happening this February (apart from my birthday of course!) are both happening on the same day. The 14th February is both Valentine's day and Ash Wednesday, the start of the season of Lent. Actually the 14th February was also my nan's birthday, but hey, less about birthdays are more about the other reasons this day is significant.

I expect a lot of people are a bit sniffy about Valentine's Day as just another bit of commercial overreach, but he was a real character, a priest, who was executed by Emperor Claudius in about 269AD. His connection to lovers is a little sketchier however, possibly because this was the day in Medieval folklore when birds mated, or perhaps linked to the pagan Lupercalia festival in Rome! Whatever the real reason, Christians can celebrate an all-loving God who blesses those who love one another.

As I say this is also the start of Lent, a season of reflection and contemplation that precedes the festival of Easter. Traditionally this was connected with fasting and austerity (Though nowadays just as many people take something up as give something up).

There is method in our madness, however. If it is a fact that you enjoy the highs even more when you have been low, then it makes sense to have a great feast time preceded by a more sombre austere period.

Of course, in Latin catholic countries especially, the beginning of Lent is preceded by one great last Hurrah on Shrove Tuesday known as Mardi Gras in New Orleans or simply Carnival in Brazil. In more sober colder Northern climes such as ours of course we simply have pancakes!

But however we choose to celebrate we are all celebrating the same thing – the last day before the start of Lent which itself is a preparation for Easter.

Love and peace,

Martin

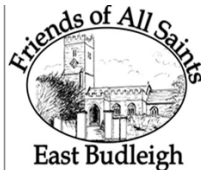
**Pastoral  
Care**



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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As mentioned previously, work continues 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.

Christina Dickinson kindly hosted a 'Christmas Coffee Morning Bring and Buy' fundraising event for the Friends of All Saints in December which was very well supported and raised an incredible £422 to finalise our fundraising for 2023.

Our plans for fundraising in 2024 are now underway. First off the mark is a presentation by Mark Lovett about the Round the World Yacht Race on Friday 9 February at 7pm in All Saints Church, East Budleigh. Doors open 6.15pm - refreshments available.

In 1985 Mark circumnavigated the globe in the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race on one of 15 yachts to compete in this challenging race. Sailing through the eye of a storm, battling the freezing waters of the Southern Ocean past icebergs and surfing down waves at 30 knots, Mark experienced an adventure of a lifetime. Mark will captivate his audience with an interactive slide show and talk and many artefacts collected along the way.

Tickets will be available from:

East Budleigh Community Shop, East Budleigh Garage, Card Shop Too and on the door.  
£5 entrance, £4 for Friends subscribers.

By the time you read this we will have had our first meeting of volunteers who will help plan and execute the Scarecrow Festival. The Festival will be held over the weekend of 8/9 June 2024 so please do put the date in your diary and start stashing some bits and pieces away for your next inventive scarecrow idea!

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](mailto:friendsofallsaintschurch.as@rmcommunity.co.uk).

We have now entered a new year of the 200 Club. Please see the application form opposite. Just £11 will get you an entry in the draw every month for the rest of 2024 with the opportunity to win £40, £20 or £10.

### **JUMBLE SALE**

The Former Little Otters are holding a fundraising jumble sale at East Budleigh Village hall on Saturday 24th February in support of Open Door in Exmouth.

Donations of jumble would be gratefully received at the hall from 9.00 am on the 24th February but if you have difficulty in getting there and need a collection please call Fran on 07880331465.

Entry £1 - refreshments available.

## 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 £11 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

November: 1st - Mr D Smith    2nd - Mrs M Neligan    3rd - Mr J Pyne  
December: 1st - Mrs R Letten    2nd - Dr P Grimwade    3rd - Mrs L Wilson

### Next edition of the Parish News

Please send contributions for the March Issue  
to [ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)

by 6pm on Friday 16th February 2024



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### East Budleigh Tennis Club

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## EAST BUDLEIGH WITH BICTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our January meeting we had a talk about Budleigh Salterton and District Hospiscare, who this year are celebrating their 40th Anniversary. As part of their celebrations they will be holding an afternoon tea in East Budleigh Village Hall on Thursday 29 February – and our WI will be supplying the scones and cakes and serving the teas - see below. Look out for posters nearer the time, and come along and have what promises to be an enjoyable afternoon.

Our next WI meeting in the Village Hall is on Thursday 9 February at 2pm. We are looking forward to welcoming local photographer David White with his talk “Otters, Beavers, Wildlife”.

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](mailto:eastbudleighwithbicton@devonwi.org.uk), or look at our website: <https://eastbudleighwithbictonwi.org>.



### LEAP YEAR AFTERNOON TEA

As part of their 40th Anniversary celebrations Budleigh Salterton and District Hospiscare are inviting people to make the most of their extra day this leap year, by joining them for an afternoon cream tea.

With the support of East Budleigh and Bicton Women's Institute, the event will be hosted in East Budleigh Village Hall on Thursday 29th February 2024 between 2.00 – 4.30pm.

There will also be a W.I craft stall and a draw with a chance to win a commemorative 40th Anniversary bottle of Budleigh Salterton & District Hospiscare Gin – which has been specially crafted by Copper Frog distillery in Exmouth.

All proceeds will be donated to Budleigh Salterton & District Hospiscare who raise much needed funds to provide free end of life care for patients of Budleigh Salterton Medical Centre and Woodbury Surgery.

Tickets cost £5.00 and are available from the East Budleigh Community Shop.

## East Budleigh Church Hall

Available to hire for functions and activities.

Please contact:

Richard Slade 01395 443609 or church office 01395 443397

# When you need advice we have the solution

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## Our Crafting Heritage East Budleigh Heritage Centre

In Salem Chapel, Vicarage Road, EX9 7EF  
Saturday 30 March 2-5pm



Historic and living craft displays which encourage your viewing and participation - to paint, weave or craft. Scrumptious Easter Eggs available to add your own message. Simnel cakes to decorate. Easter flowers to arrange. And more! If you are able to demonstrate any crafts - lace-making, quilting, knitting etc - please get in touch as we would love to hear from You!

**Refreshments available**

Arranged by the Heritage Centre Steering Group

Contact Maria on 0777 321 8582



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# East Budleigh in Bloom

The long winter days are now lengthening, and gardens are beginning to wake up. There has not been a lot of EBiB activity through the winter other than tidying and weeding the planters and beds.

We have now completed our planning and are ready for the coming year with all the Spring planting ordered and all the dates set for the Spring and Summer.

The plant sale is on Saturday 18 May, so please think of us when dividing, sowing, or splitting in the months ahead.

We have also planned our annual summer visit to an interesting house and garden. Further details will be confirmed in the next edition.

We would be very pleased if anyone could help with planting, emptying, and weeding any of the planters, baskets, and beds below. Spring planting takes place in late May, Autumn planting in late October.

- Church cobbles (3)
- School baskets (5)
- Rolle beds (2)
- Bridge, High Street (2)
- Footbridge, Lower Budleigh (4)



Happy gardening.

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

## East Budleigh History Society

The next meeting of the East Budleigh History Society

will take place in the Sir Walter Raleigh pub  
at 1.30pm on Monday 19 February 2024.

All are welcome to help with the planning of the 2024 season.

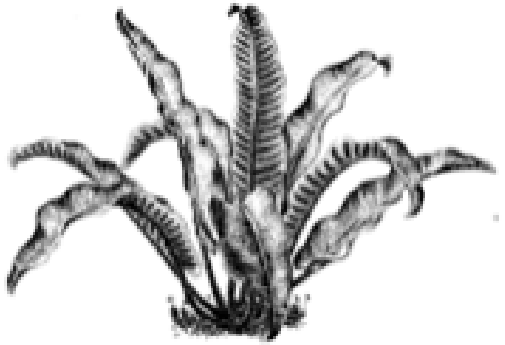


## Our Churchyards...

### Fronds and Folktales

Take a stroll through a peaceful churchyard or cemetery, and you'll likely encounter a fascinating group of plants that have graced the Earth for millions of years - ferns.

In the cool and damp environment of the UK's climate, 64 fern species flourish. These remarkable plants can be found on walls, especially those facing west or north, and in the sheltered, shaded nooks of burial grounds and under trees. Once they find a home, they can even thrive in drier spots like walls. Here you may spot the delicate spleenwort, the charming wall rue, the vivid rusty back, and the elegant shield fern. Venture under the canopy of trees, and you might encounter the graceful lady fern, the stately male fern, and the regal royal fern. If the soil has lime, you might be lucky enough to discover hart's-tongue fern or, even more rarely, adder's-tongue fern.



Unlike flowering plants that reproduce through seeds, ferns reproduce via spores. These tiny, dust-like structures contain the genetic material needed to grow into a new fern plant. Spore reproduction is a primitive and efficient method that has contributed to ferns' ability to colonize diverse environments.

In some cultures, ferns are considered protective plants. Folklore suggests that carrying a fern seed or a piece of fern would grant protection against evil spirits, witches, and misfortune. Ferns were sometimes worn as charms or incorporated into talismans to ward off negative energies.

So, next time you're in a churchyard, take a closer look at these green companions that have been part of human folklore and Earth's story for a very, very long time!

### Churchyard Patio

Thank you to everyone who moved their car for the delivery of two bulk bags of sharp sand on Monday morning - they were deposited on the grassy slope above the car park.

The cold weather meant that the patio slabs were frozen in place on Friday morning so we could not re-lay the two low slabs plus the sunken area beyond the mill stone ... hopefully warmer weather will enable us to complete the works soon.

## Our Churchyards....

### Churchyard Working Party

On Friday 19 January, given the cold morning, we were pleased that there were several jobs in sunny areas of the Churchyards, Eight volunteers took on a number of the tasks including cutting the hedge at the back of the Churchyards, and we moved the sand up to the patio. At 11.00, we enjoyed ginger cake, Kit Kats and mint Clubs with our coffee in the sun. Tess from Sidmouth visited us during the morning to understand what we did and how we were so successful as she is looking at taking on an area around a chapel that has been left to return to nature, ie, brambles, and would like to have a more managed approach.

The next three months' Churchyard Working Party dates are Friday: 16 February; 15 March; and 19 April. 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.

**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.



Christmas Flowers in the Church - Photographs: Peter Bowler



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**Wildlife Photographs - David White**

Clockwise from top left:

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- Avocet
- Curlew
- Female kingfisher
- Dark bellied Brent goose
- Water rail with small fish





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# East Budleigh Community Shop

Newsletter No. 159 - February 2024

## THANK YOU!

Happy New Year to all our customers and loyal band of volunteers. A massive thank you for all the cards and boxes of chocolates and biscuits that were sent to the shop at Christmas. It is really appreciated by all the staff and volunteers.

Can we just take this opportunity at the start of 2024 to thank you for your support of the village shop over the past year. It is a very tricky time for any small business at the moment and ours is absolutely no different. Without our customers we have no shop and so every one of you is important to us.

We know how all of our pockets are stretched at this time, but if we can encourage you to continue to use us as much as possible, even if it is just buying one more item than usual, you will not only be supporting us but so many other small local businesses that rely on us too!

## AGM

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting for members in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm on **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

An invitation will be sent to all members along with our audited accounts and annual report, which will also be available on our website.

The AGM is a good opportunity to hear about our progress and to have your say on the future of the community shop.

If you are not yet a member, we would really welcome any new members on the night – you can join for a one-off payment of £5.

## SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Eagle-eyed regulars will have noticed that we have a few new products that directly support Ukrainian businesses.

This is the brainchild of one of our suppliers, Holleys Fine Foods, who wanted to do their bit to help keep Ukrainian businesses going. As they said to us, this is very important for the country as the war continues to rumble on and foreign aid cannot keep the economic infrastructure secure for the future.

We are stocking some lovely instant soups which are 100% natural ingredients, vegan and high protein, alongside some pressed 100% natural fruit snacks for the children's lunch boxes or snack cupboard.

## BRIAN MARSHALL



We had a lovely ceremony at the shop in December to unveil a plaque in memory of Brian Marshall who worked so hard to establish the shop and gave so much support. The picnic table was kindly donated by Sue Marshall and family, and is already very well used and appreciated.

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## East Budleigh Heritage Centre

The EB Heritage Centre steering committee met on 15 December 2023 to review their experience under the 2023 Licence Agreement to operate the heritage centre in Salem Chapel. After the well-supported exhibitions, cash at bank stood at £409.95. The committee agreed the transfer of 50% to the Historic Chapels Trust as per the 2023 Licence Agreement. In addition, the team had acted as voluntary local key holder for the HCT when frequent access was required for the HCT estate management contractors.

### **2024 Licence Agreement**

HCT have kindly offered an extension of the licence agreement to 31 December 2024, on the same terms. The agreement supports the ongoing interest from the local community. Signature would be on behalf of the company East Budleigh Heritage Centre Ltd, and three committee members agreed to serve as additional directors.

### **EB Heritage Centre website**

A draft website has been set up and the committee are reviewing the initial content. The new website will usefully inform the public and potential future owners, both about current heritage centre activities and the past history of Salem Chapel. A rogue Facebook page is using the name of Friends of Salem Chapel. Its content does not reflect the views of the HCT or EB Heritage Centre Ltd.

### **Structural Survey**

The recent survey noted cracks on an exterior wall, some water ingress connected to drainage issues, and deterioration in the school room facilities. HCT will consider remedial work.

### **Future ownership of Salem Chapel**

HCT are still in discussion with various parties including the Friends of Friendless Churches, and are reaching out to other prospective future owners too. The HCT are keeping the steering group fully informed.

### **2024 Events**

A programme of events for the 2024 season is planned including concerts, talks and exhibitions.

**Our Crafting Heritage Exhibition** - Easter Saturday, 30 March, 2-5pm. Historic and living craft displays which encourage your viewing and participation - to paint, weave or craft. Scrumptious Easter Eggs available for your personalised message. Simnel cakes to decorate. Easter flowers to arrange. And more! If you are able to demonstrate any crafts - lace-making, quilting, knitting etc - please come along or get in touch as we would love to hear from you!

**Our Musical Heritage** - a concert of pure nostalgia to delight the senses in April. Details of the program and tickets to follow.

**Our Conservation Heritage** - a session in May to understand what we have, why we need to preserve it and how we can enjoy it today.

**Our Smuggling Heritage** - a summer exhibition to track the booty and explore local intrigue!



**Come and join our fantastic team of volunteers to help run our community pub.**

**We need people to help behind the bar or in our restaurant area. You don't have to commit regularly, but we need a big enough team to cover various shifts when needed.**

**Experience is not needed as training will be given. We just require a willingness to learn new skills and a smile. It is great fun and an opportunity to meet new people in the community.**

**If interested, please enquire at the bar, ring**

**01395 442510 or email us at [enquires@sirwalterraleigh.co.uk](mailto:enquires@sirwalterraleigh.co.uk)**



**Sir Walter Raleigh**  
**Dates For Your Diary**

**Music Night** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

**Community Supper** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February

**Valentine's Night** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Quiz Night** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Fish & Chips Takeaway**  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**Jazz and Blues Duo – The Sideways Band**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

**Mother's Day** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

**St Patrick's Night – Live Irish Folk Music**  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

## Volunteer at A la Ronde

If you are looking for a new challenge in 2024, come and join the volunteer team at A la Ronde, your local National Trust property. You could share the stories of the people and objects at A la Ronde or if you would rather be outside, you could join the welcome team or help look after the grounds. In 2024 we will be open 6 days a week.

To find out more join us at one of our volunteer coffee mornings 10.30 to 12.30 on Wednesday 31st January, Saturday 3rd February or Friday 9th February. To book your place or for further details please email: [alison.palfrey@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:alison.palfrey@nationaltrust.org.uk) or visit: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/a-la-ronde/volunteering-at-a-la-ronde>



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## EAST BUDLEIGH WITH BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Over the last couple of months, we have had unprecedented rainfall and sudden storms. Several trees blew down across roads and pathways and are were quickly cleared. Councillor John Tresidder and the Clerk have closely monitored the situation. Drains have been cleared and the Budleigh Brook has coped very well with the flash floods. Residents are advised to do what they can to protect their own property, fitting storm gates where necessary to their external doorways, and taking advantage of the free sandbags provided by the Parish Council.

Cold weather followed the rain. The Parish has salt/grit bins on Brookfield Road and Wynards Road. Two further bins were approved over six months ago and we still await their placement by the Highways Department.

The Precept for 2024/2025 was prepared and approved at the Parish Council meeting on 15th January. Costs have been kept down where possible, so the increase is just over 3% on last year.

Judith Venning clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk 01395 489155

### Benefice Choir

The Benefice Choir is a friendly group of singers which regularly comes together at Easter and Christmas, and occasionally for other occasions. At present there are about 16 members, but we would like to encourage more singers to join us - especially men!

Anyone is welcome to come and give it a go and there is no audition.

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 6pm in St Michael's Church, Otterton, starting on February 27th. If you would like to know more about the choir please email Nicky Marshall: [nicholas.marshall21@btinternet.com](mailto:nicholas.marshall21@btinternet.com) or phone 01395 568802

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## **ROGER CONANT CLUB - AN ELIZABETHAN EVENING**

A community event 'An Elizabethan Evening', celebrating the lives and times of Roger Conant and Sir Walter Raleigh, will take place in the Village Hall, East Budleigh on Saturday May 18th.

The Evening will feature a sumptuous 3-course menu, using local ingredients that would have been available in the 16th/17th centuries. The food will be washed down with mulled cider and mead; a more conventional bar will sell other alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

We can definitely guarantee that the entertainment will amaze you (!) and background music will be appropriate for the period.

Fancy attire from the period is optional, though we hope that many attendees will dress up, as appropriate, for the Evening. A prize will be given to the person with the most ostentatious costume!

The Evening will commence at 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. in the hope that families with children will be encouraged to attend. The cost will be in the region of £25.00 - £30.00 per person (half price for children under 12 years old).

Tickets will be available from mid-March from venues in East Budleigh. Further details will be given in the next Editions of this Magazine. Early booking is recommended since only a limited number of seats will be available.

In addition to the Roger Conant Club, this community event will involve the Sir Walter Raleigh pub and the East Budleigh History Society.

### **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,  
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**Drake's C of E Primary School**

Lots has been happening at Drake's since we returned to school for the new year. Once again, we have been making use of our lovely village to inspire our learning, for example a walk up the nature trail for Heron Class was a great stimulus for descriptive writing.

We have also been continuing to keep our school and local area litter free, making great use of the litter picking set kindly donated to us by the Budleigh Salterton Lions Club.

The children have enjoyed workshops with the NSPCC on how to keep themselves and others safe and when to speak out.

We are very lucky this term to have Chris Putman from VMMA coming into school to deliver PE lessons in martial arts for all children. They are thoroughly enjoying the sessions.

We have lots to look forward to this term alongside our curriculum learning, including swimming lessons, a drumming workshop, and a visit from Planet People to learn more about caring for the environment.

Before Christmas we had a SIAMs inspection which looks at whether the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school. The inspector spoke to children and parents, looked at RE books, observed RE teaching and watched a Collective Worship. The inspector was very impressed with the children and school. In her report she said, "The Christian vision is the heart and soul of this school. It inspires the caring ethos, enabling pupils to feel safe. It promotes excellent behaviour, positive relationships and the well-being of the whole school community."

"Collective worship builds this school as a community with love at its core. It has variety and is highly inclusive. Worship is joyful, reflecting the supportive, close relationships in this school. This allows them to live well together and inspires them to help others."

"Strong community links with parents, the church and local charities empower pupils to be highly effective agents for change. As a result of helping others, they develop their own spiritual lives."

You can read our full report on our school website.

Please visit our school website [www.drakes.thelink.academy](http://www.drakes.thelink.academy)



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**World  
Wetlands Day**  
2 February 2024



**Wetlands and Human Wellbeing**

*The Parish News is glad to be able to welcome back Kate Ponting, with her contributions on behalf of Community Engagement and Countryside Learning, Clinton Devon Estates.*

World Wetlands Day falls on the 2nd of February, celebrating the beauty and biodiversity of wetlands along with the vital role they play in supporting life across the planet. Globally, human wellbeing is tied to the health of the world's wetlands as they provide much of our freshwater needs.

Closer to home, in the Otter Valley, the problem is rarely too little freshwater but too much!



Storm Ciarán tested the restored landscape for the first-time in October when seasonal rainfall caused the river to over-top its usual channel and spread across the floodplain. With natural processes returned as part of the Lower Otter Restoration Project, flood water is now able to disperse quickly over the lowered sections of the embankment and out through the new breach, on the falling tide. The reintroduction of tidal flows is allowing the habitat to adjust and develop, with the machine cut

channels through the low-lying fields transitioning to mudflat and saltmarsh. A range of visiting bird species make use of the increased area to feed. The appearance of each new species or familiar birds in larger numbers delights wildlife watchers and many visitors are making use of the routes through the reserve, including those who may have found access challenging before.

February brings important news for this newest of wetlands. Look out for the notice from Natural England, who will announce that the Otter Estuary has been declared a National Nature Reserve (NNR), becoming an extension of the Pebblebed Heath NNR. The existing Pebblebed Heaths NNR was declared in 2020 and is managed on behalf of Clinton Devon Estates by their conservation charity the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, in partnership with the RSPB and Devon Wildlife Trust. National Nature Reserves are the crown jewels of England's natural heritage. The 'King's Series of National Nature Reserves', will see five major National Nature Reserves named every year for the next five years - 25 in total. The Otter Estuary is the latest in the 'King's Series' celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and leaving a lasting public legacy for people and nature.

The Pebblebed Heath Conservation Trust are excited and proud that the Otter Estuary has been awarded this honour now. It joins the most important sites nationally and we are trusted to manage these sites and uphold the national nature reserve vision to see England's nature restored, enriched and reconnected to people. Likewise, World Wetlands Day calls each of us to recognise the value of wetlands and to ensure that they are stewarded responsibly so their benefits are retained for today's needs and those of the future.

At the Otter Estuary Reserve this month, we'll be celebrating both the NNR extension and mark World Wetlands Day on site. We'll launch a self-led trail, in time for half-term, but suitable for anyone who'd like to know the reserve better and understand the benefits wetlands deliver. If you are on site this month, let us know what you are enjoying and if the wetlands support your wellbeing.

Kate Ponting, [kate.ponting@clintondevon.com](mailto:kate.ponting@clintondevon.com) 01395 442881 [www.clintondevon.com](http://www.clintondevon.com)

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Happy new year from all at RSPB Aylesbeare Common. It's been a wild and wet winter so far, but the last few weeks of dry, crisp and cold weather has been a welcome respite from the recent run of Atlantic storms, with Fergus, Gerrit and Henk trying their best to derail a recent track repair project on Venn Ottery Common. Nonetheless, the digger and dumper crew (led by Gary and Adrian) made it out on top despite inclement weather and saturated ground conditions.

The track has been built up and improved with the use of native materials from nearby Blackhill Quarry, with the intention of improving vehicle and walker access to the north of the common as well as to recently acquired wet grassland that lies in between Venn Ottery Common and the neighboring Devon Wildlife Trust site. In the summer this wet meadow displays a profusion of flowers including fleabane, water mint and self heal and is deemed 'species-rich'. This important low-intensity grazed meadow will help interconnectivity between the two sites allowing populations of birds and other wildlife to flow between patches of heath, meadow, scrub and woodland.

The wet weather has been good for some. Aylesbeare and Harpford Common's wintering population of snipe and woodcock have now arrived in full force from Finland/Russia, making the most of the wet ground within the various mires on the heath. Snipe possess long, straight beaks that have a flexible tip full of nerve endings which allow them to feel for grubs underground in the soft wet mud and peat.

Woodcock (the 'snipe of the woods' to some) feed similarly and are larger than the snipe, generally feeding at night, relying on their cryptic plumage to hide them in woodland and heathland undergrowth during the day. In December, residential volunteer Alice was tasked with organising the first of our winter snipe surveys, pulling together a 7-strong gaggle of data gatherers. The team took on the mires in strict formation, with the aim of flushing out birds which would then be tallied throughout the day. Close to 150 snipe were seen on the survey, a great reward for a tough day of bog trundling.

Our monthly winter bird transect also adds to data at Aylesbeare HQ, where good numbers of winter thrushes such as redwings and fieldfares are seen in the trees of the woodland edges, often feeding on the berries supplied by holly trees and in some cases hawthorn. Data gathering is an integral part of the RSPB's work, and all these winter surveys provide estimates which help inform the management plans for the various sites under Aylesbeare stewardship.

In other news, winter habitat work has started in earnest, predominantly involving scrub control. Heathland is described as a 'sub-seral' habitat, meaning that intervention is required to prevent the establishment of woodland. Intervention in this case means removing and felling pioneer trees such as birch and willow to allow heathland to re-establish without tree cover in the way. More woodland is needed in the UK to halt the current biodiversity crisis, but lowland heathland still remains a priority habitat that many species of wildlife require to survive. Only 20% of lowland heathland has survived the last two centuries so protecting what remains and increasing heathland coverage through restoration remains a priority!

Michael Shrimpling

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## OVA Walks Programme for February 2024

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

**Week commencing 29 January – 10.00am – 5.5 miles. 3 hours.**

please check website nearer the time for exact date

**'Otter and Orchards'**

Meet: Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground car park, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford (OS 115, SY 088 899) What3Words wisely.amazed.configure

A walk northwards from Newton Poppleford taking in hamlets west of the Otter as far as Fluxton as well as the riverbank. An easy to moderate walk, although a short section can be very wet underfoot after rain. There will be a coffee stop part way round (so bring a flask)

Walk Leader: Ross Hussey [rdandamhussey22@gmail.com](mailto:rdandamhussey22@gmail.com) or 01395 227991.

Mobile for contact on the day only: 07902 255915

**PROVISIONAL Tuesday 6 February – 10.00am – 7.5 miles**

**Walk 3: 'Twelve Walks in the Otter Valley'**

Meet: East Budleigh Car Park (OS 115, SY 038 844)

East Budleigh, Shortwood Common, Ting Tong, West Down Beacon, Budleigh Salterton

A circular walk, mostly on good tracks, with short distances on quiet country lanes. The coast path should have lovely views from it on a clear day.

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

**Tuesday 20 February – 10.00am – 7.5 miles. 4.5 hours.**

**'A Valley; Raleigh; Common; Ford and a Plantation'**

Meet: Four Firs CP (OS 115, SY 032 864) EX9 7BR

Visting Uphams Plantation, Stoneyford, Hawkerland Valley, Colaton Raleigh Common and Woodbury Common.

Stops for coffee and a picnic lunch.

Walk Leader: Sarah Westcott 0770 6078143

**PROVISIONAL Tuesday 27 February – 10.00am – 5 miles**

**Walk 4: 'Twelve Walks in the Otter Valley'**

Meet: East Budleigh Car Park (OS 115, SY 038 844)

A varied walk including Hayes Wood, Shortwood Common, Dalditch and Squabmoor Reservoir.

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

**Friday 1 March – 10.00am – 7 miles. 4.5 hours**

**'Turf, powder and minster'**

Meet: Exminster Marshes and nature reserve CP (OS 110, SX 9538 8721)

A mostly flat and mud-free walk along the towpath of the Exeter Ship canal past the Turf Inn and then the embankment of the Exe estuary to Powderham. Turning inland the route returns on quiet lanes to Exminster. Optional lunch at the pub.

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway 01395 488739 / 0788 796280



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01395 443473 / 07795025016

### **Churchwarden -**

John Neligan 01395 442781

### **RMC Administrator -**

Fran Mills 01395 568732

[raleighmc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pccsecretary@rmcommunity.co.uk)

### **Treasurer -**

Maria Malinowska 07773 218582

[pcc treasurer.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:pcc treasurer.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)

### **Bellringers Captain -**

Alan Murdoch 01395 445230

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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](mailto:ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)

## Raleigh Mission Community Service Times March 2024

Date	Time		St Peter's	All Saints	St Michael's
<b>March 2024</b>					
Sunday 3rd	8.00		Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 3rd	9.30			Holy Communion	
Sunday 3rd	10.00		Holy Communion		
Sunday 3rd	11.00				Morning Prayer
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	8.00	Palm Sunday	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 24th	9.30	Palm Sunday		Holy Communion	
Sunday 24th	10.00	Palm Sunday	Holy Communion		
Sunday 24th	11.00	Palm Sunday			Holy Communion
Monday 25th	19.00		Compline		
Tuesday 26th	9.30			Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 26th	19.00		Compline		
Wednesday 27th	9.30	Ash Wednesday	Holy Communion		
Wednesday 27th	19.00	Ash Wednesday	Compline		
Thursday 28th	9.30	Maundy Thursday			Morning Prayer
Thursday 28th	19.00	Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion		
Friday 29th	15.00	Good Friday			Cross of Christ
Friday 29th	Midday	Good Friday	Good Friday Reflections		
Sunday 31st	6.00	Easter Sunday	Sunrise Service		
Sunday 31st	8.00	Easter Sunday	Holy Communion BCP		
Sunday 31st	9.30	Easter Sunday		Holy Communion	
Sunday 31st	10.00	Easter Sunday	Holy Communion		
Sunday 31st	11.00	Easter Sunday			Holy Communion

# East Budleigh Community Shop



Serving Our Community



Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9 am to 6 pm. Tuesday 9 am to 7 pm  
Saturday 7 am to 4 pm. Sunday 8 am to noon



## Annual General Meeting.

We would like to invite all members to attend our AGM on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.00 pm**, in the Village Hall. If you are not yet a member, and would like to join, you would be most welcome to do this on the night for a one-off payment of only £5.

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

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