May 2020



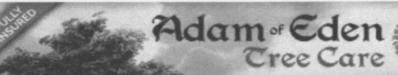


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May 2020 No. 461

Hello,

I do hope you will enjoy this 'electronic' format for The Beacon. Remember it is available in pdf format on The Kings Arms website, or you can request an email copy to be sent to you - just email me!

This issue contains so much good news. All our regular contributors have found something good to tell you about and there are also a couple of interesting articles to entertain you. So, get the kettle on and settle down for a good read!

My apologies for the poor quality of the ads pages - scanning etc is not my strength, but I did feel they may be a valuable resource and reference point.

Stay safe, stay well, stay in

Fiona

The deadline for copy for inclusion in the June 2020 Beacon is Sunday 24th May

You can email material to editor.thebeacon@icloud.com or deliver it to Larksmead Cottage, South Zeal EX20 2JP or contact anyone on the committee (see inside back cover).

The June issue of The Beacon will be available on The Kings Arms website on June 1st or you can request a copy via email from me editor.thebeacon@icloud.com

South Tawton Parish Council

Minutes of 16th March

Members requested more time to read the 'Your Dartmoor' management plan 2020-2025.

Members considered measures to give assistance in the event of residents being self-isolated in the parish. The council agreed to lead the co-ordinaton of voluntary response within the Parish and Cllr Griffiths will operate as lead co-ordinator from his home address. The parish council website has a dedicated COVID 19 page with all of the latest updates.

STPC must ensure that all materials published on its website conform to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The clerk has received training on how to convert and create documents to ensure legal compliancy.

Victory Hall Committee is currently applying to various bodies for grants to upgrade the heating system and redecorate/refurbish the Hall.

VE Day events cancelled with the possibility of combining with VJ events in August.

Denbrook Community Fund - money that has been allocated to the Parish has to be claimed and community groups are urged to apply. Fund Administrator, Stephen Webb denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com

Porridge Oat Bread

Recipe contributed by Rachel Tonks, Ramsley

In a large bowl mix all ingredients:

One 500g pot of Greek yoghurt

using the yoghurt pot measure out

2 pots Porridge oats

One pot of mixed nuts, fruits, seeds (I used walnuts, dried apricots, sultanas and mixed seeds)

2 heaped teaspoons bicarbonate of soda

2 eggs and a hefty pinch of sea salt

If a bit 'claggy' loosen with a bit of milk. Pour the dough into two small loaf tins lined with baking parchment. Press the mix into each corner and tap the tins to remove any air bubbles. Score the top of each loaf with a sharp knife and bake at 180 degrees for 45 minutes. Wait 5 minutes before taking the bread from the tins and cool on a wire rack. Delicious, gluten free and a doddle to make

"Today was a Difficult Day," said Pooh.

There was a pause.

"Do you want to talk about it?" asked Piglet.

"No," saíd Pooh after a bít. "No, I don't thínk I do."

"That's okay," said Piglet, and he came and sat beside his friend.

"What are you doing?" asked Pooh.

"Nothing, really," said Piglet. "Only, I know what Difficult Days are like. I quite often don't feel like talking about it on my Difficult Days either."

"But goodness," continued Piglet, "Difficult Days are so much easier when you know you've got someone there for you. And I'll always be here for you, Pooh."

And as Pooh sat there, working through in his head his Difficult Day, while the solid, reliable Piglet sat next to him quietly, swinging his little legs...he thought that his best friend had never been more right.

South Tawton Charities

Do you need financial help or support? South Tawton Charities is a small charity which is able to help financially anyone of any age who is a resident within South Tawton Parish. For example, we may be able to help if you are presented with an unexpected bill, having to make frequent journeys to hospital for appointments or as a visitor. You may be just starting work or on an apprenticeship and require help to purchase tools or equipment for you chosen career or something specific to help with further education. Whatever the circumstances we may be able to help.

To apply please either contact one of the Trustees (details below), e-mail <u>southtawtoncharities@btinternet.com</u> or complete an application form available from The Stores or the church.

The Trustees are:-

Patricia Glover 840035 Edgar Hucker 840347 Jessica Jeffery 07741250391 Philip Lynn 849144 Peter Watson 840687 Jane White 840162

Teresa Guscott (clerk) 840067

Your request will be considered at the next meeting or earlier in extreme circumstances. All applications are treated in strict confidence.

The charity meets on the first Wednesday of March, June, September and December.

News from the Castle

Hi everyone

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. As you can imagine, we are keeping a very close eye on guidance coming through from government regarding Coronavirus.

This means that Castle Drogo, Finch Foundry and Lydford Gorge will be closed. This includes shops and cafes. Please visit the main National Trust website for updates Thank you all for your continued support and kind messages as we all support each other through this difficult time.

Take care of yourself, and each other. Best wishes,

Paula

Community Engagement Officer, Castle Drogo 01647 434130, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk





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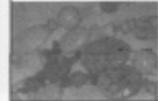
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Update from Okehampton Library

Following the temporary closure of Okehampton Library and all Devon Libraries we would like to take the opportunity to let you know that although our buildings may be closed, the Library Service is very much open. Our library staff are working from home to promote and support our digital library, create new online content and provide the important service of keeping in contact with our library customers.

We are available via email at okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Devon Libraries have also suspended the **Devon Mobile Library Service** in line with the physical building closures. They have also suspended the **Home Library Service** in Devon, and are encouraging the volunteers to phone their readers regularly to have a social chat and to check in.

Devon Online Library Services

Renew your library items and review your account via our website www.devonlibraries.org.uk. If you do not have online access you can renew your books by phoning 0345 155 1001. All items are being renewed for three months and overdue charges have been suspended.

Please can we request that library customers hold onto books, CDs and DVDs and return them when we re-open. As mentioned above, there will be no fines and we will keep renewing issues until further notice.

During this time, online reservations will be unavailable. If you have already placed an online reservation, please note this will not be satisfied until 17th June 2020 at the earliest due to the system closure.

eBooks, **eAudiobooks**, **eMagazines** that you can access for free using your library card. We have plenty on offer particularly if you are needing to keep busy at this time. <u>www.devonlibraries.org.uk/</u>web/arena/ebooks

 We have added 3,500 titles to <u>Overdrive</u> (eBooks and eAudiobooks)

- We now have 1,000 unlimited use eAudiobooks through <u>RB</u> <u>Digital Devon or RB Digital Torbay</u>
- A selection of eMagazines are available on <u>RB Digital Devon</u> or <u>RB Digital Torbay</u>
- Access eAudiobooks via <u>BorrowBox</u> we are adding many Borrow Now, No Queue unlimited titles each week
- Access the 'Reading Well' collections on our digital platform
- Visit our reference online resources at Devon Libraries

Join the library for free at www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/join-us

Once you have completed the online joining form, you will be given a temporary [UNREG] number which will enable you to access our digital library immediately. As and when our library reopens we will process all temporary memberships registered during this closure period and we will issue a library card to you.

Online Events - libraries are hosting regular live events every day on social media and online so please join us. There is a wide selection of online events such as Language Cafes, Zoom Daily Chat, Reading Groups, Lego Clubs, Coding Clubs and much more...

https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena

Libraries Unlimited are offering daily Bounce & Rhyme and Storytime session.

Ancestry Library Edition - Access to Ancestry Library Edition has been temporarily extended to Devon Library members at home, courtesy of ProQuest and its partner Ancestry. Home access will be available until the end of April and will be re-evaluated monthly as needed. To access Ancestry, you need to be logged in to the Devon Libraries website with your borrower card number and PIN, you will then be able to see the special 'Ancestry Library Edition' link and start your family history research.

Follow us on Facebook at Okehampton Library where we will be hosting various events, activities and groups. Keep in touch and receive up to date information.

Updates are also being posted on our websites, so please keep checking for the latest news in your area:

https://www.librariesunlimited.org.uk/news/coronavirus-libraryservice-update/

https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena

https://www.torbaylibraries.org.uk/web/arena/home

https://www.librariesunlimited.org.uk/news/

Booktrack - Calling all Book Trackers and their families! We miss speaking to you about all the fantastic books you've read and we'd love to continue your Book Track journey with you while the library is closed.

Aged 6 or over? Love reading? Book Track is a chance to keep a record of all the books you read, and collect stickers and badges along the way. Choose the books you like, and when you have read them, tell us a little bit about them.

Parents get in touch with us at okehampton<u>.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk</u> to find out more

Contact us: we are all working from home so if you need help with anything or want a chat, please email or message us on Facebook.

Twitter @OkehamptonLib

Facebook.com/OkehamptonLibrary

Email okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Allan Guscott

I know I should have written this before but - Teresa, Craig and Family would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for all their kind words of sympathy and support during this difficult time following Allan's sudden death. The number of cards received was unbelievable and messages within them made us his family feel very proud. Thank you to everyone for your generosity, the retiring collection of £981.00 has been split between The Victory Hall and South Zeal Recreation Ground.

Thank you once again Teresa, Craig & Family



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Beacon Arts Window Trail April 2020

People walking or cycling through Sticklepath and South Zeal at the beginning of April may have noticed in a selection of well decorated windows a celebration of " around the world" freely interpreted by kids and big kids.

This was both a making and an exhibition project, some families took part decorating a window at home while in self isolation and so were reliant on photography to see other windows, some people enjoyed spotting windows while they exercised round the villages. The Windows were also enjoyed by key workers on their way to work or at work delivering things to households.

The Beacon Arts team would like to thank everyone who took part, organised rapidly through the Beacon Arts Facebook group it happened at short notice, access to materials was limited but your windows showed how creative people can be and looked fantastic.

WHAT NEXT...

Let's decorate again, windows, gates, doors, which ever is visible from the road.

On a theme of "Thank You".

May 7th- 12th bank holiday w/end.

We all have someone, something or some where we can be thankful for. Let's show the world via our windows.

Please share your photos on the Beacon Arts Facebook group.



Theme - Show the world who, what or where you are thankful for

This time, inspired by the VE Day 75th anniversary commemoration weekend, Beacon Arts invite Sticklepath, South Tawton & South Zeal households to participate in the second Beacon Village Windows trail.

Just for fun, households decorate a window in their house visible from the road (or a gate if no road facing window). Then for 6 days the windows are on display to anyone who cares to walk or drive by.

Displays visible from am 7th May to end of Tuesday 12th May

A community art gallery with no crowds or gathering

follow Beacon Arts on facebook where you can upload pictures of your window



75TH ANNIVERSARY 8-10 MAY 2020



STICKLEPATH PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Sticklepath Parish Council has set up a Hardship Fund for those affected by the Coronavirus crisis.

If you as a resident of the Parish are suffering financially due to loss of work - on furlough / loss of hours / loss of job, whether you are employed or self-employed, OR if you are struggling to feed children while they are not at school, you may be entitled to help with the cost of groceries. This is a grant, and **not** a loan. Funding will be in the form of vouchers to spend at Sticklepath Shop.

For a confidential discussion please contact Ali Cruse, Chair of Sticklepath Parish Council, on 840070 or chairsticklepathpc@hotmail.co.uk. There are no forms to fill in, and all enquiries and applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

This Fund is supported by Dartmoor National Park Coronavirus Community Support.

The Parish Council is also printing a weekly Bulletin listing the latest news around the Parish. A copy is published on www.sticklepath.org and put up around the village. If you need a printed copy please contact the Chair, who also welcomes any information for publishing in the Bulletin.

Beacon Junior

Hello and welcome back to the Beacon junior! These are strange times that we are in, as many people are not at school, and some are missing important tests like GCSE's, A levels and SATS. But, in spite of the coronavirus, there are still loads of things that you can do...

Stuff and things to fill up boring days:

Magazine subscriptions: This is a great way to get monthly, or weekly magazines. Some I can recommend are Aquila, The Week Junior, The Jacqueline Wilson Magazine, The Beano

(recommended by Izzy Smith), National Geographic (recommended by Eleanor Pearce) and The Pony Magazine (recommended by Eleanor and Jessie Pearce and Olive and Iris Leslie).

Books: These are great times to get stuck into loads of books. Recommended are: The Harry Potter series, The Chocolate Box Girls, The Murder Most Unladylike series, The Explorer, Boy at The Back of The Class (recommended by Izzy Smith), The Rooftoppers (recommended by Iris Leslie).

Cooking: There are loads of recipes that you can find online and in cookery books. I would recommend The Vegetarian Cookbook for young vegetarian cooks, or anyone who fancies a healthy meal, and Kids First Cookbook for simple and challenging tasty recipes.

Podcasts and Audiobooks: BBC sounds is a great app for children and adults alike.

News...

Around the world in rainbows...

As thanks to our brilliant NHS workers, people all around the world are painting, drawing and colouring rainbows to put in their windows. There are also some amazing window displays, and some people are painting famous landmarks on their windows. Keep a look out for these in our local villages! People are also clapping the NHS at 8 o'clock on a Thursday. Please do join in! Remember to keep safe, and keep two metres from anybody that is not in your immediate family. Try and stay home, but as we live around the moorland area, we are very lucky to be able to go on walks, runs and cycle rides without seeing too many people.

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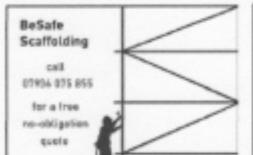
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St Mary's Sticklepath

As with so many churches in our locality and, in fact, all around our country, St Mary's is experiencing an additionally quiet time. With locked door and closed gates, we can at least peep over the wall and gaze on the array of primroses in the church garden. This year they are absolutely exceptional, giving perfume, colour and hope during these uncertain times.

Stephen Cook and the Northmoor team are providing a weekly online service. If you would like to join with this please send an email to me and I will get back to you. carolandmikey@gmail.com

Thank you.

New Arrival in Sticklepath. Katy's Birthday Surprise.

Lindy Cornthwaite's granddaughter, Katy Turner gave birth by C Section to Oliver Harry on her birthday, Easter Monday the 13th April.

Mother and baby are at home and doing well.

Congratulations to the Turner family from all of us.

Mariners Away

Mariners have had all of their gigs and festival dates cancelled so far, obviously, but hope the autumn dates may survive - although we don't hold out too much hope!

However we are still all meeting together each Thursday on zoom for a chat and the usual ribaldry !! More importantly and with Trev's excellent expertise we have made three videos so far which have been aired on Bill Murray's Gidleovidleo presentation on Wednesday evenings. All great fun and keeping us singing!!

Paraprosdokian:

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For more information and application forms contact the office at South Yawton Primary

01837 848242 or admin/broathtswton.org

Lessons from a chicken on how to survive on lockdown (or as the chickens call it, 'cooped up')

You've probably seen a chicken shed or two in your lifetime, you might even think that life for a commercial laying chicken must be a miserable existence. But, from what perspective are you looking at this? Have you thought about what it might be like from the perspective of a chicken rather than a human being? The chickens I care for live in veritable chicken play parks - in which everything a chicken would desire is provided. There are outdoor climbing frames to perch on, plastic bottles tied on strings to peck at and a huge dedicated scratching area. Yet, ultimately, they are still in an enclosure and are unable to come and go at will. So what else do the chickens get up to?

As you might imagine, the main activity at a chicken farm is the egg collection. After being laid, the eggs roll to the back of the nest box through a small egg sized gap and onto a conveyor belt. The eggs then go along the conveyor belt and to the next stage of packing. I cannot stress how the gap at the back of the nest box is only egg sized - it is barely even hand sized. I can maybe fit a couple of fingers into the gap to push a double yolker along but it is absolutely not chicken sized. So imagine my surprise when a chicken appeared along the conveyor belt with the eggs. I was so convinced that there was no way one of the hens could get through that gap that I wondered if I was going mad and had imagined it. But indeed, my eyes did not deceive me and there was a chicken on the conveyor belt embarking on the adventure of a lifetime. What did this chicken think it was doing? Did it end up there by accident? Was it a planned escape? Or was it just being nosey? I find that the longer I spend with these chickens the more I discover that their curiosity and imagination know no bounds. If I happen to drop something, such as my keys, in the enclosure, there is a chorus of approximately 1000 inquisitive "oooohs" and they all madly rush over to look at whatever I dropped - I cannot pick it back up again without a battle. Oh, to find such excitement in something so simple.

Apart from a few errant wanderers and the egg conveyor Houdini, the chickens are mostly happy to stay put and

everything is exciting and interesting to them, even unfortunately my bottom and legs when I am bent over head first in the nest boxes trying to push double yolkers through the gap. I certainly have no illusions on my place in the pecking order! But on a more serious note, perhaps there is actually something to be learnt from the chickens about their approach to everyday life. Maybe I am spending too much time alone with only my chickens for company, but I shall try to channel my inner hen and see the excitement and interest in everything, however small during this period of lockdown. Not unlike the chickens, our imagination can be a form of escapism whilst we are unable to physically get out and about. I'll let the wider world go for a while and just find excitement in everyday life. However, if I start pecking back, it might be time to worry!

Sticklepath Parish Council update

On Wednesday 22nd April Sticklepath Parish Council met in an historic first "virtual" council meeting. New legislation allows councils to meet using video conferencing as current social distancing measures mean normal meetings are impossible, so the council met using "Zoom".

During the meeting Chair of the council Cllr. Ali Cruse gave an update on the work the council had been doing to support the community during the current Coronavirus crisis. As well as producing several information Bulletins, the Council have also received a grant of £500 from DNPA towards the cost of providing a Hardship Fund voucher scheme. Several of these vouchers have already been distributed and used to help local families in these challenging times.

As the Zoom meeting was considered a success, the council will continue to meet using Zoom for the time being. The next meeting will be on 13th May and the information needed for members of the public to log into the meeting will be on the agenda when it is published.

Church Services April 2020

All church services are currently suspended during the imposed restrictions due to Covid 19 virus.

Church of England

St Andrew's South Tawton, St Mary's & Pavilion South Zeal

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, Church Services at St Andrew's South Tawton and St Mary's, South Zeal will be suspended until further notice.

Exeter cathedral will be open without charge from 10am to 4pm every day

St Mary's Belstone & St Mary's Sticklepath

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, Church Services at St Mary's Belstone and St Mary's Sticklepath will be suspended until further notice.

Sticklepath Community church

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, Sticklepath Community Church Services will be suspended until further notice.

Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Liz Singleton Tel: 01837 52302 FairplaceChurch , Okehampton

Roman Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Father Darline Marianathan. Tel: 01837 52229

St Boniface Okehampton
Holy Family church Chaaford

Okehampton Quaker Meeting

Ockment Centre Okehampton

Regular Events - May 2020 ALL EVENTS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - SUFN please check for alternatives and online classes

For more detail please contact organiser

Every		MONDAY	
Yoga, SUFN	7pm	Belstone Village Hall	Sarah 849 110
Pilates	7.00-8.00pm	Sticklepath Village Hall	Yvonne 07712 611 670
Knit & Knatter		Bert Stead Room, Sticklepath Village Hall	
Men's Probus Club	Every other Monday 10.30am	Okehampton Conservative Club (The Old Drill Hall) Mill Road Okehampton	Louis Baycock

Every		TUESDAY	
Belstone Arts & Crafts Group SUFN	9.30-12.30	Village Hall	
Art Group (STAG) ON LINE	10 am	karimcgowan.com	Kari 840695
SoulSpace	11-11.30am	St Mary's, South Zeal	
Yogalates	9.00am,	Whiddon Down Village Hall.	Sarah 849110
Dartmoor Nordic Walking	2.30 - 3.30	Different location every week	Denise 07944 630677
Hatha Yoga ON LINE	7 - 8.30pm	vivekagardens.com	Fiona Law 880050

Every		WEDNESDAY	
Moor Harmony SUFN	7.45-9pm	Meeting via Zoom	Jeremy 840 741
Reuters Coffee Club,	9.30-11.30	Sticklepath Village Hall	
Pilates,	8.45-9.45am	Belstone Village Hall.	Lynne 07827 787867
Yoga	10am	Belstone Village Hall,	Angela Blezard 07809 427 991
Meditation evening	6.30-8.00pm	Church House	Alison Hutton

Every		THURSDAY	
Mariners Away	8.30-10pm	Kings Arms	
Shanty singers		Meeting via Zoom	
Yoga, SUFN	7pm,	Belstone Village Hall	Sarah 849 110
Belstone Cafe SUFN	10am-noon	Belstone Village Hall	
Belstone Barter & Crop Swap SUFN	10am-noon	Belstone Village Hall	Rowena Bishop 840109
Pilates	9.30-10.30	Ockment Centre, Okehampton	Yvonne 07712611670
Nordic Walking	9.30-10.30	A different location every week	Denise 07944 6307677
Cogs & Wheels	7.45 - 10.00pm	Victory Hall	Donna
Ladies Morris Dancers SUFN		Meeting via Zoom	659 190

Every		FRIDAY	
Sticklepath & Okehampton Conservation StOCs		Finch Foundry car park	Mike 840183 Ian 840435 www.stocgroup.org
Pilates,	9.10-10.10	Belstone Village Hall.	Lynne 07827787867

Every		Saturday		
Nordic Walking	10 - 11.30am	A different	location	Denise 07944 6307677
		every week		

Every		SUNDAY	
Games Night SUFN	6.30pm	Kings Arms	
Tinner's Morris SUFN		Victory Hall	

Coming Events - May

	May. Subject to change.
Thur 7	Friends of St Andrew's & St Mary's AGM 7.30pm St Mary's South Zeal.
7-12	Beacon Village Window Trail - see article and poster
10th	Kings Arms Virtual Quiz (see website)
24th	Kings Arms Virtual Quiz (see website)

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Sticklepath Tackling Coronavirus

In these difficult times, it has been heartening to see how the community of Sticklepath have rallied round to help each other. From the first 'Coronavirus Help' notice which was delivered to all houses in the Parish, we have seen volunteers readily come forward to offer their help and services. We now have a number of local residents available to assist with deliveries, collection of medicines / shopping, 'phone friend' service etc. Neighbours have also been helping each other, and there seem to be so many more friendly waves to people as we walk around the village on our morning dog walk or do our shopping.

The weekly Sticklepath Bulletin has provided an update for what's available and open locally. This is published on the village website www.sticklepath.org, displayed around the village and hard copies left in the shop. For anyone not able to access the Bulletin, copies can be delivered by one of our volunteers.

We have Activity Packs for children, prepared by the Community Church and available for picking up outside Tudor Cottage (near the Taw River Inn). Others are looking around for things to do – if you're a knitter, consider knitting soft toys / Christmas baubles etc which can be sold at our Village Day in August (all being well!) to raise funds for those usual good causes which we have not been able to support this year. Wool is available if you are in need of

any, or contact Ali Cruse if you can offer spare wool. Other crafts will also be happily accepted for sale.

Another aspect of help comes from the Dartmoor National Park Coronavirus Community Support Fund, which has given the Parish Council funds to support those suffering financial hardship as a result of this crisis.

Parish Council meetings will for the time being be held online via Zoom. Please see the website for details, or check out the Parish Noticeboard.

This crisis has brought out the best in Sticklepath folk, an attribute which has always been there but now is so much more evident and welcome. Please contact Ali Cruse for further information on any of these topics. Meanwhile, stay safe, follow Government guidance and let's keep all Beacon villages secure.

Ali Cruse tel. 840070

Chair, Sticklepath Parish Council

South Tawton Primary School News

For most children, daily attendance at South Tawton Primary School has temporarily stopped, but the school remains open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers in support of the country's collective efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

For our pupils who are now unable to attend school, we are striving to ensure that they continue to feel 'connected' with school. Teaching and support staff are working hard to provide plenty of activities to support ongoing learning and are in frequent communication with families through our new website (https://www.southtawton.co.uk/), by email and by phone. Each class has their own blog page and these are updated by staff every day with suggested activities and challenges as well as photos and news from the children at home. Through these blogs, we endeavour to help our children keep focused on their learning, promoting a consistent day-to-day structure and appropriate learning activities.

Keeping the children happy, active and motivated is key. If home-learning begins to cause difficulties, pupils are encouraged to take a break from it rather than 'battle-on'. It's better to do a little regularly, as part of a routine if possible. Any learning is better than no learning and we are mindful of the difficulties which parents will face in trying to support their children while working from home themselves. Teachers are available to help at any point within the normal school day hours.

As we all continue to help reduce the spread of the virus, by ensuring that we comply with social distancing recommendations, it is important that we take time to ensure that we are looking after our own and our families' mental health. We have provided a range of resources and avenues to help parents and carers talk to their children about coronavirus. Social connections, alongside exercise, sleep, diet and routine, are important protective factors for mental health. Materials to promote and support mental wellbeing are available on our Well-Being Blog: https://www.southtawton.co.uk/well-being

We also have a Whole School News blog: https://www.southtawton.co.uk/school-news which contains a plethora of activities for families to enjoy together, including a range of suggestions for physical activity and daily exercise ideas.

We have been providing families of our children eligible for free school meals with a hamper of good quality, locally sourced food, and we intend on continuing to provide these hampers each week until further notice. We have ensured that our children who are eligible for free school meals, have been provided with hampers of good quality, locally sourced food, with the generous support of Waitrose, Ellis' Bakery and Farmer Luxton's, amongst others. These are delivered to homes weekly. If you know of any school families who are suffering financial hardship in these difficult times, please ask them to get in touch with us at school admin@southtawton.org

What is most important to us now is the health of our families, staff and community. Stay well and we'll look forward to the time when the school can reopen to all pupils once more. Sarah Marvin, Head of School

South Tawton Primary School



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St Andrew's and St Mary's News for May 2020

The funeral of John Darch, one of South Tawton's most long-standing and well respected residents was held under Covid19 restrictions on 1 April. Lockdown rules required a graveside service in the open air and limited the number of mourners to eight.

The COVID19 lockdown has required both our churches to be closed for the time being. Easter week was very different this year, but many thanks to Rev Mark and Rev Paul for continuing to deliver Easter services on-line.

Infection risk has required that gatherings are prohibited but Rev Paul and his team of helpers have, since the start of the lockdown prepared on-line services accessible on YouTube. The technicalities of this are



way beyond me, but each service has been constructed whilst still adhering to social distancing with different parts (readings, intercessions, music) being contributed by different people online directly from their own homes. Easter week YouTube services, commenced with Palm Sunday, a thoughtful Maundy Thursday evening service and culminating with the joyful Easter Sunday (link to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGVPeCOVjcU) celebration that 'He is Risen!'

Meanwhile Rev Mark linked directly to about a dozen of us on ZOOM for evening Compline services throughout the Easter week. These services were 'live' and opportunities for members of the congregation, isolated in their own homes by Covid19, to get together on-line and each directly contribute to worship. We became technically more adept as the week progressed!

Although inaccessible within, our two churches, St Mary's and St Andrew's acknowledged Easter with crosses by each church entrance. St Andrew's cross was robed in white on Easter

morning, whilst the cross on the wall by St Mary's door was decorated with lovely flowers to celebrate that 'He is Risen'.

Although both churches are locked, churchyard maintenance is still continuing with volunteers and contractors maintaining social distancing from visitors. Parishioners are using Lockdown exercise as an opportunity to walk and reflect in calming and therapeutic surroundings.

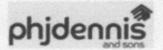
Our church community has rallied round to mitigate the impact of social isolation with a network of shoppers and helpers combining to ensure that those amongst us who are in 'at risk' categories are adequately supported throughout their 12-week social isolation period. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the world among such good neighbours.

Blessings to all at this difficult time – stay safe, stay well.

John Candler and Paul Snell (Church Wardens)

Will Pyne (Assistant Church Warden)





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Reflections on a first easter

My first Easter as a curate has certainly been one to remember. For a time of year when the church is usually really active, it is hugely frustrating to have our church buildings not only closed for worship, but with the doors locked and bolted so that even solitary private prayer is prohibited. With the widespread sadness and worry caused by Covid-19, particularly for the relatives of those who are ill, or are separated from family members because of self-isolation, not being able to sit quietly in one of our ancient churches, where people have prayed and sought spiritual comfort down the centuries, is so disappointing.

But, as we always say, the church is more about the people than the physical buildings, so we have been learning lots of new technical skills to try to keep in touch with people and ensure that the Easter message of hope was still proclaimed. I have taken to Facebook for the first time, and have been astonished at what I can actually do with my smartphone – although I have to admit that I am still rather nervous about taking videos of myself for our You Tube services. Hosting 'virtual' Compline (night prayer) services during Holy Week using 'Zoom' was a great success, and it was so good to see and hear the joy that people expressed at being able to see and talk to friends that they had been separated from, even if only on a lap-top screen.

Even though our churches remain closed, I would encourage anyone who is within walking distance of St Andrew's church to take their daily exercise in the churchyard. The recent spell of fine weather has enabled grass-cutting and maintenance work to proceed, and with many of the trees in blossom and new wildflowers emerging every day, it is the perfect place to relax and enjoy God's wonderful creation. I ventured up to the top of the churchyard early on Easter morning, so that I could witness the first rays of the rising sun, and it is hard to imagine anywhere more beautiful (as I hope my photos on Facebook that morning managed to capture).

One of my unexpected tasks prior to Easter was to make the cross that was put up in front of the church in South Tawton, using some left over fencina materials, and also to weave a 'crown of thorns' from wild rose and blackthorn collected from our local hedges. was surprised at what an emotional task this



turned out to be, especially when it came to hammering in the nails that joined the two parts of the cross together. And my fingers are still sore from trying to twist the rose and blackthorn stems together!

Living in such a beautiful part of the country, and with such lovely spring weather, it is sometimes easy to overlook just how devastating the Corona virus outbreak has been for some people. The effect on those who are unfortunate enough to catch the disease is clear, but there are many others who face the loneliness and heartache of being separated from loved ones who are in hospital or nursing homes, and cannot be visited. And it is such a difficult time for those who have lost family members, because of the restrictions placed on funerals, as was the case for the recent funeral of John Darch who sadly passed away after a long illness.

But it is really encouraging to see how well our communities have responded to these difficulties, helping each other out with shopping and other day-to-day tasks, and simply finding more time to stop and talk. I think we have all got to know our neighbours better over recent weeks, and it would be great if we

could maintain this more positive, caring approach when the current restrictions are eventually lifted.

Wishing you every blessing,

Revd Mark

Forgotten family: Wing Commander Peter Stanley Salter AFC.

I was idly looking through some tatty old books at home, and I discovered a diary written by Wellmeth, one of Sue's aunts. She, together with her brother Harold, carried on the family tradition of farming at Newlands, Broadclyst. The family were there for some 150 years until about 1986. Mick (referred to below) was one of Wellmeth's brothers, and Sue's father.

Another brother, Peter Salter, eschewed farming and joined the RAF. His flying log book includes a Royal Air Force certificate that his flying abilities were 'Exceptional'.

From 1938 onwards there are quite a few references to Peter 'buzzing' Newlands in one type of aircraft or another: Hawker Hart, Hind, Fury, Magister, Praga, Avro Tutor, Puss `Moth, Hornet Moth, Harvard, Spitfire, Hurricane, Beaufighter, Hampden, Blenheim, Typhoon, Tomahawk, Lancaster, Havoc; often it seems as a signal that he would land at Exeter and expect to be picked up and brought to Newlands for tea. He flew flying boats too, but there is no record of him buzzing Newlands in one!

In 1942 he was a Wing Commander and commanded the Handling Flight, a precursor I think to the famous Empire Test Pilots Training School. It was based at Upavon.

One of the roles of the Handling Flight was to find out why some aircraft kept on crashing and gain the information necessary to correct the problem.

Wellmeth's diary entries in April 1942 (in her typical laconic style) were:

April 12: Gave my fourth blood transfusion at Victory Hall in morning. Peter flew over in a Typhoon(?).

April 13: Non landing visit from Peter in a Lancaster.

April 14: Peter paid flying visit in 20mph Stinson. Mick fetched him and he and I returned him to airport at about 5pm. He spent afternoon in deck chair in the garden and had tea there.

April 18: Peter and crew of four lost their lives when Lancaster crashed when being tested after losing part of wing near Boscombe Down.

April 22: Peter's funeral at Boscombe Down at 11.00am. The CO took Zella (Peter's wife). John Waight took Mum and me. Mick was there. Coffin draped with Union Jack and white carnations. Had tea in the mess. In the evening Squadron Leader Heath took Mick up in a Havoc and scattered the ashes over the aerodrome. Heath had had the day off on the 18th or would have been in the Lancaster.

The best report of the catastrophic test I can find reads:



'The dive tests consisted of six dives, three at one third throttle and three at full throttle. The dives were to be started at 13,000 feet with a recovery at 5,000 feet in the vicinity of Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Weather conditions in the area on the 18th

of April 1942 were 3/10ths to 6/10ths cloud cover at between 3,000 to 4,000 feet with visibility between 2 to 3 miles and wind at 10 to 15 m.p.h from S.W to N.E. At approximately 1½ hours after takeoff, Lancaster R5539 was seen to emerge from a cloud base of 4,000 feet in a slight dive, and after a short distance R5539 half rolled to port and became inverted, a moment later the Lancaster again half rolled but this time to starboard and moments later dived into the ground at Heath farm. On impact with the ground the aircraft disintegrated and burst into flames,

burying itself 20-30 feet into the Wiltshire soil. Shortly before the crash occurred a section of mainplane skin paneling approximately 5' 1" x 2'6" from directly behind the port outboard engine was seen to fall from the aircraft and was recovered from a field about 700 yards from the impact point. The demise of R5539 was attributed to loss of flying control resulting from this panel becoming detached due to a failure of the plug rivets securing it to the front spar and the panel striking the tailplane. Due to this accident immediate action was taken to redesign the fixing of panels to the front spar'.

I am sure there are many similar but equally forgotten stories of such cold-blooded courage. Robin Tilley.

The Cosdon Hill/Cawsand Beacon Round

A terrible time for many of our friends all over this country and throughout the world. At a time like this we are so lucky to live in this magical corner of the good Earth. I thought I would start these walks with ones we can do from the village of South Zeal. This walk is in my totally unbiased view one of the best ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD! The walk is from the heart of the village up the East slopes of this magnificent hill and then returning down the

Northern slopes and home.

If you have driven park in the Recreation Ground Car Park. You can get provisions in the village shop. Head up Ramsley Lane towards Cosdon Hill and away from the centre of the village. You soon go under Dry Bridge where the lane crosses under the village by pass. Rather than joining the Throwleigh Road stick to the little untarmacadamed road going to the right. Past the cottage on your right you will soon come to a marked way to the right going through a gate into the woods. A hundred years ago or so these were fields but the family that constructed Pixies Garden planted this woodland. Now it is mature and quite

perfect. You ascend up the path through the woods and it comes out to the side of the Village Millenium woodland. This is a beautiful sight now especially in Spring. When you follow the path to the end there are wall steps, or if you wish there is a Gate diagonally across the small field to your left. Having closed the gate follow the unmetaled road to your left past Pixies Garden. After 200 yards you pass the picket gate leading to the Board Walk to your left. Just ahead is a large gate. Continue through this and ever upwards. This is a beautiful track which after a few hundred yards splits in two. Take the leftward branch heading upwards. There are beautiful stone walls and in winter the track you are on serves also as a small river ... a very Devon thing. After passing through another gate you find yourself coming up onto the moor itself. Follow the wall keeping it to your left side. As the trees clear the views across to Whiddon Down, the Teign Valley and beyond are breath taking on a clear day. As you ascend the village of South Zeal with its Norman Feudal form becomes clear below you. I always stop here to take a breath. This is our village, one of the best on earth, surrounded by all this. Breathe it in, breathe it in. When covered in sunshine it is easy to know why we choose to live here, but in truth there is magnificence in rain and snow as well. There is no such thing as a bad day on Dartmoor, merely the wrong clothes.

As you ascend you will find there is a wall on both sides. Keep to the left wall till it deserts you by turning sharply down the hill. Now you have arrived at the moor proper. However warm the day it will feel sharper here. If you look carefully there is a lone tree away to your right. This is by the Stone Row ... but you keep almost straight on following the path that slowly but surely sweeps to the right bringing you up to the lower end of the stone row. Here you will be greeted by Dartmoor Ponies and sheep as the pasture here is good. BUT in spring you will be surrounded by the heavenly sound of Larks . As you arrive at the Row (1 hour) you deserve to stop and rest. Its a great place for a picnic.

Straight on the slope is steeper. The path which leads up well to left of the two trees is steep but good and after another 20-30 minutes it leads you to the top. Here is the cairn. Here you are where our forebears lit the Beacon to warn the people of the approach of the Spanish Armada. Here in 1935, Margaret Stanbury as a child celebrated George V's Silver Jubilee. Many of us gave thanks for the end of the Second World War and celebrated Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee again in glorious weather. On that day the Beacons on Brown Willy and at Dunkery Hill could be clearly seen. About a hundred villagers climbed the hill in darkness to celebrate the armistice on November 11th 2018. Then the beacon was lit again and Mike Boother played the Last Post in honour of the fallen of our villages.

Here one can see the beauty of the countryside we are surrounded by. Here one can feel the presence of all who have gone before to leave to us this precious heritage. If we are open to it there is also the sense of those who will inherit it from us in times to come.

Refreshed it's all down hill (in the best possible sense) from here. Head North to the small cairn visible along the path. From there the path leads downhill. As Sticklepath comes into view you can see far to the north lies Exmoor and between there and here the village of North Tawton and the Cheese Factory. Take the path leading if anything to the left of Sticklepath and stay on this until you can see South Zeal appearing to your right and conifers below you at 2 o'clock. Head towards these arriving at the track down to your right past two small stone enclosures. You will be here 20-30 minutes after leaving the top. Head down through the gate and then take the right track (the left track takes you to Ford Cross). A little later there is another track left, but you head on down hill coming out near Pixie Garden having past the little pixies in the tree. From here there are three options. Keep on the track and this brings you out by the Croft or go back over the steps over the wall and back to Ramsley Lane through the woods. You could however go back right along the track past Pixies Garden and then left through the picket gate onto the boardwalk and thence home. From the conifers home to the village is about 30 minutes.

There you are. You may consider what you need.

Waterproofs Stout shoes Warm clothes

Water Food

Phone Camera Walking stick

Small knapsack. OS Map

Provisions can be bought from the stores. After the walk you thoroughly deserve refreshments either at the Kings Arms or Oxenham Arms although I am told it is not compulsory.

Tom Bell.

<u>drtombell1@me.com</u> tombell13@btinternet.com

Sticklepath's very own Cogs and Wheels Ladies Morris dancers

will kick off the 2020 Morris season on 1st May with a dawn dance in their own back gardens. No dance on the moor at Belstone. No



full English breakfast in the Village Hall after dancing around Sticklepath. Not this year.

It's not all doom and gloom though.

Like all UK Morris sides we have been forced to find new ways to

keep in touch, and to keep practising in the hope that we might actually get to dance together at some point this year. Modern technology has been invaluable in this. We have used email and Facebook to keep in touch, with our much loved 'founding father', Mike Palmer, recording the music to dances and sending

them round, and our Foreman, Ania Grabowska, adding notes for us to remember when we practise.

We've used Zoom to have face to face conversations instead of our usual weekly practice sessions, even managing to wish Mike Palmer Happy Birthday with a lovely (if somewhat stilted) sing song and dance in full kit.

The Morris Federation, of which Cogs and Wheels is a member, has sent out regular newsletters offering YouTube solo Jig Tutorials, Virtual Quizzes, Rapper Tournaments and Lone Morris Festivals. It seems that never before has it been so easy to join other Morris Dancers from all over the world. The next Lone Morris Festival is 1st May, you just need to film yourself dancing and upload it to 'How many Morris Dancers are on Facebook'.

So this year we don't know when we will get to dance outside the wonderful Kings Arms or even at the Zale Fayre, let alone at the Dartmoor Folk Festival, but one thing's for sure, when that siren goes and we are given the go ahead, we will be there, keen as mustard, bells tinkling, hankies pressed and sticks shining with polish!!

The 2019/2020 practice season started so well, with our largest number of new dancers in a long time. Our wonderful Apprentices (as these new dancers are known) have worked so hard and done so well and now having spent the last few weeks of the practice season with all of us only doing solo dances we can only imagine how entertaining our first few sessions will be, but that is the fun of it and I for one, cannot wait.

Under normal circumstances we meet at South Zeal's Victory Hall every Thursday from 7.30pm October to May. We are a very welcoming group and are always looking for dancers and musicians to join us. You won't regret it, it really is the best fun you can have with your clothes on.

Find us on Facebook - Cogs and Wheels Ladies Morris.

Contact us; email Donna at dtombs65@gmail.com; phone Ania on 07769 735787.

Donna Tombs, Cogs and Wheels Bagman







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Into the Twenties – May 1920

In the sane old days, before the world went mad – the phrase caught my eye as strangely appropriate for today's coronavirus times but it comes from the high-society journal The Tatler; **Dartmoor** has been much written about and talked of lately, and Dartmoor at all times commands a lot of noisy attention from folk who have toured the district and fancy that they know all about it. But how many people really know Dartmoor? How many, not content with skirting it and gazing on it from outside, if not from afar, have traversed its mysterious solitudes and known the profound feeling of satisfaction of coming at the end of the day into one of the guiet, peaceful little towns which fringe the moor? Chagford, for example – there is a cheerful homeliness about the place, and others of a like kind, that promises certain rest and comfort to the weary traveller. In the sane old days, before the world went mad, I often finished a day's walk at Chaaford, sometimes by way of Widecombe or Manaton and North Bovey, at other times by Two Bridges and the Warren Inn. Generally I reached the town in 'tween lights, which Devonshire folk call the 'dimpsy', and always found a welcome which eased the tiredness. There was a little old inn, with a comfortable and snua panelled room, where a bird could always be had cooked to a turn, and a good bottle or tankard was never lacking. A perfect bed and a Devonshire breakfast sent one off in the morning feeling good, and the charge was, in those days, ridiculously small. Somehow I am almost afraid to go now lest the war should have wrought its basic havoc with an old simple joy...

Okehampton on 27 days in the month, amounting to seven inches in total. Belstone in mid May; Large numbers of visitors have arrived here, but the inclement weather prevents them from enjoying the beautiful air and scenery. Mr Charles Arscott, late sub-postmaster, has been presented with a solid silver teapot by friends and villagers in recognition of his 33 years' service here. In 1887, after 22 years in the Metropolitan Police, Mr Arscott was told

by his doctors that he had only a few months to live. He and his wife Lydia moved to the healthy air of Belstone where he proceeded to confound the medical experts by living until 1940 and the grand old age of 94. Very soon after arriving he opened Belstone's first Post Office at Dartmoor Lodge (now Ferndale); by 1897 he offered Savings Bank facilities, issue and payment of postal money orders and annuity and insurance offices; and by 1910 he had a full Telegraph Office with postal collections at 1.55pm and 6.20pm. Later in the month solicitor William Marsh, a Deputy-Lieutenant of Somerset, who was staying in Belstone (perhaps at Ferndale, as the Arscotts were one of many to have apartments to let), died from a fractured skull when he fell off his bicycle in the village.

On Whit Monday 24 May around 3000 people gathered in a field near **Okehampton** for the seventh annual Friendly Brothers' Slate Club Races. £100 prize money was on offer with six races on the card, including a two mile open hurdles for horses of any height and a Farmers' Race, open for Horses any height, horses to be the bona-fide property of Farmers residing within twenty miles (I don't think the farmers had to ride them). Further entertainment came from a waltz dancing competition and an Army v Navy tug-of-war, with music from the Crediton Town Band.

At **Okehampton** Town Council, with the aptly named Mayor Mr German presiding, a letter was received from the War Office announcing that a German 77mm gun, captured by the 95th Brigade RFA in France, was, in accordance with the wishes of Major JC Walford, DSO, being despatched to the Okehampton Town Council for safe care and custody. The gun was placed in Simmons Park and is believed to have remained there until sent to the steel works as scrap metal during the Second World War. At Okehampton Rural District Council a report was read from PC Saunders, who, at the request of the incumbent, visited a fiveroomed cottage at **Sticklepath**, in which sixteen persons were living. The property was owned by Messrs Finch Brothers. The occupants of the cottage included five boys and four girls, grown

up. The children were healthy, and the place was kept clean. The complaint was referred to the Sanitary Inspector to report on, and a Councillor added that he hoped the inspector would not 'put the screw on too tightly' in view of the acute house shortage in the area.

How about this for something to do on the moor? At Dartmoor, near views and close inspection may be easily [obtained], since innumerable gangs of prisoners leave the precincts of the goal daily for labour of many kinds outside its walls. These, as they march through the streets of **Princetown**, or along the lonely moorland roads, though well-guarded, are always quite free for visitors to notice, and even to follow, if they wish, at a respectful distance, right to the place where their tasks have to be carried out.

Chris Walpole (unless stated otherwise, quotes are from the Devon & Exeter Gazette, Sheffield Weekly Telegraph and Western Times). With thanks to Mike Wreford for information on the German gun.

A Virtual Dawn Chorus

For the last 16 years I have led a Dawn Chorus walk around Belstone parish at the end of April or the beginning of May. We always left the Village Hall at 5.30am and got back to the Hall for breakfast by 8am. We usually saw and/or heard between 30 and 40 different species and the event raised some money for the Hall. Clearly this year the walk could not take place ... so for those who would still like to enjoy the birdsong I am making some short Dawn Chorus films to go on the village website. Several of these are now online; you can either go to the video sharing website www.vimeo.com and type 'Dawn Chorus Belstone' in the search box that is on the top right of the vimeo front page; or you can go straight to the village site www.belstonevillage.net to find the films. As well as the early morning birdsong and wonderful sunrises we have had lately you will have to put up with some appearances by yours truly including, in the second film, my best

impression of Marlon Brando as Colonel Kurtz in *Apocalypse Now*, and in the fifth, my doomed attempts to hear a cuckoo. I'll probably post a new film once or twice a week up until International Dawn Chorus day on Sunday 3 May.

Stay safe and enjoy the natural world around you.

Chris Walpole

St Mary's Sticklepath

After the disappointment of our unsuccessful bid to Parishscapes, we have now received confirmation from West Devon Borough Council of a £250 donation, for use specifically within the garden plan. This will be held in the Heritage Group account, and will be used accordingly when we can return to more settled days. We are grateful to Councillor Lynn Daniel for her support in securing this funding, which helps to keep motivation and momentum going for the St Mary's Heritage Project.

As with all other churches, St Mary's door is locked and the gates closed during the virus crisis. However, the garden has been giving much pleasure to those who have peeped over the wall on their daily permitted walk, with a huge array of primroses. Better than ever this year in fact!

Stephen Cook and the Northmoor team are providing a weekly on-line service, just half an hour to take some reflective space during these challenging times. The details can be found on the Village Coronavirus Bulletins, which are on-line or displayed around the village.

So many wonderful acts of kindness are being witnessed daily, this quotation seems to capture this:

Kindness Is Strength

"When I was young, I used to admire intelligent people; as I grow older, I admire kind people"

Abraham Joshua Heschel Polish born philosopher 1907 - 1972

Beacon Villages Environmental Action Group

We submitted a response to the Dartmoor Management Plan just in time...... it was not possible to meet, of course, but we are learning new ways to build consensus. We were pleased to see that the Authority is prioritising responses to Climate Change and environmental crises. They need to find new ways of working and were open to suggestions. To meet their ambitious target of being carbon neutral in 5 years will take resolve and innovation. We recognise that the moor presents conflicting challenges for preservation, environmental diversity, leisure and heritage. But it is also a place of agriculture and production, and it will play its part in producing food, forestry but also sustainable energy, carbon capture and flood resistance. Change is inevitable, in flora, fauna and in the ways we interact with the land...... but we are getting used to the idea that the world needs us to change now, and faster.

Contact derekmoore60@hotmail.com

The Kings Arms

We would like to thank everyone for their fantastic and ongoing support at this time - your kind words and continued business are both equally appreciated.

We are offering a Takeaway Menu (available online and displayed on the Door) Tue-Sun evening 5-8pm and Sat & Sun lunchtime 12-2.30pm. This includes favourites such as Beerbattered Cod & Chips (£8), Chicken or Vegetarian Curry (£8), Homemade Beefburger & Chips (£8) and more. All meals need to be ordered and paid for (by card or bank transfer) before pickup, please call us on 01837 840300.

We operate timed pick-up slots from the Lobby to enable social distancing - however, this does mean that on Fridays and Saturdays we can get fully booked, so please phone early to avoid disappointment (phone orders taken at any time).

We are also selling draught real ale and cider (£5 for 2 pints) whilst we can still get deliveries - we are expecting more

takeaway containers to arrive at the weekend, but please feel free to bring your own jug/container for pick-up. We maintain strict hygiene standards as you would expect.

And to keep you entertained we are running a fortnightly Pub Quiz on Facebook Live, on Sundays at 8pm. The next Quiz will be Sunday 26th April at 8pm, then Sunday 10th May 8pm and so on, until we come out of Lockdown or you get fed-up with us! For more information please look on our Facebook page or give us a call.

Finally, if there is any food product that you are unable to get hold of from the shops, please ask us and we'll see if we can get it from our wholesalers. We have been buying bread flour in bulk for some customers, if there are other items you are stuck for, please ask (apart from yeast! - we are managing limited supplies only).

In short, we are still here, we still have food and drink for sale, and if you need anything please just call us on 01837 840300, we'd be happy to help.

We hope you all keep well, Woody & Carolyn.



Paraprosdokian:-

They begin the evening news with "Good evening," then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

Sticklepath Open Gardens

Sorry, but we've had to cancel it.

However in its place we have started a virtual open gardens on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/sticklepathopengardens or simply search for sticklepathopengardens on Facebook



The intention is for anyone to contribute showing the best of their plants and gardens, not just on one day but for the whole year round. So now we can see the magnolias, camelias, rhodos, bluebells in their glory. And you don't have to be from Sticklepath, we've had a lot of interest and posts.

We hope to have a real and virtual gardens open next year. Ged.

South Tawton Parish Council

Further to the emergency legislation and the advice below, as the Clerk, I have delegated authority to act on behalf of the Parish Council to ensure the day to day functions and financial responsibilities of the council continues. All actions taken by myself during this time will be reported to the Chair and Vice-Chair and Minuted at the earliest opportunity.

During the current social distancing restrictions, South Tawton Parish Council will not be holding any 'in public' meetings.

Whilst we are temporarily permitted to hold 'remote' meetings, the practicalities of this are difficult and needs careful thought and consideration to ensure that any remote meetings are accessible to all councillors and the public.

There are potential financial considerations to holding such meetings, both to the council and individuals 'dialling in' to the meeting, and potential legal challenge if any Cllrs are excluded from remotely attending a meeting due to the method chosen, therefore, the advice (below) is to only hold a remote meeting if essential decisions are required with regards to planning matters, year-end accounts or anything else that cannot be dealt with under Clerks Delegated Authority

There is no requirement for the annual meetings normally held in May to be held this year. The External Audit process has been extended to November from September to allow a longer period to present the annual accounts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns

Mel

Mrs Melanie Bickell South Tawton Parish Clerk/RFO Lower Itton, Itton, Spreyton EX17 5BB 01837 89095 clerk@southtawtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Moor Harmony Update

In the last 20 years Moor harmony have taken a few knocks and always recovered so the current situation (not going to mention the C word here but, you know what I mean), however inconvenient, is just that, inconvenient.

Actually, it was a little more than that a month ago; it was downright annoying. We had re-grouped after Christmas to prepare our entries for the Devon Performing Arts Festival and all was going swimmingly for our big day on 14th March with lots of work put in honing phrasing, memorising the words and learning where and how to stand. Getting nervous, a couple of rehearsals beforehand in the Victory Hall on the 4th I mooted jokingly that maybe we should have some contingency plan in case the country was locked down; how we laughed ... by the following Wednesday, the 11th, we had a contingency plan ... unfortunately, it was put into action on 12th following notification that the Festival was off... and, about a week later, so was just

about everything else! Still, we're well prepared now for next year however disappointed in the meantime.

After a couple of weeks in limbo a member (thanks Saff!) suggested we could meet up 'virtually', via 'Zoom' and, you know what, we're doing it, with about 2/3 of the choir joining in about the same time on Wednesday evenings. Or course, it doesn't work anywhere near as well as a proper rehearsal for all



sorts of technical reasons but. we are doing the important bit of keeping the routine of having Wednesday evenings free for MH and, doing a bit of socialising, until the end of the summer term probably (with our Open Gardens concert very much on the back-burner just at the moment and, our Summer barbecue, ... ouch!). On the up-side, about a third of the group took up my offer to learn and take Grade 1, ABRSM music theory (in-house), which keeps our little grey cells working 12, so, well done you guys, we'll have a Graduation Ceremony when we re-group in person.

Autumn term plans currently

remain intact, regrouping in September with a recording session booked in October and then, of course, Christmas.

On a personal note, I never could have envisaged a time when having a piano keyboard and internet capability in my shed would be so useful. From working up the garden I'm beginning to identify all sorts of birds on the feeder and, am really falling out with the squirrel big-time. I know the routine of the resident (I think) hedgehog, have located three bumble-bee nests, know that

there's a mouse living in the ceiling cavity and am <u>very</u> aware of a large hairy spider under the sink ...

Take care everyone, stay safe and, if nothing else, look forward to the celebrations we're bound to have when this is all over.

Jeremy

moorharmony@gmail.com





Paraprosdokian:-

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but its getting harder and harder for me t find one now.

A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.

Nostalgia isn't what it used ti be. Nor is there any future in it.

Sticklepath Stores. Present opening hours.

7.00am to 6.00pm. Monday to Friday

7.00am to 3.00pm Saturday

8.00am to 1.00pm Sunday

Telephone number. 840358

Present takeaway menu....subject to change and availability.

Hot chicken curry.

Macaroni cheese

Vegan chilli

Beef chilli

Beef stew

Priced from £4 to £4.50

Friday is takeaway fish and chips

Available from 12.00am to 6.00pm. Booking advisable with 15 minute slots

Fresh fruit and vegetable selection available, plus newspapers, and local bread.

Beer and cider takeaway. Bring your own container.

Local delivery service.

All major credit cards accepted.

Friendly, helpful staff.

Self distancing in place.

Opening times for The Store, South Zeal are as follows:

Monday 08.00 - 13.00, 14.00 - 16.45 Tuesday 08.00 - 13.00, 14.00 - 16.45 Wednesday 08.00 - 13.00, 14.00 - 16.45 Thursday 08.00 - 13.00 Friday 08.00 - 13.00, 14.00 - 16.45 Saturday 08.00 - 13.00 Sunday CLOSED

For the Post Office, opening hours are:

Monday 09.00 - 13.00, 14.00 - 16.45 Tuesday 09.00 - 13.00, 14.00 - 16.45 Wednesday 09.00 - 13.00, 14.00 - 16.45 Thursday 09.00 - 13.00 Friday 09.00 - 13.00, 14.00 - 16.45

Sticklepath and Belstone outreach Post Offices are closed for now.

The staff and I would like to say a big thank you to all our customers who have shown a great understanding for the necessary measures we have introduced to help with social distancing in the shop. The reduced opening hours allow us to stack the shelves and also get a bit of a rest.

Thanks, Alex

Refuse and recycling collections

MAY	Мо	Τυ	We	Th	Fr
Recycling, food waste and refuse week					1
Recycling, food waste and garden waste subscription week	4	5	6	7	8
Recycling, food waste and refuse week	11	12	13	14	15
Recycling, food waste and garden waste subscription week.	18	19	20	21	22
Recycling, food waste and refuse week	25	26	27	28	29

Due to May bank holidays changes will occur:-11-15 May one day late and 25 - 29 May one day late

Village shop opening times

. maga anap apaimig mila				
	The Stores, South Zeal	Sticklepath Stores		
М	8.00 to13.00, 14.00 to16.45	7.00am to 6.00pm		
Т	8.00 to13.00, 14.00 to16.45	7.00am to 6.00pm		
W	8.00 to13.00, 14.00 to16.45	7.00am to 6.00pm		
Th	8.00 to13.00	7.00am to 6.00pm		
F	8.00 to13.00, 14.00 to16.45	7.00am to 6.00pm		
S	8.00 to13.00	7.00am to 3.00pm		
S	Closed	8.00am to 1.00pm		

Village Post Office opening times - outreach post office service suspended

	Sticklepath Village Hall	Belstone Village Hall	South Zeal Stores	Throwleigh St Mary's Church
Mon			09.00-13.00 14.00-16.45	
Tues		9.30 - 11.30	09.00-13.00 14.00-16.45	13.30 -15.00
Wed	9.30 - 11.30		09.00-13.00 14.00-16.45	
Thur			09.00 -13.00	
Fri			09.00-13.00 14.00-16.45	

Mobile Library Service - Wednesday SERVICE SUSPENDED

Belstone	Green	10:15 - 11:00
Sticklepath	Oak Tree Park	11:15 - 11:45
South Tawton	Seven Stars	11:50 - 12:10
South Zeal	Zeal Head	12:20 - 12:50

<u>The Beacon</u>		editor.thebeaco		
Robin Tilley (South Zeal)	01837 840 654	Pauline Baker (Sticklepath)	01837 840 858	
Jane Lehni(Belstone)	01837 840 087	Distribution-Barbara Ashton	01837 840 157	
Treasurer-Jane Messer	01837 840 405	Advertising- Alison Cruse	01837 840 070	
Editor- Fiona Elsworth	01837 840 894	Louise Weller	01837 840168	
Village Emergency Telephone		011 11 11	01007 500 500	
South Tawton Parish	01837 500 999	Sticklepath	01837 500 523	
Police	0000 555 111	-	000	
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Emergencies PC Dave Pickles	999	
Okehampton enquiries	101	PC Dave Pickies	101	
Local Authority	01027.040.207	South Tourton Devide Coursell	01027 000 05	
Belstone Parish Council	01837 840 307	South Tawton Parish Council	01837 890 95	
Sticklepath Parish Council	01837 840 367	Okehampton Town Council	01837 531 79	
Devon County Council	08451 551 015	West Devon Borough Council	01822 813 600	
Dartmoor National Park Medical and Dental	01626 832 093	Okehampton Library	01837 528 05	
Okehampton Medical Centre	01837 522 33	Oko Community Hospital	01837 658 000	
•	01637 322 33	Oke Community Hospital North Tawton Dental Practice	01837 822 61	
Chagford Health Centre MyDentist Okehampton	01837 527 45	Taw Valley Dental Care	01837 880 096	
Veterinary	0103/ 32/ 43	law valley Denial Care	0103/ 000 096	
North Park Veterinary Group	01837 823 27	Okeford Veterinary Centre	01837 521 48	
North Park (Oke Surgery)	01837 658 777	Equus Vets	01837 214 004	
St David's Equine Practice	01837 849 096	Stringer Equine	01647 231 246	
Schools	01007 047 070	31111ger Equite	0104/ 201 240	
South Tawton Primary	01837 840 242	Okehampton Primary	01837 528 66	
Okehampton College	01837 650 910	Adult & Community Learning	01837 659 436	
Chagford Primary	01647 432 412	North Tawton Primary	01837 822 84	
Transport	0.0.7 102 112		0.007 022 0.	
•	37 53555/840841	Ring&Ride/Community Cars	01837 550 00	
	avelinessw.com	0 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1		
Churches & Chapels				
Church of England - Belstone v	vith Sticklepath	Rev. Stephen Cook	01837 659 297	
Church of England - South Taw		Il Rev. Paul Seaton-Burn	01647 432 880	
Methodist Church		Rev. Liz Singleton	01837 523 02	
Roman Catholic Church		Fr. Darline Marianathan	01837 522 29	
Okehampton Baptist Church		Jeff Jacobson	01837 318 563	
Sticklepath Community Church		Philip Dennis	01837 840 144	
Society of Friends - Quakers		Ann Dickman	01837 840 966	
Advisory Agencies				
Citizens Advice	03444 111 444	Cruse Bereavement	01392 272 406	
Samaritans	116 123	Relate	01392 275 681	
A LIK D	00 45 00 / 7010			

0845 296 7810

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