

Burrator BEACON



November 2011



A view of Walkhampton from a postcard from 1911. One hundred years on, the trees have grown but not a lot else has changed. You can see the church on the hill and the school in the centre of the picture. Can you work out where the photo was taken from?

Supplied by Sue Andrew

Editorial

Jenny Sharp

Welcome to the last Burrator Beacon of 2011, this year seems to have flown by. Yes, I know there are still two months 'till the end of the year but, as always, the shops are already full of Christmas things as well as Halloween and Fireworks. In our household, we have a rule not to think about Christmas until mid December after our birthdays are over. That caught me out a bit last year when we were snowed in for a week, unable to get out safely in and out of the village. Here's hoping that the weather will be kinder to us this year, or at least we will be better prepared – I am off to investigate winter tyres this week.

This edition of the Beacon contains reports of all the fairs and shows over the summer month and news of events that are being planned for the next few months. Please try to get along and support our local groups who have organised the quiz nights, the pantomime, the concerts and the school Christmas Fairs. The events are good fun, usually a cheap night out and help raise funds for local causes.

The next edition of the Beacon is due for publication at the end of January, please send articles for inclusion to me by 6th January. I always send out a reminder email to contributors, please let me have your email address to be added to the list if you are not already on it.

Wishing you all a safe, peaceful Christmas and here's hoping 2012 will bring good cheer!



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Clerk's Report

Lucie A Luke – Parish Clerk

Dartmoor National Park, some time ago, proposed a Conservation Area for Walkhampton. The Parish Council have recently distributed a leaflet and brief questionnaire to all households that would be within the boundary to ask for their input on whether this should go ahead or not. The Parish Council are aiming to analysis the results of the mail drop at the end of October before responding to the DNPA's proposal.

The Lease on the Royal Oak Inn has successfully been renewed to the existing tenants, Stephen and Julie Earp. The Inn has had an external overhaul with internal works taking place over the next few months.

The Parish Lengthsman Service, run by Devon County Council Highways, will unfortunately end this winter. The Parish will be allocated 1-2 days service over the winter which for a parish of our size is quite inadequate and alternative services for 2012 are unknown. We are advised that blocked drains will be attended to as and when reported. Any person can make a report. Please use the Devon County Council website for their online report form or telephone me with the details and I will make the report on your behalf.

The Parish Council has co-opted two new Councillors. Neil Morrison & Carole Cowell. This leaves us with 3 vacancies. If you wish to join the Parish Council, please write or email me (details on the back page). Co-option is very easy with only 2 very short forms to sign once co-opted.

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New Parish Councillor – Carol Cowell

I wish to introduce myself, Carole Cowell. I moved to Devon some 16 years ago from the Midlands, my partner and I relocated to South Devon and lived in the village of Bishopsteignton for 12 years before moving to West Devon. We lived in the village of Sheepstor, experiencing, we were told, the worst winter for 50 years! We finally found where we wanted to put down our roots and now live in Dousland.

I have worked all my life, the first 17 in dentistry, I then had a complete change of career and joined the Probation Service, I transferred the work from Probation to a registered charity, this I did for another 11 years before relocating to Devon. My first post was in community development before joining the Youth Offending Team. Following our move to Sheepstor I gained employment again in community development and now work part time in Bere Alston.

I want to utilise the skills and experiences I have gained throughout my life for the benefit of the community I live in. I am passionate that local people have a voice in the decision making and planning of their future, we need to embrace the values, principles and local practices of our area but also be prepared to move forward and plan for the future. To integrate into my community I have taken time to get to know some of our farming community, to understand the challenges they face, I was fortunate enough to help with sheep gathering earlier this year.

The one issue that 'hit' me when I started to get to know the real Devon some 16 years ago was that of rural isolation, not only our senior members which is a particular issue I would like to work with my colleagues on the council, but young families struggling to get a home, a job and feel a valued member of their community.

I feel also that we should really listen to the young people whom we share our surroundings, what can we do so that they feel valued, encourage them to want to stay in their community, to work, to live and bring up their children so that our traditions can continue into the future.

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Please support our local village halls for your meetings, parties and activities. All the halls have disabled access and they vary in size and facilities so one of them will suit your requirements. All the Halls are run by willing volunteers who strive to keep them in good repair providing vital facilities for our communities.

Meavy Parish Hall	Val Smith	855909
Sheepstor Village Hall	Trevor Rookes	853862
Walkhampton Memorial Hall	Michael D'Oyly	852268

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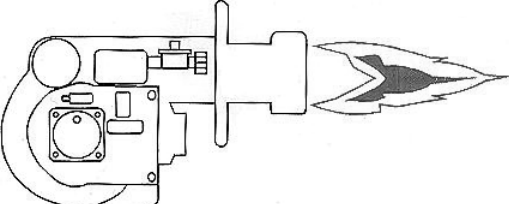
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Meavy Friendship Group

Helen Govier – Chair, Meavy Friendship Group

Each year the Meavy Friendship Group provides a free lunch for the Senior Citizens of our parish. This year the lunch is on Friday 2nd December and the invitations will be sent out at the end of October.

We are aware that there are probably some new people in the area who are eligible to join that we just don't know about, or even some residents who have slipped through the net and are not on our list. The criteria are 1. aged 65 and over and 2. live in the parish of Meavy. Meavy Parish consists of Meavy, Lovaton, Hoo Meavy, Goodameavy, Brisworthy, the lower side of Meavy lane (from where the road turns down to Meavy), Gratton lane and parts of Dousland: Burrator Road, Lake Lane, Sparkatown Lane, Manor Park, Myrtle Close, Woodlands, Nine Oaks and Iron Mine Lane.

So, if you would like to join us, or know of anyone who would, we would be delighted to see you but you must contact us so we can add you to the list. This is a very relaxed occasion that enables some people who are not able to get out and socialise that often, to meet old and new friends and acquaintances during lunch and over a glass or a cup of something! If transport is a problem just let us know and we will arrange for you to be picked up and returned home afterwards – it is not a problem for us.

Please contact Val Smith at Kilnford, Meavy, PL20 6PJ on 01822 855909 or me Helen Govier at Moorvale, Mary Tavy PL19 9PN on 01822 810239.



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Meavy Garden Society

Brenda Burt - Chair

Over a hundred visitors enjoyed the Summer Flower Show filling Meavy Parish Hall with vibrant colour. With excellent standards maintained by all the exhibits, much thought was needed to choose the best in each class as visitors votes are collated by Jenny Sharp to select the winners. Most pleasing was the large number of entries in classes for cut flowers, miniature arrangements and vegetables. But, with no entries for a child's Vegetable Sculpture, a new class, we plan to involve Meavy School more.

Strong competition was engendered for the Gordon Cross trophy by the points system of selecting the winner as, achieving both Second and Third places in a class is equivalent to a First. Guest of Honour to present the trophies was Miss Christine Gibson, who has actively supported the Society for many years. Mike Inman made sure everyone paid the entrance fee, Mary Helby carried off the duties of Show Secretary well, with some fun asides and Doris Potter enticed a lot of money from pockets and purses for the fine raffle prizes. Avril Back organised the teas and homemade cakes, while Douglas Henderson and Society President, Cyril Sparey, sold members plants. Chairman Brenda Burt thanked Christine, Mary and all who had helped to make another highly successful show.

Our last meeting of the season on 21st November will include a talk by Mike Stevens on flowering plants suitable for October and November; he will also bring plants for sale. We are looking forward to 2012 which is the Golden Jubilee of our founding in 1962. As part of our celebrations we have produced a calendar of photographs taken by members in local gardens and copies will be available at £5-00 each by November.

Last spring 2000 crocus and snowdrop bulbs were planted along the pathway of St Peter's church and we anticipate a good show at the start of our special year, with another list of interesting speakers for our meetings to follow. The AGM is on February 20th and the Fun Show on March 19th. For details see our website at www.meavy.org.uk/mgs, or call Brenda Burt on 01822 852984.

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New Parish Councillor – Neil Morrison

Hello Beacon readers, I'm Neil Morrison and am pleased to have been Co-opted to your Parish Council for the Walkhampton/Dousland ward.

Born in Letchworth, Hertfordshire in 1944 of Scottish parents, I entered the Royal Navy as an Artificer Apprentice in 1960 and enjoyed a 24 year career, serving on frigates and submarines. I married Linda in 1967, and when HMS/M Swiftsure was transferred from Faslane to Plymouth we bought our first own home in Yelverton in 1975, and knew we'd found our ideal "home base". Our daughter Anelli went to Meavy School, I plodded around under the sea (including the Falklands in '82) and Linda held the fort. Completing my service in 1984 we spent an enjoyable season managing Dartmouth Yacht Club and the following year, after the arrival of our second daughter, Venetia, emigrated to Canada for 12 years of delightful experience in Ontario and New Brunswick.

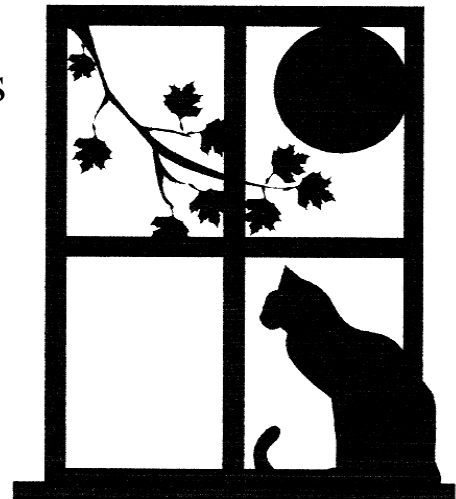
We returned to the UK in 1998 and bought our present abode in Dousland when I joined BAe Systems as a design engineer for the Astute Submarine programme. Since 2003 we have enjoyed semi-retirement and retirement in the delights of our Dartmoor area, and our involvement with local care-homes, charities and other activities.

I look forward to being a part of the solution, not the problem; and to being a proactive member of this wonderful community and its Council.

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Walkhampton Fun Day

Peter Shapcott

The work went in, the day came along with the wind and the rain. The tents and bouncy castle could not be put up due to the weather and many of the vehicles that were due to come were kept away.

That's the bad part. The good part is that we were not beaten. The hall took some of the stalls and the rest braved the weather. The dog show was as popular as ever and had more entries than last year. The Bar-B-Q team cooked and the kitchen team made food and drinks. Rob Allen's new ferret village was as ever very popular.

The agricultural vehicle section had a good turnout including a tractor driven up from Liskard which used to work on Knowle Farm. This was the furthest travelled vehicle on the day. Mike Tozer took the cup in the section for his collection of old grass cutters. The best car by public vote was a lovely Old Standard from the village and the oldest was a Rolls Royce owned by Mr. H. Flashman.

The day made just over £400.00. I would like to thank all who braved the weather and all who gave their time to help.

Burrator Twinning Association

Quiz Night

Thursday 17th November, 7.30pm

Walkhampton Memorial Hall.

£2 per person entry (max 6 per team)

Bring your own food and drink - make a picnic of it!

all profits to



Raffle & short film during interval about the visit earlier this year to Burrator by our friends from Mathieu.

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Lady Modiford's School

Gavin Hamilton – Headteacher

The end of the summer term was very busy at Lady Modifords. The Friends of Lady Modifords organised a splendid Summer Fayre which was very well attended and raised more money for the school. We are all very grateful for the hard work and dedication of all those involved.

The Y5/6 children performed a play called 'The Force of Nature' in the Drum Theatre. This was part of the Theatre Royal's 'Playhouse' project which we have been fortunate to be involved with several times. The cast were tremendous and the play was a great success. Well done to all involved.

Under the auspices of our school cook Anne Hext-Williams, the children organised a Cafe day. This was the second time we have done this and involved the children cooking and serving breakfast, mid morning coffee, afternoon tea and a three course evening meal. It was a very busy and successful day with hundreds of pounds raised. With this money the school have bought a poly tunnel to grow produce for school. Some will also go towards our proposed chicken run. The Key Stage 2 children have already collected money which we used to buy a chicken coop. Again our thanks must go to Anne and everyone involved. Anne is now working toward the school achieving the Food for Life silver award which is very exciting as well as continuing the 'Let's Get Cooking' scheme. The school is very lucky to have such a remarkable lady cooking for us.

Sports week and Sports Day went very smoothly. We were fortunate with the weather and had a great turn out of parents and friends to watch the children compete. Thank you to Mrs Brownlee and everyone who helped. The Y6s finished their time with us with their leaver's service and party. We wish them luck in the next part of their educational journey. We must also thank the PTA of Horrabridge School for organising such a good prom for the leavers. It was wonderful to see the young people of the area dressed up looking so mature.

Cont...



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The beginning of this term has been exciting with Mrs Wraighte organising a whole school trip to Tinside Lido. Although a little chilly (!) we all enjoyed a dip before watching the spectacle of the America's Cup. We had a really good time.

Even more exciting has been the consultation with Meavy School concerning federation. Both governing bodies, staff, parents and children have been discussing the proposition and both schools have agreed to go ahead. Everyone is looking forward to forging this partnership between two church schools and the benefits it can bring to all.

Future dates for the festive season will appear on the website and in newsletters but the KS1 nativity play will be on the 7th December, our Friends of Lady Modiford's Christmas Fayre with our world renowned grotto on Friday 2 December, the Christmas service on 15th December at 2pm followed by the end of term festivities on the 16 December. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

The Friends of St Peter's Church, Meavy

Present

Plymouth Area Police Choir

With guest soloist

Kate Walker

Thursday 8th December at 7.30pm in

St Peter's Church

Light refreshments will be available during the interval

Admission £5

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Active Villages in Meavy, Whitchurch and Gulworthy

Rob Clarke - OCRA

Active Villages is a countywide programme co-ordinated by Active Devon and delivered by Okehampton Community Recreational Association (OCRA) and West Devon Borough Council in the West Devon area. It seeks to support rural communities to develop long-term sports, dance, fitness, cycling, walking, extreme sports and any other activities. This is for all ages to experience the fun of sport and build a life-long love of being active and healthy.

OCRA are keen to hear of any sports, dance, fitness, cycling, walking, extreme sports and any other activities that people of all ages would like to develop in their local communities. This might include kick starting new sports sessions, promoting existing activities, support with training or providing equipment. OCRA have currently delivered multi sport/ skill sessions after school for children, organised a fun day of different activities, brought different activities to youth clubs and sea scouts, supplied equipment for community activities, organised a fun netball night for adults, coached a men's football team, co-ordinated an indoor cricket competition for adults, developed Thai Boxing and Thai Fit for children and adults as well as, Funky Fit and Pilates for adults. We are keen to hear of any sports, equipment or training you would like in your community.

The programme aims to increase sports participation in Devon's rural communities by supporting village based opportunities. It is funded by Devon County Council and Sport England Lottery funding and will work in over 150 parishes with between 500 and 2000 people over the three years.

OCRA say 'this is a great opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy a wide range of fun sports and activities with family and friends in your own community'. Please feed back to OCRA where we will be able to help you develop ideas and give you more information on Active Villages. Contact OCRA email admin@ocrasport.org.uk or phone 01837 54546 or visit this site www.activevillages.co.uk or www.ocrasport.org.uk

St Peter's Church, Meavy

“A journey of self discovery to Everest”

A talk by Simon Dell

Parish Hall Meavy

Tuesday 8th November 7.30pm

Entrance £3 on the door

Details from Sarah Gordon 854298

Meavy Oak Fair

Jenny Sharp – Chair, MOF Organising Committee

Despite the weather, Oak Fair back in June was another very successful day. The Fair opened as usual with the bells of St Peter's and the children of Meavy School entertained us all with their pageant based on the Noah's Ark – the rain just about kept off although it looked extremely ominous when it was announced that 'the rains came'! 150 runners started (and all finished!) the 15th Burrator Horseshoe, results of the race can be found at www.meavy.org.uk. As always there was plenty for visitors to do and see including the traditional games such as the coconut shy, hoopla and the skittle alley – we are extremely grateful to West Devon Explorers and 1st Yelverton Guides who ran the games - we could not have done without you. The refreshments were this year provided by St Peter's Church and did good business with the cream teas in the Hall; Meavy Friendship Group ran the very popular cake and produce stall while the Friends of St Peter's manned the book stall. The plant stall, as always, had high quality plants which were kindly donated by Champernowne Nursery at Buckland.

I would like to thank all those who helped out on the day, the small committee spends 9 months from September to June organising the Fair but on the day it is all the volunteers from groups and organisations and local people who man the stalls and attractions that keeps the Fair running. As well as having a great day, we once again were successful in monetary terms and had £3200 to distribute – a great profit. The groups who will benefit this year are those that are recognised for their support of the Meavy community:

The Friends of St Peter's	£325	Meavy and Yelverton Preschool	£150
Meavy Bellringers	£100	Meavy Friendship Group	£265
Meavy Parish Hall	£360	Meavy School	£1000
West Devon Explorers	£350	Yelverton Fire Brigade	£250
Yelverton Guides	£300	Meavy Border Morris	£100

That was the positive news about Oak Fair – now for the bad news. In order for Oak Fair to continue we desperately need more people to volunteer. The very small committee, currently consisting of 6 people, needs new blood, we meet every couple of months from November to April and then a little more regularly until the big day in June. The meetings are not formal – brainstorming ideas and allocating tasks. If the idea of joining the committee is too much, we desperately need people who are willing to help out on the Friday night and Saturday morning setting up and the Sunday morning taking down, help in preparing the field, help on the afternoon of the Fair itself. As always, the more people who volunteer the less they have to do, at the moment there are a few people who are putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort to keep this tradition going and they cannot continue as they are. So, if you want to see an Oak Fair in future years we need more help, we need to know that there will be others who are willing to give a few hours to make sure there is a Meavy Oak fair 2012. Please get in touch with me, Jenny Sharp, 853652, jennysharp@meavy.org.uk

Meals on Wheels

John Howells

Having watched the latest Hairy Bikers T.V. show on getting a 'meals on wheels' service up and running in various villages it occurred to me that our Parish was a possible location for such a service. If readers are interested in seeing if such a project is viable then I would be grateful if they would contact me as follows.

1. I am interested in helping to provide meals on wheels by cooking/delivering.
2. I am interested in receiving meals on wheels.

Contact can be made by e-mail Howells57@btinternet.com or by a note through my door 31 Manor Park Dousland. I would rather not have lots of telephone calls . When I mentioned the idea at our monthly council meeting there was a favourable reaction. It may be a complete non-starter but if we do not test the water we will never know.

Tokens and Vouchers for Schools

The major supermarkets regularly give away vouchers for schools and Nestle Cereals have 'boxtops for books. Please say yes to the supermarket vouchers, and save them for your local school, either Walkhampton or Meavy. Pop them along to the school or give them to someone who has a child at the school. They really do help in obtaining equipment for the children.

Yelverton Scottish Country Dancers.

Brenda Burt

Our new season is in full swing, so why not enjoy a fresh hobby and make new friends while taking some exercise, all at the same time in a light hearted atmosphere. Classes start at 8-00 pm on Mondays in Yelverton War Memorial Hall, Meavy Lane. Beginners are particularly welcome, just bring along yourself, a pair of lightweight shoes and your sense of humour! Or, call Brenda Burt on 01822 852984 for more details.

St Peter's Church, Meavy

Christmas Wreath or table decoration workshop

Saturday 26th November 11am – 2.30pm

All materials and Lunch provided

Meavy Parish Hall

Details from Nadia Taylor - 854840



Meavy C of E Primary School

Sue Blair - headteacher

It is with very mixed feelings that I am announcing my retirement as head teacher of Meavy School at the end of this term. I have been here for five years and it has been a very rewarding time. I shall miss all the children, staff and parents very, very much and leaving the school will be such a wrench for me.

I have really enjoyed my time at Meavy and I have been delighted with the recent Ofsted report and our Church School Inspection which rated us as outstanding. The school is well set for the future and this knowledge lessens the sorrow of saying goodbye to my school.

I have a very large family centred in the north of the country and with grandchildren in Scotland, I feel that the time has now come, having celebrated my 60th birthday last May, to move closer geographically to them all, and to fully participate in all the family events. I am very much looking forward to this.

In September our older children took part in a 'Junior Lifeskills Day' where year 6 children use all their resources to solve problems of a vital nature and have to make decisions that teach them about consequences of actions. The children always benefit greatly from this kind of exercise and learn a lot of crucial knowledge and skills regarding how to keep themselves safe. Nowadays this also includes internet safety.

We have celebrated Harvest and looked at how the cycles of life are so relevant to our daily lives. This year our Harvest collection was everyday items for the charity adopted by the school- Romania Aid, which is run by Mr Parkin

Events this term include Christmas performances, a Nativity play, a Carol Service, Remembrance Day and a Christmas School Fair. Our children will once again be entertaining our senior citizens in the Parish Hall. We see it as a privilege to participate in the village community.

It will be a busy time all round. I am sure that my final term will fly by.

Burrator Twinning Association

All welcome!

A.G.M.

Cheese & Wine

Walkhampton Memorial Hall

Thursday 3rd November 7.30 pm.

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Christmas around the Parish Churches

St Leonard's, Sheepstor:

Do come and see us at St Leonard's Church at Christmas. This year our Christmas tree will be decorated with handmade birds and there will be plenty of angels too!

Our Carols by Candlelight service is at 4 pm on Sunday 18th December. The carols are all traditional so come along and join in.

Our Christmas Morning Service is at 11 am.

St Peter's, Meavy;

St Peter's Christmas services are: Christmas Eve - 11:00pm, Christmas Day - 10:30am. Carols by candle light - 1st January, 6:00pm

St Mary's, Walkhampton:

St Mary's Christmas services are: Christmas Eve - 11:00pm, Christmas Day - 9:00am

Hopefully, the weather this Christmas will be better than 2010 when we had to cancel some services. If in doubt, please contact the relevant Church Wardens:

St Leonard's Sheepstor: Drinda MacDonald - 854884



St Peter's, Meavy: Jenny Sharp - 853652

St Mary's, Walkhampton: Mary Geen - 855887

Walkhampton Art and Craft Exhibition

Sue Andrew

This year's Walkhampton Art and Craft exhibition, held at the beginning of September, was an outstanding success. We were able to show a wide range of art and craft and enjoyed demonstrations of watercolour techniques from Robin Armstrong, basket-making from Ian Strugnall, and jewellery-making from Claire Wood. Especially popular was our charity preview evening in aid of Children's Hospice South West, which, together with donations made throughout the exhibition, raised the sum of £682 for this worthy cause. In addition, a profit of just over £1000, raised from entries and sales, will go towards capital projects at Walkhampton Memorial Hall. The committee would like to thank all those who contributed to the exhibition. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

	<p>Meavy Parish Hall</p> <p>Quiz Night</p> <p>Friday 4th November 7:30pm</p> <p>Refreshments, Licensed Bar and fireworks for the Brain!</p> <p>£2 per person in teams of 4.</p> <p>Book in advance on 855909 or come on night to make up a team</p>	
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Drake's Trail

Rob Sekula - West Devon Borough Council

Works are progressing well with the construction of Gem Bridge, the vital missing link on the Drake's Trail between Plymouth and Tavistock. The 'wineglass' shaped bridge piers have been erected and stand 22m (the equivalent of five stacked double-decker buses) above the River Walkham. The steel spanning sections were delivered in 15m sections from the south, and their route included a crossing of Magpie Viaduct. The two north spans were lifted into place by a 500 tonne crane, which itself was positioned on site by a 22 tonne bulldozer.

Views from such a height have not been seen since the last train crossed the valley on the Walkham Viaduct in the early 1960's. The new bridge will not match the awe inspiring scale of the original Brunel viaduct, which was almost twice the height, but the 200m long Gem Bridge will provide a magnificent alternative for the modern era.

The bridge construction work is programmed for completion by the end of year. Further works are required to upgrade the southern access to the site, these works are likely to be finished by Spring 2012, allowing this vital section of Drake's Trail to be opened.

Devon County Council have been adding monthly updates on progress on the website <http://www.devon.gov.uk/drakestrail>

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Be prepared while driving this Winter

Advice from Devon County Council

So what can you do to make driving in winter conditions safer this year? Firstly prepare; make sure your car has Anti freeze in it and that your tyre pressures are correct. When the weather starts to get colder make sure you check weather forecasts and allow more time for journeys. If your car is kept outside make sure you allow time to clear the windows properly.

Listen to the noise your car makes on the road. If you are driving on ice the tyre noise will almost disappear completely. Watch the cars in front: are they sliding on any particular parts of the road? If you do hit ice and feel the car start to slide immediately take your foot off the accelerator, don't be tempted to brake (this will increase your risk of spinning) and steer gently into the slide. The best way to avoid sliding in the first place is to make sure your speed is right, it may need to be slower than you think, at just 30mph you are travelling 30ft every second! To reduce the risk further make sure you are very smooth when you accelerate, brake or turn.

Winter Car Kit

Keep these items in your car:

- Mobile phone
- Torch with extra batteries
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- A blanket
- A coat, hat scarf and gloves
- Small shovel
- Small toolkit (pliers, wrench, screwdriver)
- Jump Leads
- Brightly coloured cloth to use as a flag
- Chocolate bar
- Bottled water

If you become trapped in your car:

Stay in the car - Do not leave the car to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow.

Display a trouble sign - Hang a brightly coloured cloth on the radio antenna and raise the bonnet.

Occasionally run the engine to keep warm. Turn on the car's engine for about 10 minutes each hour. Run the heater when the car is running. Also, turn on the car's light when the car is running. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Do minor exercises to keep up circulation. Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position for too long. If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping. For warmth, huddle together. Use newspapers, maps, and even the removable car mats for added insulation.

Burrator Parish Plan

Anita Bickell

I am keen to hear from anyone who would like to play a part in producing the "Parish Plan". We all know what we believe this community needs so instead of just talking about it, get involved and help us to create a plan that reflect the views of all sections of the community and identifies the features and local characteristics people value as well as local problems and opportunities. It will spell out how the community wishes to develop, the changes we hope for and the things we don't want to change. Please contact me if you want to be involved. My email is a.bickell@virgin.net

Information Wanted

Editor's note: I have received the following request for information – if anyone can shed any light, please contact me (details on back page) and I will pass on the information.

There is, in the woods on the right of the road just outside Dousland heading towards Princetown, a round stone construction. I was brought up believing it to be an ice-house - and had no reason to doubt this, until I came into contact with someone who had been brought up believing with equal certainty that it was a folly. I've dug around numerous books and spent fruitless hours on the web trying to get more information. If anyone can help clear up the mystery, I'd be extremely grateful.

Meavy Amateur Dramatics Pantomime 2012

Babes in the (Burrator) Wood

Evening Performances:

Wednesday 8th to Saturday 11th February 2012, 7:30 pm.

Matinee Performance:

Saturday 11th February 2012, 3:00 pm.

Meavy Parish Hall

Details: <http://mad.meavy.org.uk/>

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Yelverton & District Local History Society

Nigel Rendle

The society had a successful summer series of outdoor events, which surprisingly all managed to take place in dry weather.

A large group of over 40 members & friends were led by Jill Fitzsimmons (&family) around the village of Horrabridge, looking at various historic sites of old mills, leats & mine shafts. Farming, tin & copper mining, wool manufacture & an early hydro electric turbine have all featured in the village history with some of the relics still being visible. In recent times a huge project was undertaken to shore up some of the old mine shafts. The walk was rounded off by a display in the London Inn of old photographs, maps & historical records....& for some a welcome pint - a nice way to end the visit.

An exploration of Wigford Down was another fascinating excursion with Liz Miall. Many interesting features can be found in this often overlooked area near Cadover Bridge - stone crosses, cairns, hut circles, boundary reaves & kistvaens of the Bronze Age; a medieval longhouse & old settlements. Added to this are the superb views of Plymouth Sound & beyond from the Dewerstone Rock & its Iron Age fortifications & inscriptions on the rocks.

A visit to Kilworthy Farm rounded off the summer series. Built by the Duke of Bedford as a cattle fattening centre in the 1850's & restored with the help of English Heritage in 2003, this is a truly amazing place. Huge buildings of granite & Hurdwick stone dominate the site, with elaborate systems for originally feeding the cattle & collecting the dung, plus a leat & 30ft waterwheel for processing grain & numerous other outbuildings. The visit finished with a superb tea of home made pasties, scones & cakes. Huge thanks to the Vallances who now manage the farm.

Our autumn series of talks is now under way & details of these, including fuller summaries of the above & past events can be found on our website www.yelvertonhistory.org.uk . Membership for a full year is only £4 & non members are always welcome to attend our events.

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Walkhampton Cottage Garden Society Annual Show 2011

Peter Shapcott -Chairman

Whether the weather is cold, whether the weather is dry, whether..., well you get the idea. The time for entry forms approaches and the weather for the last six months or so are relived and all the reasons for the lack of perfection are dug up.

The day of the show arrives and the gardeners show yet again that they have overcome all that nature threw at them during the past year. The number of entries was the highest since 1999. The standard was again high with one or two outstanding exhibits. M. McMahon's (a.k.a. Makie's) parsnips were without doubt the best vegetable exhibit in the show. Some of us can only dream while others take up the challenge for next year.

The flowers were as ever a joy to see despite some heavy rain a day or two before the show. Entry numbers were up on last year. Top Vase went to Sheila Glanville along with several other firsts. Wendy Swinburne won best kept and cropped garden with a fine display. Cookery was at a very high standard this year and entry numbers were the highest since 1987. Produce and craft also showed a very high standard of work with a high number of entries.

Over all the number of entries were 632 which is the 2nd highest in the last 25 years. All that remains is to thank all the committee and helpers who work so hard to put the show on and the support of the entrants who fill the hall with the results of their hard work.

A show of this type with so much community support is a rare event so please start planning, growing and making for next year. The Society plans to hold a number of help and advice tables at the Walkhampton Market in the spring. These will be advertised at the start of next year. Hope to see you there and at the 2012 show – as always it is the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Yelverton Branch of Children's Hospice South West

Jumble Sale

Sun 27 November 2.00pm.

Walkhampton Village Hall

Entrance is by donation, and raffle and refreshments will be available

Jumble can be taken from 10:00am

enquiries Linda Landick 01822 852142.



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Meavy School has a Good Ofsted Inspection

The Governors of Meavy School

Ofsted inspectors visited Meavy C of E Primary School back in June and gave the school a good report. They were particularly in praise of how well the school had improved since the previous inspection.

In their report they commented on how the school benefits from the strong leadership of the headteacher who, well supported by the staff leadership team and the governing body, is totally committed to continuing improvement. But a good school does not come just from the head, it needs all the staff pulling together. Lead Inspector Alex Baxter said “By working together, leaders and managers also ensure that under an umbrella of excellent care, guidance and support, pupils' welfare is securely safeguarded. As a result, within this harmonious, inclusive community pupils behave and adopt healthy lifestyles extremely well.”

Ofsted praised the level of teamwork in the school, with the staff and the governing body working closely together to raise expectations and standards. They especially singled out the creation of an excellent Early Years Foundation Stage provision. The report says “Children make an excellent start in Reception and make good progress through the school and attainment is above average by the time they leave.”

The Ofsted inspectors noted that the effective way in which staff track pupils progress has been instrumental in re-establishing pupils' above average attainment in mathematics. Amongst the strengths in teaching they picked out the promotion of pupils' outstanding speaking and listening skills and development of new learning through discussion.

The report from the inspectors also makes reference to the effective way that learning is made relevant and interesting. “The well-designed curriculum links subjects together effectively to make learning relevant and interesting. It includes good opportunities for pupils to learn practically, through gardening in the school grounds, for example, and it is further enriched by community events and extra-curricular clubs. Pupils' learning experiences and well-being are also enhanced by the school's good work with parents and carers and other schools and agencies. These also contribute to the pupils' great enjoyment of school and their above average attendance.”

In a tribute to headteacher Sue Blair, who is retiring at Christmas, the inspectors said she has a clear and unwavering vision for the school.

Mrs Blair said: “We are all absolutely delighted at Meavy with our Ofsted report which highlights the great team atmosphere and the challenging aspirations which underpin the ethos of our school. The whole school community has played a significant part in our success and we will continue to build upon the outstanding features recognised by the inspectors.”

Congratulations to all the staff, the children, and the governors for achieving such a good Ofsted report.

If you wish to read the report in full, go to the Ofsted web site at www.ofsted.gov.uk and click on “Inspection reports”. You can then use the search option to search for “Meavy”.

Dates for your Calendar

November

3 rd	Burrator Twining Association AGM, Walkhampton, 7:30pm	See page 15
4 th	Quiz Night, Meavy Parish Hall, 7:30pm	See page 16
8 th	Talk on Everest by Simon Dell, Meavy Hall, 7:30pm	See page 12
15 th	History Society talk, Meavy, 7:30pm	see page 20
17 th	Quiz Night, Walkhampton, 7:30pm	See page 9
21 st	Meavy Garden Society Talk, 7:30pm	See page 7
25 th and 26 th	The Royal Oak Bean and Cider Event with live music each night	
26 th	Wreath Making Workshop, Meavy, 11:00.	See page 14
27 th	Jumble Sale, Walkhampton, 2:00	See page 21

December

2 nd	Meavy Friendship Christmas Lunch	See page 6
2 nd	Walkhampton School Christmas Fair 18:00 – 20:00	
3 rd	Meavy School Christmas Fair 11:00 – 1:00	
8 th	Plymouth Police Choir Concert, St Peter's Meavy, 7:30pm	See page 11
17 th	Christmas Party Walkhampton Memorial Hall	Peter Shapcott
22 nd	Santa's Night Out at the Royal Oak. Free beer and mince pies for those dressed as Mr or Mrs Santa	
26 th	Dartmoor Border Morris at the Royal Oak Inn. 12 noon	
29 th	Spooners Hunt Meeting at the Royal Oak Inn, 10am	

January

6 th	Copy Deadline for Burrator Beacon There must be something going on in January!
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February

4 th	Walkhampton School Nearly New Sale, Memorial Hall, 14:00 – 17:00	
8 th - 11 th	Meavy Pantomime, Babes in the Burrator Wood	See page 19
25 th	Feb Hospice SW, Auction of Promises, Walkhampton Memorial Hall	

March

30 th	Duo Volatus Guitar Concert, St Peter's Meavy, 7:30pm
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To have your event included in future issues please send details (date, time location, contact name and phone number) to the Editor as soon as you have decided on the date. This will ensure maximum publicity and avoid clashes with other events.

Parish Council Meetings

Full Council Meetings are usually held at 7:30pm on the last Thursday of the month (but not always!), the dates of the next meeting is:

24th November 2011 Walkhampton Memorial Hall

The Planning, Finance and Royal Oak Inn Committees meet on other dates throughout the year – please contact the Clerk: theclerk@burrator.gov.uk for more details.

BURRATOR GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

List of Members and Telephone Numbers (Area Code 01822)

Meavy Village

Mrs Bridget Cole 853563
Mrs Midge Wilkins 855073
1 Vacancy

Meavy Dousland

Mrs Carol Cowell 855493
Dr John Howells (Chair) 853865
Mrs Jackie Moorhead 854800
1 vacancy

Sheepstor

Mr Tim MacDonald (ViceChair) 854884
Mr Keith Scrivener 854518.

Walkhampton Village

Mr Bill Andrew 853008
Mr Chas Symes 853782
Mr David Wright 852252

Walkhampton Dousland

Mrs Anita Bickell 854241
Mr Phil Cater 853121
Mr Neil Morrison 854880
1 vacancy

Clerk to Council

Mrs Lucie Luke 614278
The Apartment, The Old
Bedford Foundry, Lakeside
Tavistock, PL19 0AZ

Email: theclerk@burrator.gov.uk

West Devon Borough Councillor for Burrator Ward: Diana Moyse 820407

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If you require this publication in large text please contact the editor: Jenny Sharp on 853652

Burrator Parish Council is a body which complies with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Contact the Clerk, Mrs. Lucie Luke for specific details about parish business.

Advertising: Local events are publicised free of charge. Businesses and clubs and societies (which have membership fees) can advertise in the Beacon and should contact the Editor for advertising rates.

Burrator Web Site: The Burrator Parish Website is <http://burrator.gov.uk/> You can find details of meetings plus other information.

The opinions expressed in the Burrator Beacon are not necessarily those held by Burrator Parish Council. Every effort is made to ensure that information in these pages is accurate. However, the Council cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions. Including information does not imply recommendation and any subsequent contact is made at readers' own risk.