

Burrator BEACON Winter 2022



Editorial – Karen Batson

With nights drawing in fast now, it's the time of year to think about staying safe and being seen when outdoors, not only at the end of the day, but in the dark mornings too. But there is much to look forward to in our parish, with all the exciting events planned indoors and out, as you will read in the following pages.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

The spring issue of the Burrator Beacon will be published at the end of February. Deadline for copy will be Tuesday 7th February, at the latest. That issue will cover the months up until the end of May 2023. Don't forget, this is your magazine for your parish, so we would like to hear from you! Do consider writing a piece about anything of interest. (Maybe you have a new interest or hobby that you would like to tell us about?) Please send all submissions as Word attachments, as this makes the cut and pasting process much simpler!



Parish Clerk's Report – Katharine Griffiths

The Planning Committee have recently been consulted on the following applications with the Parish Council's comments in bold. DNPA have upgraded their online planning system, so you will see a different look when searching for planning applications.

0189/22 - Heatherside House, Princetown Road, Dousland, Yelverton, Change of use from a residential care home to education use with associated external alterations. **No Objections**

0193/22 - 1 New Cottages, Meavy, Single storey side extension to dwelling for ancillary residential accommodation. **Object**

0306/22 - Rebuilding of fire affected Units 1 & 2 and splitting up of Unit 3 to provide 5 smaller self-contained light industrial units at Old English Industrial Estate, Princetown Road, Dousland.

No Objections

0305/22 Installation of photovoltaic solar roof panels to south-facing roof slope of existing house at The Counting House, Cadover Bridge, Plympton **No Objections.**

0346/22 - Installation of 9.24kW of ground mounted all black solar photo voltaic panels in field with all cabling to the property below ground at Willake, Goodameavy, **No Objection**

0369/22 - Installation of two arrays of photovoltaic panels, one ground mounted and one roof mounted at Welltown Farm, Walkhampton **No Objection**

0275/22 - Siting of two shepherds huts at Callisham Farm, Meavy – **No Objection**

0254/22 - First floor side extension at 44 Barons Road, Dousland – **No Objection**

The council were saddened by the passing of Her Majesty the Queen in September and council business was suspended during the official mourning period. The Queen dedicated her life to our country and the Commonwealth for 70 years and will be remembered by the nation, and throughout the wider world, with huge affection and we will all feel her loss as our monarch.

The Silver Jubilee bench at Dousland has been repaired and hopefully provides a more comfortable place to sit now.

The speed of traffic along Burrator Road has been raised as a matter of concern. Devon County Council Highways department have been asked to undertake a speed review, with the intention of the council installing vehicle activated signage (VAS).

Applications from Community groups are invited for grant funding from the Parish Council, which will be subject to finance availability. Please write or email me, the Parish Clerk with your proposals and amount requested by the beginning of January. Please include a recent set of accounts and outline the benefit of your proposal to the local community.

With the festive season fast approaching I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Village Halls

Please support our local village halls for your meetings, parties and activities, when Covid restrictions are lifted. 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	Alison Stoker	853389
Sheepstor Village Hall	Patrick Drennan	853186
Walkhampton Memorial Hall	Sheila Glanville	859215

They will be able to advise you on availability, hire charges and terms & conditions of hire.



Walkhampton Play Park

Sheila Reynolds

Plans are underway to refurbish Walkhampton Memorial Hall's playpark. Although the climbing and balancing apparatus for older children remains in good condition, the equipment for smaller children had reached the end of its life and has had to be removed – except for the now solitary chicken springer.

The intention is to install new items from a local company, Greenscheme, which specialises in high-quality recycled plastic play products. If the word 'plastic' makes you gasp, go and look at Horrabridge's play park by the river – these are sturdy, good-looking products that will not fade or rot in West Devon's climate and will far outlast wood.

A new set of swings is planned to include a 'nest' swing which can be enjoyed safely by a disabled child or a parent and small baby, as well as by two or three giggling toddlers. There will be a pair of play towers linked by a walkway and equipped with various climbing features, plus a small roundabout, a balance rail and steppingstones, and also a picnic table with benches.

Health and safety standards require us to install 'soft' surfaces around the main items, the extent of the matting being determined by complex mathematical calculations to account for fall height and the likely trajectory of a child parting company with a swing or tower.

All this is inevitably expensive and we are now seeking grants and donations from a variety of sources. We will also be launching a series of fund-raising initiatives in the village.

Our goal is an attractive play area behind the hall where parents and other carers can bring small children to play in safety, and to provide a pleasant place for mothers of young children to meet and chat, a facility sadly lacking in the village since the closure of the play group some three years ago.



Walkhampton Memorial Hall

Available for local groups, parties,
music events, meetings & Receptions.

Large hall, modernised kitchen, field with play area
& ample, free parking. (PL20 6JN)

Contact:- Sheila Glanville on 01822 859215.



**St Peter's Meavy 2022 Christmas card
Greeting inside –
Wishing you love and peace at Christmas
Sold in aid of St Peter's Church
pack of 5 cards with envelopes at £3.00
available at the back of the church or
Contact Sarah Gordon on
sbgordon48@hotmail.com**

St Peter's Church, Meavy

Candle lit Carol Service

Sunday 18th December at 4.00pm.

All welcome

Meavy Garden Society

Annie Inman

First formed in 1962 the Society's objects are to: "Extend the knowledge of, and encourage interest in, the cultivation of flowers, plants and vegetables" in a friendly atmosphere. In 2022 we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Society with a special lecture on 'Spring in Japan'.

We welcome all from a wide area around Meavy.

We normally meet on the third Monday evening of months February to November, at 7:00 pm for refreshments with meetings starting at 7.30pm in Meavy Parish Hall (PL20 6PJ). Everyone with interests in gardening is welcome to join. Annual membership at the time of writing is £15.00 for a couple or £10.00 for individuals. This is reviewed at the beginning of each year. For most months, once light refreshments and chat have been enjoyed, we have an outside speaker to give us their expertise on a wide variety of topics related to horticulture and 'fauna and flora', with time for questions afterwards. Very often plants are for sale.

During the year we usually have a Spring Fun Show for members, a Summer Show in August open to the public, a social event and two outings.

New members and visitors (£3) are always very welcome.

MEAVY GARDEN SOCIETY

Monday 20th February 2023

Annual General Meeting

Followed by a talk
(subject to be decided)

All meetings normally start at 7.30pm in Meavy Parish Hall.
Refreshments, time to chat and often plants for sale from 7pm.

Visitors (£3) and new members always welcome.
All Enquiries 01822 852672 and 01822 852984



Visit www.meavy.org.uk/mgs

THE ROYAL OAK INN, MEAVY

The festive season at the Oak



	OPEN	FOOD SERVED
Christmas Eve	10AM-9PM	BRUNCH 10AM-12NOON LUNCH 12PM-4PM
Christmas Day	CLOSED	CLOSED
Boxing Day	10AM-6PM	BRUNCH 10AM-12NOON LUNCH 12PM-4PM
New Year's Eve	10AM-10PM	BRUNCH 10AM-12NOON LUNCH 12PM-3PM DINNER 6PM-9PM
New Year's Day	10AM-6PM	BRUNCH 10AM-12NOON LUNCH 12PM-4PM

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD, FIRE LIT, MULLED WINE AND CIDER FLOWING, AND THE SAME FRIENDLY GREETING ALL YEAR ROUND.



FESTIVE MENU AVAILABLE BY PRE BOOKING ONLY DEC 2ND-23RD
THE ROYAL OAK INN, MEAVY PL20 6PJ | 01822 852 944

3
DEC



12-4PM | FOOD | CRAFT
FESTIVE LOCAL FAIR | TEA COFFEE CAKE | & PRODUCE STALLS

MEAVY PARISH HALL, MEAVY, NR YELVERTON
PL20 6PL

Children's Hospice Southwest - Yelverton Friends Group

SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!

We would like you to save the dates for our 2023 Spring fund raising.

All 3 events will be in Walkhampton Memorial Hall and field.

Car Boot sales with events, gates will open from 12 pm.

Sunday 9th April (Easter Sunday) - **Car boot sale and Easter egg hunt.**



Saturday 22nd April – **Quiz**

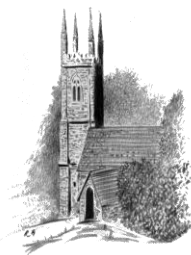
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Sunday 14th May - **Car boot sale and plant sale.**



The friends group would like to thank everyone for their support, donations and offers of help through the year.

Our very best wishes from the group for Christmas and a healthy 2023.
THANKYOU.



Christmas Extravaganza

at St Mary's Sampford Spiney on 21 December at 7.15pm

A combination of carols, music, poetry and pantomime with hot punch at half time.

Tickets are £5 from members of the PCC
or direct from simonpatrickhill@outlook.com

Children attend free

Yelverton & District Local History Society

Nigel Rendle (Chairman)

A Guided Walk Around Challacombe Farm



Nestled in the valley below mighty Hameldon and the historic Bronze age village of Grimspound, the Duchy farm of around 180 hectares has a long history with evidence of medieval strip fields (lynchets) and archaeological features from the tin mining industry plus stone rows and hut circles. It is managed organically today by Mark Owen and Naomi Oakley as a regenerative farm that puts nature first, producing high quality, animal welfare certified 100% grass / pasture fed beef and lamb. It is a SSSI and County Wildlife site.

On a sunny evening in July, Mark showed us around the beautiful landscape, explaining how they work to improve the land by working closely with nature and their animals whilst also actively encouraging the public to explore the area – there are numerous footpaths running through the farm.

The immediate area close to the farmhouse has remains of several medieval houses, including one with features of a Dartmoor longhouse. Some of these buildings were still in use up to 1880, one becoming a cider house serving thirsty miners from the nearby tin mines and it is probable that most inhabitants here combined farming with mining to make a living from the land.

Mark led us out onto the common where many of his 200 sheep and 30 cows (North Devons and Welsh Blacks), plus one bull graze on the environmentally sensitive land, including Rhôs pastures (enclosed species-rich purple moor-grass and rush). He explained the process of mob grazing where the animals are moved around to avoid over grazing in one area, reducing negative impacts of the herd on the land.

Clambering down through the bracken, we came upon one of the relics of tin mining in the shape of a leat, wheel pit and nearby buddles, very overgrown. Close by were other more recent remains, a rusting piece of farm machinery. Further research suggests this was an ancient mower.

Coming back closer to the farmhouse, we passed the pond with its natural filtration system (a habitat award in 2005), house martins darting overhead and dragonflies skimming the surface. Alongside the pond is a 13th century tinnerns mouldstone.

We entered one of the several hay meadows which are open to the public for a couple of weeks during the summer. We were too late to catch the main displays of the wildflowers including various orchids that dwelt amongst the grasses and hay rattle, while Mark explained the process of the traditional hedge laying techniques carried out in these fields.

On our way back we passed by the Rhôs pastures alongside “mile straight.” Orchids and bog asphodel abound here, where on a good day can be seen the beautiful marsh fritillary butterflies. Over the bridge back to the carpark, we said hello to the troll! Several members then took advantage of taking home some of the farm’s organic meat.

Thanks to Mark for an interesting tour – their farm and the way it is managed is a shining example of how farming and wildlife can co-exist successfully.

Calling all schools in the Parish!

Burrator Beacon would love to hear from you. If you’d like your pupils to write a short article about what they and the school have been doing, then please do get in touch with the editor. Details of how to do this are on the back page of the magazine. Any drawings or photos to accompany their writing will be most welcome. Perhaps this could be a Literacy writing exercise, a School Council newsletter, or any other cross-curricular theme?



Dartmoor Border Morris

Mark Tregaskis

As I write this piece, Meavy based Dartmoor Border Morris are about to attend their 3rd Apple Day in as many weekends, and thoughts are now turning to the winter and Wassailing. Contrary to belief, during the winter, Morris dancers do not hang up their bells and sit in front of a log fire all winter but meet regularly in a Meavy village hall and practise. Unlike the apple trees in the orchard which have had their harvest and are allowed to go to sleep after a long summer, the Morris side is busy honing their skills and training new members how to Morris dance and play the tunes.

Then, just as the trees are sleeping in the depth of winter, the Morris sides come along and wake them up with lots of noisy children clad in wellies and making a racket to scare the evil spirits away and encourage the growth of a new crop. Dartmoor Border Morris have three Wassails to attend this year starting with the Cornwood Wassail on Sunday 1st January (New Year’s Day) from 3 pm starting

with a bit of Morris dancing outside the Cornwood Inn, then a short walk up to the Millennium orchard for a Wassail. Wellies are a must, along with children of all ages. The following Sunday 8th January from 12 pm, Dartmoor Border Morris will be at the Buckland Abbey performing their traditional Mummers play in the Great Barn and Wassail in the Great Orchard.

What is a 'Mummer play'? It's lost in the mists of time, but the term basically means 'People in disguise'. During the Middle Ages when no one could read and Mass was spoken in Latin, small groups of people would put on a play to help illustrate a point. They would dress up so as not to be recognised and put on a play to earn money in the winter when work was hard to come by. Traditionally these plays would be about how good overcomes evil, and in our case, as we are performing in Sir Francis Drake's former home, we show how Drake overcomes the evil King Philip of Spain, with the help of a Quack, the winter queen and a Morris beast called Chatterley.

What is a Wassail? I hear you ask; 'Wassail' is an old English word for 'your health', which was said when passing around a ceremonial drinking bowl, with the reply 'drink hail'. From this tradition developed the Wassailing of the orchard, to wish the trees health and abundant crops in the forthcoming year. Cider is poured on the roots and toast is tied to the branches to 'feed' the tree. Musicians play while everyone sings the Wassailing song. The crowd then makes as much noise as possible to frighten any bad spirits.

As you can imagine these events are very family friendly and we encourage everyone to come wrapped up, with a pair of wellies, a horn or even better, mums favourite cooking pot, a wooden spoon and have some great fun waking up the apple trees!

Our last Wassail is in Bere Ferrers church hall on Saturday 21st January, starting around 6pm. A small entry fee is involved but this charity event also includes more Morris dancing, poetry music from other groups and a pasty supper.

Meavy based Dartmoor Border Morris will also be at the Bere Alston Christmas Fair on Saturday 3rd December from 6 pm, the Dolphin Hotel in Plymouth on 10th December from 1 pm, and at the Royal Oak Inn on Boxing Day from 12.

You can join them on any given Wednesday night in Meavy Parish hall where they would be pleased to see any new dancers or musicians. Check out any changes www.dartmoorbordermorris.com or like our Facebook page.



December/January at The Garden House 2022-23

John Richmond

Christmas is coming to The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum, with our Christmas Fair on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th December. Local artists and makers will be selling a unique selection of Christmas gifts and we have a specialist plant nursery, South Hams Nursery, who are also here for the two days. The café will be open serving take-away tea, coffee and delicious cakes. Normal garden admission applies (free for members) with lots of early winter interest in the gardens making for a great day out!

We're renowned for our snowdrop collection and the range and variety in flower builds through December and into January in readiness for the first day of the Snowdrop Festival on Friday, January 13th. Spread throughout the 10 acres of garden, the 350 plus species and varieties are a welcome adornment to the winter landscape. Details of the festival, specialist talks and snowdrop nursery visits and a full schedule of events and workshops (spanning December and January) can be found on our website: www.thegardenhouse.org.uk/whats-on

The bones of the garden are revealed in the winter months with most of the autumn leaves having fallen with most perennials having retreated below ground. However, the evergreen foliage of camellias, rhododendrons continue to furnish the garden amongst the permanent structures of benches, standing stones and pergolas. Some are even flowering at this time. By the house, yellow flowered Mahonia 'Lionel Fortescue', bred here, and Daphne bholua 'Garden House Enchantress' welcomes visitors with scent that can travel as far as the car park on warmer days. Venture further into the walled garden and the winter flowering Clematis urophylla is draped over the walled garden tower. Add to this bright winter bark from the dogwood shrubs, many birches and acers, and winter doesn't seem quite as bleak, with colour always winning through.

Our winter openings are Friday to Sunday, 10:30am to 3:30pm. We close for Christmas on 18th December and re-open on Friday 13th January for the start of our Snowdrop Festival. We look forward to seeing you.



Daphne Bholua



Garden House Snowdrops



Chionochloa Rubra



Cornus Sibirica Amy's Winter Orange



Mahonia x media Lionel Fortescue



As 2022 winds down, we at the Rotary Club of Yelverton look back on a year filled with fun, fellowship and service and would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement during the year. By the time you read this, we will have held our fundraising Barn Dance scheduled for 12 November at the Yelverton War Memorial Hall. We hope that many of you found the time to attend and enjoyed the evening.

The Friendship Café continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month in the hall at Briar Tor where music and other fun quizzes relating to yesteryear are a regular feature.

This December, we will again be assisting Santa to visit the villages in his sleigh. Please make a note of the dates below to make sure you and especially your children don't miss this festive fundraiser.

All Santa's village visits will take place in the evening between 18.00 and 20.00

Horrabridge: Monday 12 December

Crapstone & Buckland Monachorum: Tuesday 13 December

Princetown: Thursday 15 December.

In addition, there will be 3 other collections:

Yelverton Shopping Centre: Saturday 17 December

Tesco Roborough: Tuesday 20 December

Tesco Tavistock: Wednesday 21 December.



We hope you will support these by giving what you are able. All funds raised will go towards Rotary charities and community projects.

Should you wish to find out more about Rotary Yelverton and our activities or are perhaps considering joining us please contact us via: president@yelverton.rotary1175.org or see our website www.yelverton.rotary1175.org or Facebook page [Rotary Club of Yelverton District 1175](#). We will be delighted to arrange for you to attend one of our dinners in order for you to meet our members.

All at Rotary Yelverton wish you a wonderful festive season and a Happy New Year.



Space Available for advertising

If you would like to advertise your business in the Burrator Beacon, we are happy to help you with this.

See page 27 for details and prices.

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can advertise your activities here free of charge.

(Priority is given to those in the Burrator Parish)

Contact the Editor - details on page 28

J. A. Francis

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“

“I have a huge regret that I didn't call Anne earlier. We didn't know what was possible with the right advocacy. We thought all we needed was an LPA. An earlier call would have saved Mum and Dad two months of separation and I truly think Dad would not have deteriorated so much, so fast, had he been discharged home with 1:1 care sooner.”

”

CONTACT US

01822 610303

info@paladinadvocates.com

www.paladinadvocates.com

12 Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8AY



Parish Council Meetings

Full Council Meetings are usually held at 7:30pm on the last Thursday of the month (but not always!). For the dates of the next few meetings, please visit the Parish website: www.burrator.gov.uk 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.

How to advertise in the Burrator Beacon

The Beacon is published quarterly at the end of February, May, August and November and delivered to all homes in Burrator Parish which covers Walkhampton, Dousland, Meavy, Sheepstor, Hoo Meavy and Lovaton. Business are able to advertise in the Beacon at the following rates:

	Single Issue	Four issues	Sizes in mm (approx.) when printed*	Size of advert to be submitted (mm)
1/6 page	£12.00	£30.00	30 × 130	42 × 180
1/3 page	£20.00	£60.00	60 × 130	85 × 180
half page	£30.00	£90.00	90 × 130	130 × 180
full page	£48.00	£144.00	180 × 130	260 × 180

*The Beacon is printed A5 size i.e. 210mm high by 148mm wide. However, adverts should be submitted A4 size. All prices are subject to VAT. Invoices will be raised by the Parish Clerk upon receipt of your booking and will be payable upon receipt. Adverts should be submitted to the Editor (details on the back page) electronically, i.e. as an attached Word document.



BURRATOR GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL**List of Members and Telephone Numbers (Area Code 01822)****Meavy Dousland**

Darren Balkwill 07884 418997
 Mark Brunson 01822 853117
 Richard Radmore
 Debbie Crewe

Meavy Village

Brian Wills 853901
 Richard Ayres
 Heather Stribley 855348

Sheepstor

Keith Scrivener 07548 954960
1 vacancy

Walkhampton Village

Graham Palmer 852524
 Andrew Paskins 853377
 Richard Glanville 855914

Walkhampton Dousland

Frederick Glanville 07876 610177
 Sarah Milne 854814
 Helen France 07500 004523
1 vacancy

Clerk to Council:

Mrs Katharine Griffiths
 01822 852907
 5 Hillside Close
 Buckland Monachorum
 Yelverton
 Devon PL20 7EQ
 Email: theclerk@burrator.gov.uk

Published and issued quarterly, free of charge by Burrator Parish Council. The next edition will be published end of November. **Copy deadline Tuesday February 7th, 2023.** Copy to be sent to the Editor, Mrs Karen Batson, 10 Blackbrook Close, Walkhampton PL20 6JF Tel 855030 email: burratorbeacon@gmail.com as a **Word attachment**.

If you require this publication in large text please contact the editor: Karen Batson on 855030

Burrator Parish Council is a body which complies with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Contact the Clerk, Mrs Katharine Griffiths, 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. **A note to advertisers:** Please check your adverts as they appear in each issue. Every effort is made to include the correct information at the time of going to press, but omissions can result where adverts are sometimes moved around in order to fit new articles in.

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.

