

Burrator Beacon



Autumn 2023



Cover photo by Damian Stacey

Editorial – Alice Neal

As this is my first edition, I feel I should introduce myself properly. My name is Alice and I have taken over as editor of the Burrator Beacon. I am a true local girl; born, raised, and educated in Walkhampton. I still live in the village, along with my fiancé Peter, and our lurcher, Figgy. I grew up delivering the Beacon with my grandfather. He used to wait in the car as I posted them through letterboxes. Here I am as editor twenty years later! I hope to continue the wonderful work of our previous editor, Karen, who has been an invaluable resource for me and others in the community. I also hope to bring my own love of art and literature to these pages in the future.

The winter issue of the Burrator Beacon will be published at the end of November. Deadline for copy will be Tuesday 2nd November, at the latest. That issue will cover the months up until the end of 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. Please send all submissions as Word attachments, as this makes the cut and pasting process much simpler!

Parish Clerk's Report - Katherine Griffiths

The elections took place for the Burrator Ward and we welcome Cllr Chris West and Cllr Nick Viney. Chris recently attended a full council meeting, it was a good opportunity to catch up with what is happening at West Devon and raise any local issues. We look forward to seeing Cllr Viney soon.

There are still a number of vacancies for Parish Council Councillors, if you have an interest in your local community and would like to get involved, please contact the clerk, clerk@burrator.gov.uk.

The phone box at Sheepstor has had a repaint and is looking great, many thanks to Andy who travels around the country doing them up.



Village Halls

Please support our local village halls by booking them for your meetings, parties and other activities. All the halls have disabled access, and vary in size and facilities, so one of them will suit your requirements. These halls are run by willing volunteers who work hard to keep them in good condition and provide 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.



MEAVY GARDEN SOCIETY



‡ Monday 18th September 2023

"Back to the Fuschia"

Mike Follett

‡ Monday 16th October 2023

Devon's Orchards: How Devon Took to Cider

Michael Gee

‡ Monday 20th November 2023

The Galapagos: wildlife, birds, and Darwin – a week amongst the special flora and fauna

Ian Gasper

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 854595

Visit www.meavy.org.uk/mgs



Capture that special moment at the lakes for the chance to win!

This summer, visitors to the lakes of the South West are invited to enter their scenic snapshots into the ‘Love Your Lakes’ photo and video competition.

Open to visitors of all ages and abilities until Tuesday 31 October, the competition is the perfect opportunity to capture the beautiful landscapes, resident wildlife and exhilarating activities at South West Lakes’ locations across the region. Free to enter, visitors can submit their photos and videos into a choice of four categories: Wonderful Wildlife, Stunning Scenery, Awesome Adventures and It’s Your Outdoors.

Exciting prizes are up for grabs, including £250 for the overall winner, £100 for category winners and a range of runner-up prizes. Winning entries will be displayed in a special exhibition at Roadford Lake at the end of the year and featured in the charity’s 2024 calendar.

Neil Reeves, Director of South West Lakes, said, “I’m really looking forward to seeing the amazing images I know our visitors will create this year: beautiful scenery and views, families’ adventures on the water, archery and high ropes, nature walks and wildlife, which are often captured in special, fleeting moments. No matter your age, ability, or equipment (no drones please!), we’re excited to see all your entries – good luck!”

To find out how to enter, visit <https://www.swlakestrust.org.uk/>



South West Lakes Trust - Managing Scheduled Archaeological Monuments at Burrator



At Burrator Reservoir, volunteers have been managing the vegetation on the many Scheduled Archaeological Monuments across the site. It is important to keep Scheduled Monuments in a good condition so that the remains survive for future generations to witness.

Bracken is a large, coarse fern that is essential for many invertebrate's and bird's life cycles. It can also be extremely invasive, outcompeting other plants for light and nutrients, and can break up archaeological sites through strong root systems called rhizomes. Annually cutting, rolling or bashing bracken in the growing season can help to stunt the plant by reducing the amount of energy it can make, eventually causing the rhizomes to die back underground. Opening up areas free of bracken also allows wildflowers to recolonise, creating more botanical diversity which is beneficial for all wildlife.

If you would like to get involved with the conservation of Burrator and its archaeology, please contact:

tburton@swlakestrust.org.uk



Burrator Leaky Dams



Volunteers and contractors have been busy being beavers and creating leaky dams around the Burrator Reservoir catchment area.

Leaky dams act as permeable blockades that slow water flow and re-wet an area. This is great for wildlife by creating upland wetland habitats, and also for retaining water on the moorland allowing for more reliable water security in to the future.



The re-wetting of peatland areas also ensures that carbon stays locked in the ground contributing to reduce the negative effects of climate change.



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.

New Tenancy Available at The Royal Oak on Dartmoor



Situated at the centre of one of the most beautiful and ancient Dartmoor villages, facing an idyllic village green, the Royal Oak Inn exudes hundreds of years of history and success as a public house.

The Inn is a former Church House dating back to the 12th Century and was originally kept by the Church Wardens of nearby St Peter's. Ale was once brewed at the old Parsonage next door and the Inn has been the heart of village life and festivity for centuries.

Rebuilt in the 16th Century with extensions and alterations, the building boasts character and antiquity with many features today still giving evidence to its proud heritage as a Grade II Listed Building

The Royal Oak is a particularly attractive country inn, taking its name from the 800 year old oak on the green opposite, in a moorland setting and a classic drive/cycle to destination and village local. It has been a successful venue for many years and there now exists the opportunity for a new tenant to take the reins. The customer base is varied from walkers to families, those using the active village hall, the annual Meavy Oak Fair and the many other events held within the greater parish.



Owned by Burrator Parish, who are looking for applicants to submit their business plan and indicate how they will maintain its traditional character as a typical Dartmoor non-tied public house and preserve its value as a local amenity for the inhabitants of Meavy and surrounding community.

Vickery Holman are agents handling the process and are inviting all proposals by the end of September. Mike Easton, who heads up the hotels and hospitality team comments ‘The Royal Oak is an attractive property situated overlooking the village green with lots of charm and appeal.

A new tenancy is available from November creating an excellent opportunity to operate a non-tied traditional Dartmoor inn with live in accommodation in a manner which serves both the local community and visitors to the area.

We have undertaken similar processes this year and there is still an activity in the public house and restaurant sector, with good levels of demand for the right sites. We feel that the Royal Oak will appeal to those with experience in the food and drink sector, who recognise the idyllic setting, strong local community and travelling trade from Tavistock, Yelverton and Plymouth.’

Interested parties are invited to contact the agents in the first instant.



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?



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Featured creature

The Beacon will be featuring a different pet or animal in every edition. For a chance to see your furry friend in these pages email a photo of your pet along with their likes and dislikes to burratorbeacon@gmail.com.

This edition's featured creature is...



The editor's very own pup, Fig! Fig is one year old lurcher who loves to play. She likes anything fish flavoured, and her favourite activity is howling at strangers in the pub. She dislikes the rain and the broom.



Pictured here at ten weeks old, Fig is a collie, poodle, bedlington, and whippet cross.

She is a very clever girl who loves to perform tricks for everyone. She's very friendly with both people and dogs, especially if there's treats involved!

Despite her vocal performances in the pub, Fig is very quiet and well behaved at home. She can most often be found sleeping in her favourite armchair with her crocodile toy as a pillow.



ROTARY CLUB OF YELVERTON

2023 MID SUMMER UPDATE



Our car boot sale on the 4th June at the Yelverton War Memorial Hall on a beautiful sunny morning raised £647 for our charitable funds. The breakfast rolls and refreshments proved to be extremely popular.

On Saturday 24th June, at Meavy Oak Fair, another lovely summer day which boosted attendance, we assisted with selling raffle tickets, and running various games.

We had the pleasure of an evening visit to the Yelverton Mare & Foal Sanctuary and were given a tour of their new buildings and a detailed introduction of the splendid work they are accomplishing there. Club members were impressed by the knowledge of the carers and to see such a peaceful sanctuary. They also learnt about the Equine Welfare intervention work that takes place together with the expert understanding of educational advice they can give in the physical, psychological, and social needs of horses and ponies.

Our speaker at a recent club meeting was Nicola Gurr who gave a remarkably interesting talk on the history of the Tavistock work houses, which members all found incredibly informative and very moving at times.

On the 5th July we had an evening of croquet at the Plymouth Croquet Club, playing with teams from the Rotary clubs of Tavistock, Callington and Roborough. A great evening of fun with pasties and refreshments in the sunshine afterwards.

On Wednesday 2nd August we held our annual Fun Day, on the moors/airfield opposite the Yelverton Play Park. There was a range of Sports, Crafts, Music, and Public Service information to appeal to children from Key Stage 1 & 2, younger siblings, parents/carers.

Our club presidency changes at this time of the year and our new President for the year 2023/24, taking over from past president Terry Donnelly, is Gillian Turley-Rogers who lives in Yelverton with her husband Berwyn. In her acceptance speech she mentioned “the privilege of being part of a talented team



involved in many events, social fund raising and collections being especially important to us. Thanks to the generosity of local people, we have raised a huge amount of money for those in need both at home and internationally and is looking forward to her year as president of the club.”

On the 4th of July we presented a cheque for £500 to the Walkhampton Memorial Hall committee towards their fund for the upgrading and replacement of Children’s play equipment for Parish use.

Should you wish to find out more about Yelverton Rotary and our activities or perhaps considering joining please contact us via:

president@yelverton.rotary1175.org

Or see our website www.yelverton.rotary1175.org



Wacky Racers



A friendly, fun, and free running group!

We start together and finish together, no one is left behind.
Come and join us!

Average distance approx. 4 to 5 miles

6:30 pm every Thursday outside the Walkhampton Inn

Contact Helen on 07500004523 for more information.

Featured artist

This edition's featured artist is the wonderfully talented Karen Morgan!



Hi, my name is Karen. I moved from Chichester to Dartmoor with my husband Kelvin six years ago.

It's the best decision we ever made and have not looked back since! This also enabled Kelvin to semi retire and for me to go part time as a care manager.

I always knew I would take up some kind of creative hobby but wasn't sure which one.

I previously dabbled in sketching, painting, and jewellery making but nothing ever really 'grabbed me'.

I attempted mosaics about 35 years ago (no internet or YouTube tutorials to 'show you how' in those days). I got myself a bit of mdf, some tile adhesive, and broken crockery then drew up a design. I was sticking randomly and grouting poorly, the result was pretty messy and ultimately didn't last, it fell to bits within a year. Even though it was a disaster, I remember being absorbed, calm, and focussed, clearing my mind of everything else other than being creative.

Living in the beauty of Dartmoor inspired that feeling in me again, so I decided to reattempt mosaic. I had a weeks A/L so decided to spend it making my first ever 'proper mosaic'. After sourcing and ordering products, as well as looking at 'how to' videos on YouTube, I was away! I squirrelled myself in the garden shed and started on my journey.



40+ hours later I created my 'moon gazing hare' (pictured on previous page). Kelvin made a frame for it and hung it in the garden and it's still looking perfect three years later! I was so proud of myself, I'd finally got it right but more importantly, the positive sense of well-being it gave me was

overwhelming.

Since then, on & off - when I want a gift for someone or need a boost in life I make a mosaic! I've also had a few commissions, with more to come. I currently have three in the making and three on order, I'm loving every minute of it!

So my message is;

Have a go, never give up!

Try something new - you never know what it could bring!

If it makes you happy - do it, because ultimately it will make others happy too.



Dartmoor Border Morris

Dartmoor Border Morris are looking to recruit new musicians to help provide music for the Morris dancers to dance to. Over the years, our dance membership has swelled from around 10 regular dancers, through to some 25 that we have now, but the size of our band has grown more slowly, with currently only 7 members who also have family & work commitments to contend with.

So, two open workshops have been arranged in the bar of the Royal Oak Inn for Sunday 17th September & also Sunday 15th October from 8 pm for anyone curious about joining a Morris Music Band. Or you could just turn up in Meavy Parish Hall on any Wednesday night after 17th September from 8pm & say “hello”!

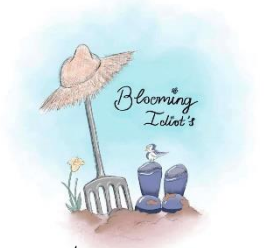
What is involved in being a Morris Musician? Well, Morris dancing is an ancient form of folk dance, and no one really knows how it started. One of the oldest English depictions of Morris dancers can be found in Altarnun church, Cornwall, and date to around 1530. Morris dancers can only dance to live music. Dancing to a CD, especially in a pub car park, just doesn't work, it must be live, organic music! So, what sort of musicians are we looking for? Well preferably if you can play a musical instrument, you're in! We appreciate not everyone can be a grade 8 on the violin, but if you can comfortably play tunes, have a grasp of how to read music (or play by ear), & more importantly, you can carry your instrument, you're in! We are looking for anyone, so if you can play the drums, any form of stringed instruments, squeeze boxes, brass, or silver, big or small, anyone of any age with a musical talent can join in and will be made most welcome! Even spoon players!



So, what does a Morris musician do? What benefits are there? You will get to play in a band that regularly meets & plays, especially during the summer season. We meet other Morris sides, so playing as part of a large band is always a great feeling, better than playing at home by yourself. It's a great social life. Normally on a Wednesday evening, we attend a dance practice (where the dancers learn new dances) then we retire to the Royal Oak Inn for a pint & play a few tunes. Morris dancing is usually done at pubs across Dartmoor, & often in Plymouth, but we also visit loads of summer fairs and festivals. Then there's Apple days, Wassails, Mummings plays, events like the Royal Cornwall

show and Widecombe fair. Dartmoor Border Morris are very charity minded and although this year we are collecting for BASICS DEVON, (which is a charity to help doctors who volunteer to help with emergency paramedics) we also organise and run the Pudsey Day of Morris in Tavistock on Saturday 18th November. Over 200 Morris performers will arrive in Tavistock & Morris their way through the day whilst Pudsey bear will be in town collecting for the BBC Children in Need appeal. When we perform in front of an audience, we wear a tattered jacket depicting the radiant colours of Dartmoor, with its blue sky, green moorlands, purple heather and yellow gorse, black trousers, black boots, or shoes and a hat festooned with feathers. Also, a blue t shirt emblazoned with our logo & our sponsor's logo, that being the Black Farmer Company. Yes, we were in a TV commercial not long ago! Border Morris dancing is done with sticks, not hankies & is very loud, brash & energetic. If you are at all interested in joining Dartmoor Border Morris as a musician, just pop along to the Royal Oak on Sunday 15th October at 8pm, or just walk into Meavy Parish hall on any Wednesday night & say hello. If you would like to book the plucky Morris side from Dartmoor, contact them through www.dartmoorbordermorris.com or like their Facebook page.



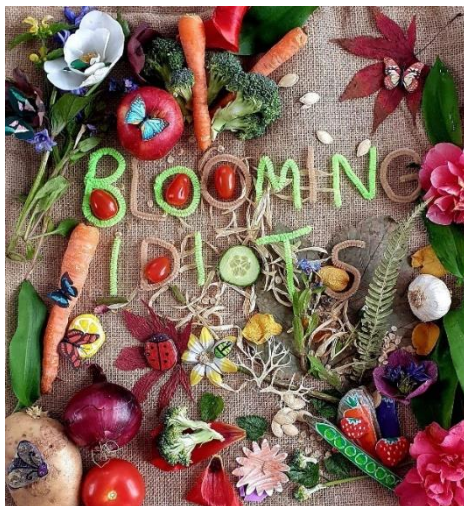


Blooming Idiots bulletin

As you may have noticed, the Walkhampton village hall has become home to ten allotments tended by the Blooming Idiots. We are a multigenerational community of like-minded people who relish the opportunity to grow and share home grown vegetables.



Founded by myself, Helen France, the allotments have provided a sense of purpose and fun to my busy life. I first came up with the idea while volunteering at the Walkhampton Saturday market, where I noticed that the hall's field was not being used to its full potential. As a born and bred Wacky local, I wanted to make a change. My greatest dream is to provide free produce to the entire village, but we are only just getting started.



Allotments allow you to lose yourself, it's magic. Everyone's life is busy, and allotments require a lot of consistent attention, but the pleasure they bring outweighs the challenges.

Having an allotment also promotes mental wellbeing. One of our members, Damian, has found that he 'loses himself' in his allotment, which has brought great comfort after losing his father earlier this year.



We are less than a year old, but we came off the starting blocks running. The produce is blooming and so are the idiots! Damian has focused most of his energy on beans this year. He is also very excited about his mmooli radishes, which are flourishing. I am focused on cabbages, as well as chard and kale. Chard is a favorite of my mother, who turns ninety this year. I love sharing my produce with family, friends, and my daughters' friends. Growing and harvesting crops brings back memories of my grandparent's veg patch at Huckworthy bridge and Horseyeatt Farm.

In following editions of the beacon, we will be updating you on what we have growing and any other adventures we may have. We are also trying to raise funds for a shed so welcome any sponsorships from local businesses.

Get growing! – The Blooming Idiots



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Moor's Edge u3a June 23 News Report



Pictured: Our Ukulele group practicing at the Woolwell Centre.

Are you retired or semi-retired? Do you now have spare time and wonder how to fill it? Would you like to meet new people and do new things? If you have answered yes, why not join a u3a? We meet at the Woolwell Centre at 2.30pm on the second Friday of the month. Please note, in August we do not meet, it's our summer break.

You can attend 2 general meetings before you join, however once you are a member, we have many interest groups you could consider participating in.

In June our speaker was Diana Lawer who told us about the life and work of Mabel Lucia Atwell, a British illustrator and comics artist. An interesting talk and Diana brought along albums she had as a child. In July we have a fireman coming from Plympton Fire station giving us a talk on 'Home Fire Safety'.

Our Coffee cake and chat group went to Mila's in Old Town Street Plymouth and enjoyed some delicious cakes. Each month they try a new location. The Quiz group entered a quiz at the Crownhill Royal British Legion coming 3rd out of 5 teams and have decided they will go back again in July.

In June the Short Walk group went to Radford Park and in July we went to Plymbridge to get a sight of a Peregrine Falcon or Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

For anyone with energy to spare once a month there is Country Dancing; we are fortunate to have our own caller who plays the accordion. At a more leisurely pace our Tai Chi group meet once a fortnight.

Play reading this month was held in a members garden, they read Miss Letitia by Constant Cox set in the early 1900's. They saw how attitudes and lifestyles

have changed and laughed as the 69 year old 'lady of the house' was described as elderly!

Other interest groups include 2 Scrabble groups, Bridge, Canasta and Darts for those who enjoy games. Wine tasting and Weekenders; where the group eat out at different places; is for those who enjoy food and the opportunity to sample wines they might not have tried before.

If you are musical, we have a thriving Ukulele group who are learning to play.

This is just a snapshot of our u3a. You can see news of future events on our web page <https://u3asites.org.uk/moorsedge/events>. Click on the Groups page to see the range of interest groups we currently have running. On our Facebook page you can see additional photographs and write ups of what we have been doing.

Join us and you can make friends. Fill your days and enjoy your time in retirement, you will wonder how you ever found time to go to work! We look forward to welcoming new members at our monthly meetings and have a greeter on hand to meet you.

Diary dates: -

August - No meeting our summer break

Sept 8th - Simon Dell whose talk is 'Murders Devon'.

Oct 13th - David Follett from Devon Air Ambulance.





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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

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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

Mark Brunson 853117

Richard Radmore 854388

2 vacancies

Walkhampton Village

Frederick Glanville 07876 610177

Andrew Paskins 853377

Richard Glanville 855914

Meavy Village

Brian Wills 853901

Heather Stribley 855348

1 vacancy

Walkhampton Dousland

Sarah Milne 854814

Helen France 07500 004523

2 vacancies

Sheepstor

Keith Scrivener 07548 954960

Graham Palmer 852524

Clerk to Council:

Mrs Katharine Griffiths
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 November 2nd, 2023.** Copy to be sent to the Editor, Alice Neal, Tel: 07778 088803 email: burratorbeacon@gmail.com as a Word attachment.

If you require this publication in large text please contact the editor.

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.