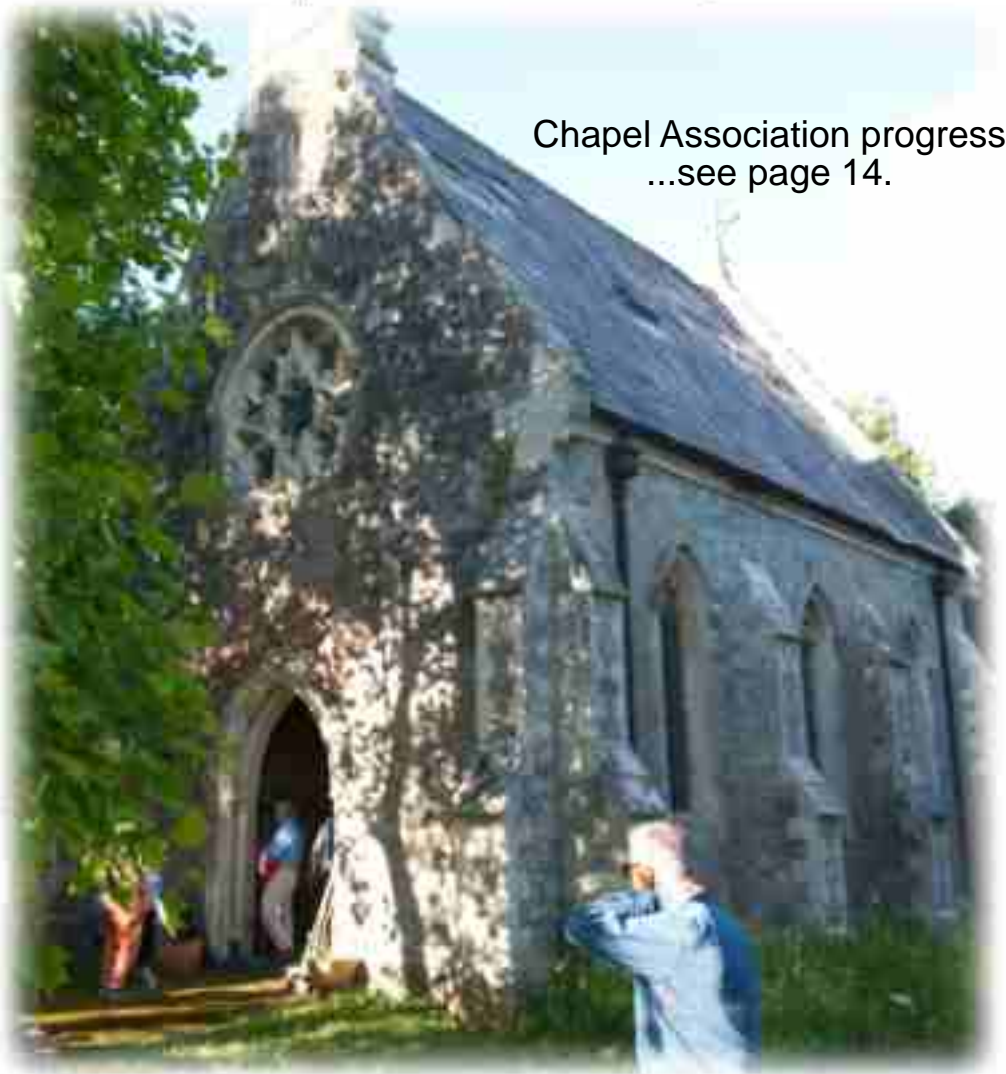


Beer Parish News

May 2026

Chapel Association progress
...see page 14.



St Michael's... ..*and* Village

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ST MICHAEL'S ...

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Altar Guild: Mrs P. Bewick 21954

Mrs Y. Hawker 22191

Choir: Dr G. Butler (Practice Tuesday 5-6pm) 21375

Organist: Dr G. Butler 21375

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Pastoral Team: Mrs G. Chapple (sec) 07794 838219

Mrs Y. Hawker, Mrs P. Bewick,

Mrs E. Singleton,

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In an emergency, parishioners should contact the Churchwarden (see above for phone number).

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www.coastalchurch.org.uk



St MICHAEL'S CHURCH

[St Michael's Church, Beer](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelChurchBeer)

www.coastalchurch.org.uk

Calendar for MAY 2026

Fri 1st May	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sun 3rd	9:30am Family Communion	5 th Sunday of Easter
Tues 5th	11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THORNFIELD 3:15pm C.A.B. meeting 5:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 6th	10:00am Ref ective Prayer 11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at CHECK HOUSE 3:30pm Play Reading group	
Thurs 9th	10am~12 noon Easter Crafts for all at St Greg's Centre, SEATON	
Fri 8th	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sun 10th	10:00am Rogation Service commencing at St Michael's Church & processing to beach 6:30pm Evensong at SEATON	
Tues 12th	5:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 13th	NO Open the Book (SATS) 10:00am Holy Communion at BEER 12:30pm Worship Team meeting 1:00pm PCC Meeting	
Thurs 14th	7:30am Ascension Day service on Top Clif <i>(by RNLI Hut) with tea/coffee & bacon butties!</i>	
Fri 15th	10:00am Mickey's Music makers followed by 11:30am Mickey's Planning Meeting	
Sat 16th	2:45~3:45pm Visiting Bell Ringers	
Sun 17th	9:30am Morning Praise 10:00am Beer Blazer at Beer School	7 th Sunday of Easter
Tues 19th	3:15pm C.A.B. Meeting 5:00pm Choir Practice	
Fri 22nd	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sun 24th	9:30am Family Communion 10:45am Annual Vestry Meeting & APCM	Pentecost
Mon 25th	7:00pm for 7:30pm start QUIZ NIGHT <i>ALL welcome BYO drink & nibbles</i>	
Tues 26th	5:00pm Choir Practice	
Fri 29th	NO Mickey's Music Makers (half term)	
Sun 30th	9:30am United Communion at BEER	Trinity Sunday

Sunday services in Beer are often on Facebook. If you can't come to church, you can watch and hear them there, either live or later at a time convenient to you!

From Justin Rev's Ramblings

Easter may feel like it's already fading into the background, the chocolate eaten, the flowers wilting, the routines of life returning and summer approaching. And yet, in the Church calendar we are still very much in the Easter season. We are still being invited to reflect on what it means that Jesus is risen. In a world where we're encouraged to airbrush, filter, and present the best version of ourselves, scars can feel like something to hide. They remind us of pain, of vulnerability, of things we might rather forget. And yet, one of the most remarkable details of that first Easter is when Jesus rose from the dead, his scars remained.



A week after Easter Sunday the Church remembers the moment when the disciple Thomas met the risen Jesus. This Thomas became known as "*doubting Thomas*" in some circles, somewhat unfair in my opinion (but that's for another reflection). He's the one who said he wouldn't believe unless he could see and even touch the scars of Jesus.

And when Jesus appears, he doesn't hide his scars. He shows them and even invites Thomas to touch them.

After hearing this encounter in church once again, it got me thinking about scars, Jesus's, my own and others too.

I have a few. On my back, there's a scar where an electronic device was fitted, with wires leading into a nerve in my spine. On my arm, a reminder of an accident, surgery and metalwork. On my face, a childhood fall into a rose bush. And of course, a scar on my abdomen from the day I was born. Each one tells a story, some were painful, some frightening, some life-changing, but all of them, in one way or another, speak of healing. The wound didn't have the final word.

But not all scars are visible. If we're honest, many of the deepest ones are hidden, those of the heart and mind, I know from experience. Scars from things said to us or about us, scars from broken relationships, from grief, disappointment or failure. Scars from things we've done and wish we could undo. I wonder...what scars do you carry?

We live in a world that prefers to hide them. We filter, photoshop, edit and attempt to present the best version of ourselves and learn to cover over the marks of pain. And yet...in the Easter story the risen Jesus does the opposite. He could have appeared without marks from the nails of the cross and the spear that pierced his side, but instead the scars remained. And more than that, he offered them to Thomas as the very proof of his risen identity.

"Put your finger here," Jesus says. "See my hands."

The scars are not signs of defeat. They are signs of victory. Of suffering that has been transformed. Of death that did not win. Scars of hope. I personally find that deeply comforting. I believe God is not distant from our wounds, not untouched by suffering and our scars matter to him seen and unseen. In Jesus, God has entered fully into the reality of human life, with all its wounds and heartbreak. And even in resurrection, those wounds are not erased, but redeemed.

I believe this gives us a different way of looking at our own scars. What if they are not simply things to hide or be ashamed of? What if they are part of our story, places where, somehow, healing has begun? That doesn't make the pain trivial. Some wounds cut very deeply. Some scars still ache. But the Christian hope is that nothing is beyond God's reach, no wound too deep, no story too broken and no life beyond restoration.

I was struck, a few years ago, by the late Dame Deborah James who spoke so openly about her battle with cancer. She didn't hide her scars, physical or emotional, but shared them with honesty and courage, in her words, "*in the hope that I can give others hope.*" And she did. Her story reminds us that sometimes it's in our wounds that we find connection. That when we dare to be honest, we create space for others to do the same.

Perhaps that's part of what Thomas needed. Not a perfect, polished answer, without question but faith that had wrestled and found a real encounter. And perhaps that's what we need too?

So maybe this Easter season is an invitation not to hide our scars, but to bring them, gently and honestly, into the light. To recognise that they are part of who we are, to trust that they are not the end of the story.

As the risen Jesus still bears his scars. And that means that ours too can become signs. not just of what we've been through, but of healing, grace and new life. Scars of hope.

Grace and peace - *Revd Justin*

ANNA CHAPLAINCY MAY and early JUNE worship and events – If



you have a loved one or friend you visit in one of the Seaton care homes, please consider joining us for our monthly worship. You would be most welcome. Kindly check with the care home prior to your visit in case anything changes at the last minute.

Tuesday 5 May – THORNFIELD 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 6 May- CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

Monday 11 May – NETHERHAYES 10.45 a.m.

Tuesday 12 MAY- MEMORY CHURCH 2-4 p.m. Church centre St Gregory's SEATON – For older people who find it difficult to worship in our church buildings. Worship, afternoon tea and making new friends. Interested? Phone 01297 23656

Tuesday 19 May - LYME BAY VIEW 10.45 a.m

ANNA'S PLACE at St Michael's Church BEER. Please join us on Wednesday 20 MAY 2.00 p.m. Reflective café style worship with Holy Communion followed by refreshments, everyone welcome. A space for carers and those cared for at home.

Tuesday 26 May – THE SEATON 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 27 May – THE MANOR 11.00 a.m.

JUNE

Monday 1 June- THORNFIELD 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 3 June - CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

If you know someone living at home or a resident who would like a one-to-one visit in a care home, please contact either Mary or Sue on their mobile numbers. You will find Information leaflets about Anna Chaplaincy ministry displayed at St Gregory's and St Michael's churches. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Anna Chaplain Mary - 07805655335 Anna Chaplain Sue – 07802649155

The church office - CONTACT 01297 23656

All are welcome at the 2026 BEER BLAZER!

Sunday 17th May 10am – 12:30pm
at Beer Primary School's playing field and garden

Join us for a sausage sizzle, cakes and refreshments,
while cheering on the runners
to the finish line!



In aid of Beer Primary School's PTFA



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

No meeting held in April 2026

Soup for the Soul in the church during Holy week went well and it was lovely to have members of St Gregory's church come over to join us and thank you to everyone who supported this event.

St Michael's Easter fundraising April 4th Coffee morning and April 13th evening Quiz was a great success, very positive feedback from all those who attended and very enjoyable weekend which was very well supported. A big thank you to all involved and everyone who came and joined us, it was very much appreciated and the church as normal was beautifully decorated and we managed to raise £700 which was wonderful.

As always we thank our community for all their support, all are always very welcome to come and join the St. Michael's events and church services, it will be lovely to see you .

Date of next meeting: May 12th 2026 @10.00am All welcome!

This year seems to be progressing far too quickly. We are about to greet the merry month of May when we feel that summer is

definitely on the way. The recent sunny weather has encouraged people to look out their summer clothes, and risk “casting a clout” even though the night-time temperatures have stayed low.

The may blossoms have been out for some time, following on very quickly from the blackthorn flowers. Vegetable gardens are seeing seed sprouting, and autumn-sown broad beans are coming into flower. If you haven't mown your lawn yet it will probably be covered with daisies which are an excellent source of pollen for the various pollinators which are flying about. Please consider taking part in “no-mow May” again this year. The longer grass encourages more insects which in turn provide food for birds and bats.

As usual, we are asking cat owners to keep their pets indoors at dusk and dawn during May and June to help protect the baby bats, which are being born around now. They take some time to practice flying and are easy prey to the average cat. As a female bat only has one baby in any one year, the loss of little ones is significant, especially for those species which are struggling.

The Fine Foundation Centre is open every day and has been welcoming a stream of visitors. Several youngsters helped to find some beasties for the fish tanks on Good Friday. The fishermen have subsequently added some more occupants. One of the fish to arrive on Good Friday was a pipe fish, a relative of the seahorse. It hid in the gravel almost immediately, and we may not see it again! It is about 6 inches long, thin and black, with a small head which is shaped rather like that of a seahorse – so, keep your eyes peeled!

Beer Village Heritage will hold its annual meeting for members on Wednesday 20th May, in the Balcony Room of the Mariners' Hall at 1900. Look out for emails and posters for more information.

It is lovely to see the butterflies flying about. An orange-tip



was very busy today, visiting various blooms. A yellow brimstone made a brief visit to the garden. Folklore identifies these attractive butterflies as harbingers of a change in the weather.

The bluebells are giving us a wonderful show again this year. One of my favourite bluebell sites is the field edge just east of the Three Horseshoes' site on the A3052. The flowers on the top of the bank give a magical view of the woodlands in the distance – just a glimpse as one drives along. In the garden the lily of the valley has just come into flower as has the first of the tree peonies. Various poppies are in bud and we have been cutting the early roses. The last of the freesias and anemones are hanging on along with the tulips.

A recent walk in Seaton Wetlands was rewarded with the sight of dozens of sand-martins flying in and out of their specially built sand bank. These little birds have just returned from overwintering in Africa. March saw the last Branscombe Project talk of this season. Barbara introduced the latest book produced by the group, *The Burnt House at Weston*, which she wrote with John Torrance. Members of the group introduced some of the characters in the book and the Branscombe riot was re-enacted enthusiastically! The group is planning an autumn exhibition to celebrate 30 years of research into various aspects of the village.

Axe Valley Heritage Association's May talk is on Saturday 23rd when Claire Ross's talk is on *Pirates of the English Channel*. Sounds intriguing! Entry is by ticket from Paperchain in Marine Place.

Beer Village Heritage is a registered charity, and we rely on annual subscriptions and donations in order to run the Fine Foundation Centre and the Bomb Shelter. You'll find the Beer Village Heritage walks and I-Spy online via our website: <http://www.beervillageheritage.org.uk>. We apologise that some of the links on the site are still not working. Please let us know if you can help to sort out the problem.

If you would like to be involved with running the Fine Foundation Centre and our other activities, please talk to our Chairman, David Morling on 01297 625045.





Saturday 16th May the Lodge will have a table at The Mariners Hall with a display of historic jewels, background information on the Order, how to get involved and membership information.

There are regular quizzes held in Osbornes Wine Bar on Wednesday evenings throughout the year hosted by members of the lodge raising money for our sponsored charity of the year.

On 13th April the lodge presented a cheque for £4,000 to Jackie Thomson of 'Hospice at Home', the culmination of a years fundraising. Providing nurses to deliver in home care in Seaton, Beer and Colyton which over the last year spent £365,000.



Ye Rattenbury Lodge members presenting cheque for £4,000

The Lodge Charity Appeals for 2026/27 are both supporting Cancer



ANNA'S PLACE

Special 30 minute worship for Older People
Followed by Refreshments
Music and Memories,
Wednesdays from 2pm
at St Michael's, Beer:

**20th May
17th June**

All are welcome!
Dementia Supportive
Come, receive
God's Grace

Memory Church

For Older People and their Carers:
A Place to Meet, Relax & Worship together.

**12th May
9th June**

2nd Term of the month
2-4pm

St Gregory's Church Centre
Colyton Rd
Seaton EX22 3HU

**Dementia Supportive
Disabled Facilities**

Contact: Mary Casey
Anna Chaplaincy
to book your place



CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities

Rural estates have an essential part to play in alleviating the housing shortage facing Britain’s countryside. As the largest private landowner in Devon, *Clinton Devon Estates*, has long championed the development of thriving, sustainable communities, shaping its business philosophy over generations.

In the 1800s, Mark Rolle, predecessor of the current Lord Clinton, oversaw the construction of numerous farms and cottages. These buildings continue to define the character of East and North Devon today, and his legacy endures through the ongoing work of Clinton Devon Estates. The family, trustees, and executive team remain committed to demonstrating that landowners can play a constructive role in addressing the rural housing crisis. This approach not only benefits society but also honours environmental responsibilities. Sustainable communities, in their view, should respect local history and landscapes, whilst providing features suited to the evolving needs of residents. It is vital to ensure homes are located appropriately and cater to a wide range of ages, requirements, and incomes.

Clinton Devon Estates manages a portfolio of 230 residential properties, letting them to local people living and working in East and North Devon. In the coming weeks, the Estate will collaborate with tenants as the housing legislation adapts to the Renters Right Act 2025. This Act marks the most significant legislative reform since the 1980s, introducing updated legal arrangements that safeguard tenants whilst ensuring that properties are safe and comfortable.

Clinton Devon Estates takes pride in investing in its housing stock and responding promptly to tenants’ needs. The Estate is fortunate to partner with skilled and dedicated contractors who contribute to maintaining and improving homes across the Estate.

With the government’s commitment to build one million new homes over the next five years, rural landowners have a key opportunity to support responsible development. Clinton Devon Estates has participated in

consultations for the East Devon District Council Emerging Local Plan 2020-2042 and will soon submit planning applications for residential developments in its communities. Throughout the consultation, the Estate has engaged with town and parish councils to present proposals and learn about local requirements. In response to the Emerging Local Plan, some communities are revising their housing needs surveys and neighbourhood plans. This collaborative approach ensures that future developments deliver maximum benefit to residents.

Clinton Devon Estates remains dedicated to providing homes for local families, allowing them to stay in the villages where they grew up. The Estate also supports businesses, offering them opportunities to establish and thrive in rural communities. For further information about the Estate’s activities and available properties, please visit www.clintondevon.com



C
A
B



CHAPEL ASSOCIATION BEER

Situated by the sea on the Jurassic Coast
in the Old Cemetery, Clappa Lane, Beer, LAB LHE

~ *By, with, and for the Community*

Chapel Association Beer (CAB) – May Update

There has been encouraging progress in recent weeks as the Chapel Association Beer (CAB) continues to explore ways to care for and develop the chapel and its surroundings for the benefit of the whole community.

A comprehensive application has been submitted the Charity Commission for independent charity status for CAB. This is an area of ongoing patience as the process can, currently take some time. Behind the scenes, a great deal of thoughtful work, investigations, applications and planning is underway. The CAB group are incredibly grateful to have received a number of generous donations to the project from organisations and groups. More details to follow next month.

A recent meeting with a building consultant took place generating several helpful ideas around providing an ablutions block for the area. Early conversations are also beginning around drainage, planning requirements and the historical context of the site, ensuring that any thoughts about development respects both the heritage and practical needs of the chapel. As you can imagine this requires diligent care and practical considerations, as well as the right permissions.

There has also been discussion about the churchyard itself. Some initial visits from two arborists to assess the care and health of local trees, as well as reviewing overgrown areas. While this is not an immediate priority, it remains an important part of making the site safe, welcoming and accessible when the chapel is more regularly in use.

A particularly positive step forward is the plan to install electricity in the chapel. After visits from the National Grid, a quotation has been received to integrate power and this work is now being treated as a priority, subject to the necessary permissions. This will be a significant milestone, opening up many more possibilities for the use of the building in the immediate future.

Alongside these practical developments, CAB is excited to announce plans are also taking shape for a community event to open-up the chapel and grounds. A

Midsummer get-together with live music from local band Jurassic Crocks is planned for Sunday 21st June, offering a relaxed afternoon around and inside the chapel, with refreshments served. Watch this space for more details. This will be a wonderful opportunity to invite the village to see the progress that has been made so far.

Further fundraising ideas are being explored, including participation in village events and a local plant stall.

CAB remains deeply grateful for the interest, encouragement and support shown by so many in the community. While there is still much to do, the vision for the chapel as a cherished and active part of village life continues to grow and move forward.

CAB

From a visitor to St Michael's Church ...*Thank you Alan.*

*Good morning, I write to share
How in Beer, your church so
fair,*

*Blessed by sun and gentle
breeze,
Of red solace, quiet ease.*

*Through July's warmth, I
passed each day,
Admiring stone and light's
display.*

*Open doors, a welcome rare,
Silent pews, inviting prayer.*

*One troubled day, my heart was
worn,
I sought your church, feeling
forlorn.*

*In peaceful hush, the books and
fame,
A gentle calm within me came.*

*Though coins I lacked, I found
a way
To give thanks through your
reader's tray.*

*Your church became my
sanctuary,
A memory bright,
extraordinary.*

*Thank you for keeping doors
apart,
For visitors in need of heart.
Your kindness stays with me so
true,
From Kilbirnie, I send thanks to
you.*

Alan Hill



We had a lovely morning at Beer Sailing Club for our Coffee Morning on Wednesday 25th March. It was very well attended and tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cakes and cheese scones were available. Chairman Kate, Shop and Fundraising Volunteer Yvonne plus Jan from Beer Sailing Club

were in the kitchen plus I was on finance and RNLI Ted Bear received donations in his collection bucket. The proceeds were shared between our branch of the RNLI and The Fishermen's Mission and we extend a big thank you to Beer Sailing Club for their support and hosting coffee mornings for organisations from Beer during the winter.

At the time of writing my report we are preparing for the RNLI Mayday Appeal. This year our RNLI Mayday Appeal Welly Walk Day at Seaton is on Saturday 30th May. All are invited to come and take part with us. Registration is at 9.45 by Fisherman's Gap and we will be walking to and fro



along the East and West Walks. Walk once or more during the day and the wearing of wellington boots is optional. We will also be having our Colour in a Wellington Boot Competition including entries by the pupils from Seaton Primary School and judging is to take part at a venue and time to be advised. It is also time for doing Mayday Miles. Walk a mile or more a day

in May when and where you can. If you can't make it every day miles can be done until the end of the first week of June.. Sponsor forms for the Mayday Welly Walk, Mileage Record Forms are available from me on wac500@hotmail.co.uk. Donations welcome if you see us out and about or at events we will be attending and all support will be greatly appreciated. A [justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) fundraising page will also be available during May.

Preparations are in progress for our Beer Lifeboat Weekend 2026. Time has flown by and it is twenty years since we did the first one. This year on Saturday 4th July we are having a Street Collection throughout the day and Coffee Morning at the Mariners Hall. Our Duck Race Day is on Sunday 5th July. The day will include attendance by the Lyme Regis Water Safety Team and Beer Coastguards (subject to operational requirements). The Lyme Regis and Exmouth Lifeboats will be doing a display at 2pm.(subject to weather and operational requirements) We will be having our Duck Tombola and duck themed stalls and we hope to have the Inflatable Shannon and that Stormy Stan can attend. Duck Sponsor Ticket Sales will be available from approximately 11am and the duck races to start from 3pm opposite the Cream Shop. Entries in to our Colour in a Duck Competition will be displayed during the weekend. Full details and confirmations of times will be available nearer the weekend.



Our Shop at Jubilee Gardens is now open daily from 10am to 4.30pm until the end of October and may be adjusted due to weather and volunteer availability. Additional volunteers are always needed and welcome on a rota or relief basis. Please contact our Shop Manager Richard Hare on 07752393640 or call in to the shop when he is there most Friday mornings. Help is also needed with fundraising collections, at our events we attend in our area. Please come and say hello when you see us or email me on wac500@hotmail.co.uk.

Best wishes to everyone as we look forward to a busy 2026.

Wendy Cummins

Secretary Fundraising/Events

Seaton Beer and District Branch RNLI



Alan Pewsey from Dartmoor Search and Rescue, based at Ashburton, came to our last meeting and gave us a very interesting and informative talk, including three short films giving us insights as to how they react to calls for help throughout South and East Devon, not just on Dartmoor

They receive in the region of 40 callouts per month, 5 standbys from the police in the first instance. This involves 2,700 volunteer hours.

All volunteers are unpaid and train at least once a week and also attend to their equipment weekly. They are divided into four teams: Swift Water Rescue, assisting in rescues and flood assistance. Rope Team; which hauls people and animals up steep inclines. Navigation Team; using equipment to navigate searches in all weathers, night and day. Finally Search Dogs; handlers and dogs attempting to find missing persons by air and by scenting.

They have support vehicles including Land Rovers, ambulances and a helicopter.

Dartmoor Search and Rescue receive 92% of their funds from donations. They have nothing officially from the government although they can apply for grants as well as some funding for training courses. They have been involved in some bomb scares too.

We have a lot to thank them for.

There is a Spring Group Meeting on April 23rd at 2.00pm in Colyford Memorial Hall when Ann Robinson will be submitting her non-edible cake. Penny Stopher and Ann Gladstone will be presenting their limericks.

Our next meeting in Beer Congregational Hall will be on May 6th. We are having a talk by Lyme Bay Auctions. Some items brought along by members may be discussed and valued.

The next writing group will be on April 27th at Angela's at 2.30pm

The card group meet at Penny's or Barbara's each Thursday afternoon

The Book club is at Pamela's on May 11th at 2.30pm

If you would like to come to an evening, please don't hesitate to join us or call Chris for more information on 01297 792129.

Beer Arts Group
Presents
A Musical Treat



Jazz Café at the Dolphin

Chris Gradwell (Clarinet and Sax)
Andrew Daldorph (Keyboard)
Andrew Barrett (Guitar)
Peter Shirveington (Bass)

American Songbook... Jazz Classics
Swing... Dance Band Favourites

Thursday 14th May

The Dolphin Function Room 7.00 for 7.30

Tickets £10 (includes interval snacks)
Book Through Ticket Source (QR code above)
or Pay by Card on the Door

Wanna get up and Dance? Go Ahead !

<https://www.ticketsource.com/bags/t-plldoyd>

Beer Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Meeting

The annual Parish Meeting took place on 8 April before the Parish Council Meeting. Councillor and Chairman Tim Stevens gave his report for the year, which can be found on the Parish Council Website (www.beer-pc.gov.uk) or is available on request from the clerk (clerk@beer-pc.gov.uk). It has to be said that, while all residents are very welcome to attend, once again few actually did. We hope to encourage more to do so next year and would remind everyone that Beer Parish Council meetings are always open to the public.

A Public Inconvenience

A major issue for this month relates to the Jubilee Gardens Public Toilets. Rather than the planned refurbishment of these and other public toilets, EDDC, having spent over half their budget for this already, have decided to give up on refurbishing and maintaining these important facilities and instead want to hand them over to town and parish councils together with a 'dowry' of a share of the remaining budget. Our arms are being twisted on this but the alternative would be closure. Despite a significant annual cost of maintenance to deal with, it is recognised that the Jubilee Gardens toilets are an essential facility that needs to stay open. The Council is looking at the possibility of using the proposed dowry to install a paid access system to raise the necessary maintenance funds. The dowry should be bigger but EDDC seemed to think it appropriate to spend £150,000 on consultants for the abandoned refurbishment project and are estimating a surprising £300,000 (over 20% of the remaining budget) as costs of passing the toilets on to the town and parish councils. The Council is considering whether to question these figures. A working group will be formed to consider the matter of the asset transfer.

Preserving Common Lane

The Council continues to work towards getting DCC Highways carry out preventative measures to keep the road open. A strongly worded letter has been sent to them highlighting the need for action and reminding them of their statutory duty to maintain Common Lane properly. We will be following this up if we do not receive a response.

Coach Park Concerns

Following the noise concerns voiced by some nearby residents about the early starting and running of a commercial vehicle at the coach park, the Council continues to investigate. Despite the fact that EDDC 2024 investigation determined there was insufficient evidence of unacceptable noise levels, the Council will continue to investigate, including seeking information about the start and static running times of the vehicle, in order to determine the most appropriate way forward on this matter. There is also the matter of parking violations in the coach park – new, clearer signs will soon be installed. It is hoped that more drastic measures will not need to be taken.

...And More Parking News

There have been parking violations at the meeting of Clapps Lane and Southdown Road

– traffic cones have alleviated the problem for now. Additionally Cllr. Shobbrook has highlighted the dubious quality of the double-yellow lines in Clapps Lane. He is undertaking a measurement survey to see whether they meet the strict requirements needed to make them enforceable. If they do not, this will provide an opportunity to require their repainting and repositioning to allow for more residents' parking.

Pot-Holing in Fore Street

The sink-hole by Mariners Hall reappeared, was patched and sank again. Everyone, including the work force sent by DCC Highways, knows that this will not deal with the likely cause, namely a culvert running under Fore Street which may be compromised at this point. In fact continuous patching will make the problem worse. The Council will continue to put pressure on DCC Highways to investigate the cause properly and deal with it.

Registering Mariners Hall

Title to the hall (for which the Council are trustees) is currently unregistered. While not a legal requirement to do so, possible issues may arise in the future if it remains unregistered. Therefore the Council determined that the most appropriate course was to register now. Cllr. Shobbrook is using his considerable legal experience to minimise costs by preparing the application himself, negotiate as low a fee as possible with a law firm to get it done and overall to minimise costs.

Little Hemphay Little Use

The land at Little Hemphay is leased by the Council from Clinton Devon Estates. It was once used as a BMX track for the village children. There are on-going maintenance costs but on a review of the lease it became clear that just about every activity is prohibited. So it is the Council's current intention not to renew unless amendments to the terms can be negotiated to enable some use to be made of the land. A meeting is scheduled for mid-May with Clinton Devon Estates to discuss the matter.

The Best Laid Plans

An important issue of planning interpretation has come up. The Council noticed that, while it considered planning applications by reference to the Beer Neighbourhood Plan and the Beer Village Design Statement, EDDC have recently been granting applications that have not been in line with them. When asked for an explanation, they confirmed that the Beer Neighbourhood Plan was part of the statutory development plan and carried full legal weight in their decision making but they treated the Village Design Statement as supplementary guidance only, carrying more limited weight. This came as a surprise to the Council as the Design Statement was expressly incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan which stated that the requirements must be taken into account in any development proposals. The Council have pointed this out to EDDC and have sought further clarification.

The Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at Mariners Hall.

Beer Film Society

Hot on the heels of our last two very popular films - I Swear and the Ballad of Wallis Island - our next film at the Mariners' Hall on Thursday May 21st tells the story of radical designer Clarice Cliff, who shook up the male-dominated world of ceramics to become a global icon.

The Colour Room (PG, 112mins, 2021; Director Claire McCarthy) certainly has a feel-good gloss with Cliff's determination, ambition and creativity propelling her through the glass ceiling that had previously denied women a role in the world of pottery design in the industrial British Midlands of the 1920s and 30s.

Starting out humbly as a vivacious young factory worker, aged just 13, Cliff (Phoebe Dynevor) has to battle against the sexism and dismissiveness of her male colleagues before she finally persuades eccentric factory owner Colley Shorter (Matthew Goode) that her unprecedented Art Deco Bizarre range has a viable future.

At one level a beautiful period drama showcasing wonderful costumes from the jazz era, on another level a true and inspiring story of a working class girl who took on and beat the establishment to become one of the most significant ceramic artists of the 20th century.

We think it is a wonderful film so please come along and join us. Doors open at 6.30pm and the film starts at 7pm. Tickets on the door, £5 for members and £7 for guests. Card payment preferred please.

The bar will be open and Baboo ice creams will be on sale.

Beer Film Society

Card payment preferred

Bring your own cushion!

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Thursday May 21st PG

Mariners' Hall

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numbers limited - to book tickets email beerfilmsociety@gmail.com



BEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - SERVICES & NOTICES

SUNDAY MAY 3rd - 10am MORNING SERVICE WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

SUNDAY MAY 10th - 9-30am UNITED ROGATION SUNDAY
SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL'S

SUNDAY MAY 17th - 10am MORNING SERVICE FOR
ASCENSIONTIDE

SUNDAY MAY 24th - 10am MORNING SERVICE FOR PENTECOST/
WHITSUN

SUNDAY MAY 31st - 10am MORNING SERVICE

SUNDAY JUNE 7th - 10am MORNING SERVICE WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

COFFEE MORNINGS

Congregational Hall from 10-30am - 12 noon
MAY 14th and 28th

CHAPEL AGM

Sunday May 3rd after the 10am Service

Unhappiness

- How close to unhappiness we are all the time.
The world is not here to make you happy.
It's here to make you a sensitive, compassionate person.
It will do that by putting you through some trying times.
- The mind is watchful for all the things that make you sad,
angry, frustrated. There is readiness to be unhappy.
Can you react less? Many people fight life. They reject it.
Life has not turned out the way it should.
These people open themselves to a world of pain.
- You attract to yourself whatever corresponds to your inner state.
Be watchful. Control your thoughts. Accept grim life.
It isn't going to last. The pain is not you. Put space around it.
That makes it bearable.
- Misery has afflicted the human condition for thousands of years.
End it by starting with yourself. Ask, "Is there negativity in me
now?" Watch out for low-level unhappiness – discontent, being
'fed-up.' The moment you become aware of a negative state
within yourself, it does not mean that you have failed.
It means you have succeeded.
Until that awareness happens, there is identification with inner
states, and such identification is ego.
Make the present moment the focal point of your life.

YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS

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The guide is also available online at www.OurLocalExpert.co.uk Nick always welcomes genuine feedback about businesses who do and don't feature in the guide using the same contact details.



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