

Beer Parish News

2025 March

*Find peace and wonder
on our doorstep!*

St Michael's... ..and Village

CHURCH DIRECTORY

www.coastalchurch.org.uk

PRIEST IN CHARGE Rev Justin Montague coastalvicar@hotmail.com

07308 264614

Parish Administrator Helen Knight seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk 23656

Parish Finance Officer Helen Moulding cmctreasurer@hotmail.com

Local Pioneer Minister Rev Shuna George Pritchard shuna.art@gmail.com

ST MICHAEL'S ...

Churchwarden: Penny Grant pennygrant@hotmail.co.uk 24008

Secretary: Mrs Jean Smith 07412 010245

Sacristan Mrs L. Bees 21723

& Head Server: Mrs P. Bewick 21954

Altar Guild: Mrs Y. Hawker 22191

Choir: Dr G. Butler (Practice Tuesday 6-7pm) 21375

Organist: Dr G. Butler, Mullions, New Road, Beer 21375

Children's Society: Ann Stott

Families Worker: Amy Dare mrandsdare22@gmail.com

Children's Team: Gayle Chapple, Amy Dare, Jenny Ross

Worship Team: Gayle Chapple, Lynne Bees, Penny Grant, Yvonne Hawker, Angela Ould, Jenny Ross

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

Mrs Y. Hawker, Mrs P. Bewick,

Mrs E. Singleton,

Mrs S. Anderson

ANNA CHAPLAINS: Mary Casey email caseymary119@gmail.com

Phone: 23656 or 07805 655335

& Sue Craker Mobile 07802 649155 email: susanawhelan@icloud.com

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs G. Chapple 07794 838219

Beer Parish News Dr Henry Jaggars, Green Bank, 9 Clinton Rise, 20858

Editor: Beer. Email: henryjaggars@btinternet.com

Area code for all phone numbers above is 01297 unless shown otherwise

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

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St MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Coastal Mission
Community



[St Michaels Church Beer](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsChurchBeer)

www.coastalchurch.org.uk

Calendar for MARCH 2025

Sun 2 nd Mar	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Morning Praise	Sunday next before Lent
Tues 4 th 6:00pm	Choir Practice 7:15pm Bell Ringing	
Wed 5 th 10:00am	Prayer Group with Imposition of Ashes	Ash Wednesday
Fri 7 th	2:00pm Funeral Service for the Late Jean Bartlett 10:00am Mickey's Music Makers 10:30am World Day of Prayer "I made you wonderful" ALL welcome to this service prepared by the Christian Women of the Cook Islands at Crossroads Church SEATON	
Sun 9 th	9:30am Holy Communion	1 st Sunday of Lent
Tues 11 th	12 noon Messy Church preparation meeting 2:00pm Play Reading group 6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 12 th	8:30 Open the Book at Beer School 10:00am Holy Communion	
Thurs 13 th	2:00pm Lent Course begins. "The Comeback" at Endsleigh, Barline, Beer	
Fri 14 th	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers 3:30~5:30pm Messy Church ALL ages welcome	
Sun 16 th	9:30am Morning Praise	2 nd Sunday of Lent
Tues 18 th	10:00am Altar Guild Meeting 6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 19 th	2:00pm Anna's Place Café style worship with Communion and refreshments	
Thurs 20 th	From 12noon Lent Lunch at the Congregational Church catered by Congregational Church 2:00pm Lent Course "The Comeback" 2 nd session at Endsleigh, Barline, Beer	
Fri 21 st	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sun 23 rd	9:30am Family Communion	3 rd Sunday of Lent
Tues 25 th	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 26 th	8:30am Open the Book at School 10:00am Communion service at SEATON 1:00pm PCC Meeting	
Thurs 27 th	2:00pm Lent Course "No Comeback" 3 rd session at Endsleigh, Barline, Beer	
Fri 28 th 10:00am	Mickey's Music Makers	
Sat 29 th	10~12noon Seriously Occasional Singers 2:00pm Posy making - ALL welcome	
Sun 30 th	8:00am Holy Communion at SEATON 9:45am Morning Worship with our friends from the Congregational Church & distribution of posies.	Mothering Sunday

From Justin... Rev's Ramblings -

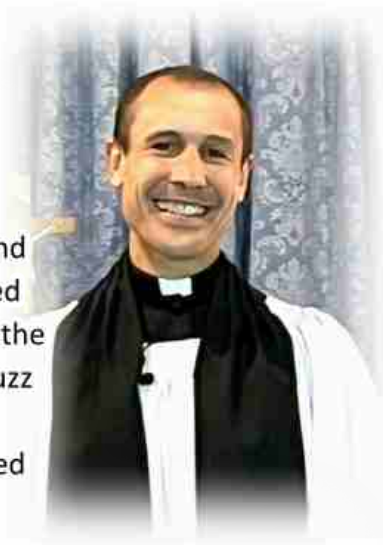
When asked about the highlights of my John O'Groats to Land's End running challenge last year, aside from seeing the beauty of our island and the tremendous support, it was a renewed appreciation of silence and how good it is for the heart, mind, body and soul. Away from the buzz of my digital devices, the constant chatter of mind and thoughts slowed down, and I realised one thing my soul craves is quietness.

In our world of constant noise and digital distractions, finding silence can feel almost impossible and has become a rare and precious gift. Whether it's the hum of traffic, the ping of notifications, the chatter of daily life, or the endless scroll of news and entertainment, quiet moments are rare—and yet, deeply needed. We are surrounded by sound, often leaving little space to hear the still, small voice of God.

The modern age offers us incredible advancements in communication and information, but at what cost? Many of us instinctively reach for our phones at the slightest pause, filling every moment with activity. We struggle with silence, yet it is in these quiet spaces that we find God's presence most profoundly.

Lent provides an opportunity to recalibrate—to step away from the noise and embrace the spiritual discipline of silence and solitude. In Mark 1:9-15, we read how, immediately after His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Before performing miracles, preaching to the masses, and training His disciples, Jesus sought silence and solitude. His time in the wilderness was not an escape but a place of preparation, strengthening, and communion with the Father.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus regularly withdrew to quiet places to pray, teaching us that silence is not empty but full of divine presence.



Luke 5:16 tells us, "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Even in the busiest moments of His ministry, He prioritised silence and solitude as a way to remain 'in-tune' with the Father's will.

Lent invites us to follow Jesus' example. What would it look like to "turn down the noise" in our own lives? Could we take a break from our screens, set aside moments of stillness, and make space for God's voice? Silence is not empty: it is a sacred space where God meets us, where we can rest, reflect, and be renewed.

So how can we follow Jesus' example this Lent?

1. **Turn Down the Noise** – Identify sources of unnecessary noise in your daily life. Perhaps set a time each day to switch off devices, resist background distractions, and simply be present with God.
2. **Create Sacred Spaces** – Find a quiet place, whether in nature, a peaceful room, or a church, to sit in silence and invite God's presence.
3. **Start Small** – Even five minutes of intentional silence each day can make a difference. Use this time to pray, meditate on Scripture, or simply listen.
4. **Embrace Solitude, Not Isolation** – Solitude is not about loneliness but about choosing to step away and to draw closer to God. Let it be a time of renewal rather than simply an escape.
5. **Practice, Not Perfection** – Silence is a spiritual discipline, though not a rigid rule. Some days will be easier than others, but the practice itself is a step towards deeper faith.

Silence is countercultural. It is not passive but a powerful way to reconnect with God. This Lent, may we have the courage to step away from the noise, turn our hearts to Him, embrace the spiritual practice of silence—not as an absence, but as an opportunity to draw closer to the One who so often speaks in the quiet.

Grace and peace

Revd Justin

ANNA CHAPLAINCY

ANNA CHAPLAINCY – MARCH worship and events – If you have a loved one or friend you visit in one of the Seaton care homes, you might like to join us for our monthly activity and worship? Please check with the care home prior to your visit in case of changes.

Tuesday 4 MARCH– THE MANOR - 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 5 MARCH – CHECK HOUSE - 11.00 a.m.

Thursday 6 MARCH – THORNFIELD - 11.00 a.m.

Monday 10 MARCH – NETHERHAYES – 10.45 am

Tuesday 11 March – 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 18 MARCH – LYME BAY VIEW - 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 19 March - ANNA'S PLACE 2.00 p.m. St Michael's Church BEER. Reflective café style worship with Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Monday 24 MARCH – THE SEATON – 11.00 a.m.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We really appreciate your prayers and support.

Anna Chaplain Mary: Anna Chaplain Sue: PHONE 01297 23656

THANK YOU!!! Anna Chaplains Mary and Sue want to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Quiz night on the 10th February.

The church centre at Seaton was packed with people definitely on a mission to become the winning team, and bag the first prize! Well done to the winners **THE JOHN'S TEAM**.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who gave so generously to the winning prizes and raffle donations. To Katie on refreshments, Lyn and Joan on raffle, Roger and Justin for setting up, and our Quiz Master David who kept everyone in order.

74 people came, enjoyed themselves and went away very happy asking when we were planning the next quiz night..... ??

We are so grateful for your support and prayers. *Mary and Sue*

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
BEER
INVITES YOU TO**



**JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, MUSIC, WORSHIP
AND A SIMPLE MEAL**



FRIDAY MARCH 14th 3:30—5:30pm



**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
PLEASE CALL AMY on 07538410437 or
GAYLE on 07794838219**



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Service

10.30am at CROSSROADS CHURCH

Friday, 7th March 2025

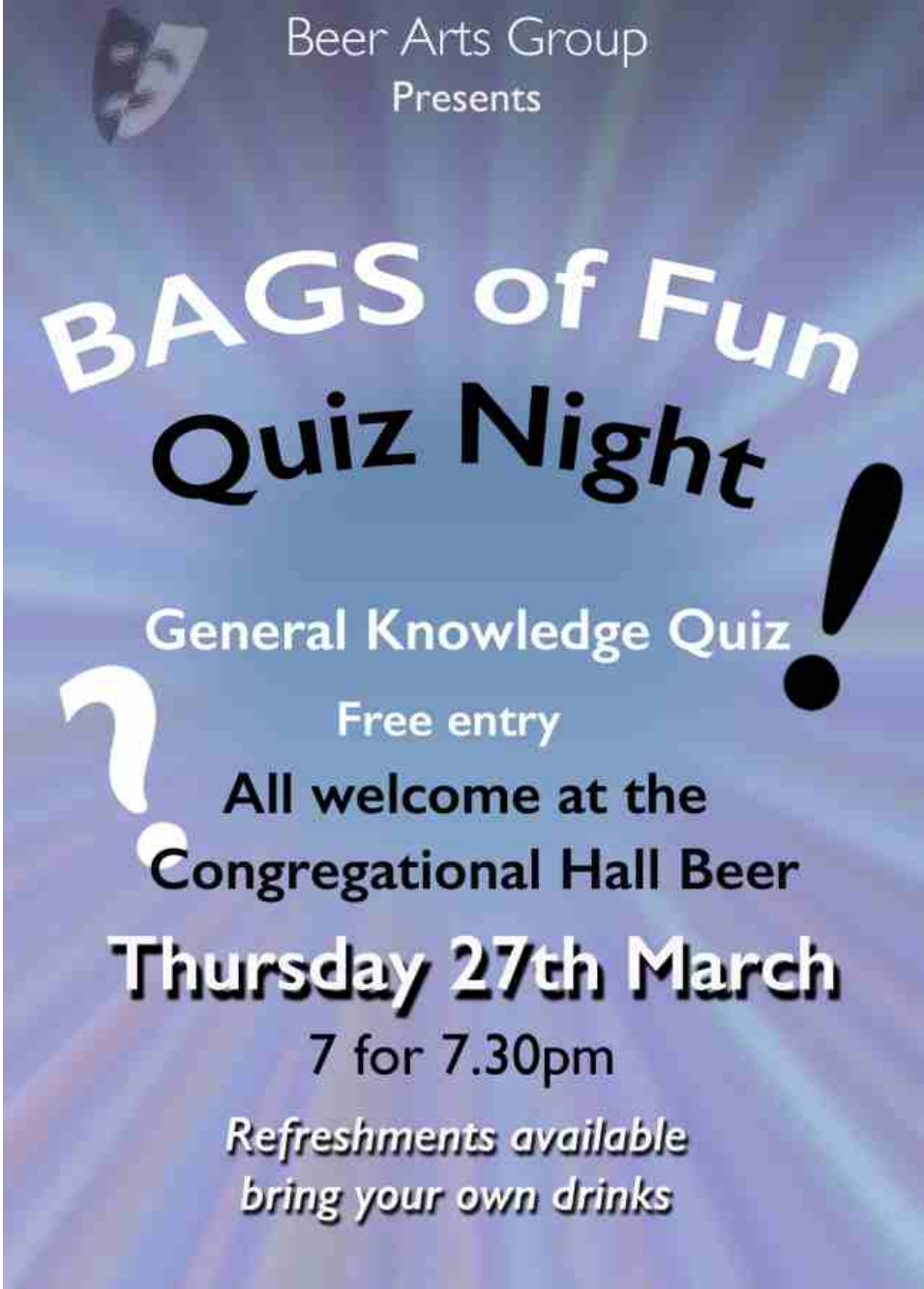
*Prepared by Christian women
from the COOK ISLANDS*

Theme “I made you wonderful”

Led by women from all the
churches in Seaton

*As we take part in this service we are part of a
wonderful wave of prayer which encircles the
globe, praying with, and for, the Cook Islands
and its people.*

All welcome



Beer Arts Group
Presents

**BAGS of Fun
Quiz Night!**

General Knowledge Quiz!

Free entry

**All welcome at the
Congregational Hall Beer**

Thursday 27th March

7 for 7.30pm

*Refreshments available
bring your own drinks*

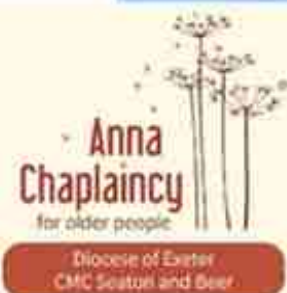
ANNA'S PLACE

Special 30 minute
worship for
Older People

Followed by Refreshments
Music and Memories,
Wednesdays from 2pm
at St Michael's, Beer:

March 19th
April 16th

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



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Meeting held 11th February 2025 in St. Michael's Church

Feedback from Christmas 2024 Weekend: Chairman thanked all the Altar Guild team for all their hard work and input making the weekend so successful especially the Christmas Fair. The church was beautifully decorated and all agreed the weekend went very well. We raised £1538.00 which was a fantastic amount raised for St. Michael's.

St Michael's church **Mothering Sunday 30th March** service @9.45 hrs.

Soup for Soul – Monday 14th to Thursday 17th April –

Lent Lunch – to be confirmed – please look out for posters and media advertising for date and time

Easter Weekend Plans:

Saturday 19th April – Coffee morning – refreshments, raffle etc

Sunday 20th April – Sunrise Service (on the cliff) 7.30am –Sunday service St Micheal's 09.30hrs and normal refreshments post service.

Monday 21st April – Evening Quiz 7pm for 7.30pm with raffle and refreshments

It would be lovely to see to you at any of our services or events, everyone is welcome.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18th March AGM followed by ordinary meeting @10.00am

Fine Foundation Centre

Beer Village Heritage

Reg. Charity No.1087162

It may be well into February but signs of Spring are still very limited and the constantly cold and gloomy weather isn't conducive to working in the garden. On a positive note, we're noticing that the robins appear to be pairing up. There

are buds on some of the daffodils and the anemones are beginning to provide some colour, particularly where they are planted in pots. Chapple's beach café has helped lighten the general mood by opening over half-term.

The Beer fishermen have continued to work whenever possible throughout the winter. If you have been down to the beach recently you may have noticed some new pots stacked by the fish houses. They look like crab pots but have lights inside them and are a relatively new way catching scallops. Dredging for scallops was banned in Lyne Bay some years ago after it was appreciated how much damage this method did to the sea bed and its biodiversity. Since then the local corals have begun to reestablish themselves while the number of scallop divers has increased. Obviously diving for scallops is not possible in some sea conditions, so this new use of technology must be a welcome way of maintaining the supply. The scallops are attracted to the lights and, once in the pot, are unable to get out again. And, once again, the Beer fishermen are helping with the research into this new way of doing things.

The Beer Art Groups' History Groups has recently been able to examine the 1774 map of the Clinton Devon Estate lands which includes Beer. Barbara comments "The field names in the apportionments tell us so much ... coppiced quarries, lime kilns, hollow ways, orchards, common land, and in the village – all the houses and the smithy and five pubs (The Turks Head, The Dragon, The New Inn, The Dolphin, The Anchor ...). Martin will like the tiny detail that shows the church yard both in front and behind the church ... Do you remember how one piece of evidence of the ship-wrecked Spaniards coming ashore was supposed to be 'Cadiz Court'? ... I'm afraid Cadiz Court was actually Caddy's Court and Mr Caddy lived (I think ..) close to The Anchor ... !"

I wonder if this disproves the village tradition or if Mr. Caddy was descended from one of the ship-wrecked sailors. Anyone who is looking into their family history will know how difficult it is to find accurate and definite information. And anyone talking to other family members about an event in recent years will know that everyone will have a slightly different recollection!

One thing which is definite is that the Grizzly will take place on Sunday 9th March. Beer Village Heritage will be manning the water station in Beer Head Caravan Park along with the RNLI. Do come along and lend a hand. We will be setting up from 0930 and leaving once the last runners have gone by, probably around 1630. We have experienced all kinds of weather conditions over the years, including snow and gales. The atmosphere is always upbeat, and we're always amazed at the dedication and stamina of the runners. Always a great day out!

Our Heritage Centre was funded by the Fine Family Foundation as an

interpretation centre for the Dorset and East Devon UNESCO World Heritage Site (the Jurassic Coast), and Beer Village Heritage has subsequently been closely involved with raising awareness of our very special part of the world. As a condition of inscription UNESCO expects the government to have a Management Plan for each site, and for the Jurassic Coast was devolved to Dorset and Devon County Councils. About seven years ago the councils passed that work to the Jurassic Coast Trust (JCT) a charity set up to promote the whole coastline. At the same time the councils began to reduce their financial support while the Trust, as a charity, was able to apply for grants and charitable funds which are not available to council-led projects. This has meant that the JCT has been able to set up the virtual fossil collection as well as a variety of research projects. The charity also set up a trading arm as well as setting up a scheme which enabled businesses to contribute financially. Sadly the recent national financial developments have had a disastrous effect on the charity's core funding and as a result, the Jurassic Coast Trust has recently closed and oversight of the management of the World Heritage Site (WHS) has reverted to the County Councils. We are very sorry to hear the news, but plan to continue to promote the WHS in as many ways as we can. It means that the JCT website is no longer available, but we have been reassured that the huge amount of material contained on it has been saved for future reference. Our thanks go to the members of staff who have worked so hard over the years and who have been so supportive of BVH. Once the dust has settled we will have a clearer idea of how the new regime will look.

March's Branscombe Project talk is on Monday 24th and will be given by Mel Giles from the University of Manchester who will talk about "Bog Bodies". This should follow on well from Dr. Andrew Birley's talk on Vindolanda, next to Hadrian's Wall, when he gave some fascinating insights into life in a Roman outpost. Letters – written on pieces of wood – sounded very modern, with mothers and wives sending socks and underpants to the soldiers. One of the main reasons for the existence of various artefacts is the local bogland which has preserved so much, and which is being threatened by climate change. This means that the bogs are drying out so that oxygen is able to diffuse in and quite quickly destroy any remaining artefacts."

The Devonshire Association's talk on March 14th, to be given by Nigel Daniels, is on The History of Axmouth Harbour. The talk at Kennaway House in Sidmouth, starts at 1430. Admission is £3 for members and £4 for non-members, with card payments preferred.

Beer Village Heritage is a registered charity, and we rely on 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 not working.

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.



Beer Film Society



Thursday March 20th
Mariners' Hall

Doors open 6.30pm **New start time - 7.00 pm**

Members £5.00 non members £7.00

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

Card payment preferred

Bring your own cushions!

BEER FILM SOCIETY

FOR our next film on Thursday March 20th we head back to Britain with acting legend Sir Ian McKellen teaming up with Lesley Manville in a strong cast for the *'The Critic (2023, 1hr 41mins, 15).'*

With Gemma Arterton and Mark Strong also appearing this film signals a return to these shores after the Hollywood escapade about the Moon Landings in January (Fly Me To The Moon) and the Iranian movie (My Favourite Cake) last month.

Academy Award Nominee Sir Ian (The Lord of the Rings, The Good Liar) stars as a powerful and acerbic London theatre critic who lures a struggling actress into a blackmail scheme with deadly consequences.

The film is set in the 1930s with McKellen playing Jimmy Erskine, who is the feared critic for 'The Daily Chronicle'. He's arrogant and brusque, and super-talented with the twisting of words and turning of phrases. His reviews are eagerly awaited and can make or break a show or career - sometimes in a humiliating manner.

Needless to say, things do get out of hand.

What the critics said:

Director Anand Tucker directs very adroitly, the period detail is meticulous and a fabulous supporting cast also includes Lesley Manville as Nina's interfering mother and Romola Garai as Brooke's imperious daughter. But the movie belongs to McKellen.

Brian Viner. Daily Mail. 4*

Directed by Anand Tucker with assurance and panache, The Critic is the kind of entertainment, busy with plot, bordering on farce, but shaded with dark motive, that used to be the speciality of Ealing Studios.

Tom Shone. Sunday Times. 4*

The film has an odd teatime glow of cosy-crime sentimentality which deadens the effect... But McKellen overrides these concerns; his glorious star quality and dash make him the only possible casting. His importance is critical.

Peter Bradshaw. The Guardian. 3*

A reminder that the Mariners' Hall doors will open at 6.30pm for a **7pm start** and the bar will be open, along with Baboo ice creams available downstairs.

As the film is under two hours there will be no interval. Tickets on the door will cost £7 for guests and £5 for members. A rolling annual membership is available for £15 and not only gives you a £2 discount for every film but also a FREE entry for our December offering.



We are very pleased to say that on a cold frosty morning £535.08 was raised and £61.50 of RNLI Gifts and Souvenirs were sold at our RNLI SOS Table Top Sale on Saturday 25th January and we thank everyone who came along and also the stall holders from Beer and the visiting stall holders for their support. At the end of January Jason Luff our Community Fundraising Manager and I presented a letter and Certificate of Thanks to Peco and Pecorama for their support to our branch of the RNLI as their Charity of the Year in 2024. £715.74 was raised from



donations from the proceeds of ticket sales, our collections and static donation boxes. We had a lovely time there with our RNLI Retail Stall and the total sales were £239.25. We also received from the Eyre Court Hotel, Seaton a total donation of £562.73 from their Fish and Chip Supper and Lemon Rafting Bar

Game held in September 2024 and included £42.73 from the static donation boxes at the end of the year.

As we proceed through March we are very pleased to say that once again we will be with Beer Village Heritage on Sunday 9th March doing the Grizzly Race Day Drink Station at Beer Head Caravan Park. We will be setting up at 9.30am and be there until approximately 4.30pm or when the last runner has passed through. Additional helpers will be very welcome on this great day at their preferred and length of time. Suitable clothing should be worn as the weather can be chilly and uncertain. Bring your own refreshments. Some Bacon Baps will be available and cakes are also much appreciated. If coming by car please note the advertised road closures that will be in place during the day.

On Tuesday 11th March it is our Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm in the Congregational Church Hall. Jason Luff our Community Fundraising Manager who is also a volunteer crew member on the Exmouth D Class lifeboat George Bearman II will be bringing the latest news and information from the RNLI. We will be celebrating a brilliant 2024 of fundraising and at our Shop through the 200th Anniversary Year of the RNLI. We will be looking forward through 2025 that will include our events and events that we will be attending. Additional Volunteers are still needed for our Shop and it will be re-opening for the season at the end of March/early April. If you can help please come to our meeting, call in to our Shop when open or contact our Shop Manager Richard Hare on 07752393640. Please contact me the Secretary for Fundraising/Events information at wac500@hotmail.co.uk or see me and our Volunteers at our own event or events we attend. All help and support will be greatly appreciated.



We extend our grateful thanks to Beer Sailing Club for hosting Coffee Mornings during the Winter. We had a lovely and successful time on Wednesday 22nd January and are delighted to announce that we will be there on Wednesday 12th March. We will be serving Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and Cake from 10am to noon. The RNLI Lyme Regis Water Safety Team will also be there to offer advice on water safety, how to call for help in an emergency and lifejackets can be taken along for checks for safety and effectiveness. Everyone welcome to come along.

As we proceed through 2025 we are having a collection at Tesco Superstore at Axminster on Saturday 19th April. We will be having our Mayday Appeal Welly Walk and Collection and Colour in a Wellington Boot Competition at the end of May and we invite people to do Mayday Miles from the 1st to the 31st May. We will be attending the Seaton Carnival Street Fairs in May and August and once again are looking forward to our Beer Lifeboat Weekend and this year it is on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th July.

We thank all our supporters and also send our best wishes to everyone. Wendy Cummins, Secretary, Seaton Beer and District Branch RNLI

Beer Parish Council

Newsletter

February, 2025

The Parish Council continues to work to ensure the village operates correctly, and keeps a tight control on its spending. This year will be financially tighter than normal, as we have to absorb the increase in employers' national insurance levy along with all of the other increasing expenses. We try to hold EDDC, Devon County Council and Devon Highways to account for its planning decisions, the state of the roads, blocked drains and a myriad of other things. However, it is often like wading through treacle, and we can only thank our superb Council Clerk for the hard work she puts in supporting the Council to achieve goals and action solutions. If you have any questions or queries concerning Parish Council matters, please contact the Clerk, by email, by post at the Mariners Hall, or please feel free to come a Council meeting and have your say in person. We look forward to seeing you.

Several residents have asked about the ongoing saga of the transfer of assets. Having rejected the original proposals due to the extreme financial burden, it would have placed on the village of £1,046,000.00 in the first 10 years and increasing with the rate of inflation every 10 years after that, the Parish Council aided by local residents on an asset transfer working group, formulated an asset transfer plan that was affordable, self-funding and most importantly transparent.

In February 2024, the required Expression of Interest forms was sent to EDDC along with a covering letter outlining many pertinent questions, which should have been asked by the previous Parish Council.

On the 17th June 2024 we watched with dismay at an EDDC zoom meeting, where the Beer Expression of Interest into the transfer of assets proposal was only partially and very poorly discussed by the members of the EDDC Asset Management Forum. It was evident at this meeting that 50 to 60% of the participants had little idea what they were discussing, or why. It was clear that a number of the District Councillors involved had minimal understanding of the transfer of assets process or had not taken the time to read and understand both the EDDC documentation and the previous proposals relating to this.

In December 2024, some 10 and a half months after EDDC had received the Expression of Interest, they finally replied inviting the Parish Council to submit a business case concerning the transfer of assets. EDDC however had failed to answer **ANY** of the pertinent questions asked in the February 2024 letter, answers of which are needed to begin to formulate the business plan.

At the January 2025 Parish Council meeting, there was significant concern and dismay at the lack of response from EDDC, and it was decided to write to EDDC requiring that both these questions and a further 14 questions be answered by early March 2025.

Towards the end of January 2025, we received a response from the person who is "in charge" of asset transfer at EDDC as follows: ***Most of the questions in this relate to things that I am unable to answer so its been passed elsewhere in the Council. We will endeavour to have a response by 5th March.***

So, after a year of having a list of questions, the answers of which are needed to draw up a fully costed and transparent business plan, the person in charge and a full-time paid officer of EDDC is only now trying to find the answers. Bearing in mind that most of these questions should have been asked and answers provided in the June 2024 Zoom meeting, after all they had them on the Expression of Interest letter, and it is not as if they suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

So once again we wait on EDDC, after all this process started in 2017 and there have been 13 versions of the original scheme made and changed by EDDC, before the Parish Council rejected it in favour of an affordable scheme. Surely, due diligence on the part of EDDC would have asked and answered many of these questions many times in the past. We shall now, with anticipation, await the long overdue answers to the posed questions, to ensure that we can with full transparency, move forward in the best interests of both the village and its residents.

Cllr Tim Stevens, Vice Chairman, Beer Parish Council

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU

We are now well into the new year and can look back at last summer in the village and reminisce about the events that happened, how good the village looked last year, and look forward to this year.

The flower displays in the tubs and planters along the Brook, Jubilee Gardens and Beach Court were superb and a credit to the hard work and dedication of the Beer Horticultural Society. This is a group of volunteers who not only provide the labour involved in planting, weeding, and watering the plants, they also fund raise during the year to pay for them. They get no monetary or other support from East Devon Council, and whilst Beer Parish Council and other sponsors, both business and private, make donations, the hard work of keeping the village looking wonderful is fully down to the members of the society.

There was much talk last year of how good the events such as Beer Eats, Buggies in Beer and the Regatta were, and how nice it was to see large groups of residents and visitors seated on the banks of the Jubilee watching the events. Once again this was only made possible by a small group of independent volunteers the "Beer Rebels," who again get no monetary or other support from EDDC, but get onto the Jubilee and other areas, to trim, cut back, rake, bag up and dispose of the grass, brambles and other vegetation that East Devon Council will not touch, and certainly will not take away during the 1.02 hours per day they are allocated to work on the Jubilee grounds maintenance and just leave it to rot where it falls.

Not forgetting to mention the hard work the Beer Scouts and the Beer Brook Coven have done over the past years in keeping the brook clear of weeds and other rubbish as they cackled and laughed their way down the village. One elderly Beer born and bred resident, was so apologetic that due to his advanced age and mobility he cannot physically help anymore, that he went out and bought a brand-new petrol trimmer which he donated to the group to help with the work. Several other residents who cannot do the physical work always turn up with a freshly baked thank you biscuits and cakes for the volunteers to enjoy.

We have this year also been helped by the community payback scheme, these are people who have been given community service orders by the courts and are helping to keep the village clean and tidy. They are very hard working and have helped clear the steeper parts of the jubilee of brambles and other thick matted vegetation,

which EDDC refuse to clear, and is beyond the physical capabilities of many of the older Beer Rebels to cope with.

Much is made of how nice a village Beer is and what a great community spirit, so let us just think about this community spirit for a moment. Most of the Horticultural Society members are well past retirement age, at one outing of the Beer Rebels the average age was seventy-two, and if it had not been for three younger members it would have been much higher. Now is the time that we must ask for the younger residents of the village (below age 60) to step up and help with maintaining the village and taking a lead in running these voluntary groups. So, if you want the village to remain as you remember it now is the time to please offer your assistance.

Many of the village groups, clubs and societies would appreciate any help you can give. The Horticultural society would appreciate any input, this can be anything from physical help in planting, weeding and watering, to helping cook bacon sandwiches at the their fund raising coffee mornings in the Mariners Hall, then you can look with pride at the flower displays in the village and say I helped with that.

As for Beer Rebels just seeing people being able to sit on the Jubilee enjoying their surroundings or seeing groups of children running about and playing up there makes the hard work worthwhile. If you want your children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy the jubilee as you did, the Rebels need help for just a few hours 3 or 4 times a year.

Beer Parish Council has no vacancies at present; however, they would like to hear from anyone who would like to become a parish councillor in the future, and help with the running of the village, and holding EDDC and DCC to account for its actions or lack of them.

So, enjoy the village while you can, but remember your village needs YOU to help keep the groups who keep the village going. YOU the younger residents need to come forward now and help to maintain the village and its organisations for the future generations, just as the older generations have done for YOU. It will be a sad indictment of the younger generation's general apathy and lack of commitment, if the hard work and dedication of the past is left to fall by the wayside, and Beer becomes a shadow of its former beauty.

Tim Stevens



YOUR “LOCAL” CONTACTS

Parish Council

John Heath	cllrjheath@beer-pc.gov.uk
Martin Richards	cllrmrichards@beer-pc.gov.uk
Maureen Westlake	cllrmwestlake@beer-pc.gov.uk
Martin Shobbrook	cllrmsdobbrook@beer-pc.gov.uk
Timothy Stevens	cllrtstevens@beer-pc.gov.uk
Karen Stevens	cllrkstevens@beer-pc.gov.uk.com
Leona Reeve	cllrreeve@beer-pc.gov.uk
Simon Reeve	cllrsreeve@beer-pc.gov.uk
Caroline Thompson	cllrcthompson@beer-pc.gov.uk
Angela Smith	cllrasmith@beer-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council: Nicky Ingarfield
clerk@beer-pc.gov.uk

Internal Auditor: Jacqui Peskett - Aalgaard Renshaw
Business Solutions Ltd.

East Devon District Councillor

John Heath 07966 089257

Devon County Councillor Marcus Hartnell

Mobile: 07515 285725

Member of Parliament Richard Foord

Parliamentary matters -

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Constituency matters - richard.foord@libdems.org.uk

c/o 118 High Street, Honiton, EX14 1JP

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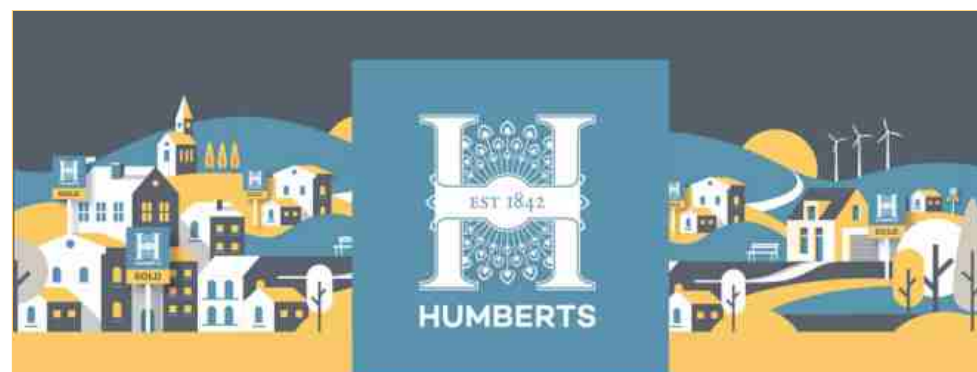
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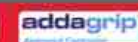
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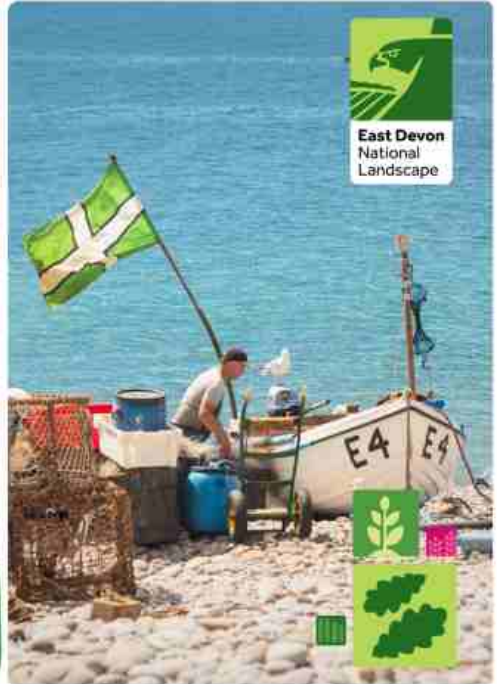
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