

December

Make yourself comfy, you're going to need a bigger mug of tea or a cheeky mulled wine while you savour all that Beer has to offer this Festive season!

Saturday 22nd November

9am Beer Buffs will sell Christmas trees selected especially for tree holders and cosy cottages! With refreshments and table top sale by Beer Horticultural Society.

Thursday 4th December

12pm Over 70s Christmas Lunch by the WI 6.30pm Beer Film Society host 'Four Mothers' with festive treats!

Friday 5th December

3-7pm Craft Fair in St Michael's Church with Father Christmas in his Grotto
3-8pm Late Night Shopping
4pm Ponies from Munchkins Miniature Shetland Rescue outside the Congregational Church
5.30pm Christmas lights Big Switch On with carol singing
6pm Childrens Disco

Saturday 6th December

10am Wreath Making course run by local florist Holly Wood
7pm for 7.30pm Christmas Bingo with Olly

Diary

Sunday 7th December

12pm-2pm Deliver cakes to the Great Beer Bake Off Competition in the Dolphin - Judging at
2.30pm with special guest judge, Grant!
5.30pm Candlelit Carols on the Cliff

Monday 8th December

7pm for 7.30pm start Christmas Quiz at St Michael's Church

Saturday 13th December

2pm Wurlitzer concert "Music for all" in the Congregational Church

Tuesday 16th December

12pm Community lunch at Steamers - booking required

Sunday 21st December

4pm Christingle Service at St Michael's Church

Wednesday 24th December

5.30pm Candlelit Carol Service in the Congregational Church

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Services at the Congregational Church and St Michael's Church

Pull this sheet out, fold in half and keep to remind you of some..... of the many things that are being organised for December!

Christmas in Beer - Let it Snow!

December is a magical month in Beer when Fore Street becomes Forest Street, local houses and businesses decorate gloriously and shopping local is the thing to do! Whilst there are events across the month, the Big Weekend from 5-7th December is our focus.

Over the page is a diary of the many activities that you can join in with but this leaflet shares some of the new and old favourite events that we are organising.

Late Night Shopping and lots more

From 3pm on Friday 5th December, there will be a Craft Fair in St Michael's Church with Father Christmas in his Grotto and late night shopping with hospitality from all your favourites.

We are also to be joined by Shetland Ponies from Munchkins and there will be carol singing and the switching on of the lights. Not to be missed!

Christmas Trees and Holders on Forest Street

Do you live on Fore Street? We can arrange a full service of fitting a tree holder, providing a tree and lights, putting it up, taking it down and arranging for recycling by the Scouts all for the special price of £60. Just need a tree? They will be on sale on Saturday 22nd November outside the Mariners' Hall. More info from Woozie.

Santa Paws

This is new for this year and we are asking you to share a photo of your dog with the theme My Dog at Christmas. - so it may be dressed up, meeting Santa or opening presents. Photos will need to be delivered to The Dolphin by Thursday 4th December and will be on display all over the Big Weekend of events for voting by the public.

Best Decorated Homes

We have not one but three prizes of vouchers to spend in the village that will be awarded for the best of the best with judging again by the Chairman of Branscombe Parish Council for fairness.

Great Beer Bake Off Competition

There will be adult and children's competitions with all the rules available soon, but it all takes place on Sunday 7th December. Rules for this and all competitions will be advertised on Facebook, on posters and in Rock Villa Off Licence.

And if all this wasn't enough...

We have what will be a hilarious Bingo night to remember with Olly, a Treasure Hunt by Gayle, a Wreath Making session, the Children's Disco, Carols on the Cliff and all your favourites.

...continued from page 20

and then he was gone
down to the village
and his favoured place in his favoured pub
perched next to the pebbled beach of the harbour

I felt like I'd just skirted a whirlpool to some fae-angelic-realm
that most of us no longer remember
or have forgotten how to see

Eventually
he died
as all poets must

and his home was purchased
and the land was cleared
and the path was diverted around the sensible right angles of
the property's legal bounds

For a year I mourned
the closing of that portal

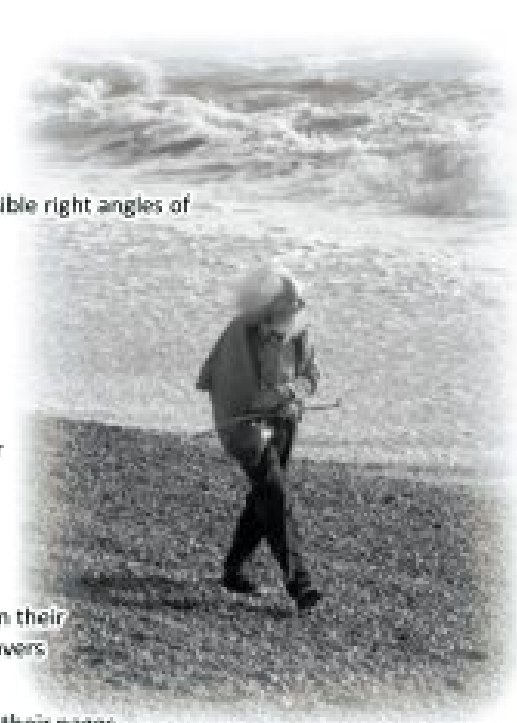
But here I am today
with the new owner
inside the gutted house
handing over cash for the old copper boiler
and there in one of the bare rooms
several stacks of plastic-wrapped books
of Michael's esoteric verse and prose

I ask if I can take a couple
- "SUNSHINE TIME" embossed in gold upon their
flower-and-bird-and-butterfly-patterned covers

and as I hold the books close to my chest
time and space warp around the gravity of their pages
life and art and death and mystery and tragedy and beauty and
oh how special and how vulnerable this human life of ours
including mine
including his
including yours

each of us a fleeting poem
trembling briefly upon the surface of a sun-lit stream
as it follows its ancient calling down
to the wide open mouth of the hagstone sea

Stephen Hancock



Axminster and District Choral Society autumn programme

A joyful autumn

The Choral Society's fortieth anniversary year will close with two contrasting events. First is their autumn concert on November 15th featuring three contemporary British composers. Sir John Rutter's jubilant *Psalmfest* will be combined with Bob Chilcott's reflective *Requiem* and a new piece written for the anniversary by the Society's President Andrew Millington. The choir will be joined by soprano Harriet Mountford and tenor Sam Dressel, and accompanied by a chamber ensemble. It promises to be an uplifting evening.

This concert will be followed on December 6th by a Come and Sing *Messiah*, reprising the event in 1985 that gave rise to the founding of the Society. Do join us, to sing or simply to listen, as we conclude the celebration of our anniversary with this well-loved work. The Come and Sing event will be in Seaton Methodist church, but there will be three optional rehearsals in Axminster beforehand.

Plans for 2026 include Vivaldi's *Gloria* in the spring and Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit* in December.

For more details please visit our website, www.axminsterchoral.co.uk, email axminsterchoral@gmail.com or phone 01404 43805. For further information, contact:

Elizabeth Twining

ejtwining@gmail.com, 01404 43805

Registered charity no.900458



BEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - SERVICES



**Sunday November 2nd - 10am Morning Service with
Holy Communion - Revd Nigel Freathy**

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Feedback from Harvest Festival Service September 28th 2025 – this was well attended and was followed by a “Harvest Breakfast” all held in the church which was enjoyed by all earning very positive comments to the lovely atmosphere and delicious breakfast delights.

It was a lovely way of marking this special time of the year and again the church looked beautifully decorated and donations were on behalf of the Seaton Food bank.

Thank you to everyone who supported and worked hard to make this a memorable event.

Please look out for posters and media press for events that will be coming up as we go in the Christmas count down.

God bless and take care of each other :)



Beer@devon.WI.org.uk
07710520055

The Women's Institute is the largest voluntary organisation in the UK, bringing together over 180,000 members nationwide. Founded in 1915 to strengthen rural communities, the WI continues to offer friendship, learning, and the chance to make a difference - both locally and nationally.

At its heart, the WI is about inspiring women. Members enjoy meeting regularly to share ideas, hear guest speakers, learn new skills and enjoy each others company. The organisation also has a proud history of campaigning on important issues, from health and equality to the environment and community wellbeing.

Here in our village Beer WI meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Congregational Hall, Beer. Each meeting features an interesting talk by a speaker, a different one each month, on a wide range of subjects along with plenty of chat and refreshments. This coming month on November 5th Jane Corry is going to tell us how to write a Sunday Times bestseller.

New members and visitors are always welcomed - come along and see what it's all about!

Looking ahead, a form for the Beer Christmas lunch is included in this edition.

The quiz night is on November 6th in the Community Hall 6.30 for 7 pm

There will be a coffee morning at Frances' house on November 20th.

Over 70s Christmas lunch 4th Dec. - application form on next page.

Proposed “Nutrient Recovery Plant”

ANAEROBIC DIGESTOR at Hangman's Stone ?????!!!!

**Consultation event on Friday 14th November from 2-7pm
(drop in) at The Branoc Hall, Branscombe:**

Consultation event for the proposed nutrient recovery project which will be a chance to hear about the background to the project, view the development plans, ask questions and provide suggestions to the project team".

Link to website with further information:

<https://www.branscombe-pc.gov.uk/nutrient-recovery-facility-proposal/>



Beer WI are pleased to confirm that we will again be holding the Christmas Lunch for over 70s this year, on Thursday 4 December in Mariners Hall.

Admission will be by **TICKET ONLY**, and, due to Health and Safety concerns, numbers will be strictly limited to **80**.

If you would like to apply for a ticket, please fill in the application form below and hand in at Beer Village Stores (Top Shop); tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and will be sent out in the middle of November. Additional forms are available at Top Shop.

I wish to apply for a ticket for the over 70s Christmas lunch
(max 2 per form please)

Name

Address

Tel/e: mail

Any special dietary requirements

.....

The purpose of this monthly page in the Parish Magazine is to offer different ways of relieving the burden of life, ways of releasing us from fear and insecurity, doorways to joy.

Does that sound like a bit of a tall order?

Let's put it another way. This page doesn't alter your own life-situation, or the conditions in which you live. That is the pattern of your own life. But it does point to ways of responding to what happens. It's not the world 'out there' we are discussing; it's the world in your head.

It's not events in your life that cause you to suffer; it's how you respond to those events.

This is a physical world where pain and suffering arise in different forms. Painful circumstances keep on coming – from one end of the spectrum, what seems unbearable torment, to minor irritation at the other end.

But the world is secondary. Your state of mind is primary.

How do you achieve an unshakeable consciousness that cannot be made distraught by life? Answer: stop mental story-telling, stop thinking wasteful repetitive negative thoughts, stop repeating the story behind your resentment and anger. Be still. Hold the attention in the here and now. Bring the circular thinking to a standstill.

Allow events to be what they are. Accept reality. Don't resist what is fact and true and real – even when it is incomprehensible, when it affects you deeply. Mysteries surround us. Other people are on life-paths different to yours. Do not be afraid of suffering, others' or your own.

It sometimes takes a big heart to accept and allow events. Appearances are not the whole picture. Look at life from inner stillness, not from emotional reactivity.

Nothing lasts. This world is mutable and fleeting. Every storm blows itself out and runs out of rain. Hold to the one eternal constant in life: your consciousness and the doorway it holds to inner peace.

YOUR "LOCAL" CONTACTS

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Devon County Councillor

Paul Arnott paul.arnott@devon.gov.uk

Member of Parliament Richard Foord

Email: Richard.Foord.MP@parliament.uk

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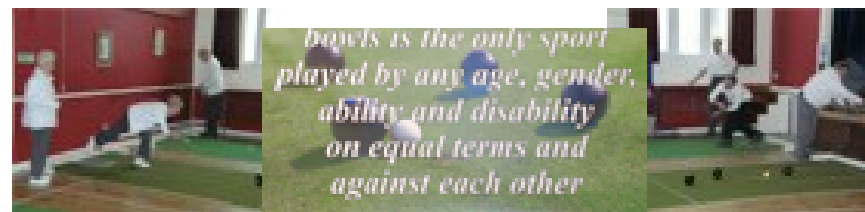
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Beer Parish News

BEER PUMPKIN SHOW



A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
SUPPORTED THE PUMPKIN SHOW.

£1,078 was raised on the night.

We will be giving money to
Beer C of E Primary School
Puffins at Beer Pre School
Beer Scouts

Beer Men's Shed (Memorial Walk)
And the Old Chapel Restoration

Save the date for next year
SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2026

Thank you to Hansfords Funeral Services, Coast
Café, Beer Fish & Chip Shop,
and everyone for their donations and prizes.
Special thanks to those who took the time and effort to
grow pumpkins, vegetables and decorated veg

Copy for December to be with the Editor
by Friday 21st November, *at very latest please.*

henryjaggers@btinternet.com

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