The Area Magazine for Lewdown, Stowford, Thrushelton, Lewtrenchard, Chillaton, Coryton & Marystowe

October 2026

50p donation

community newslink

for all that's going on in your area...



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Front Cover Picture

Description

Six Lewtrenchard WI members Hangloose at The Eden Project on September 13, 2026, raising funds for our community.

Photo: Ed.

newslink archive
www.rawrationsplus.co.uk/lraarchive.html

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Thank you for your support

community newslink

Produced by Lewdown Residents Association

A magazine providing news, information & items of interest for the areas of Lewdown, Stowford, Thrushelton, Lewtrenchard, Chillaton, Coryton & Marystowe

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All news, photographs, reports, events, etcetera for newslink need to be sent to the Editor ASAP but no later than the 15th of the preceding month.

We welcome your articles / items / advertisements. Though we do our best, we cannot guarantee to publish all that is sent to us.

B&W adverts are free for 'free to enter' charity events in our local areas.
Adverts for events outside of the area and for businesses are priced as follows:

	Black & White	Colour
1/4 page	£4/month or £40/year	£6/month or £60/year
1/2 page	£8/month or £80/year	£12/month or £120/year
Whole page	£12/month or £120/year	£16/month or £160/year

Please note that advertising prices are subject to VAT at 20%

Good evening dear readers welcome to this month's pile of tripe.

The last bank holiday Monday we, that is the Nash family embarked on our annual pilgrimage to Looe, for a bit of sand, sea and fish and chips but we were heading home after less than 4 hours, every other shop now is selling food, and there is only so much interest in looking at pasties and fudge, even though I do enjoy the occasional one myself, but hey ho. We always went there on Sunday school outings, and I suppose that your average 5year old growing up in the late 60s, living in much simpler times, going anywhere was exciting, especially somewhere exotic as the beach. I can remember several of us going mackerel fishing and catching many dozen of the things, and you took them home with you. But by the time we made it back there was a very strong odour of fish on the bus, mixed with a bit of sick, I like many others at the time was not a good traveller in any motor vehicle. Ah for the good old days.

Anyway I would like to mention about the up and coming AGM of the Lewdown residents association, which the link is the biggest thing we do. It is on the evening of the 29th of September at 7pm at the victory hall. So come along if you wish for an end to my rubbish and the appalling puns that come with it, we can always do with new people to get involved in the production and distribution.

Before I close I would like to mention the produce show held on the 22nd of August. We were all very impressed by the standard of produce on display, after what has been a very trying summer for flowers and vegetables, and the number of entries from younger people was wonderful to see. Many thanks to everyone who entered or was involved in anyway.

I feel I have to grudgingly mention Mr John Law, a resident of Stowford, who not only won the tallest sunflower, but also carried off the men's cooking cup. I was let down in my attempt to win, by a Victoria sponge that decided to rise to the hight of a deflated pancake. He did inform me that he to enjoys the occasional bad joke, and this ladies and gentlemen is one of his.

I was up early one morning so I went for a walk. My route took me through the church yard, where I came across a man sitting on the bench with is head in his hands. Morning I said to him, trying to be neighbourly, no he said , I'm just a bit low at the moment.

On that note I shall end, and wish you all well. Best wishes Tim Nash. Possibly not to be your hon chairperson for much longer, you have the power to decide.

In which sport can you make the most money?. Tennis, there's always a high rate of returns.

Have you heard that the French have solved the thorny issue of incontinence, they have bred a new variety of grape called , Pinot more, and on that note I take my leave, until next month, possibly.



Some examples of exhibits at 'The Lewdown Produce Show'

From the Editor:

First I would like to congratulate the ladies (my mad wife in particular) who took part in the Lewtrenchard WI 'Hangloose' flight 😊 they have so far managed to raise an incredible £1,290.

newslink would benefit from some new content. Our community is very diverse. Some people might not have an interest in a subject, whilst others may well. Please have a think about sending me some photographs and/or articles on any subject you hold dear or have an interest in. How about something sport related? Or perhaps about a handicraft, model making, agriculture, weather, Dartmoor?

The back page shows crafts from Lew Trenchard Primary School. Students: Cameron, Hannah, Henry, Archie, Barnaby, Ashley, Alivia, Thelma, Harriet, Cecily and Ina worked hard making the crafts together after school one day a week to enter into Lewdown Produce Show. Well done!

Ed.

From Flatlands to Hills: Beginning our life in Chillaton

After our move to Chillaton in 1954, our family life and my personal life took on a whole new level of excitement and enjoyment. We met so many interesting people and rapidly integrated into the rural life of a small village on west Dartmoor. I know that most of my exciting experiences were deemed to be quite normal by the local people, but I can't emphasise enough how dramatic it was for me to be living in a place with hills and valleys everywhere and superb views of moorlands. For weeks I just couldn't believe the view we had from Willow Cottage. OK, the way of life and the scenery were normal for everybody else, but for me coming from the flatlands, they were profound.

Terrified nights in Chillaton: When Mr Squire retired from the Chillaton Smithy in about 1955/6, my father George took over the business which was still based in the old building close to the village square. It was a short walk from there to Willow Cottage on the Lifton road where we lived. After a few weeks, we managed to get a telephone installed in the smithy with a dedicated number (I remember it was Chillaton 256). This was an important and necessary development because most of the mobile forge business depended on enquiries and appointments made by phone. Because the phone was isolated in the smithy, we had to develop a "phone-minding" routine for all the times when my father was working out of the village or was at home having his evening meal or resting. My mother Julia would attend the phone during the day, and it befell me to do this during the evenings. During the dark winter nights, it was quite eery sitting in that ancient building overlooking the dark village square (no streetlights in those days). My mother would make me a small flask of tea and some sandwiches/snacks to eat in the mid evening. As you can imagine they were all gone within minutes of me arriving at the

smithy. I had clear instructions about telephone duties – to be polite at all times, to write down the messages/requests in the phone diary and ensure I had recorded the customers' names and phone numbers.

For entertainment I had some reading material and listened to the radio. You can guess what happened most nights – I would be sitting in the old building in a dim light listening to Journey into Space, a science fiction thriller series featuring Captain Jet Morgan, which always ended in a tense cliffhanger to keep me hooked. Aliens (mostly Martians, of course) featured heavily in the episodes and after the terrifying episode I would read a book or my copy of The Eagle (a weekly boys' magazine) which usually featured more thrilling space shenanigans with "Dan Dare, Pilot of the Future" and his unforgettable evil arch-enemy, "The Mekon". He was a blue large-headed alien who flew around on a small saucer-like vehicle (well, more of a "dish" really) carrying out his evil deeds. As I had a great interest in science fiction, you can imagine that with all this going on, sitting in the dark cold ancient smithy building with rain lashing down outside, I used to get quite scared! I couldn't drink my lukewarm tea or eat my food for comfort (they had long gone). You'd think that I'd learned my lesson from all of this and that I would not listen to these programmes or read horror stories about Martians when I had to sit through my telephone duties at night. But no, I carried on doing it.

Chillaton School: I started there in 1954 and entered the 3rd year class. The head was Mrs Gray, a stern Welsh lady focused entirely on didactic teaching methods and maintaining control of the (sometimes) difficult children in her care. The infants were looked after by Miss Schofield. Their life was much easier, being based mainly on supervised play. Mrs Gray didn't take too kindly to me when I first arrived (coming with gold star reports from my previous school in Norfolk) but we gained a respectable relationship after a while. Basically, Mrs Gray had her "favourites" and I wasn't one of them. The photo shows pupils at Chillaton Primary in 1956. The lanky streak on the left is me, and the kneeling boy on the right is my friend Peter (equally lanky). My brother is 4th from left, second row. Miss Schofield is standing at the back. I recognise just about everyone in this picture, but some I'm not sure of. Perhaps NewsLink readers might have some ideas?



I was part of what was generally known as the "post war bulge" in education and there were eleven of us at that age in the school. In May 1958, we were collected from the school, together with pupils of the same age-range from other schools and taken to Dolvin Rd School in Tavistock. This was to take the 11-plus examination. We all had a great time and met lots of other kids. In the autumn of that year, four of us (Peter, Tony, Denise and me) went to Tavistock Grammar School and the remaining seven attended Dolvin Rd, which by then was the Secondary Modern School in town.

In about 1959 Chillaton School closed (the post-war bulge kids and the following year's had left), and children were bussed to Milton Abbot. Next time, if you will allow, I'll describe some memories of Chillaton and Tavistock schools and how we changed the former into the village farrier's and blacksmith's shop. That was great for me, no more dark nights doing phone duty!

Duncan Hannant

Reflections of a Steam Engine Fireman

When I started firing, after passing firing school, I think it was the second or third week, I was rostered Petersfield goods, a full load and two banks: Witley and Haslemere. 1-60 gradient a tough test for a 2-6-0 Standard class 3mt. Firing school was all about theory not hands on, you were expected to pick up a bit when you were a cleaner and I only been light engine to Woking.

It was 6am start, so I got up at 4am and walked to the station for the 5am train to Guildford, arrived at 0545am, over to the loco and meet my driver who was not keen to take an inexperienced lad on a turn that required a senior fireman, the foreman said I was the only fireman available and to do your best.

So, I walked over to the platform and relieved the crew, I had no time to look over the engine because we started moving. So I quickly checked water in the boiler, just right, steam not too good put the blower on to draw fire, look at fire not too good, quickly get the dart out and lift the fire, too much coal on, open up dampers get more air in firebox. Steam not rising, oh dear what to do, we were approaching Godalming. Got to try and rally fire before Milford. No good, driver said keep an eye on the road. I have a go, we struggle up Witley bank, little bit of respite through Witley Station, then up the bank to Haslemere, we then both had a go, but no better. I had not put any coal on yet, there was too much coal in the firebox, keep lifting the fire trying to keep steam and keep water in the boiler.



We are put in the middle road at Haslemere and come to a stop. Engine starting to steam and lift a safety valve. My driver not happy. A few harsh words, he informed me we had held up a passenger train. The train passed and we followed to Petersfield and I could not work out what had happened.

On arrival we shunted the train in the yard, picking up empties and replacing them with full wagons, reassemble wagons, next stop Liphook Royal Ordnance factory and again split train, put wagons in yard and pick up wagons, put train back together and away to Haslemere shunt yard and then back to Guildford yard, leave train and return to loco, clean the fire and go home exhausted.

Next day I was on the same turn same engine and I expected to be taken off and be replaced, no, driver said come on and we repeated the turn no problems with the engine this day, I found out some time later, what had gone on, the crew we relieved thought it would be a good idea to test this youngster and made the fire up too much smothering the fire as a joke.

This day at Petersfield we had to load up fresh water in milk churns and drop them off at two remote railway houses at Idsworth between Petersfield and Rowlands Castle, the wives asked us for some coal, so we obliged.



The platelayers often ask for coal and provided there was time we placed it near their huts, the houses are near Idsworth church (the little church in the field) 10th century Saxon church named St Hubert's.

Tom

Soupa Troopers

All welcome to this community event





Wednesday October 14th

From 12.30pm in Lewdown Victory Hall

Soup and a Bread Roll, Tea or Coffee - £4

Followed by conversation & games



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Lewdown 200 Club £

Draw Results

September

£50 John Pengelly #60
£15 Peter van Delft #166
£5 John Gabb #18
£5 Torbin Hughes #111

Stowford Parish Hall

For bookings and enquiries contact:
Julie Chick Tel: 01566 783223
Email: stowfordparishhall@gmail.com
A Defibrillator is located in the porch - Postcode EX20 4BZ
Charity No: 1020031

Table Tennis

@Stowford Village Hall

Join us for Table Tennis**,** no experience needed, just bring energy and a smile, all ages welcome - Bats & Balls provided



Tuesday October 6 & Wednesday October 21
19:00 - 21:00

Donations welcome





STOWFORD COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

Come and meet your neighbours for a coffee, cake and catch up!

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at Stowford Parish Hall.
10am - 12noon. All friends and family welcome.
£3 per person (cash only) which includes a hot drink and homemade cake.

All profits are donated to a charity chosen by villagers.
If you need help with transport, please contact Tracy on 07973 327161



Cocktail of the Month 'Eeyore's Requiem'

Inspired by what he calls "the most bitter character in literature," Toby Maloney's Eeyore's Requiem is a "deep, dark Negroni, turned on its head."

The drink starts with a base of bitter complexity by stacking three different amari amped up with aromatic French vermouth and juniper-rich gin.

YOU WILL NEED:



- 45 ml Campari
- 30 ml Bianco Vermouth
- 20 ml London Dry Gin
- 7.5 ml Carciofo amaro
- 7.5 ml Fernet Branca liqueur
- 2 dash Orange Bitters

METHOD:

Select and pre-chill a coupe glass.
Prepare garnish of orange zest twist.
Stir all ingredients with ice.
Fine strain into chilled glass.
Garnish with flamed orange zest twists over cocktail, then use as garnish.

By layering three different amari, the bartender is building a deeply structured, bitter-sweet profile that moves beyond the standard Campari base.

Enjoy!

From Delft to Devon

My family history by Peter van Delft - Part Eight
Jan van Delft 1920 -1990 Father (Part two 1939 - 1944)
Some text has been taken from his biography.

Back in Holland, early 1939, Jan was conscripted to the army and sent to the German boarder to defend King and Country. Fortifications in the area were poor. “It was all just a nasty joke! An easy target for the Germans”.

In early May 1940 just before the Germans invaded, Jan was released from the army. With the end of Jan’s conscription, his parents had arranged for him to work on a tea plantation near Sukawana, Bandung, West Java in the Dutch colony of Indonesia. The journey would take 3 months, first travelling on a train to Naples and then on board a Japanese ship freighter bound for Singapore. Jan was immediately required to report to the police in Singapore before travelling on to Jakarta with a local cargo ship.

After settling in on the job, Jan was soon promoted to manager on the plantation. Work went well until the events of Pearl Harbour in December 1941. The Dutch army immediately enlisted Jan in Indonesia, with duties for transport and materials. The situation was a “mad house” from this time onwards. Then in February 1942 everyone was ordered to retreat and depart to Bandung, the destination was Australia.



In early March 1942 the Indonesian government capitulated. Jan was then sent to an open prison camp awaiting further instruction from the new Japanese overlords. There were around 10,000 prisoners in the camp. After a couple of months, Jan would be transported back to Jakarta and ordered to work on the vegetable gardens for 12 months. By this time his clothes were reduced to rags and his shoes were rotten and of no use. May 1944, ordered to move on, Jan was at first transported by open train, continuing, he was then thrown into the hold of a coal ship. This was worse than the treatment of animals. The journey ended after 3 days in Pandang. After a 10mile walk, Jan was dumped in the local prison. After another 3 days, Jan arrived in Pekanbaru. He was then transported by open lorry to Sumatra to work on the construction of a new railway. This was the Sumatra Death Railway from Pekanbaru to Moearo. Ending up in an open prison in the jungle. The Japanese did not provide any food, everyone had to fend for themselves hunting for whatever he could find in the jungle. Jan thought that this would be the way of everyday life until liberation. Life would be harsh from this point onwards or so Jan thought.

To be continued next month...

Pork Saltimbocca (a new family favourite)

Ingredients:

8 thin cut pork loin steaks	Salt & pepper	8 pieces of prosciutto or Parma ham
8 sage leaves	Some oil	4 small sprigs of sage
100ml white wine	200ml beef stock	250ml double cream
1 tsp mild curry	50g pitted black olives	



Method:

1. Season the meat with salt & pepper, put the prosciutto and sage leaves on top of the meat, press down or fix with a cocktail stick (I didn't need to do that, it stayed on during frying)
2. Heat oil in frying pan and fry the steaks for 1 minute each side then set aside
3. Fry the 4 small sprigs of sage in the left over oil, set aside
4. Add the wine and deglaze the pan. Add the stock and cream, bring to a boil, then reduce heat, add the curry and olives, bubble gently for 10 minutes. Add the steaks to the sauce, heat through or until you are sure your meat is cooked. Serve with orzo or other pasta of your choice, garnish with the friend sprigs of sage.

Monique

Young Adult Book of the Month: Cut Him Out in Little Stars by Lucy Strange

Combining a coming of age and gorgeous wartime romance with gripping murder mystery, this is a page-turning YA novel...



Heartbroken after the death of her fighter pilot fiancé, Juliet is sent to stay with her sister at Samphire House. But when she discovers the body of a local girl washed up on the beach, past mysteries come flooding back.

Under the darkening skies of wartime England, Juliet is thrown together with a handsome stranger. Can she find the courage to confront her deepest fears, put right a terrible injustice, and - even as the world burns around her - risk falling in love once more?

Publisher: Chicken House Ltd
ISBN: 9781915026163

Key to winners names:

Tom Andrews	TA	G&A Bales	GAB	R Brixey	RB
Julie Chick	JC	Ashley school	As	Lisa Colon	LC
Lorraine Copeland	LC	Betty Darke	BD	Harriet school	Has
Liam Downing	LD	Alex school	Aes	Jemma Dufty	JD
Noah school	Ns	Xander school	Xs	Alivia school	Als
Cecily school	Cs	Frankie Hedger	FH	Monique Hedger	MH
Hannah school	Hs	Henry school	Hes	Margaret Hill	MaH
Tori Isaac	TI	Val Isaac	VI	Audrey Jones	AJ
Colin Jones	CJ	John Law	JL	Judy Law	JuL
Lethbridge-Martin	ALM	Tracey Manning	TM	George Metherell	GM
Hannah Metherell	HM	Liz Metherell	LiM	Rosie Metherell	RM
Arthur Nash	ArN	Andy Nash	AN	Megan Nash	MN
Natalie Nash	NaN	Nicola Nash	NN	Patrick Nash	PN
Sarah Nash	SN	Tim Nash	TN	Cameron school	Cs
Kathryn Phillips	KP	Barbara Scott	BS	Joyce Vanstone	JV
James Ware	JW	Kaz White	KW	EM Worth	EW
Courtney Walters	CW	Vicky Yeo	VY		

Section A - Classes 1 - 28	1st	2nd	3rd
1. Garden News Top Tray	LD	AN	TN
2. Three Salad Items on a Plate	AN	TN	TN
3. Three Carrots	EW	EW	TN
4. Three Onions (Sets)	JV	AN	TN
5. Three Onions (Seeds, untrimmed)	AN	AN	PN
6. Three Beetroot (Round)	KW	EW	TN
7. Six Runner Beans	VY	TN	CW
8. Three Potatoes (White-Round or Oval)	CW	TN	EW
9. Three Potatoes (White-Long or Kidney)	CW	MaH	
10. Three Potatoes (Coloured-Round or Oval)	CW	TN	
11. Three Potatoes (Coloured-Long or Kidney)	CW		
12. The Heaviest Potato (One entry per exhibitor) (1 prize only)	TN		
13. A bunch of mixed herbs in a jam jar	JuL	MH	As
14. Pair of Courgettes	CW	JC	As
15. Six Shallots (Any variety)	LD	LD	AN
16. One Cucumber (Greenhouse)	LD	AN	EW
17. Six French Beans	KW	CW	
18. Cherry Tomatoes on the Vine	JV	LD	JW

19.	One Summer Cabbage	TN		LD
20.	Longest Runner Bean (1st prize only)	JV		
21.	Four tomatoes	EW	LD	PN
22.	Any Vegetable not in any of the above classes	LD	LD	CW
23.	Two Peppers (any colour)	TN	AN	
24.	Four Plums	MaH	MH	AN
25.	Four Apples (Dessert)	GM	MH	AN
26.	Four Apples (Cooking)	AN	JW	CJ
27.	Heaviest Apple	MaH		
28.	Six Soft Fruit in a Dish	BD	TN	JV

Section B - Classes 29 - 46		**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**
29.	Five Dahlias (Pom-Pom, under 2")		MaH	
30.	Three Dahlias (Cacti)	TI	CW	
31.	Three Dahlias (Decorative or Ball)	MaH	JC	SN
32.	One Dahlia	MaH	JV	SN
33.	One Rose (any variety)	JC	VY	JC
34.	Six French Marigold Heads	JV	EW	SN
35.	Five Stems of Annuals	SN	NN	TI
36.	Five Stems of Outdoor Perennials	SN	SN	NN
37.	Six Sweet Peas (Mixed)	LD	As	
38.	Four Sweet Peas (One Colour)	JV	LD	FH
39.	Three Gladioli (Mixed Colour)			
40.	One Gladioli	MaH	LD	BD
41.	Five Rudbeckia Stems	JV	SN	SN
42.	Three Stems of Chrysanthemums	NN	NN	
43.	A Single Bloom	BD	MN	LD
44.	Six Fuchsia Heads	JC	NN	LiM
45.	Any Flowering Pot Plant (Max 8" Pot)	NN	JC	MH
46.	Potted Orchid	HM	RM	

Section C - Classes 47 - 63		**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**
47.	Strawberry Jam	NN	NN	
48.	Jar Jam (Any other Variety)	Hs	MaH	NaN
49.	Jar Fruit Jelly (Any Variety)	NN	SN	VY
50.	Pot of Curd	VY	NN	
51.	Jar Chutney or Pickle Mature (Any Variety, at least 2 months old)	SN	VY	

52.	Marmalade	BD	NN	SN
53.	Chocolate Sponge (Set Recipe)	LiM	VY	MN
54.	Four Marbled Cupcakes (Set Recipe)	LC	MN	Hs
55.	Three Cookies	MN	As	NaN
56.	Four Rock Cakes (Set Recipe)	MN	AN	NaN
57.	Four Sausage Rolls	PN	MH	VI
58.	Four Cheese Scones	JC	JD	SN
59.	Four Pieces of Brownies	NaN	JC	ALM
60.	MEN ONLY Victoria Sandwich	JL	AN	PN
61.	MEN ONLY Cheese and Bacon Turnover (set R)	TN	TA	AN
62.	Mocktail	SN	NN	
63.	Layered Jelly Adults	NN	SN	
	Layered Jelly Kids	Xs	As	Hs

Section D - Classes 64 - 69		**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**
64.	Item made from Toilet Rolls Adults	LiM	ArN	NN
	Item made from Toilet Rolls Kids	Hs	Als	As
65.	A homemade Christmas Card Adults	NN	MN	MN
	A homemade Christmas Card Kids	Cs	Hs	Cs
66.	Item of knitting, Crochet, Needle Felting of Tapestry Adults	RB	NaN	AJ
	Item of knitting, Crochet, Needle Felting of Tapestry Kids	Hs		
67.	An Edible Necklace Adults	MH		
	An Edible Necklace Kids	As	Hs	Hes
68.	A Decorated Mask Adults	TM	NN	
	A Decorated Mask Kids	Hes	Hs	As
69.	Picture of twigs/leaves Adults	NN	FH	RM/HM
	Picture of twigs/leaves Kids	As		

Photography 6" x 4" unframed - Classes 70 - 72		**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**
70.	A Summers Day	Hes	KP	FH
71.	An Animal/Pet	VI	NaN	TM
72.	A Single Flower	KP	Hes	LC

Section E - Floral Art - Classes 73 - 79		**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**
73.	An Arrangement incorp a rocket (45x45cm)	HM	BD	NN

74. An Arrangement in an Egg Cup	RM	NN	HM
75. A Single Flower with Foliage	LiM	NN	SN
76. Tallest Dandelion	FH	Ns	Aes
77. Victory Hall Top Vase	SN	TI	NN
78. Tallest sunflower	JL	As	VI
79. Largest Sunflower Head	GAB	Ns/Aes	As

Primary School Age - Classes 80 - 83	**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**
80. Four Rock Cakes (set Recipe)	As	Hs	Hes
81. A Homemade Drink	Hs	As	Hes
82. A Magazine/paper Rocket Collage	Xs	Als	Hs
83. 6 Pieces of Bunting, any medium	Has	Hs	Cs

School Entry - Class 84	**KS1 1st**	**KS2 1st**
84. A limerick	Ezra	Bebe

WI Entry Members only - Class 85	**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**
85. Invitation	MH	KP	BS

AWARD WINNERS:	
The JB Hill Cup Section A	**TN**
The LVH Challenge Cup Section B	**SN**
The WI Silver Challenge Cup	**JC/KP/MH**
The WI Monica Horn Trophy	**MH**
The Mary Stuart Challenge Cup Section C	**NN**
The Silver Challenge Cup Sections C, D & E excl. WI & YFC	**NN**
The Children's Silver Challenge Cup Primary School Age	**As**
The LVH Silver Challenge Cup Section D Adult	**NN**
The Parkwood Trophy Section E	**NN**
The Cedric Warren Memorial Trophy Most points in the show	**NN**
The Jim Nash Memorial Cup Most points Men's Cooking	**JL**
Christine Wonnacott Memorial Cup Best Exhibit Section B	**MaH**
Kerslake Cup Best Exhibit Section A	**AN**

Many congratulations to everyone who took part ☺

We're back !

Stowford's



at Stowford Parish Hall

Thursday 8th October 7.30pm &Thursday 12th November 7.30pm

£4 per person at the door Teams of 2 - 6 people
Bring your own drinks, we provide the nibbles.
(All profits go to charity)

Launceston Male Voice Choir In joint concert with Barnstaple Male Voice Choir
At Lifton Community Centre Saturday 3rd October at 7.00pm



Village Skies by The Watcher on the Hill

With the return to GMT, stargazing can take place at more sociable hours. The advancing dusk means that summer favourites like Hercules and Aquila are still to be seen in the west for a while yet. The large square of Pegasus is now dominant throughout the night, while rising later in the east we start to see again the familiar winter constellations: Taurus, Gemini and Orion. The Milky Way is still prominent overhead, when seen from darker skies. The days around the 10th would be a good time, as the moon is new.

October this year is an interesting month for the planets in our solar system. Jupiter has recently moved into Leo, and doesn't rise until around 3 a.m. Saturn is better placed to the south-east in Cetus (the whale), and on the 4th it reaches its closest point to Earth – known as

opposition – when it appears brightest to the eye, and best in a telescope. The reddish Mars, in Cancer, rises progressively earlier in the night as the year advances, though not until 1 a.m. at the moment.

The planets all orbit the Sun in roughly the same plane as the Moon, so they follow a similar path across the sky, though at different speeds. This means that they sometimes appear close to each other, or to the Moon, though in reality they are far apart; these events are known as conjunctions. The Moon and Mars do this early on the 5th, before sunrise in the east, as do the Moon and Jupiter on the 6th. As seen from the UK these are "near misses" but from elsewhere the Moon will actually pass in front of these planets – an occultation. The Moon also passes Saturn on the evening of the 24th, though not as closely. Throughout the month, Mars itself appears gradually to approach Jupiter, which is the prelude to an upcoming conjunction between the two planets in mid-November. For completeness, Uranus and Neptune are also in the night sky at the moment, in Taurus and Pisces respectively, though too faint to be found without assistance. Mercury and Venus are not well placed with respect to the Sun for convenient observing at the moment.

One further event to note: one of the quieter meteor showers, the Orionids, peaks overnight on the 21st, though it will be more visible in the early hours, after the Moon has set.



Gardening Jobs for October

Autumn is here and the end of the main growing season is upon us, but there are still lots of things to do in the garden.

Things to do this month

1. As you clear away plants, you can get a good look at your plot. Now is a great time to make changes to the structure or layout of your garden while the weather is still fairly favourable.
2. Start planting bulbs for a spring display. Each year we buy some fresh bulbs (daffodils, tulips & iris) to plant up in pots to put on display outside our front door in the spring and we plant the old bulbs (mainly daffodils) which came out of pots this year into the lawn.



3. If you are using a no dig method, now is a good time to empty the compost bins and mulch your beds. Whilst it is not particularly attractive, covering large empty areas with plastic can help keep the weeds down over winter when it's too wet to get out and weed.

Crop of the month - Pumpkins

Growing advice - once you get the young plants growing, pumpkins require very little attention but do benefit from water in dry spells. Taking off old dying leaves can help reduce disease and I find growing them over plastic works well by providing extra warmth and keeping the weeds down.



Top varieties - I grow 'Howden' as a good reliable variety for carving or why not try 'Baby Boo' for a small, white, ornamental variety instead.

Best way to eat - the flesh of pumpkins can be used in soups or roasted but let's be honest, they aren't grown for eating they are grown for carving!

Big or small - if you want bigger pumpkins then make sure you remove any new fruit after the first 3/4 have set (July time) or leave more fruits on to get more smaller ones.

Top tip - choose your growing location wisely, the plants can get VERY big. One of my plants this year must have spread to at least 10' x 10' / 3m x 3m in size.

May the weather be with you!
Liam

Lewtrenchard WI September Report

Barbara welcomed everyone... our speakers, one guest, one returning member and then handed over to Graham Parker, Jamie and Owl 'Nina' for an 'Owl Show and Tell'.

Graham has been going round schools, organisations etcetera for many years now, showing off the beautiful European Barn Owl 'Nina'. Nina's parents abandoned the nest of 4 eggs, Nina was the only one who hatched. Graham began to rear her and is now her 'dad'. They are both very fond of each other. Graham talked about the most common Owls we have in the UK. Nina's breed is not at all common in the UK.

Owls in order of numbers: Tawny Owl, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Long Eared Owl, Short Eared Owl, European Eagle Owl and Snowy Owl (made famous by Harry Potter). Jamie showed us photographs. The call of the Tawny Owl is the typical twit twoo you associate with owls. If you were to reply, you might be lucky and see one as they fly towards you thinking of an intruder in their territory and attempt to chase you away.

Owls have eyesight that is 8 times better than we humans. Owls with dark eyes hunt at night, yellow eyed owls hunt in the day and orange eyed owls hunt in dawn and dusk. The European Eagle Owl is large and has extremely strong claws, capable of crushing a wolf's head! Going back to Nina, she was such a happy bird, very curious and proud to show us her typically white underside, she loved being petted and held. Nina is smaller than our Barn Owls and very fluffy, 75% of her body are feathers, she is not waterproof and a somewhat fussy eater (spoilt by her dad no doubt 😊), she lives with Graham in a very big aviary but also has free run of his land. She only flies around places she is familiar with, she even has a boyfriend who brings her little treats to eat. In the wild, she might live 5 years, in captivity 15-20 years. Graham needs a licence to keep owls which costs £300/year and he is subject to yearly check-ups. Members had lots of questions for Graham & Jamie, everyone wanted to say hello to Nina and hold her. Nina and everyone had a wonderful evening.



Jamie very kindly judged our competitions and we congratulated one member on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Date & venue for next meeting: Monday October 12, 19:30, Lewdown Victory Hall
Squadron Leader Nick Clyburn - RAF - Experienced Speaker - Non members £5

Dates for your diary:

10th October	Skittles @ Treburley
15th October	Coffee morning @ The Blue Lion
15th October	Food Craft & Skills
	Walks suspended until further notice





Some Lewdown Produce Show Winners ☺

















From the Mountains of Japan

No. 27 - The Decline of the Sushi Rotary

Sushi rotary restaurants are synonymous with Japan. In western countries they're expensive and exclusive, but in Japan the rotaries are the food halls, where you get large families with noisy kids, colourful signs, all manner of seasonal recommendations, and now phone apps with a multitude of coupons.

Upon arrival more than twenty years ago, I was keen to try one, but was warned almost immediately by my new students never to take the fish off the conveyor, but to use that as a display item and then order directly from the chef behind the counter.

Of course I didn't listen, and had to force down dried, leathery fish that had no doubt been rotating for hours. But on the plus side, I learned my lesson.

However, in the two decades that I've been here, the system has changed dramatically.

Covid effectively ended the display items system. For a while, some persisted, with the sushi rotating under little plastic lids. Most now only put out food that is ordered via a tablet found on your table. You get a number, or a colour, or a screen flashes when your food approaches. Others have little conveyors that send the plates directly to your table.



The weakening yen and overfishing are also contributing. The 100yen (50p) menu, which used to encompass most items, usually on a lunchtime, is now almost non-existent, exclusive to a couple of items of plain fish, or random extras such as egg or cucumber rice rolls. What twenty years ago were standard sizes are now advertised as large, and it's not uncommon to get low quality fish filled with ligaments, something that I don't think ever happened the first twenty years I was here.

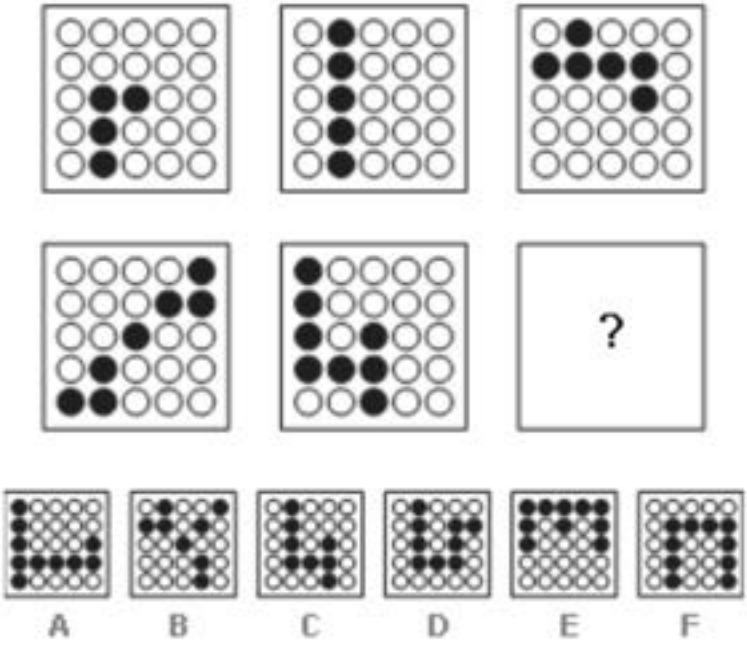
Still, the places are always packed out, particularly on weekends, and it's always fun to go and see what might now be masquerading as sushi. Horse meat. Deep fried lotus root. Cured ham with avocado and spicy sauce.

You can still get quality sushi if you go somewhere high end, in a traditional-style building with wood slats across the window and a complex, unreadable sign, but the rotaries are still fun if you want (relatively) cheap and cheerful, even if the fish is sometimes still defrosting or has clearly been prepared by a student holding a smartphone in the other hand.

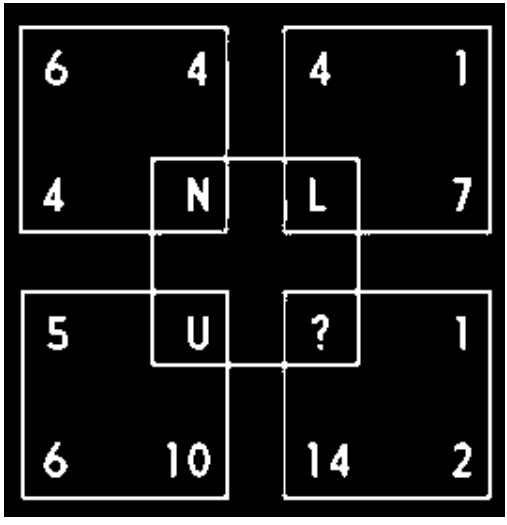
Chris Ward

Puzzle Pages

What is missing in the last box?



Which letter replaces the question mark?



October's Evil Sudoku

	6			1				5
5		8		3			4	
	2				8			
6								
			1				2	
3		5			9			1
1		9			3			2
	8							
				4		7		

September's Answers

Magic Square Sum = 38

17	3	4	14
6	12	11	9
10	8	7	13
5	15	16	2

Evil Sudoku

6	2	8	1	4	3	5	9	7
5	4	**9**	8	**2**	7	6	**1**	**3**
3	**1**	7	9	5	6	**2**	8	4
2	9	**1**	5	**7**	**8**	4	3	6
4	3	**5**	6	1	**9**	**8**	7	2
7	8	6	2	3	**4**	1	**5**	9
9	6	3	4	8	5	7	2	**1**
1	**5**	**4**	7	**9**	2	3	6	8
8	7	2	**3**	**6**	1	**9**	4	5

Lewdown Grouped Parish Council

Coryton, Lewtrenchard, Marystowe and Thrushelton

Abbreviated Minute No 805 of Ordinary Meeting

Held on Monday 24th August 2026 at Lewdown Victory Hall

These minutes are provisional until they signed by the chair at the next meeting of the parish council

1. Members of the public open forum - no members present
2. Declarations of Interest - Cllr Alexander Item 7.4.
3. Minutes of previous meeting 804 being a true reflection of that meeting was approved and signed by the chair. Proposed Cllr Alexander, seconded Cllr Allison, motion carried.
4. Cllr Mott (WDBC) - Reported on the proposed Local Government Reorganisation including the new ward/councillor changes. Lewdown Grouped Parish Council may become part of a larger **"Lifton & Milton Abbot"** ward with just one councillor. West Devon Borough Council will cease. A new interim larger 11 unitary **"Devon Coast & Countryside Council"** consisting of 103 councillors may come into effect. The proposals may come into effect 2028 they are currently awaiting an announcement from the Secretary of State. Parish elections are set for May 2027.
5. 5.1 Payments were authorised for the following; Elliott Groundcare - grass cutting No 6 £60.00, Vision Ict - Email and domain provider £54.00, proposed Cllr Andrews, seconded Cllr Southcott, motion carried. 5.2 Lewtrenchard Handbell Ringers - Approved grant award £180.00, proposed Cllr Perkins, seconded Cllr Metherell, motion carried. 5.3 Replacement computer - faulty laptop. The clerk suggested that a budget of £375- £425 is provided for replacement laptop. Cllr Metherell proposed and Cllr Alexander seconded, the motion was carried.
6. Play area updates - 6.1 Lease agreement - no update. 6.2 Play equipment -awaiting news from the National lottery 6.3 National Lottery application - News on the application is due by 28th August. 6.4 Section 106 - update, a current balance of £4,398.51 is still unclaimed. 6.5 The Ramps - Risk assessments, appropriate assessments to be written when the project is completed.
7. Cllr reports - Cllr Southcott reported that questionnaire for a potential Lewdown Parish Shop has been entered in Newslink, it is also available on the Lewdown Noticeboard Facebook page, it is also available on the Bratton Clovelly and Chillaton websites. Contact Cllr Southcott or Alex Collins, details can be found in the Newslink.
8. Councillor vacancies - Two councillors for Marystow - New advertisements have been placed in noticeboards and Newslink.
9. Stoney Lane "Do not park signs" vandalised - Cllr Wilkinson will attend to remedial work now that he has received the equipment to make the repairs.
10. Style on footpath through Fernridge Park. Cllr Alexander reported that he had been in touch with John Boyd of D.C.C. regarding the '3 Ps' (Parish Paths Partnership). D.C.C. will fund upto £30 per mile for costs attributed to the paths maintenance. Replacement gates etc are fully funded by D.C.C. Turnstiles are now replaced with gravity self-closing gates. This is a volunteer scheme, Cllr Alexander will arrange to find a group of people to help with the maintenance. Money from D.C.C. is to be ringfenced in a separate bank account held by the parish council. Cllr Mott informed that Bratton Clovelly is successfully working a similar scheme.
11. Correspondence - VAT refund confirmation.
12. Emergency plan - Cllr Southcott informed that the plan is now updated and registered with Devon Communities.
13. Devon Road Warden Scheme, pc adoption and volunteers - Cllr Southcott informed that training is provided by Devon Highways, he informed that the scheme was restricted. The scheme included sign cleaning, pot-hole repairs, path clearing etc. Cllr Alexander asked if volunteers could be sought, however Cllr Southcott informed that very little volunteer uptake occurred with a previous initiative, adding that it may now be worth trying the 'Community Payback Scheme' Cllr Southcott to enquire. Cllr Alexander suggested that an advert calling for a 'Community Volunteer Group' to be formed. Cllr Mott informed that an 'informal' volunteer group in Bridestowe had existed for several years now, they meet once a month to participate in improving their local environment, after the tasks are completed, they meet up in the hall for light refreshments and a chat. Cllr Alexander to consider and arrange an advert for Newslink.
14. Sewage discharges - data from the sewage works in Lewdown. Cllr Alexander provided very recent data from S.W.W that showed outfall from the Lewdown Waste Water Treatment works during the very dry period at the end of July. The data provided evidence of discharges lasting 37 minutes on just one day. Councillors expressed deep concern that such discharges are happening in the current extreme dry conditions. S.W.W. previously informed that discharges only occur in severe wet weather conditions. It was resolved that the clerk write again to S.W.W and ask why such discharges are still taking place in dry climatic conditions and what action will be taken to ensure that the sewage network will manage the existing and the future additional housing infrastructure.

Date, place and time of next meeting for Ordinary Meeting on Monday 28th September, Lewdown Victory Hall, 7.30pm

Dartmoor Prison Escapes

In the 1960s our police force was supported by volunteers in the community, Special Constables, who assisted at local events including Gymkhanas, Point to Points, Goose Fair, being at Polling Stations on voting day and traffic management on the A30 during holiday times.



12 December 1966 was the day "Mad Max", Frank Mitchell escaped for the third time from Dartmoor Prison, he was being supervised by one warder and wandered off on the pretext of feeding the ponies. The 'Specials' were called up to provide roadblocks at borders and other places. Cyril was sent to 'guard' Polson Bridge! Claude as Sergeant travelled around the check points to see all was well! Those at checkpoints would have to check cars to ascertain if the prisoner was there, with just a truncheon for their protection and no contact with anyone. These escapes always attracted huge TV and radio coverage stating how dangerous these men were.

On asking what my dad would do he said, "I'd let him go I couldn't do anything, perhaps give him a sandwich!" Their only protection was a truncheon and to report to Claude when he arrived on his rounds.

'Mad Max' was linked to the Kray Brothers and though no body has been found it is thought he was murdered in December of that year. Mad Max used to visit Elephant's Nest at Mary Tavy! At the time he also had a taxi to pick him up from there and take him back to Tavistock. Top security there then. There were many violent prisoners in Dartmoor Prison. If you are interested do a search on Google.



There were many break outs from Dartmoor Prison in the 1950s and 1960s, looking at the press releases of the day no wonder, I was concerned child!

Dartmoor Prison is a forlorn place; however I was always reminded that these men were human beings and we knew nothing of their past. As part of my career I went into prisons delivering prerelease courses and I always remembered my dad's words.

Many thanks to Simon Del, Policing Historian and Author for providing the photos which include Claude Marlow and Cyril Blithe at Lifton Police Station. Thanks to the British Newspaper Archive for allowing me to research/use their article.

Sue

Stowford Parish Hall



Stowford Supper

£15 a head

7pm Friday 16th October

Meal choices

Cottage Pie / GF Option Available

Jacket potato, Baked beans
Cheese and Salad Veg

Chicken Curry

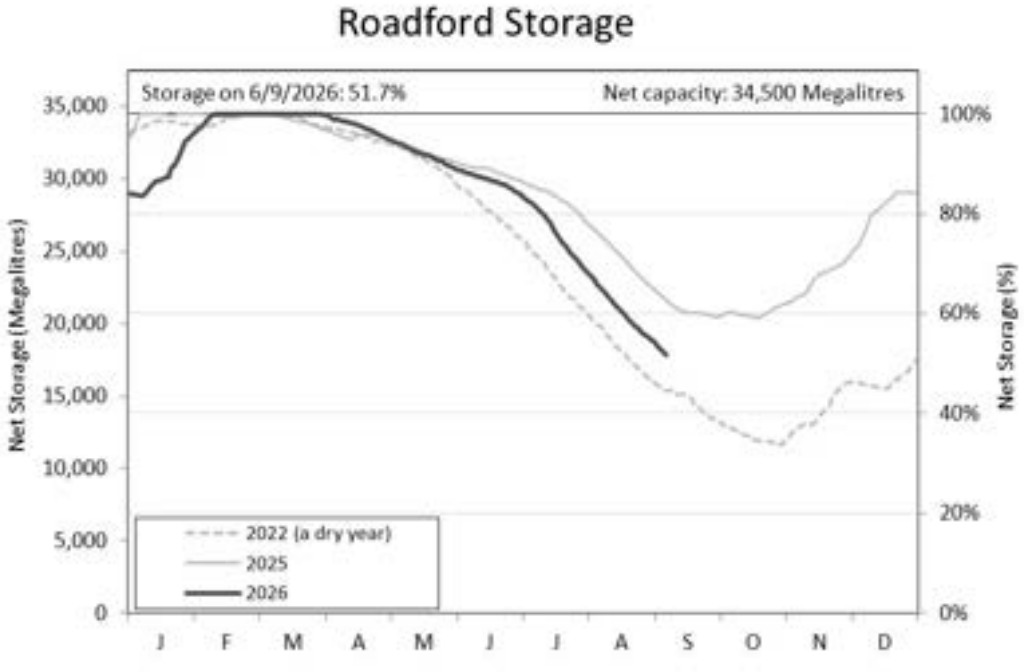
Home made Desserts Tea, coffee and Mints

BYO Bottle

Tickets: Charles Chick - 01566 783223 | Sharon Adams - 01566 783030
Ester Van Delft - 07715 434237

Roadford Lake Reservoir

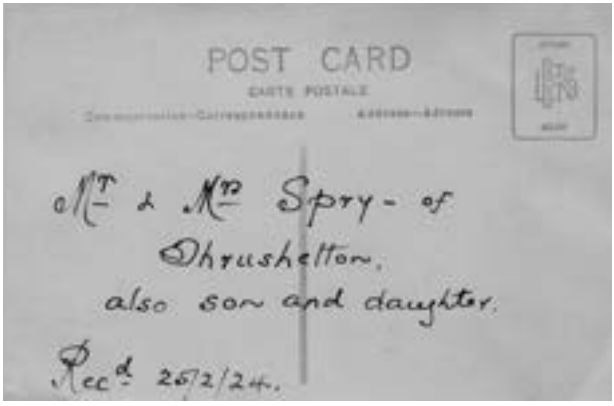
Roadford is currently 52% full, a slight level increase since the lowest recorded level this year in early August. The level is higher than during the very dry year of 2022 but lower than last year. The South West Water Hosepipe Ban is scheduled to be lifted on 25 September.



Roadford Island (photo Graham)**:**



Photos of Spry Family of Thrushelton from Australia





Ed. I was asked to include these photos and the following:

"These were found in Eli Broad's home in Penrith, New South Wales, along with so many more. He annotated each photo I have, plus I have a small notebook where he kept a record of his family over here. We had a great holiday on the back of ancestry!

If I could give them to relatives, then I am more than happy to. The photos have travelled the world twice! Perhaps if anyone is interested they could contact you (Ed.) and you send on to me? I have quite a few left to find homes for... This has been a big project!

You can alter my email as you wish.

Kind regards
Sue"

The North Tamar Mission Community



St. Mary the Virgin, Kelly with Bradstone | St. Mary the Virgin, Lifton | St. Nicolas, Broadwoodwidger | St. John the Baptist, Stowford | St. George, Thrushleton | St. Peter, Lewtrenchard

Ministers

Lifton, Broadwoodwidger, Stowford, Lewtrenchard, Thrushelton & Kelly with Bradstone United Benefice

The Revd. Philip Conway, 01566 784462 liftonpriest@yahoo.com
The Rectory, Parsonage Court, Lifton PL16 0BJ

Milton Abbot Benefice

The Revd. Gill George, 07947 604160 revgillgeorge@gmail.com
The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot PL19 0NZ

Churchwardens

Lifton - St Mary's			
Mrs E Brown	01566 784386	Sarah Chandler	
Broadwood - St Nicholas			
Mr D Perkin	01566 776758		
Stowford - St John the Baptist			
Mr C Chick	01566 783223		
Lewtrenchard - St Peters			
Mrs A Westlake	01566 783909	Mrs R. Dawe	01566 788838
Thrushelton - St George			
Mr A J Nash	01566 783274	Mr T Nash	01566 783320
Kelly with Bradstone - St Mary's			
Mr W Kelly	01822 870249	Mrs L Hayward	01822870852
Marystowe - St Mary the Virgin			
Revd G George	07947 604160		
Coryton - St Andrews			
Mr G. Vicat	07485 241345		

From the Parish Priest



Dear Friends

We had a very busy and fulfilling Bank holiday weekend. A wonderful Flower Festival at Broadwoodwidger, a super 5th Sunday service and lunch at Bradstone, and opening the weekend was the most wonderful party which so many of you came to to celebrate my

birthday and my 30th anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood.

There is nothing quite like being with friends and family, and for me the church has not been an extension of my family it is, and has always been an integral part of it.

We often turn to the church when things are tough, but that doesn't mean we should not also share our celebrations and achievements with our church family too.

Whether it be a Golden wedding, or the passing of our Driving Test, a good set of GCSE results, or a trophy at the local show, or the arrival of a new grandchild, the church of God rejoices in the joy and achievement of its members.

So thank you so much for joining me in my celebration, and if you have something to celebrate, bring that celebration to church and let us help you give thanks to God for it.

With love and prayers,

Philip

Service times for October 2026

Any updates will be posted on the Mission Community Website https://north-tamar-churches.org

2nd October **Friday Service**
7pm **Harvest Thanksgiving at Thrushelton**
Followed by Supper in the Church

4th October **Trinity 18**
9.30am **Parish Eucharist at Lifton**
11.15am **Parish Eucharist at Stowford**
6pm **Evensong at Kelly**

6pm **on the eve Saturday 10th October Vigil Eucharist at Kelly**

11th October **Trinity 19**
9.30am **Parish Eucharist at Broadwoodwidger**
Morning Prayer at Thrushelton
11.15 **Parish Eucharist at Lewtrenchard**

18th October **St. Luke the Evangelist**
9.30am **Parish Eucharist at Lifton**
11.15 **GIFT service at Stowford**
A service for the very young and those who care for them.
6pm **Kelly**

6pm **on the eve Saturday 24th October Vigil Eucharist at Kelly**

26th October **Last Sunday after Trinity**
9.30am **Parish Eucharist at Thrushelton**
Morning Prayer at Broadwoodwidger
11.15 **Parish Eucharist at Lewtrenchard**

Wednesday Morning Eucharist: 10.30 at Lifton
There will be some occasions when the Wednesday Morning Service will be a service of Morning Prayer.

Bridestowe Methodist Church
Preachers for October 2026

4th	A Bandfield Harvest Festival	11:00
11th	Local Arrangements	11:00
18th	US at the C of E	09:30
25th	G Yates	11:00

St. Mary the Virgin, Marystowe

4th October	09:30	Holy Communion
18th October	09:30	Harvest Festival

St. Andrew, Coryton

11th October	11:15	Matins & Baptism
18th October	18:30	Harvest Festival

See: www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/15-267DP/service-and-events/calendar for services details

Quakers

Meeting for Worship:

Tavistock
Every Sunday 10.00am.
4 Canal Road
Tavistock
Contact: Kay Nicholson
01822 614596

Okehampton
Second Sunday 10.30am.
Fourth Sunday 10.30am
Second Sunday Children's Meeting
Ockment Centre
North Street
Okehampton
Contact: 01837 55805

Roman Catholic Services

Tavistock
Sunday 9am
Fr. A. K. Gundabathina 01837 52229
anil.gundabathina@prcdtr.org.uk

Okehampton
Sunday 11.15am
Fr. A. K. Gundabathina 01837 52229
anil.gundabathina@prcdtr.org.uk

Chagford - Saturday 5.30pm
Fr. A. K. Gundabathina 01837 52229
anil.gundabathina@prcdtr.org.uk

Launceston
Sunday 10.30am
Holy Days 7.30pm
Canon John Deeny 01566 773166



Boules & a Bowl

Join us at Lewtrenchard Manor for our continued Boules calendar.

Friday 2nd October 2026
Friday 6th November 2026

Gather at 12 noon
Complimentary Soup & roll
Followed by boules in the garden
£10 per person
all donated to St Peter's Church Window fund
RSVP Jeannie 0758 1006602

Farming Report

Since my last report I can certainly say the grass has greened up and we've had a decent amount of rain to save the grass situation and hopefully get a 3rd cut crop.

One minute the grass was brown and after a few days rain it soon came back green it's pretty amazing how resilient the grass and nature is. We've managed to sow fertiliser and spread dung which we've been wanting to do since second cut in July, but there was no point with no rain in the forecast, and since doing that have moved all the stock into fresh fields and get the rotation back now that the grass is growing again.

The summer shows have finished and we've had a good run at it this year despite many shows cancelling cattle classes due to the bluetongue outbreak. We achieved breed and two reserve breed championships. We now have two herd competitions for the national society and the Devon region with results being announced late September for the national one and end of October for the Devon one - we wait with anticipation to see how we have done this year!

Becky Dennis

LEWDOWN CRICKET CLUB

Please check the website for results and stats: lewdown.play-cricket.com

After such amazing weather all season our last game home game of the season against our local rivals Bridestowe & Belstone was cancelled due to heavy rain.

You can check out the results for the season on the link above. In summary, it wasn't our best season with both Saturday teams finishing near the bottom of their respective leagues.

50/50 Draw : Thanks for your support if you bought a ticket. Results have been posted and we are pleased to say that we raised around £500.

Annual Awards Dinner : Details will be circulated in due course.

AGM : Date to be announced.

Winter Nets : These will start early next year and details will be circulated.

We are a volunteer based community club and without your support we would struggle to provide opportunities for children, teenagers and adults to play a sport in our community. We are very grateful for all your help and want to thank those that are involved already. However, we urgently need more help in all areas of the club. **If you are able to help please contact the chairman (Geraint Williams) on 07850 786310.**



Caroline Harris
Bookkeeping Services

Member in practice

Caroline Harris MIAB
Owner & Bookkeeper

Tel: 01566 783 502
Mob: 07866 953 708
cmhbookkeeping@btinternet.com
www.cmhbookkeeping.co.uk

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with Yogajeanie

Chair yoga helps with
Muscle toning
Reduced stress levels
better breathing habits
better sleep
overall sense of well-being
It's fun too!

Interested?
Just come along in comfy clothing

At Lewdown Village Hall
Thursday's
from 10:00 am -11:00 am
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