


COUNTRY NEWS

APRIL 2024

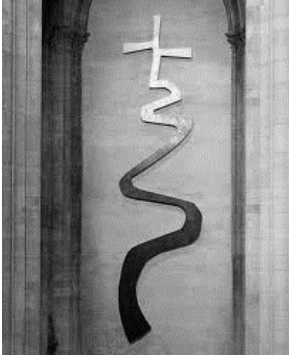
Parish Magazine of
Dunchideock and Shillingford St George



It's a four day weekend,
AND we get chocolate?

Please check the Diary for everything on this month -
and be aware that Dunchideock Village Hall is currently
closed for repair (re-opening ASAP)!

...from the Curate



In 2000, Jonathan Clarke was commissioned to design a modern sculpture for Ely Cathedral to mark the new millennium. It is entitled 'Way of Life'. It is an impressive 11 metres tall and is mounted on the north wall near the entrance. Clarke says of the sculpture:

“Like the journey of faith, its path is irregular and unpredictable; and just as the journey is sometimes hard, sometimes joyful, the surface texture and colour also vary.”

This sculpture has been a very significant image for me as I have journeyed through my ordination and curacy within the Teign Valley. But there is one thing which troubles me about the image. We journey towards the cross – but where is the path beyond the cross?

We have journeyed through Lent; pondered and stilled ourselves before the agony of the cross and celebrated the resurrected Christ on Easter day. We are now heading into life after Easter, as an Easter people. Our journey continues, but we are changed. Over the next few weeks, within the church, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection appearances and we witness the transformation that these encounters bring. One of the things that perplexes me about the Easter appearances of Jesus is that no one seems to recognise him at first. Mary thinks he is the gardener. The friends on the road to Emmaus think he is a fellow traveller. The disciples in their fishing boat don't give him a second glance – just a man on the lakeshore. As for Thomas, well, he is adamant there is no one to recognise!

There is clearly something about the resurrected Jesus which looks different to the Jesus they knew before. But for each of them there is the moment when they realise. For Mary, it is that familiar voice saying her name. For the friends travelling to Emmaus, it is when Jesus breaks the bread. For the disciples in the boat, it is the miraculous catch of fish taking them right back to their first encounter with Jesus. For Thomas, the moment of recognition is when he sees for himself Jesus' wounds. Jesus may not be exactly as he was before, but he is still their beloved friend. All these encounters change people radically. They will never be the same again.

We may have celebrated Easter and think that once the chocolate is consumed and the hot cross buns eaten -that everything will return to normal. However, as Easter people, we remain changed. We encounter Christ and allow him to transform us and journey with us along unknown paths into the future. Easter is not behind us; Easter is not an end. It is the beginning of a new journey and a new hope. The Easter resurrection is a reality to be lived each day.

So, just as the disciples journeyed with Christ on the road to Emmaus, so may we journey on with Christ by our side, acknowledging that Christ's presence in our lives changes everything. The path continues through the cross and into new life and new resurrected hope.

Travel well, beyond the cross and into the future.

Revd. Eleanor Oelmann

Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community

The Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community includes the parishes of Ashton, Bridford, Christow, Doddiscombsleigh, Dunchideock and Dunsford.

Rev'd Ruth Frampton (Rector) - 01647 253164 or tvhhrectory@yahoo.com.

Rev'd Eleanor Oelmann - 07772 127598 or eleanoroelmann@gmail.com.

Pastoral Care

If you would like, or know someone who would be glad of, a call or "virtual" visit from Rev'd Frampton or Rev'd Oelmann, or another member of the church community, please contact the rectory (contact details above), or the Churches' Administrator (see *Getting in touch...* below).

Sunday Services

There is a 9am telephone service each Sunday - see details below for how to join.

If you miss the Sunday sermon, catch up by phone. Call local number 01647 407047 to listen during the following week.

All our church buildings are open for public worship and details are provided in the separate schedule of services. Please check the "A Church Near You" website for your parish for updates (search for e.g. "A Church Near You Bridford").

Wednesday Evening Prayer

There is a regular, short service of evening prayer each Wednesday at 6pm by telephone – see details below for how to join.

For telephone services, you do not need internet access, just a landline or mobile telephone. Between 5 and 10 minutes before the service begins, please dial 0333 011 0616 and enter the code 334 7721, followed by the # key, when asked. The cost of the call is the standard cost for any 01, 02 or 03 number, but will vary according to your telephone contract.

Dunsford Home Group – 8th and 22nd April

An opportunity to think, discuss and learn together. On the *second* and *fourth* Monday of each month from 7:30pm to 9:00pm in Dunsford. For details, please contact Rev'd Eleanor Oelmann - 07772 127598 or eleanoroelmann@gmail.com All welcome!

Scattered Church – Home Communion – Wednesday 1 May

Rev'd Ruth and Rev'd Eleanor will be taking home communion to those who are not able to attend church. If you would like them to visit, please contact them (details above).

Prayer Calendar

Each month we produce a prayer calendar with pointers for prayer each day. It includes suggestions for prayer for both local and also much wider issues. If you would like to receive a regular copy to help inform your prayers, please contact Elizabeth Hofmann by emailing tvhhprayercalendar@gmail.com. Your prayers really matter!

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Each year every parish in the Church of England holds an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to elect members to the Parish Church Council, review the past year

and make other important decisions – see Ruth’s letter for more information. The dates for this year’s APCM’s are as follows:

Ashton	Wednesday 17 April at 3:00pm in Ashton Village Hall
Bridford	Tuesday 16 April at 2.00pm in Bridford church
Christow	Tuesday 9 April at 7:30pm in Christow church
Doddiscombsleigh	Thursday 11 April at 7:00pm in Doddiscombsleigh church
Dunchideock	Wednesday 10 April at 6:00pm at Lord Haldon Hotel
Dunsford	Wednesday 17 April at 7:30pm in Dunsford church

Opportunities for Prayer

There are two opportunities each month to join together specifically to pray for our world, our communities, our churches and those we know. Everyone is welcome. The prayer times, both between 5pm and 6pm, are:

- Tuesday 2 April – Mission Community Prayer in St Thomas Becket Church, Bridford
- Tuesday 16 April – Villages Prayer at Stonehouse, Village Road, Christow EX6 7NF

St Basils

We are privileged to have a new Anglican church called St Basil’s, based at Windout Farm, Sunday services, including groups for children and youth, normally begin at 10am, with the café open from 9:30am – please note that these services do NOT take place at Windout Farm. Please check their website (<https://www.stbasils.church>) for full details for Sunday services other activities.

Giving

It is possible to make a donation towards the general mission and running costs of each of our six churches through an online giving page on the “A Church Near You” website – see <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> and search for the relevant parish. The “Give Now” button will enable you to make an online donation, which can also be Gift Aided.

Getting in touch...

If you wish to discuss plans for a baptism/christening, banns of marriage, wedding, funeral, interment of ashes or memorial service, or have any other enquiry, please contact Steve Cook, the Churches’ Administrator, on 01392 832332 or email tvhchurches@gmail.com

From the registers...

Funerals:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 15 March | Margaret Wilson (Christow) |
| 24 March | Colin Bond (Dunchideock) – interment |

VILLAGES PRAYER

An opportunity for anyone to pray for our villages and beyond
to meet at 5.00-6.00pm on Tuesday April 16th
at Richard and Jane's, Stonehouse, Village Road, Christow EX6 7NF.
Anyone is most welcome to come or ring with a request for prayer.
For more information ring Steve and Tina on 01392 832057

Services in the Teign Valley and Haldon Hill Mission Community

April	Time	Details
7 Easter 2	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St James, Christow - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Michael, Doddiscombsleigh - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Service of the Word
14 Easter 3	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St Thomas Becket, Bridford - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Family Service
20 Messy Church	3:00pm	Dunsford Village Hall - Messy Church
21 Easter 4	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St John the Baptist, Ashton - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Holy Communion
28 Easter 5	9:00am	Scattered Church by Telephone - Service of the Word
	10:30am	St James, Christow - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock - Holy Communion
	10:30am	St Mary, Dunsford - Service of the Word

There is also a Service of Evening Prayer (by telephone) each Wednesday at 6:00pm.

For telephone services, please dial 0333 011 0616 and enter the code 334 7721, followed by #

Dunchideock History Society Trip

As a follow-up to our Dunchideock History Society (DHS) meeting on 17 March, we plan to arrange a visit for children-with-parents/guardians and adults to the Teign Valley Railway at Christow Station (www.teignrail.co.uk) on Sunday afternoon 28 April. We will be hosted by Colin Burgess, have trips in the carriages, and much more. We will circulate details at a later stage to members of DHS and also on www.dunchideockhistory.com/

Contact: dunchideockhistory@outlook.com

TEIGN VALLEY MEN'S SHED

Teign Valley Men's Shed will be open on **every Wednesday in April** from **9:30am to 12:30pm**. The Shed is located at Embercombe in Higher Ashton, EX6 7QQ – on the first floor of the large building just beyond the main car park. Coffee and tea will be available. Transport is available if required – a minibus (courtesy of Acorn) is available most weeks, at a cost of £5 per week. See contact details below.

What are Men's Sheds?

"Sheds" are kitted-out community spaces where men can enjoy practical hobbies. They're about making friends, learning and sharing skills - and for a bit of banter over a cup of coffee or tea. The current focus is on woodwork.



...working on one of the replacement gates for Cheriton Bishop church....



If you have skills to share, or you have very little or no experience and want to learn, then you will be very welcome! There is an annual membership fee of £10, and a session fee of £5 for each session.

For further details or to register an interest, or to arrange transport, please email teignvalleyshed@gmail.com **Everyone is welcome - don't miss an opportunity to meet new friends and learn/share some practical skills.**

The Teign Valley Men's Shed has received funding from the Lottery Fund, the Devon Communities Fund and the Mid-Devon Healthcare Trust, and donations in kind from Wickes

MOMENTS OF A QUIET MIND: Do you find that calm, compassion, clarity, stillness, a **quiet mind**, these are rare resources right now? Learn to embrace the fear, anxiety and anguish that is around for so many of us with all that we are experiencing in this world today. Take action by cultivating a **quiet mind**, stability, peace and compassion naturally through a mindfulness meditative and cognitive awareness process.

8-weekly one-to-one sessions, couple, or group sessions. Ongoing meditation groups, Annual Retreat. Free introductory session; Dunchideock venue.

Mobile: 07503183224 or email: shirley@exetermindfulness.com;

website: www.exetermindfulness.com.

Shirley Phillips

News from the WI based in Christow

Hello to you all. Does it seem to you as if it has been raining for 40 days and 40 nights? I am convinced that my hens are about to sprout webbed feet and swim away and that my garden will never be dry enough to walk on – surprise, surprise, it has been the wettest February for some time, the Met Office have just announced. Never fear, our next WI meeting is in the warmth and dry of the Bowden room on Thursday 11th April at 2pm in the Bowden room when Jane Hancock will tell us of the work of local charity Acorn Community Support.

Acorn Community Support is a small, registered charity founded in 1989 which works closely with local GP practices to compliment and expand the range of services available. The aim is to advance health and well-being in the community as well as help the frail and elderly continue to live independently with privacy and dignity in their own homes.

Come as a guest on the day for £5 to include refreshments. You can join us on the day and get the £5 refunded against your yearly fee.

Here is a date for your diary. Saturday 11th May 10am to 12 midday (or until we have sold out) we will have our now infamous plant and produce sale arrive early for the best bargains. My green house is starting to overflow with seedlings and plants all looking to come home with you and feed your family.

See you all there.

Anne Rice

For more information contact us at christowwi@gmail.com

Haldon Grange Open Gardens, Dunchideock

Peaceful, well established 19-acre garden, parts dating back to 1770s. This hidden gem boasts one of the largest collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and camellias. Interspersed with mature and rare trees and complemented by a lake and cascading ponds. 6-acre arboretum, large lilac circle, wisteria pergola with views over Woodbury completes this family run treasure. Plant sale, teas and home bakes (cash only). Our visitors are welcome to bring a picnic. No dogs. Admission £6 adult, children free.

Open this year both for NGS and Hospiscare, on the following dates:

March

Saturday 30 (NGS)

Sunday 31 (NGS)

April

Monday 1 (NGS)

Saturday 6 (Hospiscare)

Sunday 7 (Hospiscare)

Wednesday 10 (Hospiscare)

Saturday 13 (NGS)

Sunday 14 (NGS)

April (contd.)

Wednesday 17 (NGS)

Saturday 20 (Hospiscare)

Sunday 21 (Hospiscare)

Saturday 27 (NGS)

Sunday 28 (NGS)

May

Wednesday 1 (NGS)

Saturday 11 (NGS)

Sunday 12 (NGS)

May (contd.)

Wednesday 15 (NGS)

Saturday 25 (NGS)

Sunday 26 (NGS)

Monday 27 (NGS)

June

Saturday 1 (NGS)

Sunday 2 (NGS)

Saturday 8 (Hospiscare)

Sunday 9 (Hospiscare)



The Garden Room

A warm welcome awaits you in
The Garden Room
The Lord Haldon Country Hotel
Dunchideock, EX6 7YF



For Coffee, Cake and Good company!



Tuesday 9th & 23rd April 2024

Tuesday 7th & 21st May 2024



From 10:30 am until 12:00 midday



Everyone Welcome!



Lifts available if required please contact:

Anne Taylor: 01392 833282

Or Shirley Phillips: 07503183224

Tea/Coffee: £1.80

Cake: £1.80

Dunchideock: Wellness Retreat Sunday and Monday 19-20 May 2024

The 5th Annual Wellness Retreat is to be held at the Lord Haldon Country Hotel, Dunchideock on 19 and 20 May. There are still two places available.



Delicious Lunch

Walk in Haldon Grange

End of Retreat Group Photograph

NB: Photographs from 2023 and 2024.

Immerse yourself in the peaceful surroundings of a country hotel and let our 2-Day Wellness Retreat wash away the stress of everyday life!

For participants to get the most out of these two days, the number is kept to a maximum of six – you have time for yourselves to enjoy the depth of the experience as well as opportunities to connect with the other members. To keep the essence of the benefits of a retreat, we have exclusive use of the Garden Room, Belvedere Room and Lawrence Room for our sessions and thank you to the Chef and Staff for their care and attention and our delicious, excellent meals for the entire two days.

Mindfulness Meditations; Yoga or Chair based mindful movements; Mindfulness Walks; Free Time Lunch & Dinner on Sunday; Breakfast and Lunch on Monday; Coffee & Tea Breaks; Overnight Stay

Teign Unity & Country News' Readers Offer £260 to be paid by 19 April.

Deposit £95

For full details and to book: Email: shirley@exetermindfulness.com

website: <https://www.exetermindfulness.com/>

Sketching Classes

Feel like celebrating the longer, warmer days? Next term at the friendly art class at Shillingford Village Hall, which starts on Friday May 3rd at 10am, we'll be looking at interesting ways to sketch the lovely Devon countryside. All artists of whatever level of accomplishment are very welcome. Further details ring Mike on 01626 891245 or visit <https://www.mikemcdonald.co.uk/>

Dunchideock Village Hall 100+ Club

March 2024

1. R Caley 2. J & S Cumming 3. D Lovell

Dunchideock Village Hall Events

Registered Charity No. 30109

April 2024:

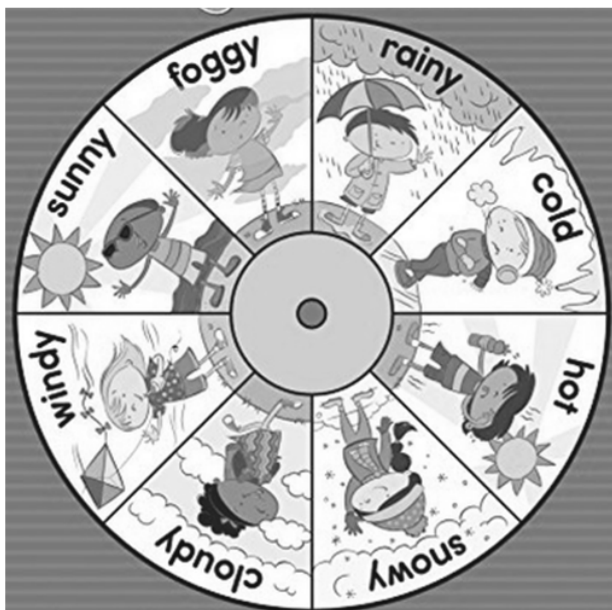
Repair works are currently being undertaken at Dunchideock Village Hall. Until these have been completed, all events at Dunchideock Village Hall have been temporarily postponed. The Village Hall Committee hope to resume its usual programme of events as soon as it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your understanding.

A date for your diary:

Friday 5th July – The Village Hall Team presents Johnny Cowling (A talented Cornish Comedian) live at The Lord Haldon Hotel. Ticket price approx. £15 to include a large Cornish Pasty in the interval. Date of ticket release to be announced shortly.

Early booking is recommended!



British Spring:

Place on dartboard & throw darts at it.

Bullseye = all in one day...

Dunchideock Church for April 2024

Date	Name	Service	Time
7 Apr	Easter 2	Holy Communion at Doddiscombsleigh – Order 1	10:30
14 Apr	Easter 3	Holy Communion at Dunchideock – Order 1 <i>Sidesperson:</i> Ray Mallett <i>Readers:</i> Jamie Cumming and Tina Cook <i>Readings:</i> Acts 3:12-19 and I John 3:1-7	10:30
20 Apr	(Saturday)	Messy Church at Dunsford Village Hall	15:00 to 17:00
21 Apr	Easter 4	Holy Communion at Ashton	10:30
28 Apr	Easter 5	Holy Communion at Dunchideock <i>Sidesperson:</i> Elizabeth Jenne <i>Readers:</i> Ann Mallett and Shirley Phillips <i>Readings:</i> Acts 8:28-40 and I John 4:7-21	10:30

Flower arranging

6 and 13 Apr – Katrina Lawrence
20 and 27 Apr – Lynette Hares (and Anne)

Church cleaning

5 and 27 Apr – Tina Cook and Liz Thompson

Shillingford Film Night

Monday April 29th at 7.30

In the village hall – Free entry and with ice creams in the interval

‘One Life’

And a Tom and Jerry

Starring Anthony Hopkins, this is the true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis.

How many children could he and the team rescue before the borders closed? Fifty years later, it's 1988 and Nicky lives haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety in England; always blaming himself for not doing more.

Then ‘That’s Life’ brought it all to the attention of everyone, including him, showing the great good he had done. This is his story.



Robert Williams

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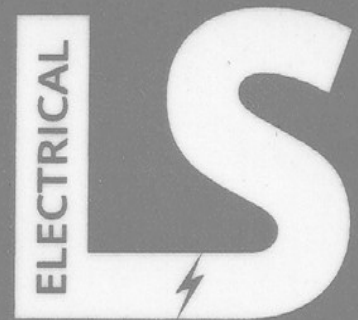
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	Saturdays	8am - 1pm
	Sundays & Bank Holidays	9am - 12 noon
	<i>Post Office:</i> Monday to Friday	9am - 11.45am 1pm - 5pm
	Saturdays	9am - 12 noon
	Sundays & Bank Holidays	CLOSED

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Ring Jeremy on
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LTPB23@gmail.com
tinyurl.com/LTPBEX23



FITNESS AND WELLBEING

MOMENTS OF STRESS: Is your lifestyle pretty full of 'doing' at work and at play? Lots of distractions and demands, no time for a meaningful break?

Are you suffering from anxiety symptoms, trying to manage stress?

Improve your health through cultivating your own Mindfulness practice - an evidence-based approach that uses the free calming resources within yourself!

Choose to have moments of calm every day! Restore well-being!

Join me in an 8-week evidence based Mindfulness Programme - contact Shirley Phillips, Accredited Mindfulness Teacher, at shirley@exetermindfulness.com
Website: www.exetermindfulness.com

SHILLINGFORD WOOD



Shillingford Wood has now been a 'Community' wood for 2 years. Volunteers have removed hundreds of redundant plastic tree protectors and cleared areas of invasive laurel. Bird boxes have been installed and a circular woodland walk is being planned. Events, such as a Bat Detecting Evening, have been held and ...

it will soon be bluebell time!

Do come along to the AGM of The Friends of Shillingford Wood to find out more and have your say.

Shillingford Village Hall

7.30pm Monday 8th April 2024.



Everybody welcome !

No need to book !



The Friends of Shillingford Wood Charity No 1192474

VILLAGE LIVES: THE BOLT FAMILY OF SHILLINGFORD, PART THREE

Local historians and those researching family history generally find it difficult to find out about the lives of ordinary labouring families. Unlike wealthy landowning families like the Palks and the Pitmans, they have not left much behind in the way of detailed documentary records. The Bolt family, has proved to be an exception, and we can thank the local newspapers of the 19th century, with their interest in the affairs of small communities as well as large, for revealing some of the events which involved both the Bolt family and their neighbours. So, this series continues with the story of the lives of Susanna Bolt and her daughter Ann.

Susanna, the only surviving daughter of John and Susanna Bolt, was a girl of 11 years old living in Shillingford Abbot, when her unfortunate brother John was executed at Exeter Prison in April 1823 at the age of 21. Six years later, when she was aged 17, Susanna fell pregnant to a local labourer named John Carter, and her illegitimate daughter Ann was born in early May 1830. Pregnancy before marriage was a common pattern among country folk in the early 19th century, and researchers have found that over half of Westcountry brides still went to the altar pregnant even twenty years later, in the 1850s. Illegitimacy was therefore commonly a result of a marriage which failed to happen, usually because the promise to marry – whether formally made or assumed - was broken. In this case John Carter didn't marry Susanna – in fact, he appears to have 'dropped' her to marry a woman named Sarah Stoneman in Exeter instead, about 4 months after baby Ann had been born. John and his wife Sarah went on to have a son born and baptised in Kenn in 1831, and a daughter baptised in Shillingford St. George parish church while they were living at Shillingford Cross, in the parish of Exminster, in 1833. Eventually, John Carter moved to Cornwall.

Susanna kept her baby and raised it herself. Normally it can be very difficult to discover the identity of the father of a child born out of wedlock at that time – but when Susanna had Ann baptised in Shillingford St George parish church as a two year old in August 1832, the Reverend Robert Palk Welland recorded her in the baptism register as the daughter of John Carter and Susan Bolt of Shillingford Cross. So their previous relationship must have been widely known locally.



In April 1841, when her daughter Ann was 10 years old, Susanna Bolt married widowed blacksmith George Crispin, in Exeter St. Edmund parish church. This drawing shows the church as it once was – at that time, the church stood on the old mediaeval bridge which once crossed the River Exe. Only the ruins of the church tower and part of the old bridge now survive. George Crispin was a member of a family of blacksmiths who lived in Dunchideock and Dunsford. He had married his first wife in 1824 in the same church, and having been born in 1797 in Dunchideock parish, was about 15 years older than Susanna. In June 1841 when the census was taken just

two months after they'd married, George Crispin and his wife 'Susan' were living at the blacksmith's cottage in Shillingford St. George village, with Susanna's daughter 11 year old Ann, who was employed as a female servant in their own household, and a teenage apprentice blacksmith who had been born in the parish.

Susanna had two more children with her husband George – a daughter named Jane in 1844, and a son named George after his father, in 1847.

When she was aged 15, Ann Bolt was pursued by farmer's son John Lear of *Harris's Farm* (now known as *Glebe Farm*), one of the two farms in Shillingford St. George at the time, and only a couple of minutes' walk from the blacksmith's cottage where Ann lived. He was seven years older than Ann, and destined to take over the farm from his parents, so for an illegitimate labourer's daughter, marriage to John would certainly have been a step up socially and financially. After about 18 months, having promised to marry her, John seduced Ann at home in the blacksmith's cottage, while her mother and stepfather were out. However, Ann's mother and stepfather did not believe that despite his promises to her at the time, John would ever marry Ann. Through their intervention, the relationship was eventually broken off after about 2 years, when Susanna Crispin had not succeeded in stopping John Lear's visits, and employed attorney Mr. Drake to write to John Lear about his behaviour. Fortunately Ann was not left pregnant, so that the extent of their relationship was not exposed at the time.

However, we do know about this ill-fated liaison, because the events which followed several years later and the story of this earlier relationship, were revealed in two Exeter newspaper articles following a court case held at the Assizes in July 1854. After a few years had elapsed, Ann had met and become betrothed to a "respectable man in the neighbourhood" named William Hore (sometimes spelt Hoare). He had been born into a labourer's family in 1830 at Stratton, in the parish of Christow, and at the age of 20, at about the time he met Ann, was a journeyman carpenter living with his employer, carpenter James Ash, at Brinscot, in the parish of Ashton.

No 58 Married Dec 27	Banns of Marriage between	
	<i>William Hore of the Bonhay Parishes</i>	
	and <i>Ann Bolt of the Bonhay</i>	
	<i>Spinster</i>	
	Were published, as follows :	
1st, on Sunday	<i>Sept 12th</i>	by <i>Mr. John Nelson</i>
2d, on Sunday	<i>19th</i>	by <i>Mr. John Nelson</i>
3d, on Sunday	<i>26th</i>	by <i>Mr. John Nelson</i>

The day of the marriage was settled, and in December 1852, banns were called on three consecutive Sundays prior to the intended wedding close to Christmas at St. Edmund church in Exeter, where Ann's stepfather and mother had married. At the time, possibly in order to qualify as parishioners and to marry in the church, both Ann and William gave their address as the Bonhay, the area of the city close to the River Exe which fell within St Edmund parish. The entry in the banns register, shown above, confirms what happened just before the wedding.

When he found that the banns had been put up, John Lear was reportedly very jealous. Three weeks before the wedding, he visited Ann several times, endeavouring to persuade her to break off the relationship with William, and to rekindle her past affection for him, on a promise to marry her himself in three months' time. When she refused, he reportedly threatened that if she did not break it off, he would write to William Hore and inform him of the "criminal intercourse" which had occurred between them, so that she would be "exposed and disgraced," and her marriage would be a failure. He also threatened to take blacksmithing work away from her stepfather and send it to Dunchideock instead. She claimed later that as well as visiting her again at Squire Pitman's house to work upon her feelings, and faithfully promising to marry her himself, it was John's threat to write to her future husband which persuaded her to break off her engagement on the eve of the wedding.

Not surprisingly, their second relationship was as "faithless" as the first – John Lear repeatedly put off the promised marriage and again succeeded in seducing her – this time Ann fell pregnant, and though she reminded him of his promise to marry her, he treated it as a joke. When Ann could no longer hide her pregnancy from her mother and thence the Reverend Welland found out about the situation, he called Ann, her mother and John Lear before him. John did not deny their relationship, but claimed that he had never promised marriage – though when Ann was also brought in, he could no longer deny it. Even though the Reverend Palk Welland threatened to turn him out of the farm – the Lears were leasing the glebe lands from him - and gave him a month to think about what he wanted to do, John still refused to marry. He conceded that he would have to maintain the child, and asked what damages she would take. Apparently, Ann's mother was insulted by this suggestion and claimed that they would "trounce" John at law, and take what damages a jury would award them - though Ann said that she just wanted him to marry her.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Shillingford</i> in the County of <i>Devon</i> in the Year 18 <i>53</i>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 <i>53</i> <i>Dec 22</i> <i>22</i> No. 265.	<i>John</i> <i>Lear</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>Bolt</i> <i>or</i> <i>Lear</i>	<i>Shillingford</i> <i>1853</i>	<i>Minister</i>	<i>Ann Bolt</i> <i>Southampton</i> <i>C. of Shillingford</i>

Ann gave birth to a son on 22 December 1853; he was baptised as John Lear Bolt on the same day, but he sadly died a few hours later. She was ill for three or four months after the birth, as well as prior to her confinement, and was unable to do any work. So, in July of the following year, Ann's stepfather George Crispin took John Lear to court in an effort to win damages.

The case was held at the 1854 Devon Lent Assizes in Exeter Castle, and George employed Queen's Counsel Mr. Collier while John Lear was represented by Mr. Slade, also a Queen's Counsel. Although the *Western Times* newspaper titled its report "A Heartless case of Seduction", the action was not one for breach of promise – instead her stepfather was seeking recompense for the loss of her services as a servant when she was unable to work for 3 or 4 months. Both Ann and her mother Susanna were called to give evidence and were cross-examined; John Lear did not appear himself, but pleaded not guilty. His counsel made much of the fact that Ann's parents, in trying to put money in their own pockets, were parading her tale of disgrace before the county, and that in offering to support the child, John had already done all that was expected of him – farmers' sons should not be expected to marry every handsome girl with whom they had intercourse, even when the result was the birth of a child. In the event, the jury could not agree on a verdict at first, and were locked up for 30 minutes before deciding for the plaintiff – and George Crispin was awarded £20 damages.

The *Exeter Flying Post* and *Western Times* newspapers each devoted a couple of columns to the case, and it must indeed have caused endless gossip in Shillingford and its neighbouring parishes, and embarrassed John Lear's parents and siblings, as well as damaging relationships between George Crispin and the farmers and local tradesmen he served.

In 1861 when the census was next taken, Ann Bolt was aged 30 and was working away from home – she was employed as a housemaid by widower John Samuel Pitman, local landowner and magistrate, at *Dunchideock House*. Her 17 year old half-sister Jane Crispin was nursemaid to John Samuel Pitman's motherless daughter Elizabeth Katherine, who was aged 9. Her 63 year old stepfather George Crispin was still the blacksmith in Shillingford St. George, living in the village with his wife and son George Junior. However within a couple of years, he had retired, to be replaced by blacksmith Frederick Brockington from Kenn, and the Crispins then left the village forever. Their

daughter Jane seems to have died young at the age of only 20, and was buried in St. Thomas churchyard in 1864. In 1871 they were living at Old Brewery Place, Haven Banks, in St Thomas parish – Ann Bolt was now aged 40 and was still unmarried, living at home with her elderly mother, stepfather and half-brother George and was employed as a laundress.

But perhaps there was a happier ending to her story, after all. Ann finally married at the age of 42 – and it seems that her husband was the same man who had wanted to marry her twenty years earlier. On 20th October 1872, Ann Bolt Crispin, a spinster of Rackfield was married by licence at St. Thomas parish church to 42 year old grocer William Oliver Hore, a bachelor, who also lived at Rackfield. Ann gave her father as George Crispin, smith – even though he was actually her stepfather. Ann could not write - not surprising as she had probably never had the chance to go to school - while her husband signed well.

Rackfield appears to have been an area in Exwick – now the site of a row of terraced cottages and of the Rackfield allotments. Ann's mother seems to have died at Haven Banks about a year later, and her stepfather died soon afterwards early in 1874, while living at Rackfield – presumably at Ann's home. Both were buried in St Thomas churchyard.



George and Susanna Crispin do not seem to have left any grandchildren. Ann does not appear to have had any other children, and neither did her half-brother George Crispin Junior. He became a policeman on the railway, and when living in Devonport, he returned to Exeter to marry his sweetheart Fanny Taylor at Exeter St. Sidwell parish church in April 1877. However soon after marrying, he died back in Devonport on 20 May 1877 aged only 30, and his body was brought back to be buried in Exeter Higher Cemetery, where his gravestone inscription records that he was married not long before he died at Devonport.

Ann and her husband William Hore have proved extremely difficult to trace following their marriage in 1872, so their eventual fate is still a mystery. And what of farmer John Lear? whose behaviour was fairly despicable. There seems little evidence that his future was adversely affected by his involvement with Ann or the resultant publicity that the court case evoked. He went on to take over the farm from his widowed mother, to marry a farmer's daughter from an eminently respectable family, to produce a large family and to be elected churchwarden in Shillingford for many years.

Jan Wood, Shillingford Local History Society

Shillingford St George Church Calendar for April 2024

Date	Name	Service	Time
7 April	2nd Sunday of Easter	Morning Praise	9.30
Sidesmen	Derek		
Readers	Derek & Nick		
Reading	Acts 4:32-35	John 20:19-31	
Prayers	Lay Team	Manstree Lane & Manstree Terrace	
Date	Name	Service	Time
14 April	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	9.30
Sidesmen	Tom & Gwen		
Readers	Sue & Ken		
Reading	Acts 3:12-19	Luke 24:36b-48	
Prayers	Delia	Glebe Lane & Place Farm Area	
Date	Name	Service	Time
21 April	4 th Sunday of Easter	St George Holy Communion	9.30
Sidesmen	Norman		
Readers	Rosemary & Norman		
Reading	Acts 4:5-12	John 10:11-18	
Prayers	Clergy	Road through Shillingford St George	
Date	Name	Service	Time
28 April	5 th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	9.30
Sidesmen	Eric & Di		
Readers	Di & Norman		
Reading	Acts 8:26-40	John 15:1-8	
Prayers	Nick	Surrounding parishes of Dunchideock, Kenn & Exminster	
Date	Name	Service	Time
5 May	6 th Sunday of Easter	Morning Praise	9.30
Sidesmen	Derek		
Readers	Sue and Derek		
Reading	Acts 10:44-48	John 15:9-17	
Prayers	Lay Team	Barrack Lane & Barton Lane	

Flower Rota – April 2024

7th April – Daphne

14th & 21st April – Gwen

28th April & 5th May – Pauline

Lent Lunches

These have been a great success and many thanks to all who have been associated with their preparation. The next social event will be St Georges Supper on 22 April. More details elsewhere in *Country News*.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held in church on Tuesday 30 April, at 7.00pm.

Shillingford Litter Pick

It was a grey Saturday morning in the Church Car Park when a jolly band of volunteers gathered to spend an hour or so cleaning up the Villages. With routes assigned and equipment issued it was off to search out unsightly rubbish. The more unusual finds included a pair of shoes, a doll, a whole red cabbage and unbelievably, a discarded toilet pan and cistern!

Back at the Village Hall, just as the rain started, a large pile of rubbish was assembled for collection by TDC and the Litter Pickers received a warm welcome at The Exchange where they were rewarded with hot drinks and delicious cakes. Thank you to everyone who took part and especially to the Village Hall for providing the lovely refreshments.

Shillingford Parish Council



CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

In response to concerns expressed by residents of Shillingford St George & Shillingford Abbot, the Parish Council has been exploring ways to reduce the speed of traffic through our villages. After consultation & research, we found the options to be very limited, largely because, thankfully, there have been no serious accidents recorded within the parish. This has meant, for example, that we are so low on the Devon County Council list of priorities, for a 20mph zone, that it is unlikely to happen for a decade or more.

The outcome of our efforts is the purchase of 2 Vehicle Activation Signs (VAS) as featured in the attached photo. In anticipation of the question, the cost of the units will not come from Council Tax but from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is a form of compensation for all the local building that is going on.

The VAS's will be located on poles facing incoming vehicles at the Clapham end of Shillingford St George & close to the entrance to Ilex Close, directed at traffic coming from the Exeter direction. In Shillingford Abbot, the most suitable location is next to the village sign as vehicles enter from the Exeter direction. In each case, the locations have been chosen in consultation with the Police & the Highways Department as they are the stretches of road where vehicles exceed the limit most.



The units have a detection range of 300 metres. As the CIL monies will only stretch to 2 units at this stage, they will be shared between the 2 villages as they can be moved from location to location.

It should be emphasised that our approach is not a punitive one, but an attempt to raise driver awareness when speeding. Research shows, that such devices are affective both in the UK & across Europe, often with drivers exceeding the limit in places they are familiar with. In our parish, this has become more acute of late, due to traffic congestion on the by-pass (A379) especially at commuter times & drivers using our villages as a “rat run”.

Although this approach is to encourage responsible driving, and the units themselves do not record specific offences, they do record a range of traffic information including traffic volumes, average & excessive speed which could lead to Police action. Otherwise the information can be downloaded and used as evidence for further measures should they be needed.

Within the next few weeks, drivers can expect to see these new signs, initially in Shillingford St George. They will display the speed of the oncoming vehicle & a suitable message depending on whether the vehicle is within the limit or in excess of it. We would ask all drivers to be considerate, not just with regard to speed but towards the increasing number of people using our area for recreation including walkers and riders of horses and bicycles. Let's hope this measure will help to conserve the rural nature of our villages & keep them as safe & peaceful as possible.

Shillingford Parish Council

March 2024

Open Door Café

Our Café Dates for April/May are 3 April, 17 April (our 14th Anniversary) and 1 May. Do join us on Wednesdays at 10:30-12:00 in Shillingford Village Hall.

Daphne Crockford

Shillingford Local History Society - The Ancient Buildings of Exeter

Monday 26th February 2024

This talk was given by John Allan at a very well attended meeting.

His initial comment was that when looking to find what is left of the Ancient Buildings of Exeter you need to use your eyes to find examples. Many of these remaining clues are above the shop windows and up to roof level.

Exeter was a thriving city in the Middle Ages and by Tudor Times it was very wealthy, with the result that many properties were built. The city then went through a less prosperous period. Many of the original houses were built before 1700 and there were masses of close packed houses, with Paul Street (as it was in the early 20th century) being a good example.

Unfortunately, many fine buildings were lost in the last war, and more recently the Royal Clarence Hotel, built in 1769, was lost in a fire. Frequent redevelopment meant that older properties were rebuilt, and then changed again because of further renovation, or demolished. Contrary to this, "The House that Moved" was saved from demolition. The house was built in the late Middle Ages, between about 1420 and 1460, and was located at 16 Edmund Street, on the corner of Frog Street, probably for a wealthy merchant. This makes it one of the oldest private dwellings in Devon, and may be one of the oldest in Europe.

Very early house design consisted mainly of a hall, with residents cooking and sleeping in the hall. This style of living then developed with the need for more private lives. Houses in cities like Exeter were built upwards and back to give extra depth, as they were constructed on narrow burgage plots. A typical design featured a shop on the ground floor, a hall at the centre on the first floor and a chamber on the second floor. The kitchen was always built separately at the back because of the risk of fire spreading in timber-built houses.

As tall houses that were split into floors were built, chimneys were introduced. Glass became cheaper and this meant that houses could have more windows to provide extra light indoors. As bricks became more available, properties were able to be built with flat frontages, and quite a few examples survive next to the *White Hart Hotel* in South Street. Older buildings can remain behind the rebuilt flat frontages – as found in *The Conservatory* in North Street. The frontage of *Tinleys* on Cathedral Green is dated 1900, but the whole building dates back to 1550, and this can be seen in the design of the roof when viewed from above.

John mentioned other changes that appeared in the interior design of houses in Exeter. These included the introduction of panelling and plaster work and ceilings which became more detailed, as in *The Conservatory* and the Panelled Room on the top floor of *Mols Coffee House* on Cathedral Green. Fireplaces became more common and the size and design denoted status. Roof designs, especially in Exeter's larger

buildings, remain to illustrate former methods of construction – for example, the introduction of the hammer beam roof. The interior roof of *Westminster Hall* has the same design as those seen in Exeter. The exploded plan of a roof that was shown during the talk was like a diagram from a Haynes Car Manual.

Many of the features of the Ancient Buildings of Exeter can still be seen. *The Bishops Palace* has a remaining stone arch dating from 1180 to 1221, although it has seen many changes since then. Other examples include *The Guildhall* built between 1468 and 1470, *Bowhill House* in St. Thomas built about 1422, and *Cowick Barton*, built in 1540 with Heavitree stone from a demolished priory and church. In Cathedral Close there are fine examples of ancient houses, including an example of a Courtyard House, with another being the former Laura Ashley shop in High Street. The *Ship Inn* in St Martins Lane is probably the oldest of the town buildings as it was once a row of three late medieval houses. The best remaining group of town houses from the 15th and 16th centuries is in the High Street on the opposite side of the road from the Guildhall. There are good examples of 17th century brickwork in the High Street near the Guildhall, and at *Belair*, which was built in about 1709 and is now situated in the grounds of County Hall. Conservation work is continuing whenever possible which is increasing the knowledge of the older buildings.

This was an excellent talk with a large amount of information together with slides to show examples of the buildings and their construction. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the members and guests. A buffet followed the talk.

Norman Harvey
Committee Member, Shillingford Local History Society

Shillingford Wildlife Group – Spring 2024

Spring is now with us and hopefully the longer days will bring some much needed warm sunshine, but below is a brief update of what we have been doing recently in trying to help make a difference for local wildlife.

Over the last twelve months we have been releasing Hedgehogs around the village to various suitable household locations. At least 10 have now been rehomed and released so far, having recovered after being handed into two local hedgehog hospitals. The two hedgehog hospitals, one in Tedburn St Mary and the other in Exminster do an amazing job in taking in the sick and injured hogs, treating them, feeding them and finding homes to release them back into the wild.

During January and February, we had not seen any Hedgehog activity on our cameras in the garden, but over the last two weeks they have reappeared once again, regularly feeding at our Hedgehog feeding station, having awoken from their winter hibernation.

Over the summer we have been building and then installing more bird and bat boxes in Shillingford Woods. We now have over a hundred boxes dotted around all over the woods. There are different types of boxes, traditional single hole, open fronted and different owl boxes (for Tawny, Little and Barn owls). So, the hope is that by providing lots of potential nesting sites we will attract more and different types of birds to the woods. On a positive note, after checking the first nest boxes we installed last year we were delighted to find a good success and take up rate of boxes being used.

There have been good numbers of wintering flocks of birds feeding on the fields around the village, with large numbers of Goldfinches, Chaffinches and Linnets. We have also been feeding our resident Cirl Bunting population at two feeding stations and have seen small flocks using both feeders. We will continue to keep feeding the Cirls throughout the year to help this rare bird with its recovery.

Other birds spotted around the village include the Siskins, Bullfinches, Stone Chats, Kestrels the seasonal influx of Fieldfares and Redwings and it is great to hear the Skylarks again. Other seasonal migrants will be returning shortly, Swallows, Whitethroats, House Martins etc

We are so lucky to have so much wildlife on our doorstep in and around the parish, hopefully we can help protect this environment and for the nature to expand and thrive over time.

Peter Lovell

THE EXCHANGE

Shillingford Village Hall

SATURDAY 20th APRIL

10.30 – 12.00



Bring your Books, Toys, Puzzles, Plants and Seeds to swap, or just take away something you see!

No Bric a brac or clothing please

Tasty cakes ~ Coffee ~ Tea



**SHILLINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
MONDAY 20 MAY 2023
7.30 PM IN SHILLINGFORD VILLAGE HALL**



**STUART TYLER, FORMER CARY PROJECT ARCHIVIST
WILL TALK TO US ABOUT
THE CARYS OF TORRE ABBEY**

EVERYBODY WELCOME

**A SHORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL PRECEDE THE TALK
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE OF £8 DUE – GUESTS £4**

+ **St George the Martyr**
SHILLINGFORD ST GEORGE

**St George's Supper
22nd April, 7pm**



Shillingford Village Hall

A 3 course meal.

Numbers are limited, so book early using
the lists in Church and at The Open Door
Café, or by calling Peter & Liz Wareham on
01392 832366.

Tickets £10.
Bring-a-bottle



SHILLINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY – PROGRAMME FOR 2024

Details of the proposed meetings for 2024 are given below.

Would members and visitors please note that the meetings this year will be held on **Monday** evenings. As previously, they will be held in Shillingford St George Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Monday May 20 | The Carys of Torre Abbey, by Stuart Tyler
Annual General Meeting will precede the talk |
| Monday July 22 | From “Lady Woodcarvers to Professionals”
The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters, by Helen Wilson |
| Monday October 28 | Dartmoor – a wild and wondrous region
The portrayal of Dartmoor in art from 1750 to 1920
By Peter Mason |

Membership Fees and Guest Cost

The membership year is from May to April. The current annual fee is £8 and is payable in May for 2024 to 2025. This includes free entry to the meetings and talks for the year, and for the buffet at the February meeting. New members are always welcome. The cost per meeting for guests is £4, except for the buffet in February which will be advised before the meeting.

Committee

The Committee would welcome new members and if anyone is interested would they please contact the Chairman, Jan Wood at jwood227@btinternet.com.

Norman Harvey
Committee Member, Shillingford Local History Society

Villages Diary

Date	Time	Event	Place
April			
Mon 1	all day	Bank Holiday (Easter Monday)	
Wed 3	10:30-12:00	Open Door Café	Shillingford Village Hall
Fri 5	19:00	Whist	Shillingford Village Hall
Mon 8	10:00-11:00	Keep Fit	Shillingford Village Hall
Mon 8	19:30	Friends of Shillingford Wood AGM	Shillingford Village Hall
Tue 9	10:30-12:00	Coffee & Chat	Lord Haldon Hotel
Wed 10	18:00	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Lord Haldon Hotel
Thu 11	14:00	Christow WI meeting – <i>Acorn Community Support</i>	Teign Valley Community Hall
Fri 12	19:00	Whist	Shillingford Village Hall
Mon 15	10:00-11:00	Keep Fit	Shillingford Village Hall
Wed 17	10:30-12:00	Open Door Café	Shillingford Village Hall
Thu 18	19:30	Kenn Deanery Meeting	Cheriton Bishop Village Hall
Fri 19	19:00	Whist	Shillingford Village Hall
Sat 20	10:30-12:00	The Exchange	Shillingford Village Hall
Sat 20	15:00-17:00	Messy Church	Dunsford Village Hall
Mon 22	19:00	St. George's Supper	Shillingford Village Hall
Tue 23	10:30-12:00	Coffee & Warm Welcome	Lord Haldon Hotel
Fri 26	19:00	Whist	Shillingford Village Hall
Sun 28	afternoon	Dunchideock History Society – visit to Teign Valley Railway	Christow Station
Mon 29	19:30	Shillingford Film Night – <i>One Life</i>	Shillingford Village Hall
Tue 30	19:00	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Shillingford Church
May			
Wed 1	10:30-12:00	Open Door Café	Shillingford Village Hall
Fri 3	10:00	Mike McDonald Art sketching classes begin	Shillingford Village Hall
Tue 7	10:30-12:00	The Garden Room coffee morning	Lord Haldon Hotel
Mon 20	19:30	Shillingford Local History Society – <i>The Carys of Torre Abbey</i>	Shillingford Village Hall
Tue 21	10:30-12:00	The Garden Room coffee morning	Lord Haldon Hotel
July			
Fri 5	tba	Johnny Cowling – Cornish Comedian	Lord Haldon Hotel
Mon 22	19:30	Shillingford Local History Society – <i>The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters</i>	Shillingford Village Hall

Shillingford St George & Shillingford Abbot

Rector:
(day off Thursday) Revd. Mike Partridge, The Rectory, Alphington,
EX2 8XJ. Tel: 01392 491476 or 07751 725306
Email: rector@alphingtonstmichaels.org

Churchwarden: Mr. N. Mansell
Tel: 01392 832660
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Dunchideock

Rector:
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Articles for inclusion in the May edition of *Country News* must be passed to the Editor by 15 April. Contributors should bear in mind that the magazine is formatted as 14-point text at A4 page size, then reduced to A5 for printing.

Classified Adverts: £1 for up to three lines (for one issue).

Box Adverts: Full page £16 for one issue or £120 for one year (10 issues), or *pro rata* for half-page or quarter-page adverts.

Please apply to Steve Cook (details above).