


Beer Parish News

March 2021

Beer in Winter Lockdown

A poem by Frances Lee



Again the day is murky and grey
A seagull, silent wings o'er the bay
Tourists not to be found
Just a solitary man with his hound
The pavement it bites 'neath my shoe
My leaden toes are probably blue
The tea rooms look lonely and dead
No shoppers happy to drink or be fed
Unrolling clouds
A golden streak
That blesses the gull
With sun on his beak
That tips the sea
Into sudden blue
Beer's now a treasure
For just we few!

with hope for better times to come!

St Michael's.....and Village

CHURCH DIRECTORY

VICAR *vacant* 2391
 coastal church -
 St Gregory's Office seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk 2656

ST MICHAEL'S ---

Churchwarden: Mrs G. Chapple, Sunnymead, Higher Meadows 2756
Ass. Priest: Rev Simon Hitchcock sihitchcock@icloud.com 075759 56899
Treasurer: Mr K. Izzard, Sunningdale, Common Hill, Beer 65181
Secretary: Mrs Jean Smith 07412 010245
Sacristan
& Head Server: Mrs L. Bees 2723
Altar Guild: Mrs P. Bewick 2954
 Mrs Y. Hawker 2191
Choir: Dr G. Butler (Practice Wed 6-7pm) 2375
Organist: Dr G. Butler, Mullions, New Road, Beer 2375
Children's Society: Mrs P. Edmunds, West Ebb, Common Hill, 2659



Beer EX12 3AQ

Families Worker Linda Joy lindajoychildrensworker@gmail.com
Children's Team: Mrs Jean Smith 07412 010245
 Mrs J. Ross
 Mrs L. Molony

Worship Team:

Mrs G. Chapple, Ms M. Hirons,
 Mrs L. Molony, Mrs L. Bees

Pastoral Team: Mrs G. Chapple (sec) 2756
 Mrs Y. Hawker, Mrs S. Aplin,
 Mrs P. Bewick, Mrs E. Singleton,
 Mrs A. Vaughan, Mrs S. Anderson



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

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

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St MICHAEL'S - MARCH 2021

The Church under Coronavirus restrictions



www.coastalchurch.org.uk

To play our part in reducing transmission of the more virulent form of the virus now around, and with tighter lockdown still imposed on the wider community, our churches have currently ceased gathering for

Services but are sharing one online service each Sunday at about 10am. It can be viewed live on Facebook or at any time after the event. Visit the above website for details.

St Michael's Church will be open on Wednesdays, 10am to 12noon, for you to come in; shelter from the weather; enjoy the peace and calm; and pray if you wish to. Please wear a mask.

A Church calendar for March

Sunday 28th February - Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday 7th March - Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 14th - Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

Sunday 21st - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Thursday 25th - Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin

Sunday 28th - PALM SUNDAY

Thursday 1st April - Maundy Thursday

Friday 2nd - Good Friday

Sunday 4th - Easter Day

Further resources available to you:-

- www.coastalchurch.org.uk
Facebook "St Gregory's Church, Seaton", and "St Michael's Church, Beer"
- A national telephone line with recorder readings, prayers and hymns can be reached on 0800 804 8044
- A weekly service can be joined by telephone. Call 0333 011 0616 between 10.45 and 10.55am on a Sunday morning to join in. You will need the access code 575 7045 #. The call should cost no more than a normal call on your line. The service starts at 11.00am and lasts about 25 minutes.



News & Views from St Michael's and St Gregory's Churches

As Bob Dylan said "The times they are a-changing"

Well as regular readers of this article will know Jeremy has now left East Devon for pastures new and by the time you read this, he will have begun his ministry in Essex. We wish him well and as much as I miss him and would much prefer to stay cosily in my comfort zone, I do know that throughout life change is inevitable. Change is constant even if Mark Twain was right when he wrote that "The only person who likes change is a wet baby!"

Some of you may know that I am in the throes of moving to a new house. I have lived here since 1982, that's nearly 40 years, and my husband bought the house in 1958 - that's 63 years of accumulated "tat" and "stuff" to get rid of. Obviously it's difficult, especially as I am so easily distracted, but it's also rather exciting and liberating, and whilst I shall be sad to lose my sea view and especially my 'bestie' 2 doors away, all the important things like memories will be coming with me and I am really looking forward to living with my family.

It has inevitably made me reminisce and think about things though! Who remembers when it took 5 minutes for the television to 'warm up' or when all male teachers wore ties, and all female teachers wore high heels? Mobile phones were the thing of science fiction and nobody owned a 'pedigree' dog. You got trading stamps with practically everything and a mouse was something that ate cheese! I could go on and on, but you can probably think of your own. I told you I was easily distracted didn't I? I had wanted to tell you that we are now beginning the process of finding a new incumbent for our Mission Community. It is quite a lengthy process and we will endeavour to keep you informed as we go along, but the Bible teaches us that change is a useful part of God's plan to accomplish

His purposes on earth, and when change comes our way we need to embrace it with confidence and assurance that He has good in store for those that lean on Him.

I keep reminding myself when facing changes, that God himself NEVER changes. I hope you will join with me in praying that God will send the right applicants for this community – and I pray even harder that God will give us the wisdom to recognise and appoint the right applicant!

Every good wish,

Gayle



To the nation
26 January 2021

Dear friends

As we reach the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic.

100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.

We write to you then in consolation, but also in encouragement, and ultimately in the hope of Jesus Christ. The God who comes to us in Jesus knew grief and suffering himself. On the cross, Jesus shares the weight of our sadness.

We therefore encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God. We also know that poorer communities, minority ethnic communities and those living with disabilities have been afflicted disproportionately and cry out for the healing of these inequalities. During this pandemic, we encourage everyone to do all they can to live within the guidelines and constraints given by government following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser. We show our commit-

Continues...

...continued

ment, care and love for one another by ensuring we do everything we can to stop the virus spreading.

None of this is easy. Very many of us are experiencing isolation, loneliness, anxiety and despondency like never before. Many people have lost their livelihoods. Our economy struggles. Also, the necessary restrictions we live with have also prevented us from being alongside loved ones as they died, or even at their graveside. All grief profoundly affects us, but this pandemic grief is so hard.

Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines. But we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness.

One thing we can all do is pray. We hope it is some consolation to know that the church prays for the life of our nation every day. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer. Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. A number of resources will be made available at www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation. Finally, we write of hope. We are grateful for the hope we have because of the service of our NHS and social care staff. What a blessing and lifeline for our nation. We are grateful for the service given in local communities by clergy, other frontline workers and so many good neighbours. We are grateful for the hope of the vaccine. It is a testimony to the God-given wisdom and gifts of scientists and researchers. We urge everyone to take the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you.

Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom every tear will be wiped away.

Please be assured of our prayers. Please join us



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

BEER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Beer WI February Report

The lockdown continues, though it feels a lot less stringent than the very first lockdown. Unfortunately the weather has been much crueller, dismal rain and then freezing dry winds. However the government has worked a miracle by getting all the top vulnerable groups offered vaccinations by the middle of February. We all trust that this great work will continue until all people are protected.

The WI, still unable to meet in person, is dependent on the technology of Zoom. A February Zoom meeting was held with 21 members attending and though nothing much appears to be happening there was much business to discuss. The WI National Federation at last saw sense and made amendments to the payment of the annual fees which means that each WI has **some** leeway on what to charge.

It was announced that our March Zoom meeting would have a speaker, James Haddow, The Taxi Driver Poet, whose talk had to be cancelled last year. He is very amusing with his topical poems and will hopefully cheer up all those attending.

Our meeting finished with a quiz organised by Sue Ball, so many thanks to her but make it a little easier next time please as the results exposed our total lack of knowledge.

The various groups continue on Zoom, two book clubs and a creative writing group. However February saw the start of a new gardening group, again on Zoom. Though not a great deal has been happening outdoors in the last month, some seedlings and seeds were swapped.

If you wish to know more about Beer WI please contact Jackie on 01297 21864 or Penny on 01297 599157.



Beer Talks!

22nd Edition, 19th February 2021



A huge "Thank You!" to Sandy Jeans of Green Room Healing for her mum's kind donation of loads of wool and lots of beautiful hats for the premature babies at the RD&E – incredibly generous!



Welcome!

Welcome to the 22nd edition of the BAG newsletter. After some seriously cold and windy weather it looks like we can finally see the beginnings of Spring at long last! We hope you are all well out there and we look forward to the day when we can all meet in person again.

Take care everyone! xxx

Notices

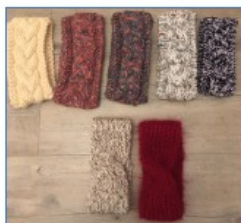
- *If you know anyone who is on their own, could you give them a call to make sure they are ok?*
- *Just a reminder that when you buy a homemade cotton bag from the Top Shop, Post Office or Woozies, you are helping keep Beer plastic bag free and are raising money to help the Seaton Hospice Nurses at Home charity.*
- *Don't forget, if you or anyone you know would like to receive a printed copy of Beer Talks then just let your coordinator know.*
- *Wool is available from Jan Beavis and Helen Turberville, and Woozies can supply both wool and knitting needles.*

*Yet another bumper newsletter from BEER ACTION GROUP...
...their 22nd edition since all this began...*

How crafty is Beer?

Here's a selection of some of the lovely crafty things Beer's highly creative residents are getting up to at the moment. Impressive or what?

We are delighted to announce that Chunky is back making Beer crab pots and you can get one for £50. Chunky will be kindly donating some of his profits to the Seaton Hospice Nurses at Home charity. To order one or for more information, please contact Annie on 07968 157136.



Jan Beavis has been busy at work knitting these cosy headbands which you can purchase for just £3.00, just perfect for those days when a beanie hat is just too much! Proceeds will go to Seaton Hospice Nurses at Home. If you would like one please call Jan on 07740 813092.

Another one of our talented residents knitted this cosy neck scarf and is happy to share the pattern with anyone who is interested in making one. For more details, please contact Annie on 07968 157136.



If you now feel inspired and would like to do something crafty why not go for an Easter theme and knit an Easter Bunny or a chick? For the non-knitters amongst us how about making a twig tree or wreath and decorate it with lovely chocolate mini eggs? Delicious!

*...trouble is I haven't got room for it all...
...so with apologies to the other contributors I've left some out
although you will find more from it on pages 16, 17, & 20.*

Beer Parish Council Newsletter

Beer Parish Council News Feb 2021

Beer Parish Council had its monthly meeting by Zoom on the 2nd February. These meetings are streamed live to the Parish Council Facebook page and if you are interested in speaking at a meeting you must contact the Clerk by 10am on the day of the meeting. Although Zoom meetings have their limitations, they have certainly increased public interest in the Parish Council, which can only be a good thing.

West Underleys' wall repairs

A grant has been received from the DCC Locality fund to carry out the repair work to the wall and steps at West Underleys. This has been an on-going project for a while and it looks like it is coming to fruition now.

Beach huts

CLlr Pook proposed a draft management scheme for the beach huts on Beer beach. This was discussed and Council agreed to commence negotiations with EDDC.

Recycling bins

The Environment and Community portfolio report is always an interesting one. Members have surveyed the village to find spots to install more recycling bins and Council agreed to send a proposal to EDDC.

Local housing

One particular problem we have with housing allocation in Beer and county wide (through Devon home choice) is that local people are struggling to access local housing. The Parish Council agreed to write a letter to EDDC, asking if local connection can be given more priority when allocating local housing.

Asset transfer consultation

At the meeting, the asset transfer consultation results were presented as a PowerPoint and shared live via Facebook. 294 people took part in the consultation with 78% of respondents believing the transfer of assets will benefit the village. The consultation results will help to inform the next stage of the process, a viability and scoping exercise to explore options for the land assets.

Councillor resignations

At the end of the meeting, we received the unfortunate news that Mo Westlake had decided to resign her position from the Council, which will be a great blow to us. Mo has been a very influential and hard-working Councillor and will be hard to replace. Mo first joined in 2015 and has always been passionate about looking after the local environment, setting up a Volunteer Group and organising working parties in the early days and later, becoming a very dedicated and proactive lead for the Environment portfolio. Mo has never been afraid to air her views and has



*Cllr Westlake with Cllr Graham
winning the Millennium Bowl in 2016*

encouraged healthy debate at Council meetings. Mo has also been a great community advocate and a public champion of those issues which she feels are important to her parish.

A further blow was the subsequent resignation of Martin Richards, who was the longest serving Parish Councillor. Martin first joined the Parish Council 22 years ago and has been proud to serve his community over several decades. Martin always rose to

the challenge of new responsibilities within the Council, a long-standing member of the Finance and Planning Committees and Parish Council Chairman from 2009 to 2018. As well as this more formal role, Martin has also been a steadfast volunteer in the background, keeping an eye on village assets, carrying out minor maintenance on Council property and helping out at working parties.

Martin has made a huge contribution to the Parish Council and we thank him for his dedication to the community of Beer.

Beer Parish Council would like to thank both Martin and Mo for all their hard work over the years and wish them all the best in the future.



*Cllr Richards, presenting John Wells with
his honorary Freedom of the Parish in 2012*

With these

resignations we now have **two casual vacancies** which will need to be filled, so if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please email Annie our Clerk:

clerk.beerparishcouncil@googlemail.com



Seaton Beer and District Branch RNLI

Sadly, to start my report for the March Beer Parish News, I am reporting that one of our old static Rocking Collection boxes that has been at Woozie's Deli in Fore Street for over twenty years was stolen in the daytime on Friday 5th February. The incident was recorded on CCTV but due to GDPR we are unable to publish the footage that had been installed. Nigel the electrician checked the footage and we have forwarded it to the Police. The crime number is CR010802/21. Our grateful thanks go to Nigel the electrician for his help. At the time of writing my report we are waiting to hear from the Police regarding the footage. Sadly, there were donations in the box as we have been unable to do our regular servicing of



collection boxes due to the Covid-19 restrictions. A lovely person called Tom from Morcombe in Lancashire saw the piece about our collection box on the Beer Facebook pages and he has sent the collection box that his mother used when volunteering for the RNLI. She also ran the Morcombe Bay Cross Walk. The replacement box is now in the usual location at Woozies.

Our other news, is that our Shop at Jubilee Gardens continues to be closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions. As soon as we hear when the restrictions will be eased, we will be advertising again for additional volunteers and new Shop Managers. If anyone would like to join us or knows anyone who may be able to volunteer with us please let us know.

There is to be a Virtual Yellow Welly Walk at the beginning of May that we are aiming to take part in. Additional people can take part too. Donations will be through Justgiving.com. We are still hoping to do have our Beer Lifeboat Weekend at the beginning of July.

Best wishes to everyone at Beer and in our area too.

Wendy (Secretary)

Seaton Beer and District Branch RNLI

World Day of Prayer

The programme and worship for 2021, has been written by Christian women from the Islands of Vanuatu, in the South Pacific.

The service planned for Friday March 5th this year, has been postponed until Friday June 25th 11.00 a.m. at St Gregory's Seaton.

Sadly this decision was taken in the light of the current Covid restrictions, and in the hope by June, we will once again be able to worship together with other churches in Seaton.

The theme for the programme this year is 'Build on a Strong Foundation', based on Matthew's Gospel Chapter 7: V 24-27.

World Day of Prayer is a global Ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

The web page www.wwdp.org.uk is well worth a visit to find out more about the history of the Vanuatu islands. The homepage opens with a message from the Chair. If you scroll down to the bottom of the page, click on Introducing Vanuatu and then the video link.

Please put the date in your diary, and pray we can all worship together once again.

Mary Casey – WWDP representative for St Gregory's Seaton. Email: caseymary119@gmail.com

Gill Harvey – Seaton Methodist Church is the local Chair or WWDP

Fine Foundation Centre

Beer Village Heritage

Reg. Charity No.1087162

The last few days have given us hope that Spring is well on the way, and the Government's ideas for allowing us increasing freedoms have lifted our spirits. Most of we oldies have started

our inoculation process, so we are beginning to hope that the light at the end of the tunnel isn't a train coming the other way. Over the next week or so we should get detailed guidance on things like re-opening the Fine Foundation Centre, and organising rock-pool safaris. Having said that, the internal refurbishment is still on hold, mainly because of the impracticalities of working whilst maintaining social distancing.

The big news for this month is the launch of the new virtual museum which you can find on <https://beervillage.co.uk/museum/index.html> . Many congratulations to Karen Stevens and Chris Pickles for doing such a fantastic job.

The Bat Friendly Beer group met on-line recently. They hope to be able to set up some planters as soon as restrictions allow. One will be at Pecorama, another at the caves and a third in the village. As the Greater Horseshoe Bat Project has now finished, all of their resources, including all those super games which were on the touchscreen which has been in the Bomb Shelter, have been moved onto their website: <http://www.devonbatproject.org> You can find more batty information in Kate Ponting's report from Clinton Devon Estates.

East Devon District Council took an extremely important and significant decision recently when they approved the Lower Otter restoration scheme. Although this won't directly affect us in Beer, the vision for this scheme is a credit to the landowners, the Environment Agency and the Jurassic Coast Trust, creating an opportunity to make best use of the local geology and geomorphology to meet the challenges of climate change. The wetlands which will be created will be an important addition to local wildlife habitats. You can find out more at: www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk/

I expect that many of you will have visited Seaton Wetlands at some point. They are really accessible for most folk, and not too muddy! All of East Devon's nature reserves remain open, so why not include a visit to one in your daily exercise routine?

Sadly the Grizzly has been cancelled for 2021. A difficult decision for Axe Valley Runners, but understandable given the huge amount of planning which has to go into managing this event. As you know, Beer Village

Heritage helps by running a water station, and this is usually our main fund-raising activity. So, any ideas and offers for raising money will be much appreciated.

Seaton Jurassic continues to be closed, and as their education programme had to be suspended, Zoe Hughes has moved to Devon Wildlife Trust's communication team. Zoe's done a sterling job with an increasing number of school parties as well as leading a wide variety of weekend and holiday activities. She'll be a hard act to follow. Hopefully Zoe will continue to join us for our Beach Cleans.

“Connecting to Nature” is the theme for East Devon AONB’s annual conference for their ambassadors. It is also the current theme at the Thelma Hulbert gallery in Honiton. Have a look at their website:
www.thelmahulbert.com,

Looking even further afield, I guess that we’ve all been fascinated by the mission to Mars. Anyone who has heard Mike talking about the red cliffs at Sidmouth will know that he always compares them to the Red planet. So, hopefully the palaeontological research will answer his question “was there life on Mars?”

Back in Beer, Ruth is continuing with her “Blow-in” project, asking the question “why did you move to Beer?” You can contact her on: ruthtoohoots@gmail.com. You can send your contributions for Richard Scott’s “Tales of Old Beer” project to: rscottbeer@outlook.com. The “Lockdown in Beer” exhibition can be seen in the Bomb Shelter which is open when possible.

You can still recycle your crisp packets by making use of the collection bag outside of the Fine Foundation centre and if your cat has food from pouches, these can be re-cycled at Waggs N Purr, Unit 2, Dolphin Street, Colyton which is open at weekends. And breaking news – the Co-op is considering setting up recycling facilities for plastic film and some other things which EDDC can’t deal with at the moment. Watch this space!!

Keep well.

If you’d like to know more, just ask one of our regular helpers such as Nick Jones, Mike Green, Chris Jones, Carol Green, Trevor Wood, Jean Wood, Henry or Norah Jaggars, or contact us on 01297 20858 or at beervillageheritage@yahoo.co.uk



The Eyes Have It...

I don't know about you but I am finding the whole mask wearing thing a little isolating; please don't misunderstand me, I am in total agreement with the need to wear them and the protection they afford us, it's just that not being able to see whole faces is taking away some of my ability to relate freely with others and creating a real sense of 'emotional distance'. Studies show that over 80% of communication is non-verbal and so we rely upon unconscious observation of body language and facial expressions to be able to assess other people's mood and intentions towards us. Going to the supermarket has now become a silent, almost stressful and uncomfortable experience as people walk around, heads down, lost in their own inner worlds. Perhaps, one of the reasons for this might stem from the lessons that it is impolite to 'stare' taught to us when we were young. It seems that impromptu opportunities to pass the time of day, request help in reaching top shelf items or just share a passing smile have all but disappeared. So how do we convey friendly intention? Perhaps we should start by, (and I am paraphrasing Gandhi here so please forgive me!) being the change we want to see in others. In other words, if I am missing receiving a spontaneous smile from others, maybe I should raise my head, meet someone's eye and grin for, although they may not be able to see my mouth, my smile will definitely be reflected in my eyes. I have also invested in a couple of smiley masks...hopefully they won't be seen as too demonic and will make people smile back at me! When moving to one side to let someone safely pass by, I shall meet their eye and smile to let them know it really wasn't an imposition. By briefly passing the time of day can reassure someone that they are visible to us and who doesn't really need that? One of the recommendations mentioned in 5 Steps to Wellbeing is 'Giving'...so let's all Give a Smile today and see what happens!

Debs xx

Scam alert!

Please be aware that residents are receiving telephone calls from a person saying he is from an insulation company and that your home insulation will need checking because it may have damp.

This is a scam and the person may try to get money from you.

What to do:

- 1. Ask him to put it in writing to you. If he does not have your details or refuses to write, put the telephone down.*
- 2. Do not enter into any conversation as these salesmen are very clever and will charge you for a visit.*

There are lots more scams around - rogues trying to trick you out of your money or trying to steal your identity so they can use it to fool others. They might phone you, email you, or knock on your door. So do please be careful, if a deal sounds too good to be true then it's probably not true. And do check on the identity of any unexpected callers!

And now, a message from our friends at Pecorama...

"Pecorama are delighted to be able to support Beer Action Group and we wish everyone success in growing some fabulous flowers for this summer!"

We are looking forward to re-opening the majority of our site this summer when COVID restrictions allow. The team are currently working hard behind the scenes to ensure your visit will be as safe and enjoyable as ever. Please watch our website and social media pages for updates and information about our 2021 season.

We look forward to welcoming you all once again!"



New display framework for the original Church clock mechanism, clock face and Angelus Bell in St Michael's Church, Beer

When Beer Men's Shed was formed in 2019, one of the first commissions it received was a request by the PCC to construct a new display stand to house the three separate components of the previous Church's clock.

Fortunately, when the previous building was demolished in 1875, the original clock mechanism, the clock face and the Angelus bell were all saved. They were transferred into the present Church building where they have remained ever since. The mechanism was housed on a wooden framework and stored at the back of the Church by the entrance to the new belfry. The original clock face had been attached to it to simulate the original workings. The heavy cast bronze bell had been carefully placed on the floor of the church in the same area, where it has remained for many years because it weighs more than anyone can lift.

The old display unit was static and was located in an awkward position in the Church that restricted the use of the space for anything else. Beer Men's Shed was asked to design and construct a suitable display unit that could house all three components and form a museum-style exhibit that visitors to the Church would find interesting. Then came the difficult bit.....it had to be mobile! For a combined weight of around 3 cwt (150 kg) this was not going to be an easy task. But the members of Beer

Men's Shed were up for it!

Under the project leadership of Martin Shobbrook and his son Mark (both Shed members) they set about designing the display structure and sourcing the materials needed to achieve this task. Wheels that could take extra-heavy weight and suitable lengths of beautiful English oak were obtained. The framework took over four months to make and involved hours of intricate work, primarily by Mark. When it was finished and varnished, it was delivered in sections to the Church



for final assembly. A team of four Shed members erected lifting gear at the back of the Church to raise the heavy Angelus bell off the Church floor and onto its new home. Then the original clock mechanism was carefully lifted onto the top of the new display and everything made sound. Due to good planning the whole operation was safely completed in about two hours.



The new display can be wheeled to any part of the floor of the Church and has been delightedly received by the PCC. The PCC gave a generous donation to Beer Men's Shed for its work, and this will be used towards the construction of its second and larger workshop.

It is hoped that Church



parishioners and visitors to Beer will enjoy looking at the new museum-style display, which has three information panels attached to it giving a brief history of the clock, the bell and the previous Church building •



Beer Men's Shed

Maybe it's due to lots of us watching more TV at the moment, but a lot of people think that Beer Men's Shed must be the same as "The Repair Shop". Well – that's sort of true and sort of not. If you've watched "The Repair Shop", you'll know how good it can make you feel – nice people doing nice things for other people. And we're amazed by how fantastic those specialists are at doing what they do best – fixing broken mechanisms, making old leather look like new, making damaged woodwork look pristine.

Oddly enough, in Beer Men's Shed we can do some of those things too. But our focus is on doing nice things for other people – particularly for the other men who are our members. You have to be inside the Shed to see that magic happen. Two guys start to work together on a project – then get chatting – then get joking and laughing. And what started off as "just another boring day during lockdown" turns into getting back to enjoying being alive. Yes, it's just another day – but with friends who care and positive things to do.

What we all like doing is making something new happen. Fixing something old that needs fixing – yes, we can do that too. But making something new – ah! that's special. Watch a man touch a piece of oak or ash or beech, and you can see his eyes drift as he imagines the things that he can make out of it. It's like a lady touching a piece of fabric and imagining the beautiful dress that she could make out of it.

The half-dozen specialists in "The Repair Shop" are world-class experts in their own areas, with 25 or 30 years of experience each. But Beer Men's Shed has around 30 members with an average of around 45 years of experience each – over 1,300 man/years that cover a range that you just wouldn't believe. Transport systems – yes. UK law – yes. Foreign languages – we've got a few. Mechanical engineering – yes. Need to build a stock exchange – done that. Satellite communications – not a problem.

So, if you need help with anything, remember that Beer Men's Shed is there to help and can do a lot more than "The Repair Shop" can. We can fix old things, but we can make new things too. And we can make new things happen. Just as one example, take a look at www.beervillage.co.uk/museum

Chris Pickles



Lending with Heart and Mind

East Devon District Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners and landlords*.

We understand the expense of maintaining your home and we work with you to take the stress out of funding repairs, improvements or adaptations.

We see you as an individual, not a credit score. Our knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying for a home improvement loan.

For a no-obligation assessment
or more information visit
www.lendology.org.uk or call 01823 461099

Heatherton Park Studios, Bradford on Tone, Taunton, TA4 1EU

**subject to eligibility*



CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

An Estate update as the countryside turns from winter to spring.

Warmer March weather and hopefully less restrictions should ensure we can get out and about more easily and spot the first signs of spring.

It might be frustrating that lockdown means having to follow the same routes, especially as many paths, lanes and local routes have become rather muddy with all the extra feet, bike tyres, hooves, and paws making the most of what is close to home this winter. However, it is not acceptable to stray onto private land as some local people are sadly doing. Farmland and fields around the village are not open to the public. Walkers and their dogs are not permitted to explore, take short cuts or use them for any reason. Please respect local farming operations, help us keep livestock and everyone safe by sticking to the public rights of way.

If you're staying on the path, then so should your dog. Dogs don't have to show aggression or bite to cause issues for farm animals. Cattle and sheep cannot distinguish between a threat and a pet who has yet to be taught good countryside manners. Anything that causes grazing animals to stop feeding and move away adds stress to some degree. Move quietly and do not let your dog enter field gateways or spook livestock. On rural walks expect to meet animals, wildlife, and families with young children.

Beer stays batty

After five successful years, the *Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project* drew to a close at the end of January. *Clinton Devon Estates* were a project partner and Beer played a significant part in this project's success. Local businesses and organisations in the village were inspired to work together as *Bat Friendly Beer* to spread the word about greater horseshoes. A short online book summarises the project's key achievements, do take a look to see how Beer played its part. View the book at <http://www.devonbatproject.org>

As soon as one bat project finishes another starts but this time the focus is the even rarer Grey Long-eared bat. The *East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* Team and the *Bat Conservation Trust* are working together to help enhance wildflower meadows, an important feeding ground for the Grey-longed eared bat. This project is funded through the Green Recovery

Challenge Fund, part of the government's 10-Point Plan to kick-start nature recovery and tackle climate change.

Grey long-eared bats are one of the UK's rarest bats with only eight maternity roosts known where female bats come together to give birth to their young. Two of these are in East Devon, one in Colyford (only 5km from Beer) and one at Musbury. These two roosts are particularly important as they are the link between maternity roosts in Southern England and another two in South Devon. Maintaining this link is vital to ensure that these populations do not become genetically isolated. Beer falls at the edge of this new project area and, over the years, hedge planting and permanent wildflower rich pasture has already been delivered to support Beer's horseshoe bats. These habitat improvements undoubtedly support Grey long-eareds too but the Estate will look for further options to support bats and other wildlife.

The Estate has commissioned *Richard Green Ecology* to undertake formal monitoring of bats roosting at the Caves and Quarry Site in partnership with Natural England to provide professional evidence of numbers. January's hibernation survey showed Greater Horseshoes and Lesser horseshoes in good numbers and the presence of at least six other species.

Providing housing to meet the needs of local communities is also a priority for Clinton Devon Estates but changing land can have negative impact on wildlife. Impacts on bats are likely to be a consideration of any Beer planning consents and measures to compensate for the loss of trees, hedges or grassland foraging habitat are often needed. Such mitigation work will commence at Bovey Farm in the next few weeks ahead of the new development at Short Furlong. Hedges and trees will be planted to compensate for any habitat lost elsewhere.





Ye Rattenbury Lodge No. 6721

A Brief History

The Lodge has been part of Beer village life for nearly 100 years having being established in 1929 between the great wars when 'The Order' was at its most prolific, with 35 Lodges in East Devon alone. During that period, it has held a number of homes, meeting in 'The Mariners Hall', 'The Dolphin Hotel', the now defunct 'Social Club' and its current home, 'The Scout Hall' in Clapp's Lane.

The Lodge was named after Beer smuggler Jack Rattenbury who was born in the village in 1778, deceased 1844. In 1837 after thirty years at sea as a fisherman, pilot, seaman and smuggler he wrote about his life in a book called 'Memoirs of a Smuggler' with the help of a local Unitarian clergyman. His mother Anne Newton, father John Rattenbury and those of his kin can be seen gracing the tombstones in graveyards around the local villages.

Today the members of the Lodge continue to adhere to the objectives of 'The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes' (R.A.O.B) 'The Buffs', established in 1822. To assist members widows, partners, orphans or other deceased members who are in difficulty or need. To support external philanthropic charitable objects at both national and local level. To encourage fraternity and mutual intercourse amongst its members.

In recent years it has been successful as a magnet for incomers wishing to integrate into Beer village life. The membership is diverse and eclectic, from fishermen to pipe fitters, painter and decorators, electricians, ex councillor's, teachers, firemen and pilots. The Lodge meets once a week on a Monday for two hours between 8 and 10pm, where monies are raised for local good causes and The Lodges' annual designated charity. This year being 'The Star Fish Appeal' in aid of the children's ward at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

It has a number of committees; Craft & Arts, Skittles, Summer Fayre to name a few and when able takes trips to places of historic interest. Recent trips being 'The Plymouth Gin Factory' and the 'The Nobody Inn' along with partners on day trips.

Membership details from the secretary, Basil Herbert, 0747 5477 241 or Colin Levine, 07986 731496.

The Unconscious Self

You made mistakes in your life. Everyone does. You may look back now with regret – and perhaps with more than regret, with shame and humiliation. You did those things then, but you would not do those things now because you are conscious and aware.

Whatever happened in your life, all of it has brought you to this moment, here and now -- to this wiser mind where you can see that there were times in the past when you behaved unconsciously.

The unconscious self is ego. Ego is an identity derived from thought-projections: the image you would like the world to see. It is the entity in you that is hungry for attention and recognition and success. It is not you. It is an unconscious you -- unconscious in the sense that the essence of you is lost and buried in identification with your projected thoughts.

It is the destiny of humanity to evolve out of unconscious identification with thought, to awaken and become self-aware and to dissolve the unconscious ego.

Look at the newspaper today, watch the news tonight: here is all the mischief and the pain, the trouble-making and the tragedy and the suffering that ego generates.

You would not understand these words if you yourself had not suffered. You deepen and expand consciousness through the suffering that ego inflicts. And you go on suffering for as long as you identify with the cause and with your response to pain and loss. You suffer until you realise you no longer need to suffer. You deepen and expand your consciousness by taking your attention away from time – the shadows of the past; the anxieties in the future – and rooting your attention in Now.

You will not cease to experience pain and loss and grief, because these things are inseparable from this life. They are the package. They are included on the ticket for the human ride. But you can open your arms and open your heart to both the joy and the grief, and embrace them both with your deepened consciousness that comes out of Present Moment Awareness.

And that is when you dissolve regret and shame and humiliation.



YOUR “LOCAL” CONTACTS

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www.forcecancercharity.co.uk

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Online services are still available but we are delighted that our Support Centre is now open again, with strict COVID-safe measures in place to protect staff and visitors.

The nurses we fund at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital are also still able to deliver vital chemotherapy and we have worked closely with the RD&E to develop a new cancer hub in Ottery St Mary.

What has been considerably affected is our income. So many events have been cancelled or postponed and we have had to close our charity shop for significant periods.

Coronavirus

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

Although many businesses, amenities, and attractions had re-opened in one form or another, the present lock-down means they may be again out of action. Covid restrictions are changing rapidly, so check online or by 'phone what goods and services businesses are currently able to offer.

Editor

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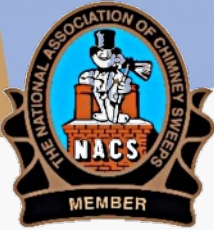
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Beer Parish News

Crisp Packet Recycling

I am happy to report that the crisp packet recycling collections are still going very well. The first shipment was sent out to the company on May 17th 2019 and so far we have recycled 26,084 packets with another shipment on it's way as I write.

We have raised £184.60 for Beer Primary School. To start with they paid a 1p a packet but now it is done by weight so although the returns are relatively small it's good to know we are saving all that plastic from landfill as well as raising some extra cash for our school.

For a small village of approximately 1500 residents we certainly eat a lot of crisps, around 17.3 packets per resident in 20 months and that is just the people who collect!!!



Over a period of time I have got to know several of my anonymous collectors not only by their favourite choice of crisps but by the way the empty packets arrive at the collection points! Some are neatly flattened, smoothed out, piled up and secured with a rubber band, some come neatly flattened and in small ziploc bags, some come screwed up and pushed into another empty crisp bag (I think the record for filling one is 13 so far unless you know different!?) some come as they are, all in a carrier bag or loose. I think the village favourite is still probably plain ready salted, with sweet chilli flavour popular too. I also never knew there were so many different brands around including crisps made from peas, lentils and chick peas.

Whatever your favourite is please don't listen too much to dietary advice! Continue to enjoy your secret pleasure and help us make some cash!! Keep them coming!

PS. Also I am organising a similar collection for medicinal blister packs (empty of course!). There is already a collection box for these in the telephone box or you can put them in a separate bag in with the crisp packet collection.

Thank you to all collectors. Ruth Bullock

**Copy for April to be with the Editor
by Monday 22nd March, please
henryjaggers@btinternet.com
01297 20858 Green Bank, 9 Clinton Rise.
Please keep your contributions coming!**