

MANATON BULLETIN

No. 12 - AUGUST 2023



MANATON SHOW AND FAIR SPECIAL

12th August, 2023

See inside for details

To read this Bulletin online and in colour, go to www.manaton.org.uk

If you would like to stay in touch with what is going on in Manaton, please either sign up to the Parish Hall's publicity list via Jackie Hardy: publicitymanatonph@gmail.com or you can go on the Parish Council mailing list by contacting Sophie: manatonpcsophie@gmail.com

INFORMATION AND USEFUL NUMBERS

ELECTRICAL POWER (Western Power) – 0800 0963080	Power Cut/Emergency: 105
WATER LEAKS NOT ON YOUR PROPERTY (SWW)	0344 346 2020
TELEPHONE LINE REPAIRS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY (OPENREACH)	0800 023 2023
POTHoles AND ROAD MAINTENANCE (DCC HIGHWAYS)	0345 155 1004
<i>devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole</i>	
Or Sophie Mount-Thurston: manatonpcpsophie@gmail.com	01647 221426
POLICE: <i>devon-cornwall.police.uk</i>	101
DARTMOOR LIVESTOCK PROTECTION (injured animals on moor)	07873 587561
DARTMOOR RANGER: ROB STEEMSON rsteemson@dartmoor.gov.uk	07711 856206

MANATON PARISH COUNCILLORS:

William Boughey – Chairman/Games Court	221260
Nick Beyts – Vice Chair/Planning	221242
Brian Warne – Assets South	221291
Charlotte Keene – Assets North, Parish Hall rep	221208
Sophie Mount-Thurston – Highways, Footpaths and Snow Warden	221426
Mary Wylie	221270
Cat Frampton	221408

MANATON PARISH CLERK - Vacancy

DEVON COUNTY & TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

George Gribble – DCC	01626 832764
John Farrand-Rogers – TDC	
<i>john.farrand-rogers@teignbridge.gov.uk</i>	

MANATON SHOW AND FAIR

<https://www.manatonshowandfair.co.uk>

SPORTS CLUBS AND THEATRE

Cricket Club – Phil Thomas	221221
Tennis & Games Court – Catriona Eveleigh	221575
Rifle Club – Paulie James	221224
Manaton & E Devon Theatre – Gillian Webster	441356

PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

David Pirkis – Chairman	221553
Linda Saunders – Treasurer	221405
Christine Nicholson – Secretary	07704 397090
Jackie Hardy – Publicity	<i>publicitymanatonph@gmail.com</i>
Catherine Venn – Catering	221352
Caroline Hart – Bookings	221445
Sally Walker – Lottery	221447
Joyce King	221496
Gillian Webster – Rep MED Theatre	441356
Yvonne Crout – Rep Manaton PCC	221386
Charlotte Keene – Rep Manaton PC	221208
Victoria Wimpenny – Gardens	221228
Graham Wilson – Monthly Market	221365

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Chris Butcher	221251
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MANATON BOOK CLUB

Contact:	Sally Kidner	221264
or:	Janet Kennedy	221456

POST OFFICE

Manaton Parish Hall	
Fridays 12.00 – 2.00pm	01364 661788

CAR SERVICE: Available to all residents who are unable to drive to doctor, hospital or other health-related appointments. Suggested donations: Moreton and Bovey Tracey = £7. Newton Abbot = £10. Okehampton, Torquay or Exeter = £15. Bookings – or to volunteer – contact Ann Mosley

221549

ST. WINIFRED'S CHURCH: All service information is displayed in the church porch, on parish noticeboards and in bus shelters.

Rector:	Rev. Preb. Sue Sheppard	440989
Churchwardens:	Chris Butcher – <i>beckafordfarm@gmail.com</i>	221251
	Rose Underhill – <i>rosegreathoundtor@gmail.com</i>	221202
Bell Ringers:	Peter Richards – <i>pmcrichards@hotmail.co.uk</i>	221248

ST. WINIFRED'S DISCUSSION GROUP: meets monthly on third Thursday of the month at Water Mill, Manaton, to discuss bible readings and other topics. Friendly and informal meetings – all welcome. In Lent and Advent, there are usually weekly meetings following a set course.

Contact: Ann Mosley 221549

PARISH COUNCIL: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

I am pleased to report that as from 12th June, Manaton has a new parish councillor, Cat Frampton. Manaton now has its full complement of councillors.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 22nd May, at which recently retired District Councillor Mike Jeffery gave his report on the year and our new councillor, John Farrand-Rogers introduced himself. Chris Butcher updated us on church matters and Sergeant Seth Saunders on local policing matters. Draft minutes should be available on the website shortly. The meeting was sparsely attended and parishioners are encouraged to attend future APMs. The council is still looking for a clerk.

The cricket over the Coronation weekend was well attended and the council thanks Ben Baily for organising this and congratulates him on raising a substantial sum for the pavilion.

There are some Coronation commemorative mugs still available for the price of £10 and any still unsold at the time of the Show and Fair will be available for purchase there.

MANATON PARISH HALL

Firstly we would like to extend our thanks to Anne Payne for organising the recent successful plant sales in aid of the Parish Hall and St Winifred's Church. Thank you as well to all the growers (particularly Jim Crout for the sales in the lower bus stop and his never-ending supplies!) and indeed buyers of all the beautiful plants. What was particularly nice was to see so many people coming together and enjoying the mornings with coffee and cake and the Market.

We continue our run of talks kindly sponsored by the Show & Fair. The next will be a talk on 21st September by Mandy Barber on 'Creating an Edible Garden using Perennial Vegetables and Edimentals' (we had to look this up too!). Mandy gave a talk locally last autumn to enthusiastic reviews; she was both an informative and engaging speaker. Many in the audience wanted to hear her talk again so we are excited to have secured her to come to Manaton on Thursday 21st September at 7.30pm and hope you will join us then.

On 3rd November we will welcome the return of a popular speaker, Alex Leger - television producer, director and cameraman. Alex has had a lot of fun and anxiety (in equal proportions) making television programmes and working on the front line of TV production from 1975 to 2011. He filmed the horror of the 1985 Ethiopian famine, a volcanic eruption, climbed Kilimanjaro, outwitted the Mafia in Brazil and bluffed cocaine paste smugglers high in the Andes in Peru. On a lighter note he has flown with the Red Arrows and in the course of duty parachuted from a balloon and a RAF Hercules. Alex worked for a programme that was a household name - Blue Peter - and over 36 years witnessed first-hand how the BBC changed as technology forced it along different paths. In his lavishly illustrated talk he will tell behind the scenes anecdotes of how life as a television programme maker is full of surprises. Please do make a note in your diary to join us and support what promises to be a very interesting evening.

So, there is lots going on in the hall for you to join in, whether the talks above, the Monthly Market (we would like to thank Graham Wilson for organising this), or our loyal hirers giving classes open to all in Yoga, Tai Chi and Pilates. If there is anything you would like to suggest please let us know on publicitymanatonph@gmail.com we would love to hear from you!

MANATON BULLETIN ISSUE 12 - PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING REPORT

PLANNING:

The DNPA has ceased to use the old website and so anyone wishing to view applications is now obliged to enter via:

<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/search-for-an-application>.

Then enter via the 'Search Applications' about half way down the webpage. You will then be faced with the main planning page at:

<https://dartmoor-online.tascomi.com/planning/index.html>.

Navigate through the 'Search for Planning Application'

<https://dartmooronline.tascomi.com/planning/index.html?fa=search> which brings you to the Details page. Scroll down to 'Location Details - community'. Press the down arrow until 'Manaton' shows. Then work through the Application Dates table. 'Valid From' and 'Valid To' will bring up all the applications within those date ranges.

Simple, isn't it?!!

There have been several new applications and decisions since the last Bulletin. But, before we start, we had been promised a decision on the Pony Sanctuary was imminent last month, but guess what – nothing has emanated from the Planning Authority.

The table that follows shows all applications to date and their status:

Manaton Planning Applications as at 21 June 2023

Application Reference	Application Type	Location Details	Proposal	Community	Decision/ Deadline
0244/23	Listed Building Consent	Ford Farm, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9XA	Replacement roof to utility area	Manaton	18-07-2023
0179/23	Listed Building Consent	2, Freeland Cottages, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9UH	Extension of existing chimney flue	Manaton	23-06-2023
0178/23	Full Planning Permission - Householder	2, Freeland Cottages, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9UH	Extension of existing chimney flue	Manaton	23-06-2023
0133/23	Listed Building Consent	Half Moon, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9UJ	Partially rebuild and reduce height of chimney stack	Manaton	Grant Conditionally

Application Reference	Application Type	Location Details	Proposal	Community	Decision/ Deadline
0052/23	Listed Building Consent	Barracott, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9XA	Internal and external alterations to curtilage structure. Removal of corrugated metal sheet roof and installation of natural slate, all associated timber frame repairs required. Installation of rooflights. Installation of roof insulation and internal partition to allow for use as a workshop space	Manaton	Grant Conditionally
0051/23	Full Planning Permission - Householder	Barracott, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9XA	Removal of corrugated metal sheet roof and installation of natural slate, all associated timber frame repairs required. Installation of rooflights. Installation of roof insulation and internal partition to allow for use as a workshop space	Manaton	Grant Conditionally
0004/23	Full Planning Permission	Sandy Meadow, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9UN	Construct three additional timber stables, change of use to equestrian includes the adjacent field.	Manaton	Extended to: 30-04-2023 Awaited
0485/22	Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use	Jenny May Cottage, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9UZ	Use as a separate single residential dwelling with associated domestic garden	Manaton	Certificate issued
0261/22	Prior Approval	Land at Swinedown, TQ13 9XQ	Agricultural storage building	Manaton	17-01-2023
0583/20	Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use	The Old Barn, Devon Horse and Pony Sanctuary, Manaton, TQ13 9UW	Use of land as an equine sanctuary and associated building works	Manaton	28-02-2021

MANATON SHOW AND FAIR 2023

A CALL TO ACTION ... AND AN INVITATION, TOO!

Show Day (**Saturday, 12th August**, from 1.30pm to 5.00pm) is on the horizon now. Look out for the posters, banners and display boards heralding this year's return. As usual, it will be held on Manaton cricket pitch, at the foot of St. Winifred's Church and next to the village green and will be everything you would expect from a traditional, small country show.

At this time of year we turn to our friends and neighbours amongst the Manaton community, both to invite attendance and to ask for help with many of the essential tasks, leading up to and during the show itself. If you would like to lend a hand, either with getting things ready in the run up to the day itself, setting up gazebos, or taking them down afterwards, we would love to hear from you. Do come along on the day to enjoy the atmosphere, the food and drink, the music and the displays. If you would like to become involved with helping, please email the Show and Fair chairman, John White, at johnxwhite@aol.com. I'm sure you will enjoy the team spirit.

Set up day is Friday, 11th August, at the Cricket and Show field from 11.00am onwards (10.00am at the Parish Hall to load up, for early risers) and Ali Troup will stand out in Hi Viz to direct and guide people to the various set-up activities. We plan to strike the set on Sunday at 10.00am, when volunteers will again be welcome. The two large marquees will be erected professionally on Thursday, so the major activity for volunteers on Saturday will be the more manageable tents, bunting, bins, tables and chairs and, for the technology-minded, the PA and Wi-Fi systems.



In the Big Top marquee, kindly donated to the show by Chris Hart and Anne Payne, there will be multiple local craft products, plus tea, coffee, cakes and plants. Music will be performed by Carl Allerfeldt's 'Lost Coyotes' – under all-weather protection, though a perfect summer's day is on order.

In the Horticultural tent, we have the traditional competitions for Garden Produce, Flowers and Flower Arranging, Children's Classes, Home Produce (cooking and preserves), Photography,

Arts and Crafts. Entry forms have been delivered to as many residents as possible and are also available to download from the website – www.manatonshowandfair.co.uk. Completed entry forms should be handed in at the Kestor Inn on Monday, 7th August, between 7.00pm and 9.00pm or can be emailed to publicitymanatonph@gmail.com by midday on 7th August.

This year will also feature a Coronation Flower Arrangement competition in St. Winifred's, which is sure to be spectacular, along with an organ recital by John Wellingham, followed by Manaton's team of handbell ringers, the Manaton Madhatters, who will perform a special celebration of the coronation year. Classic Cars will be on display on the green, the Dog Show will entertain throughout the afternoon, Dartmoor burgers will feed the hungry and a multitude of children's games and entertainments will attract a large audience. We are looking forward to hosting this long-standing Manaton tradition. Fabulous entertainer, Micky Bimble, will be here again, to hold children of all ages in thrall with his circus workshop and alter ego, Dr. Pandemonious Fish. Watch out for the penny-farthing!

We have three special requests to make:

First, please make as many cakes, buns and biscuits as you can, to sell at the Manaton Cake Stall. This year it will be located inside the Craft Tent, which is the destination for all deliveries on the Saturday morning, and please do package the cakes to make it convenient for purchasers to carry their bounty safely home.

Second – the Plant Stall, which is also located in the Craft Tent. It is always hugely popular with visitors and we are in need of more home-grown stock. All donations gratefully received and proceeds go to all the good causes we are supporting in the village.

Third request is from the Tin 'n' Bottle crew, who would like to collect goodies from the corners of your cupboards. This is one of the most well-supported stalls we run at the show and we ask for your help in again making it a success. Collectors will call in the weeks leading up to the event and donations can also be brought on the Saturday morning, or left on the pavilion veranda. (Nothing past its 'use-by' date, please.)

Dr Pandemonious Fish



The Dog Show



That's all folks ... except for one special invite, extended to all Manatonians and families. At the day's end, when all the visitors have departed, the band will play on and we will be having a get-together evening, with food and drinks available for those who want to stay on, or return later to say a relaxed hello to friends, old and new.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no book stall this year, as so many books have been donated to bus shelters. Please do not bring books, DVDs or CDs. Thank you.

MANY THANKS to all our contributors. If you would like to include a notice of an upcoming event in Manaton, or submit an article, please email documents (in Word format) to Clare Boughy – clare.boughy@hotmail.co.uk by 1st November for the December edition. We hope you have enjoyed this edition. Do please contribute and help us make it even better! Many thanks to Sophie Mount-Thurston for formatting and producing the Bulletin. If you would like to submit a photo for the cover of the December Bulletin, please email it to Clare, as above.

NEWS FROM ST. WINIFRED'S CHURCH

The Coronation Big Help Out Day

Many thanks to all those who helped with the work in the churchyard on the Coronation Bank Holiday Big Help Out Day. It really does make the point that the church is there for the whole village, not just the regular participants of the Sunday services. Thank you.

Manaton Show and Fair

For the Show & Fair the plan is to have the church full of flowers - nothing elaborate, just simple country arrangements that our visitors will enjoy. 'Flowers from the Garden' is the look we are aiming for so if you have any spare flowers or foliage, can help decorate the church or just join us for an enjoyable flowery morning a couple of days before the 12th August we would love to hear from you - please contact Joyce 221496, Yvonne 221386 or Caroline 221445 if you can help or for more information. It would be wonderful to get as many of us together as possible!

Separately, one of the flower-arranging classes 'Coronation Celebration' will also be displayed in the church and hopefully there will be lots of entries! Have a look at the schedule online at www.manatonshowandfair.co.uk. The class has been selected as this year's Manaton Voice Cup so a good incentive to have a go.

The renowned Manaton Hand-Bell Ringers will also be back to perform in the church, planned for 2.30 pm.

Forthcoming services in St Winifred's Church

The usual pattern of Sunday services in St Winifred's is Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month and All Age Worship (a lay-led informal service suitable for all the family) on the second Sunday (except for Remembrance Sunday), all starting at 11.00 am. There is normally Evensong on the fourth Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm. When there are five Sundays in a month, there is normally a service of Holy Communion at 11.00 am in one of the churches served by the Rector, namely Moretonhampstead, Manaton, North Bovey or Lustleigh.

These are varied from time to time. For example, there will be a pet service in or outside St Winifred's on the 10th September instead of the usual All Age Worship. The decision on the location will depend on the weather and the size of the expected animals. Notice of intention to bring horses, ponies or donkeys etc. would be appreciated!

As always, on Remembrance Sunday (12th November this year) we will start by the war memorial a few minutes before 11.00 am for the two-minutes' silence after which we will move into the church for the rest of the service.

We hope that you and your families will be able to join us for at least some of these services. For more information, look at the notices in either of the bus shelters or contact the churchwardens, Chris or Rose: details below.

Church extension

The Exeter Diocesan Advisory Committee has very recently recommended that the necessary 'Faculty' be granted for the project to construct an extension to St Winifred's to accommodate a disabled toilet and small kitchen. (A Faculty is an order of the Consistory Court, presided over by the Chancellor of the Diocese, authorising certain works to be carried out on Church of

England premises.) Also, the building control body has confirmed that the design complies with building regulations. Our architect, Gordon Clarke, has had to modify the design to minimise excavation by the tower, so now the floor of the extension will be up two steps from the nave. Most of the pews at the back of the church will be removed and replaced, partly by wooden chairs with upholstered seats and partly by all-wooden high stacking chairs. As part of the process, a public notice either has been displayed by the date this edition of the Bulletin is published or will be soon. The notice explains the procedure for anybody to make comments for the Chancellor to consider. Planning permission has been granted and finances are beginning to fall into place, so that once the faculty has been granted and a builder selected work can begin on at least part of the project!

Chris Butcher, tel. 221 251, beckafordfarm@gmail.com

Rose Underhill, tel. 221 202, rosegreathoundtor@gmail.com

MANATON MADHATTERS HAND BELL RINGERS

Our weekly ringing sessions have been going well and we have put together a programme to ring in the church during the Show and Fayre at 2.30 pm.

Three of us have attended two regional events which were enjoyable, interesting and informative to be part of.

If anyone would like to try hand bell ringing you are most welcome to come along in the autumn (September) after our summer break. We play by numbers so being able to read music is not essential.

We are also planning to hold a plant sale in conjunction with September's monthly market to raise funds for the insurance of the bells and any repairs that might come up in the future. Any plant donations will be gratefully received.

Contact Sue on 01647 221692 or essexterraplane@gmail.com

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Decorator & Design

Mobile: 07896 110190 Landline: 01647 221444 matthewpallister88@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

GOING FOR GROWTH

We are now in the church season of “Trinity”. Trinity is the longest season of the church year and its colour is green. Green is the colour of growth and that is no accident as the season of Trinity is traditionally a time when Christians concentrate on growing in their faith. We have followed the life of Jesus from Advent and the announcement of his coming into the world, through Christmas and his birth, followed by his ministry on earth and Easter and his death and resurrection. We have commemorated his ascension on Ascension Thursday and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We have celebrated the mystery that is the Holy Trinity of Father Son and Holy Spirit on Trinity Sunday and now, over the summer, we settle down to consolidate all that we have learnt and experienced, to think and pray about it, and to act on what we have learnt.

August is also a time for holidays of course, a time for taking stock, for sitting back and thinking about the year just passed and what we have learnt in it – our small triumphs and our regrets. If you are going on holiday in August then I do hope the sun shines for you , but I also hope you do have a chance to take stock of your Christian life – to thank God for all his goodness to you, to say sorry for the times you have let him down and to think about your prayer life and about other ways in which you might come closer to him once the holidays are over and you are back to the daily routine.

One of those ways might be to read your Bible more often. The King James/ Authorised Version of the Bible was first published in 1611. It is amazing that this one version of the Bible has been in continuous print for that length of time, and has sold 1 billion copies. It has had a tremendous impact on the English language and culture not just here in Britain but across the world. Even more importantly it has inspired and shaped the lives of countless individuals who, through it, have discovered God’s love and purpose. Original copies of the King James Bible contained encouraging comments from the translators to readers and I would like to finish with a brief extract from one of them:

“Gentle Reader, we commend thee to God, and to the Spirit of His grace. He removeth the scales from our eyes, the veil from our hearts, opening our wits that we may understand His Word, enlarging our hearts, yea correcting our affections, that we may love it above gold and silver, yea that we may love it to the end. Ye are brought unto fountains of living water which ye digged not. Others have laboured, and you may enter into their labours; O receive not so great things in vain, O despise not so great salvation! It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God; but a blessed thing it is, and will bring us to everlasting blessedness in the end, when God speaketh unto us, to hearken; when He setteth His Word before us, to read it; when He stretcheth out His hand and calleth, to answer, Here am I, here we are to do thy will O God.”

Sue Sheppard – Rector

MANATON NATURE BULLETIN – Summer 2023

Welcome to the Spring/Summer bulletin.

Summer arrived with a sudden flourish on May 21st and we have had pretty much wall to wall sunshine ever since - apparently it is the hottest June in the UK since 1887. For me personally, since living here at least, the first sign of Summer is waking up to the sound of a Cuckoo, something that would have been a common experience for our ancestors but is now sadly not.

Our Cuckoos usually arrive around mid-April and make themselves known from the Bowerman's Nose area. It was April 14th this year. Last heard on June 18th and by now they are heading back to central Africa.

Quiz question: What UK bird lays the most eggs? nope, no it's not a Blue tit.

Answer : Cuckoo Up to 25 poor Meadow pipits on Hayne!

The Parish Swifts have come back again in good numbers, up to 15 dotted across the village with the best group still at Deal Farm.

Weird facts about Swifts. Typical life expectancy 16 years, their eyes have moveable bristles in front like sunglasses for reducing glare, they sleep on the wing and rarely land, but best of all, they breed on the wing - now that is impressive, the original mile high club.

The Pied flycatchers of the parish had a bumper year due to the lack of heavy rain showers washing away the young's invert food. Clam Bridge boxes produced 68 fledged from 13 broods; Emsworthy, 16 fledged from 3 broods; Heathercombe, 9 from 2 broods; Neadon Cleave, 54 from 9 broods.

Other records that I have collected this Spring into Summer: Brimstone Butterfly, March 20th; Redstart, April 4th. We were blessed to have a pair of Redstarts nest in the box I put up for them under our porch. If you don't know what a male Redstart looks like, take a look on Google. I think you will be surprised just how striking they are.

Other records noted:

Small Tortoiseshell butterfly, April 1st; Willow Warbler, April 5th; Swallow, April 14th; Hobby, April 29th; Hummingbird Hawk moths, May 3rd, 7th, 13th; Red Kite, April 3rd over Town Barton, May 21st and 3 together over our house on the 14th May.

If you have never seen a Red Kite or are not sure if it was just another Buzzard, the Red Kite has a noticeably forked tail and far slimmer wings, but is similar in size when you first spot them. The next time you go past Andover on the A303 towards the M3 or anywhere along the M4, you will have the chance to see quite a few Red Kites as they are primarily scavengers looking for road kill rather than active hunters. I predict that within 20 years they will be regular breeders in Neadon Cleave. It is the perfect habitat for them and they are expanding all the time.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer and I will see you all at the Show and Fair. Robin.

FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST:

Hello from Half Moon

Hi Everyone!

I hope that those of you who love the sun are enjoying the weather, and those who don't have found plenty of shade under lovely trees.

It has been a hive of activity across our many sites over the past month with Great Big Green Week events taking place, community volunteering days, thank-you events as part of Volunteers Week and visits from our partners at Devon Carers during Carers Week. June is always so busy! It has been such a privilege to be able to celebrate these special weeks and say thank you.

At Half Moon, we plan to undertake seed harvesting again in July/August. Last time, the harvested seeds were taken over to Killerton to help with their wildflower meadows. Our Ranger team are also starting to undertake repairs to the fencing up to Manaton rocks and are working with DNPA to replace the step stile with a gate or similar to help with access. Our volunteers have been doing an amazing job clearing rhody and laurel and it really feels like we are getting on top of this now so huge thanks to the team.

Work to the house itself progressed well and even finished ahead of schedule. We were all delighted to see the scaffolding removed at the end of April. The new thatch looks wonderful and a big thank you goes out to all of the neighbours for their patience while contractors were on site. Now that the building is watertight, we will take the opportunity to re-group as we plan what the next steps will be.

Take care everyone,

Paula Clarke

Volunteering and Community Manager, Dartmoor

Paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk



LEIGHON VALLEY:

Have you ventured over to Leighon Valley and had a rummage in the freezers yet? Sampled a few flavours of ice-cream, tried some elderflower cordial, had a chicken, some pork or beef for dinner, bacon and eggs for breakfast or sloshed some Taw River Dairy Jersey milk on your cornflakes? If you have ventured over to us, thank you so much for coming to see us and trying our local yummy good stuff. Thank you for supporting our giant honesty box, we hope you have enjoyed all you have sampled! If you haven't ventured our way yet, please do come and have a look - there's no obligation to buy anything!

Writing at the end of June we are tentatively watching and hoping the vegetables grow, with all fingers and toes crossed that when you are reading this in August we will be in the days of bountiful harvest for the vegetables and can be selling our surplus! Priced at £5 collected (£8 delivered locally) our veg boxes contain a mixture of 5 different 'what's available this week' vegetables - you will be hard pressed to find cheaper this side of the supermarket checkout. We grow our veg to above and beyond organic standards with no chemical meddling whatsoever (unlike organic). Our veg, like all our produce, has taste; and if the taste is there then it follows that so too must be the nutrients.

Complementing our veg as ever is our quality GM & Soya free pork and, as available, chicken too. We try to expand our range all the time; keeping as local, seasonal and home-made as possible, after all, I still long to be Mary Swainson or Mrs Dixon from Swallows and Amazons! So ice-cream, drinks, preserves, meat and as much yummy good stuff as we can muster is all there for your delectation.



LEIGHON VALLEY

@ 2 LEIGHON COTTAGES, TQ13 9UP



*Down yonder way, up Leighon Drive,
just by the Becka Brook ...
there is a treasure trove of delicious
ethically produced food to be found!*

*Pork - beef - chicken - milk - eggs - jams
Chutneys - ice cream
seasonal veg - and lots more!*

*Pop by or for more info
01647 221674
puredartmoor@gmail.com*

As summer merges into autumn, we will be out foraging the fields and hedgerows for our jams and chutneys, seeking out apples, blackberries, sloes, elderberries and all the other wonderful bounties that nature provides at this time of year. Like the little mice of Brambly Hedge, we fill our store cupboards with delicious goodness to be able to share with others throughout the year. And of course, we cannot forget the acorns for the pigs. So, if you have an abundance of something useful, or like us, like to forage please do get in touch and we will happily pay or barter for your excess!

We're working hard to produce as much as we can in our rented tiny paddock at Leighon, with veg, pork, chicken, duck eggs and honey in full production there, as we enter into our fifth year of using the paddock. With great thanks to a few generous people in the village we've been able to move the meat chickens out of the garden and the pigs out of the veg patch for the summer which has eased the pressure on our tiny piece of rented land. We'd love to be producing more variety and are actively seeking land to buy or rent locally, large or small, so we can farm like we want to. Using agricultural land for its primary purpose;

providing food for the community in conjunction and harmony with nature. So if you have any; or hear of any; please do get in touch; as we're chomping at the bit and ready to go.

We hope to see you soon at the independent Leighon Valley collection point at 2 Leighon Cottages, Leighon Estate, Manaton, TQ13 9UP – follow the “Milk, meat & more” signs to find us!

See you soon, Louise, Darren & The Tribe

DARK SKIES OVER MANATON?

This isn't another gloom story – we all have enough of those! – but rather a celebration and a suggestion. I'd volunteer that one of the many delights of living in Manaton – alongside the glories of the moor, of nature and wilderness, of friends and the quiet dependability of village life – is the darkness and clarity of the night-time skies. And, like all those other privileges of moorland living, we need to cherish and protect those dark skies if we are not to lose them.

Since our earliest ancestors got up off their knuckles, mankind has been fascinated by the cycles of the stars and the moon - the wonders of the heavens. Archaeology and the ancient epics demonstrate that the night sky framed people's understanding of the forces which determined their lives. Gazing up into a dark sky – pondering the mysterious appearance and disappearance of the stars and the planets, wondering at it all – has been a distraction and privilege for everyone, everywhere, forever. Until now! With industrial smog, city living and universal electric lighting, the mysteries of outside darkness seem to have vanished for most people. A BBC poll last winter indicated that only a just over a tenth of people in Britain could regularly see stars on clear nights from outside their homes. Ambient light and pollution have taken away what used to be a universal privilege. And all these lights are having a catastrophic impact on nature too – the insects and birds, animals and plants exquisitely adapted to the subtleties of starlight, moonlight and darkness are under increasing pressure as they are dazzled by streetlights, floodlights and skyglow.

We can all do our bit to reverse this trend. A group in North Bovey has been promoting dark skies for some years, and trying to get the Dartmoor National Park Authority to follow the lead of bodies in the Peak District, Northumberland and Galloway to make darkness a distinctive feature of the moor. There are national and international bodies promoting this cause, from the All Party Parliamentary Group on Dark Skies to the Commission for Dark Skies, the International Dark Sky Association to WWF. "Dark Skies Matter" is a UK campaigning body on this issue – they have a good website, and, if there is interest from others in Manaton, we could join as a community. This might help to address some of the worst excesses of light pollution locally (I find the night-time view down onto Heathfield, and the creeping streetlight glow from Newton Abbot particularly discouraging. I'm saddened, too, by ever-more satellites tracking across the timeless constellations).

But there's a simple way in which we can all make a difference. William Hodges, the ARP Warden in Dad's Army, was perhaps never anyone's favourite character in that drama – least of all Captain Mainwaring's, but his bossy, hectoring catch-phrase can serve as an easy reminder of what we need to do – "Put that bloody light out!". Especially if it's an outside light. And then go outside, look up, let your eyes adjust, and be amazed... Awesome!

If you have any views or comments or suggestions about dark skies over Manaton, please pass them on to Manaton Parish Council (see Page 2 for a list of councillors) either by phone or email manatonclerk@live.com.

OXYGEN CONSERVATION

It's still just the start of our conservation journey at Leighon

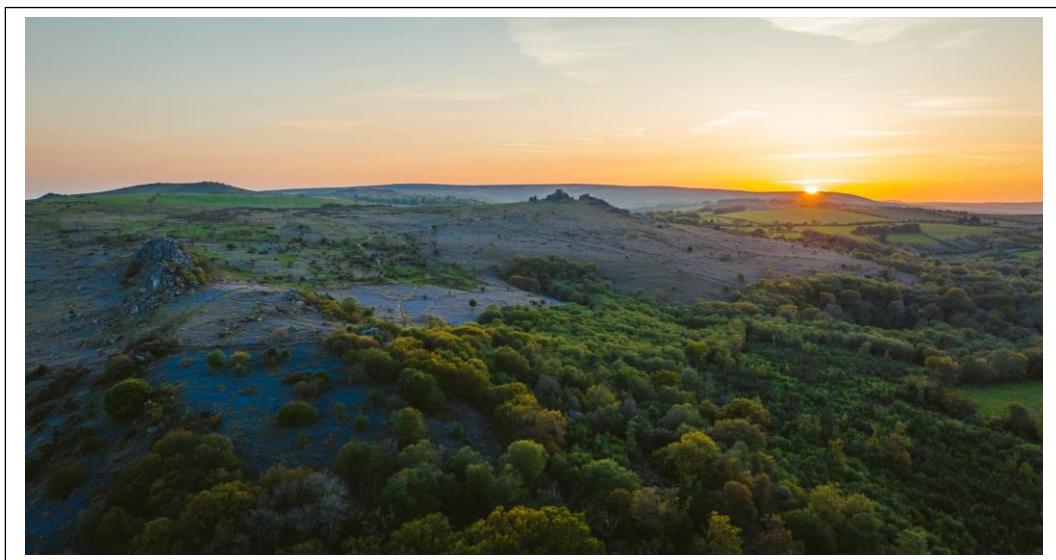
Oxygen Conservation was founded with the aim of tackling the climate crisis and biodiversity collapse. We do this by Scaling Conservation across the UK. You may have read our previous updates, in which case we hope you are enjoying hearing from us, but if this is your first read then we hope you enjoy.

We are very lucky to be the custodians for the fantastic Leighon Estate. A breath-taking mosaic of tors, moors, grasslands and temperate rainforest. It is vital for us to protect and learn from this habitat rich estate, to provide spaces for species to thrive and flourish. In our previous update, we spoke about the data we had been collecting, and as we continue to do so, we wanted to share with you our next steps in monitoring the special species across our estate.

Earlier this spring, we were invited to join a local Pied flycatcher monitoring initiative. We of course said yes and have been supporting an amazing group of local experts and volunteers to install monitored nesting boxes at Leighon. Pied flycatchers are an indicator species for areas of well-connected and contiguous woodland, so understandably we were excited at the prospect of them being at Leighon! In total, 25 pairs of boxes were installed across the Estate. At the beginning of April, the boxes were checked and although three males were observed singing in close proximity, none had managed to attract a mate – not yet anyway. This was, however, a record year for pairing in the area so hopefully next year, we will see these birds take up a more permanent residence.

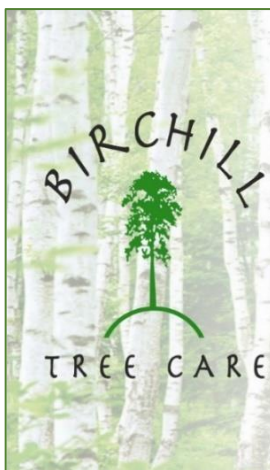
For us, this is a fantastic indication of the state of the woodland across this area and, as we continue our journey in conservation, we hope to see breeding pairs next spring. We also plan to expand the monitoring programme to include a trial assessing modifications to the boxes as a measure to reduce egg predation, if we are blessed with mating pairs. The team at Oxygen Conservation would like to extend their thanks to all of the incredible volunteers that donated their time, and the experts in and around the local community for their advice and guidance.

We always want to hear from those living in and around our estates so please feel free to get in contact should you have any questions, or want to learn more: hello@oxygenconservation.com.



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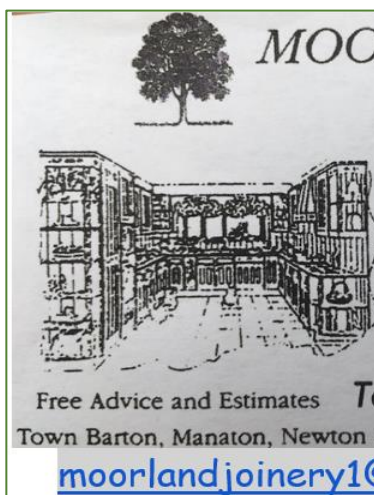
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