



# BUCKFASTLEIGH COMMUNITY NEWS

June 2025

## Join a Storytelling Workshop with Devon Wildlife Trust

Experience the magic of storytelling with the Devon Wildlife Trust at our workshop led by Chris Salisbury, a celebrated storyteller and author. This event will be held on **Wednesday, June 11th from 6pm to 8pm**, by the serene river Dart in a beautiful woodland setting.

Chris will share captivating tales and encourage participants to contribute creatively. The event is free, but spaces are limited, so be sure to secure your spot by visiting [www.devonwildlifetrust.org](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org) and looking under 'what's on'.

Parking is available at New Bridge, 4 miles from Ashburton, past the turnoff to Holne, with loos located in the car park.

**For more details and to book:** Visit [www.devonwildlifetrust.org](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org).

## Support the Buckfastleigh Town Lottery and Win Big While Helping the Community

Support the **Buckfastleigh Town Lottery**, a local non-profit initiative that provides funding for community projects and events within Buckfastleigh. Initially hosted at Huccabies, the lottery now operates out of *J Searle & Son*.

By participating, you help fund important local events like the Christmas town lighting, and you have the opportunity to win cash prizes weekly. The prize fund is 55% of the weekly stakes, with a jackpot and additional prizes.

Entries can be multiple, with a weekly cost of £1 in cash or £4.34 monthly by standing order. Winners are announced weekly in the shop window and on Facebook.

To apply for grants, community groups can write to Buckfastleigh Town Lottery at 43 Fore Street, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0AA, or email [shop@seales.tv](mailto:shop@seales.tv), subject 'Buckfastleigh Town Lottery'. Grant criteria are available on request.

For details, visit our Facebook page or J Searle & Son.

## Vibrant Events and Activities at Moor Imagination Centre

Discover a wealth of activities at Moor Imagination Centre, offering everything from dance and fitness to music and crafts. Our cafe serves organic plant-based food and operates on a sliding scale pricing system, open Friday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

### Regular Weekly Activities Include:

- Mondays feature Gentle Shimmy at 11:30am, a community craft group from 6pm, and Andy's Man Club at 7pm.
- Tuesdays bring Tai Chi, Karate, music sessions for teens, and a community choir.
- Wednesdays are for Kids Kung Fu, Lindy Hop, and martial arts.
- Thursdays offer theatre sessions for youths and discussions on end-of-life issues.
- Fridays include Yoga, art classes, and drama for younger children.
- Saturdays host the Buckfastleigh Repair Cafe every third Saturday.
- Sundays feature a Makers Market, sound baths, and a bookbinding course.

### Don't Miss Our Special Events:

- 24 May: DEEP SKIES live experience
- 30 May: Strange News jazz gig
- 4 July: Poetry & Dance evening
- 10 July: Dance, Spoken Word & Poetry night

Visit [www.moorimagination.org](http://www.moorimagination.org) for more information and to book tickets.

## St Luke's Church Presents: An Afternoon Concert in June

Exciting news for music lovers in our community! **St Luke's Church** in Buckfastleigh is hosting an afternoon concert, offering a unique musical experience for all. The concert will feature harpsichord and organ music by Handel and Mozart, performed by the highly acclaimed **Richard Lester**.

Richard, who has received high praise from the Daily Telegraph as 'one of our leading players', and in the Penguin Guide to the 1000 finest Classical Recordings, as 'undoubtedly a master', promises to deliver a captivating performance of these classical pieces.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 14th**, as the concert begins at **2.30pm**. It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy a summer afternoon filled with beautiful music!

The best part? Admission is completely free! However, we will have a retiring

collection towards Church funds. Any contributions you can make will be gratefully received and will go directly towards supporting our cherished community work.

We look forward to seeing you at St Luke's Church for this delightful musical event. It's bound to be an afternoon to remember!

## **Join the Patchwork Quilt Challenge: Craft, Companionship, and Charity**

The dedicated members of the Patchwork Quilt Challenge group have been hard at work creating beautiful quilts for those in need. We're proud to announce that we have delivered 23 baby quilts to SCBU at Torbay. Additionally, we are planning to support RAFT (Refugee Aid for Taunton) and Exeter Refugee Support with quilts for children, teenagers, and others this year. Our heartfelt thanks to Virginia Turbett for her help with this initiative.

These efforts reflect our group's ethos of offering a helping hand to those who need the kindness of strangers. We've been fortunate to welcome new members to the Patchwork Quilt Challenge this year, and we're thrilled to share our friendship, expertise, and companionship with the wider community. And, of course, we appreciate the donated fabric and wadding that goes into making each quilt!

**Upcoming Meetings:** We're excited to announce our next meetings, which will be held downstairs at St Lukes in Buckfastleigh. Please mark your calendars for Saturdays 14th June and 12th July, from 10am to 3pm. We'll provide refreshments, but we ask that you bring your own packed lunch. There's no charge to attend these events, thanks to grants given by our Town Council and the Town Lottery. We'd love to see you there!

If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to welcoming you at our next meeting and sharing our love of quilting for a good cause!

## **June Talk: Devon's Land and Communities at History Society Buckfastleigh**

We're delighted to invite you to the upcoming June History Society Buckfastleigh talk. Our guest speaker, **Jonty Williams**, will present an intriguing exploration titled "**An Investigation into Devon's Husbandry of its Land and Communities**".

Join us at **7.30pm on Thursday, June 19** at the beloved local venue, the **Valiant Soldier Museum** on Fore Street, Buckfastleigh. The entry fee is a modest **£5**, and we're happy to accept card payments.

Don't miss out on this chance to learn more about the fascinating history of Devon. We hope to see you there for an evening filled with insightful conversation and community camaraderie.

## Join the Friends of St Mary's for a Summer Fayre

We're excited to announce that on **Saturday 21st June**, between **13:00-16:00**, the Friends of St. Mary's are hosting a delightful **Summer Fayre** at **St. Mary's Primary School**. This event is open to everyone in the community, and the best part is, entry is absolutely free!

There's a lot on offer to keep you entertained. Enjoy a variety of stalls including a tombola, lucky dip, soak the teacher, and hook a duck. We haven't forgotten about our youngest visitors — we have a free toddler area, along with a bouncy castle and an inflatable obstacle course. We'll also host a cake and art competition, and refreshments will be available for purchase. And yes, the BBQ will be fired up!

Don't forget to participate in our fantastic raffle, which boasts a range of exciting prizes. We're always grateful for donations from individuals and local businesses. If you're able to kindly donate something, please email [secretary@fosms.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:secretary@fosms.onmicrosoft.com).

Just a note: Parking at the school is limited, but the Abbey has kindly offered overflow parking. Please remember to cross at the assigned point for safety. We also suggest bringing small change to make purchases easier.

So come along, bring your friends and family, and join us for a day filled with community spirit and summer fun! For more details, please email [secretary@fosms.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:secretary@fosms.onmicrosoft.com).

## Singing Sanctuary at The Dragon Sanctuary with Leo and Sundara Sofer

Warm greetings to all! We're excited to invite you to join us at **The Dragon Sanctuary** for a special Singing Sanctuary event. This is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the moving experience of singing devotional songs, led by the talented **Leo and Sundara Sofer**.

Accompanied by harmonium and guitar, we'll be singing original songs inspired

by prayers and sayings from spiritual traditions around the world. Sundara will be playing the harmonium and Leo will be on the guitar. The presence of two instruments allows for a richer musical experience, enabling everyone to chime in and relax into the rhythm of the music.

You don't need to be an experienced singer to join us, everyone is welcome! We're all here to enjoy the music and the company of our fellow community members.

#### **Here are the details of our event:**

- **Date:** Sunday, 15th June 2025
- **Time:** 7:30pm to 9pm (doors open at 7pm for a cup of tea and a chat)
- **Location:** The Dragon Sanctuary, 34 Bossell Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0DD
- **Entrance Fee:** £7

No need to book in advance, just come along if the mood takes you. For more information about this and other events, do visit our website at [www.dragonsanctuary.co.uk](http://www.dragonsanctuary.co.uk).

## **Scoriton & Buckfastleigh Twinning Association's Exciting Summer Events**

Summer is here, and so is the chance to join the Scoriton & Buckfastleigh Twinning Association for a series of delightful events! Fresh from the success of their recent coffee morning at the MIC, the Association is all set to take a stall at the upcoming Fun Day on Sunday, June 29th, at Old Millennium Green.

**Fun Day:** This day promises fun for everyone, especially the children. They can participate in games like matching French words with pictures and the much-loved Kids' Chocolate Challenge, where winners get to take home chocolate prizes!

Later in the summer, the Twinning Association is excited to welcome visitors from Fontaine-Henry in Normandy, France. They'll be arriving in Buckfastleigh on Saturday, August 23rd.

**Welcome Ceremony:** A traditional Vin d'Honneur will be held to greet them, this year in the form of a Ram Roast at Rattery Village Hall. On Sunday, guests will enjoy a day with their hosts, followed by a lively Ceilidh at Buckfast Village Hall in the evening. As is tradition, the visit will conclude with a trip to the Scoriton Flower Show, where several of the French guests are expected to take part in the race.

Come join us in this celebration of friendship and community!

## **Dean Prior Church's 100 Club and Coffee Morning**

### **Dean Prior 100 Club**

Our May draw brought cheer to three of our members. Philip Langley-May, Katherine Jeffery, and Jeanne Pinney were the lucky winners. We're grateful for the continued support from all members. If you're not a member yet, we have some spare tickets up for grabs. Please reach out to Lynda Grieveson for more details.

### **Coffee Mornings at Dean Prior Village Hall**

We're still revelling in the success of our Coffee Morning on 3rd May, which raised an impressive £529 for Dean Prior Church! We couldn't have achieved this without the wonderful support from our community, who joined us for cakes, coffee, and plant shopping. Thank you all!

We're keeping the momentum going with another Coffee Morning planned for Saturday, 27th July. While there won't be plants this time, there'll be plenty of cakes and coffee to savour. The event will take place from 10am until noon at the Village Hall in Dean. We hope to see you there!

## **National Lottery Grant Boosts the Share Shed: Expanding South Devon's Mobile Library of Things**

The Share Shed, known as the world's first mobile Library of Things, has received a grant of £252,316 from the National Lottery Community Fund. This great news means more people across South Devon, including right here in Buckfastleigh, will benefit from this initiative over the next four years.

The project, led by the Network of Wellbeing, is titled "Happier People and Stronger Communities through Share and Repair in South Devon". Its aim is to make it easier for local residents to borrow items, learn practical skills, and connect through community action.

If you haven't come across the Share Shed before, it's essentially a library of useful items. From gardening tools and power drills to carpet cleaners, sewing machines, camping gear, and much more, over 350 items are available for borrowing. The Library of Things visits Buckfastleigh every week, helping residents save money, reduce waste, and aid the environment.

Thanks to the new funding, the Share Shed plans to:

- Offer free memberships to low-income households.
- Host more community events, Repair Cafés, and skill-sharing workshops.
- Reduce carbon emissions by promoting borrowing instead of buying.

- Support volunteers and build stronger partnerships with local groups.
- Introduce new services like out-of-hours borrowing via smart lockers.

Project Manager of the Share Shed, Mirella Ferraz, expressed her gratitude for the grant: “This support from the National Lottery Community Fund is a game changer. It will help us support thousands more people to save money, gain new skills, and strengthen community ties through sharing and repair.”

The Share Shed is available every Saturday, between 10am and 12.30pm at The Globe Inn Car Park, Plymouth Rd, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DA. Whether you need a hedge trimmer, a chocolate fountain, or want to learn how to fix a broken toaster, the Share Shed is here to assist.

To find out more or to get involved, visit: [www.shareshed.org.uk](http://www.shareshed.org.uk).

## St Benedict's Catholic Church: Warm Invitations and Community Services

St Benedict's Catholic Church in Chapel Street, Buckfastleigh (TQ11 0AQ) is home to a friendly Catholic worshipping community. We're guided by our Parish Priest, Fr Francis Straw, who comes to us from Buckfast Abbey. We'd be delighted if you'd join us for Mass on Saturdays at 5pm, followed by tea and coffee. And don't worry, we have a quiet activity area for children during the service!

**Pentecost Celebration:** Make a note for Saturday, June 7th at 5pm. We'll be celebrating Pentecost — the birthday of the Church — and you're warmly invited. Alternatively, you can attend the Mass of Pentecost at Buckfast Abbey on Sunday, June 8th at 9am and 11am.

**The Feast of Corpus Christi:** We're holding a Vigil Mass on Saturday, June 21st for the Feast of Corpus Christi — a beautiful service in honour of the real presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. You're also welcome to join the Feast of Corpus Christi celebrations at Buckfast Abbey on Sunday, June 22nd at 9am and 11am.

If you're holidaying in Buckfastleigh and looking for a Catholic Church, we'd be thrilled to welcome you at our Saturday Mass at St Benedict's. Just pop in and say hello.

St Benedict's is also a proud supporter of the Buckfastleigh Food Bank. We have a donation point in the church and we're always amazed by the generosity of our parishioners. You can find a list of items most needed on the [Buckfastleigh Foodbank website](#).

If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach out

via email at [parish@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:parish@buckfast.org.uk) or call Fr Francis Straw at 01364 645526.

## June Activities and Workshops at The Wool Hub

This June, **The Wool Hub** invites you to join a variety of fun and creative woolcraft workshops for all ages, engaging children's sessions, and regular drop-ins. Let's share the joy of crafting together!

**Workshops:** Our June lineup includes the following children's craft sessions:

- *Felting Fun* on Mondays from 3.30 to 5pm (£15, for 8 years and above)
- *Young Weavers* on Tuesdays from 3.30 to 5pm (£15, all ages, children under 6 with adult)
- *Crochet with Evelyn* on Thursdays from 3.30 to 4.30pm (£3)

We're also hosting the **Two Moors Pine Marten Project Free Workshop** on Monday 2nd and 23rd June from 3.30 to 5.30pm, and every Friday from 1 to 5pm. Here you can try your hand at needle felting animals and plants.

Email [woollynanas@gmail.com](mailto:woollynanas@gmail.com) to book workshops and children's sessions. Payments are required in advance, with free cancellation up to 7 days before the event.

**Shop:** Our shop is open daily during drop-in times. You'll find a range of handmade woolly items, including felt hats, rugs, ear warmers, ties, yarn, and knitting needles.

**Weekly Drop-ins:** We welcome folks of all ages and abilities to our drop-in sessions. No booking needed, just come along. Please note alterations on certain dates in June.

Stay updated on our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). For queries, email us at [woollynanas@gmail.com](mailto:woollynanas@gmail.com).

## June Excitement at Valiant Soldier Heritage Centre

Get ready for a fun-filled June at the **Valiant Soldier Heritage Centre**! We're hosting a variety of events and activities that promise to bring history to life and make this month memorable.

**Roaring Twenties Evening:** Join us on **21st June** for an evening at the Valiant Soldier Speakeasy Bar. Enjoy a cocktail or a local cider/beer and be transported back to the 1920s. We're open from 6pm to 10pm and look forward to seeing you there!

**Exhibition: Buckfastleigh 100 Years Ago**



We're participating in the 'Festival of Devon in the 1920s' with an exhibition that recreates Buckfastleigh from a century ago. Curated by our Archive team, it's an intriguing glimpse into the past.

We're open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10am to 3.30pm (last entry at 3pm) until the end of October. Sundays and Bank Holidays will be added from late July through August. Don't forget our woolly sheep quiz for the little ones. TQ11 residents enjoy free entry!

**Gifts and Souvenirs:** Visit our new Visitor Centre for a variety of keepsakes and gifts. From jewellery to local crafts, games to pre-read books, and even Salcombe ice cream, there's something for everyone.

**Room Hire:** Need a venue? We offer room hire. Email us at [info@valiantsoldier.org.uk](mailto:info@valiantsoldier.org.uk) or visit our website at [valiantsoldier.org.uk](http://valiantsoldier.org.uk) for details.

**Volunteer With Us:** We're seeking volunteers to help greet visitors, manage the reception desk, or provide administrative and IT support. Interested? Drop in or email us at [info@valiantsoldier.org.uk](mailto:info@valiantsoldier.org.uk).

**Support Us:** You could win £25,000 by supporting us through the Teignbridge lottery! Tickets are just £1, with 50p going to the Valiant Soldier. Find us on the Teignbridge Lottery for Communities page. Or donate via our GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/f819a57a>. Every contribution helps maintain our buildings.

**Coffee Mornings:** Enjoy a cuppa and friendly conversation at our coffee mornings every Wednesday from 10am-12pm. Hosted by the Methodist group, everyone is welcome.

We can't wait to welcome you to the Valiant Soldier Heritage Centre this June!

## June 2025 at Buckfastleigh Library: Song Sessions, Duck Hunt, and a Jigsaw Challenge

**Bounce and Rhyme Sessions:** Remember, every Friday at 2.30pm, we host a free, fun filled song session for babies, toddlers, and their grown ups. These sessions are a fantastic way for the little ones to interact and learn.

**The Great Duck Spot:** From Monday 23rd June to Saturday 28th June, we're adding some feathered fun to our usual quiet library atmosphere. To build the excitement for the Duck Race, we're hosting a hide and seek game. Find all the hidden ducks and win your own plush Usborne duck! It costs just £1 to enter, and we'll also provide free fun worksheets for all participants.

**Jigsaw Competition - We Need Your Input:** Ivybridge Library recently hosted a Jigsaw Competition, where teams of four raced to complete a 500-piece jigsaw. It was a hit, with prizes and refreshments on offer. We're considering hosting a similar event right here in Buckfastleigh. So, if you're interested, do let us know next time you're in the library.

Whether you're a bookworm, a puzzle lover or a parent hunting for fun activities for your kids, Buckfastleigh Library has something for you this June. We can't wait to welcome you!

## Join Purl and a Pint for Knitting and Conversation at The Kings Arms

If you're interested in knitting or looking for a friendly group to join, consider **Purl and a Pint**. We are a welcoming group that meets at **The Kings Arms in Buckfastleigh** every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

This month, we're focusing on the colour green, inspired by nature's diverse green colour scheme. It's a challenge to find variegated yarn that replicates these colours, but we're up for it! It's always amazing to see the patterns and colours that emerge when working with variegated yarn.

Whether you're thinking about starting a new hobby or used to knit in the past and want to pick it up again, we'd love to have you join us. Our group is full of people who are happy to help you get started.

### Upcoming Dates:

- 11th & 25th June
- 9th & 23rd July
- 13th & 27th August

If you want to chat before attending for the first time, feel free to call Dawn on **07990 332816**. We look forward to welcoming you to Purl and a Pint!

## June Gathering at Buckfastleigh Memory Cafe

The next gathering of the **Buckfastleigh Memory Cafe** is taking place on **Tuesday, 17th June**, and we're inviting anyone living with memory problems and dementia to join us for a journey by steam to Totnes and back. Follow the river Dart through the heart of the beautiful Devon countryside, enjoying stimulating conversation and refreshments along the way.

If you haven't been before, please give Kathrine a call and she'll fill you in on

everything you need to know about parking, access, and what to expect. Or, you're welcome to simply turn up at the South Devon Railway station at **3:30 PM** for a **3:45 PM** departure. We can't wait to see you there!

You can reach Kathrine at [Kathrine@conversationworks.co.uk](mailto:Kathrine@conversationworks.co.uk) or by phone at [07899 993134](tel:07899993134). We're looking forward to a wonderful afternoon!

## June Worship Schedule at Buckfast Methodist Church

**Worship Services:** We warmly invite you to join us for our June worship services at Buckfast Methodist Church. Services are scheduled as follows:

- Sunday, June 1st at 3pm
- Sunday, June 8th at 10:30am
- Sunday, June 22nd at 3pm
- Sunday, June 29th at 3pm

Additionally, on Sunday, June 15th, we will not hold our usual service. Instead, we encourage everyone to attend a special *Songs of Praise* event at 6:30pm at Bovey Tracey Methodist Church. This special gathering will honor Andrew Parsons as a Local Preacher and share insights about our partnership with Churches in East India.

**Daily Chapel Opening:** Our chapel doors remain open daily from approximately 10am to 4pm for anyone seeking a peaceful retreat for reflection and personal prayer. Whether you're having a busy day or week, our chapel is a serene place to pause and rejuvenate.

**Coffee Morning:** Our regular coffee mornings continue at the Valient Soldier every Wednesday until noon. It's a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new people in a welcoming atmosphere.

For more information about our services and events, feel free to visit us right opposite the main entrance to Buckfast Abbey or contact us for any inquiries.

## Experience Mongolia with Buckfastleigh Mothers' Union

At our recent meeting on Thursday 1st May, member **Val Hoare** mesmerized us with a delightful talk and slide show about her visit to Mongolia. We all greatly admired her zest for meeting local people and traversing large areas.

We're eagerly looking forward to **our next meeting on Thursday, 5th June at 2.30 pm at St Luke's Church**. We'll be joined by **Marigold Seager-Berry** who will deliver our MU Talk. It promises to be an enlightening discussion about our Union's activities and future plans.

Everyone is welcome to join our friendly group. Whether you're already a member or considering joining, we'd be delighted to see you. If you're interested in learning more about the Mothers' Union, don't hesitate to reach out.

For further information, please contact **Janet Jones** on **01364 643627**.

## Welcome Alex Holmes, the New Vicar at St Luke's Church

We are delighted to welcome **Alex Holmes** as the new Team Vicar at St Luke's Church, now part of the Dart and Avon Mission Community. Alex has moved here from Somerset and looks forward to becoming an integral part of our community. Feel free to greet her during her walks with her border collies, or contact her at [revalexholmes@gmail.com](mailto:revalexholmes@gmail.com) or **07576 193701**. Her working days are Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

### Sunday Services in June:

- Compline service on *June 1 at 6:00 PM*
- Morning services on the following three Sundays at *11:00 AM*
- Combined open-air service on *June 29* in Littlehempston (no service at St Luke's that day).

**Free Concert:** Organ and harpsichord concert featuring Handel and Mozart on *June 14 at 2:30 PM*. Free entry, donations welcome for church funds.

**Foodbank Support:** Assistance is available every Friday morning at St Luke's. For help, call **01364 644485**.

For more information, visit [www.stlukeschurchbuckfastleigh.org.uk](http://www.stlukeschurchbuckfastleigh.org.uk) or contact Alex Holmes directly at **07576 193701**.

---

#### Buckfastleigh Community News

Published by the Wigram Community Association. Delivered by volunteers.

Submit articles: [www.bflnews.org.uk](http://www.bflnews.org.uk) | [news@bflnews.org.uk](mailto:news@bflnews.org.uk)

Chris Doidge, 1 Glebelands, TQ11 0BH – 01364 643553

Copy deadline: **16 June** Donations: Buckfast Post Office or [paypal.me/bflnews](https://www.paypal.me/bflnews)

Read online: [www.bflnews.org.uk](http://www.bflnews.org.uk)

Sponsored by: Buckfastleigh Feoffees, Buckfast Abbey, [J. Searle & Son](#)

*Articles may be edited for space.*