



BUCKFASTLEIGH COMMUNITY NEWS

May 2025

Join Us For The New Cricket Season at Buckfastleigh Cricket Club

The cricket season is on the roll, and our very own **Buckfastleigh Cricket Club** is once again competing in the Devon League while also hosting friendly matches with other local teams.

We're excited to welcome new players of all ages and abilities. It doesn't matter if you're a seasoned player or just starting, and we warmly welcome both men and women. But if playing isn't quite your cup of tea, fret not! There are plenty of opportunities to support the club through scoring, umpiring, or helping maintain the beautiful ground. And yes, training is available for these roles.

Or perhaps you're just looking for a lovely spot to spend a summer afternoon? Our picturesque ground offers a welcoming atmosphere, complete with a well-stocked bar. It's the perfect place to sit back, relax, and enjoy the game.

To get involved, feel free to reach out to our club secretary, **Martin Parkes**, at **07886 118528**. You can also visit our website buckfastleighcc.uk for the latest fixture list. We can't wait to welcome you to the Buckfastleigh Cricket Club community!

Buckfastleigh Bowls Club: Inviting You to Our Social Events Programme

We're delighted to announce that Buckfastleigh Bowls Club, situated on **Duckspond Road, TQ11 0NL**, will be hosting a series of social events in May. With disabled access and free parking available, we're proud to offer a welcoming space for all community members. We're a registered charity (1210954) and our venue also features a licensed bar and refreshments.

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration: The festivities kick off on Thursday, 08 May 25, from 2pm onwards, with a celebration marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Tickets are £7.50 (children attend for free) and include delightful refreshments such as tea and coffee, sandwiches, cakes, and bakes. Additionally, we'll have a licensed bar at very affordable prices and a Grand

Raffle. To secure your tickets, please reach out to Tom Bowden at 07577 219962 or Denise Rudgley at 01364 643172/07501 363937.

Quiz Night: Later that day, at 7pm, we'll be hosting our Quiz Night. For only £2 per person, you can participate in teams of 1-4, and stand a chance to win a cash prize. We'll also hold a raffle at £1 per ticket.

Bingo: On Wednesday, 21 May 25, we invite you to join us at 2.30pm for Bingo. The entry fee is £5 per person, with raffle tickets available at £1 each. We'll have refreshments on hand, and you could win some fantastic prizes, including cash!

For more information, please visit our website at www.buckfastleighbowlsclub.co.uk.

Moorland Community Caring Receives Generous Grant for Volunteer Co-ordination

We're absolutely thrilled to share some fantastic news from **Moorland Community Caring**. This wonderful group, dedicated to supporting people over the age of 50 in Buckfastleigh, has been awarded funding from **Global's Make Some Noise**.

The generous grant of **£46,000** will enable the recruitment of a dedicated **Volunteer Co-ordinator** for the next two years. This is a significant boost for our Charity, allowing us to provide even more support for our current volunteers while also engaging more effectively with new people who'd like to donate their valuable time to Moorland. Our volunteers are the backbone of Moorland — without them, we simply couldn't do the work that we do.

If you've ever thought about making a difference to your community by volunteering, this could be the perfect opportunity. Whether you'd like to help as a Driver, contribute to our Moor Socials, or perhaps you have specific skills that would benefit our Charity, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel on **07794 599206** or email at info@moorlandcommunitycaring.org.uk. Let's make a difference together!

WoolFest Buckfastleigh: A Celebration of Wool, Craft, and Community

Calling all wool lovers, crafters, and makers! WoolFest is returning to Buckfastleigh for a day filled with creativity, sustainability, and community spirit. This much-anticipated event will take place in the heart of Buckfastleigh on **Sunday 25th May, from 2pm to 5pm, at the Orchard Millennium Green**. WoolFest is a vibrant celebration of all things wool—honouring the region's rich heritage of wool production while showcasing the many ways wool continues to be used today. The event will feature a fantastic selection of stalls, demonstrations, and activities, bringing together artisans, small businesses, and wool enthusiasts from across the area.

A Special Tradition Revived – The Sheep Parade! This year, WoolFest will also see the revival of an old tradition, with sheep being walked through the town to celebrate Buckfastleigh's historic connection to wool production. Be sure to meet at **1:30pm at the Globe Inn Car Park** to witness this wonderful spectacle before joining the festivities at WoolFest!

Get Involved – Book Your Stall! Are you a wool producer, artisan, crafter, or maker looking to share your work? WoolFest is the perfect opportunity to showcase your products, connect with like-minded individuals, and be part of a growing movement supporting sustainable textiles. If you're interested in having a stall or would like more information about the event, please get in touch at woollynanas@gmail.com. Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

Why Wool? Wool is a fantastic natural resource—renewable, biodegradable, and incredibly versatile. WoolFest aims to highlight the importance of sustainable materials, support local craftspeople, and encourage creativity through working with wool.

Whether you're a spinner, felter, knitter, weaver, or simply curious about the world of wool, WoolFest Buckfastleigh welcomes you! Come along, meet passionate makers, and celebrate the wonders of wool.

This free, family-friendly event will be hosted by the Woolly Nanas in collaboration with the Buckfast Spinning Group and the Share Shed – A Library of Things.

For more details and stall bookings, contact woollynanas@gmail.com.

Exciting Buckfastleigh Library Events in May

Looking for some fun and educational activities this May? Look no further than Buckfastleigh Library! We have a variety of events lined up for all ages.

Every Friday at 2.30pm, we invite babies, toddlers, and their grown-ups to our **Bounce and Rhyme** song session. This is a free and fun opportunity for our youngest community members to sing, laugh, and meet new friends.

On Saturday 17th May 2025, from 10am to 12 midday, join us for **Pollinator Crafts with the Clockwork Moth**. Charlie will be in the library sharing a story, guiding everyone in crafting insects, and leading an exploration of the wildlife garden. This event is part of the Buckfastleigh Community Pollinators Project. While this is a free activity, donations are gratefully accepted.

And don't miss out on **The Mushroom Show from Scratchworks Theatre** on Tuesday 27th May, from 10.30am to 12pm. Explore the amazing world of fungi through interactive theatre, music, and laughter. This joyful exploration of connection and community is suitable for ages 5 and up. Tickets are just £2 per person and can be booked in advance at the library.

We can't wait to see you at these delightful events and to share in the enjoyment of learning and community connection.

True Storytelling Evening at The Dragon Sanctuary

Have you ever experienced something miraculous that left you in awe? Or faced challenges that taught you valuable lessons? We all have stories that remind us of what truly matters in life. If you've got a story to share or would like to hear the stories of others, we're inviting you to join us at **The Dragon Sanctuary** for an evening of True Storytelling on **Saturday, 10th May from 7pm to 9.30pm**.

True Storytelling isn't about performance, but about sharing our experiences for inspiration, healing, and mutual understanding. We'll sit in a circle, and everyone is welcome to share their story. If you prefer, you're also welcome to simply sit and listen.

Leo Sofer, an experienced storyteller, will lead the evening. Leo will kick off with a true story of his own before opening up the circle for others to share. Each story will be around 10 minutes, followed by a short period for reflections. We'll also take a tea break for a bit of relaxation and conversation.

Doors open at 6.30pm, so feel free to come early for a cup of tea and a chat. There's no need to book in advance - just pay at the door with either cash or card. The entrance fee is **£10**.

You'll find us at **34 Bossell Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0DD** For more details about this event and our other activities, please visit our website at www.dragonsanctuary.co.uk.

Welcoming Alex Holmes to St Luke's Church

Welcome to Alex Holmes: Join us in welcoming Alex Holmes as our new Team Vicar at a special service on Tuesday, May 6 at 7pm at St Luke's Church. Alex will be focusing her ministry in Buckfastleigh and Dean Prior, with Gina Radford continuing as Team Rector.

Sunday Services in May: Attend our evening Compline service on May 4 at 6:00pm, and regular morning services on Sundays at 11am. These services are open to everyone, regardless of your faith or church experience.

Free Concert in June: Richard Lester will be performing works by Handel and Mozart on Saturday, June 14 at 2:30pm at St Luke's. A collection will support church funds.

Foodbank Support: The Foodbank and Foodbank café at St Luke's are available on Friday mornings. For assistance, call 01364 644485. Financial advice is also available.

Visit www.stlukeschurchbuckfastleigh.org.uk for more details, or contact Gina Radford at 07903 400480.

An Evening of Anthems and Motets with Collati Singers at Buckfast Abbey

Good news for all music lovers! The much-loved Collati Singers are making a return to the magnificent Buckfast Abbey. Join us on **Saturday 10th May 2025**, starting at **7:30pm**, for an enchanting evening of anthems and motets directed by Trefor Farrow.

The programme promises an engaging blend of works from both historical and contemporary composers. You'll hear the timeless melodies of Tallis, Byrd, Victoria, and Monteverdi, as well as pieces from modern composers like Eric Whitacre, James MacMillan, and M.J. Trotta.

Tickets: You can purchase your tickets online for £15 at www.buckfast.org.uk/events/anthem-and-motets or from the Buckfast Abbey Visitor Centre. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the concert.

To make your visit as comfortable as possible, there will be **free parking** with spaces for disabled visitors located closest to the Abbey's path. The venue is wheelchair accessible.

We're looking forward to welcoming you for a memorable evening of music at Buckfast Abbey. See you there!

Celebrate VE Day and Discover Local History at the Valiant Soldier Heritage Centre

The Valiant Soldier Heritage Centre is marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day with a special evening on Saturday 10th May, from 6-10pm. You're invited to step back into the 1940s with our selection of era-specific cocktails, including our very own Vera Lynn cocktail. We'll also be serving traditional beer and cider, and there'll be music to keep you entertained throughout the night.

This Year's Exhibition: We're excited to be part of 'A Festival on Devon in the 1920s'. Our dedicated Archive team has put together an intriguing exhibition that takes a look at Buckfastleigh 100 years ago. You can explore this and other events throughout the season at various locations around the town.

Opening Times: We're open from Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 3.30pm (last entry at 3pm). We'll also be open on the Bank Holidays on Monday 5th and Monday 26th May. Drop by our newly refurbished Visitor Centre for a range of items, from last-minute gifts to pre-read books. Plus, we have a fun activity for kids who visit - a hunt for little woolly sheep hidden around the museum! If you're a resident of the TQ11 area, you can enjoy free entry.

Volunteer Opportunities: If you've got some spare time and would like to help out, we're looking for volunteers. We need assistance with various tasks, from greeting visitors and staffing the reception desk to providing admin and IT support. To find out more, pop in or call us on 01364 644522.

Support Us: You can help support the Valiant Soldier by taking part in the Teignbridge lottery draw, held every Sunday at 8pm. For just £1, you'll have the chance to win £25,000 and 50p from every ticket goes towards helping us. You can also donate directly on our GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/f819a57a>. Your support helps us keep our historic buildings in good condition.

Join us for our Coffee Mornings in the Visitor Centre every Wednesday from 10am-12pm. Hosted by the Methodist group, everyone is welcome to drop in for a cup of tea or coffee. If you're interested in room hire, please email us at info@valiantsoldier.org.uk or check out our website at valiantsoldier.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Join Buckfastleigh Action for Nature Group's May Activities

Welcome, May! The Buckfastleigh Action for Nature Group is excited to remind everyone about our annual **No Mow May** initiative. As we've noticed a decline in insect populations, we encourage you all to leave your lawn to bloom for the bees and other insects who play a crucial role in pollinating our crops.

Additionally, we have the upcoming **Open Wildlife Gardens** event, organised by our dedicated member Charlie, from the 16th to the 18th of May. More details will be available at the library as the event approaches.

We've also begun the **Community Pollinator Project**, urging everyone to grow pollinator-friendly plants in their gardens or containers. Already, beautiful displays are sprouting around town, and we encourage you to share your efforts on our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/buckfastleighactionfornature.

We're eagerly looking forward to the Open Wildlife Gardens event and to seeing our town bloom with colours. Join us in supporting our local wildlife!

Join the Skylarker Well-Being Project at Moor Imagination Centre

We are delighted to invite everyone in our community to join the **Skylarker Well-Being Project** at the **Moor Imagination Centre**. We offer a variety of wellness sessions and fitness classes to suit all levels, and no previous experience is required to take part.

Our drop-in well-being sessions are designed to help you relax and restore. They're held on Tuesdays from 1 to 2pm on May 20th, June 17th, and July 15th, and on Fridays from 1.30 to 2.30pm on May 2nd, May 23rd, June 20th, and July 18th.

For those who prefer online engagement, we're also running a series of self-compassion sessions to nurture happiness and resilience. These are scheduled on Tuesdays from 9.30 to 10.30am on July 8th, 15th, and 22nd, and Thursdays from 6.30 to 7.30pm on July 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Please remember to book your place for these online sessions.

If you love to move, be sure to check out our low-impact dance-fitness classes on Mondays from 11.30am to 12.30pm, with dates throughout late spring and early summer.

For those looking for deeper learning, our Mindfulness and Somatics courses

are a wonderful option. The summer term is currently full, but stay tuned for the Autumn dates on our website.

Lastly, we also offer invigorating dance-fitness classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings during term time, held at the Hands On Retreat Centre, Pridhamsleigh. These classes are £11 when booked by a half-term block or £12 for a drop-in.

For more information or to book a place, visit www.skylarker.co.uk or give Pip a ring on 07946615808. We look forward to welcoming you to our well-being community!

Buckfastleigh Community News Sheet Debuts a New Look

We're delighted to announce that this month's edition of our News Sheet boasts a brand new look! With a larger font and a more vibrant layout, we've expanded this issue to 20 pages, up from the usual 16. As we transition to this exciting new format, we aim to eventually return to our standard 16-page layout. We warmly welcome your thoughts and suggestions, as your feedback is invaluable to us.

In addition, we're currently seeking one or two dedicated volunteers to help ensure the future of the News Sheet. We are looking for:

- **Someone to edit and type submitted items** and forward the finished copy for printing.
- **A volunteer to assist with finances** and/or organize the distribution to our volunteer deliverers.

If you're interested in contributing to our community in these roles, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'd love to have a chat and explore how you can be a part of our team.

Contact Us:

- Email: news@bflnews.org.uk (preferred)
- Phone: Numbers listed on the Contacts Page

Celebrate Spring at the Holne Village Plant Sale

Springtime in Holne is always a special occasion, and this year is no different. The Holne Village Hall Committee is delighted to announce the return of our annual **Holne Plant Sale**. The event is scheduled for **Sunday, 18 May**, from **2.00-4.00pm**. And the best news? Entry is completely free!

This is not just a chance to buy some lovely plants for your garden, but also an

opportunity to enjoy delicious homemade cakes and refreshing beverages. And if that wasn't enough, we'll even be hosting a raffle for a dash of fun and excitement.

All the proceeds from the plant sale, the refreshment stalls, and the raffle will go towards maintaining our beloved **Holne Village Hall**. So, why not add a touch of beauty to your garden and lend your support to a vital community hub?

While cash payments are preferred, don't worry if you don't have any on hand - we'll also be accepting card payments. So, mark your calendars for a day of community spirit, delicious treats, and beautiful plants. We can't wait to see you there!

Heart and Soul Funerals Hosts Dying Conversations

Heart and Soul Funerals invites you to join their monthly **Dying Conversations** group at the MIC Centre in Buckfastleigh. This open, drop-in session offers a space for anyone interested in discussing end-of-life topics, sharing thoughts, and asking questions in a respectful, informal setting.

- Topics include Bereavement, Coping with grief, Preparing for dying, Living with someone who is dying, Fears and anxieties about dying, What happens after we die, Funerals, Funeral costs, Advanced decisions and living wills, Wills, Palliative care, and more.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The upcoming session is on **Thursday, 24th April**.

"I found the conversations interesting and relevant. I'm glad I stayed and I'd like to come along to more of these groups," shared one participant.

There is no charge for attendance, but donations are welcomed for tea, coffee, and biscuits.

For more information, contact Simon Smith at Heart & Soul Funerals, Buckfastleigh, at **01364 643522** or email **hello@heartandsoulfunerals.co.uk**.

Experience All Ability Yoga with Wellswood Yoga

Are you seeking to improve your strength, balance, and flexibility? Perhaps you're looking for a natural solution to manage anxiety, stress, or back pain? Wellswood Yoga is here to support you!

All Ability Yoga Classes: We welcome everyone to join our friendly group yoga classes at St Luke's Church Buckfastleigh. These are held every

Wednesday from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Access is via the back entrance of the church. Whether you're a regular, a drop-in, or a visitor, you're welcome to join us without any pre-booking. And you won't have to worry about parking - there's plenty of free parking at Victoria Woodholme car park.

One-to-One Yoga: For those who prefer a more personalised experience, we offer individual yoga tuition for one or two people in the comfort of your own home.

Private Classes for Groups and Organisations: Yoga is a fantastic way to promote wellbeing in the workplace or other group settings. We're delighted to arrange private classes that suit your group or organisation's needs.

Yoga offers many benefits for people across all ages. It not only enhances your physical health, but also helps manage anxiety and stress, can ease symptoms of arthritis, benefits heart health, and can improve relaxation and sleep quality. Don't delay, start your yoga journey with us today!

For any queries, or to join us, please contact Kevin on: 07540 751745 or via email at wellswoodyoga@gmail.com. For more information, visit us at www.wellswoodyoga.com.

Join the Royal British Legion's Service and Refreshments

Come join us, the Buckfastleigh Royal British Legion (RBL), for a special service at the **War Memorial at Holy Trinity Church** on the **8th of May**, starting at **6.00pm**. The service will be led by **Rev. Gina Radford** and the RBL standard will be presented as we come together to remember.

Following the service, we're excited to invite you to the **Rangers Football Club** around 6.30pm for **free refreshments**. It's a wonderful opportunity to mingle and share in the spirit of our community.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Janet Jones,
President, Buckfastleigh Royal British Legion

Walking with the Ancestors: A Talk by the History Society Buckfastleigh

Date & Time: 7:30 pm, Thursday, 22 May

Location: Valiant Soldier Museum, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0BS

Event Details:

Join us for an enlightening journey into prehistoric South Dartmoor with Philippa Wood in her talk, *'Walking with the Ancestors: A Brief History of Prehistory in South Dartmoor'*. Discover the ancient landscapes and learn about the early inhabitants of our region.

Admission: £5 (Card payments available)

For more information, please visit the History Society Buckfastleigh's website or contact them directly.

Easter Celebrations and Community Events at St. Benedict's Catholic Church

St Benedict's Catholic Church, situated at Chapel Street, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0AQ, warmly welcomes everyone to its community services. Led by Parish Priest Fr Francis Straw from Buckfast Abbey, the church invites you to the Saturday 5pm Mass followed by tea and coffee. A children's quiet activity area is also available during the service.

The Easter Season: We are celebrating the themes of Easter throughout May. If you missed earlier services, please join us at St. Benedict's for this important season.

Ascension Day: Celebrate Ascension Day with us on Thursday, May 29, with Masses at the following times and locations:

- 10:15 AM at Ashburton, TQ13 7AR
- 12:05 PM at the Abbey
- 5:00 PM at the Abbey
- 7:30 PM at South Brent, TQ10 9AQ

Buckfastleigh Foodbank: We host a donation point for the Foodbank at St. Benedict's. Thank you to all who contribute, especially during Lent. Visit the church or Buckfastleigh Foodbank's website for a list of needed items.

For Holiday Visitors: We welcome holiday visitors to our Saturday 5pm Mass at Chapel Street. Feel free to join our community!

Contact us at parish@buckfast.org.uk or call Fr Francis Straw at 01364 645526 for more details.

Fundraising Coffee Morning at Dean Prior Church

We're thrilled to invite everyone to a special event at our beloved **Dean Prior Church**. Join us for a delightful **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, May 3rd**, from **10am until noon** at the **Dean Prior Village Hall**. Not only will you get to enjoy some delicious cakes from our **Cake Stall**, but you can also pick up some beautiful plants from our **Plant Stall**. The best part? Every purchase helps raise funds for our beautiful church!

Reconnect with friends, enjoy some tasty treats, and help support our lovely church. We can't wait to see you there!

We're also excited to announce the winners of the April draw for the **Dean Prior 100 Club**. Congratulations to **Denise Williams, John Grieveson, and Margaret Flanagan**! We're grateful for everyone's participation and support.

Come join us on May 3rd for a morning of fun, friends, and fundraising. See you there!

Flowstrong Pilates Classes at Ashburton Arts Centre

Are you looking to build strength, improve your posture and move more easily? Flowstrong's Pilates classes at the Ashburton Arts Centre could be just what you're looking for!

We offer a focused hour where you can work on your mobility, flexibility, strength, and stability. Our classes are held in a welcoming environment, making it a perfect place for anyone, regardless of their Pilates experience level.

When: Classes are held every Monday from 19:45 to 20:45.

To join us, simply book your place by contacting Lucie at: **flowstrong@outlook.com**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Scenic Steam Train Journey with Buckfastleigh Memory Café

Join the **Buckfastleigh Memory Café** for a scenic steam train journey to Totnes and back on **May 20th**. This special trip, enhanced by the company of friends from the **Exmouth Memory Café**, is perfect for anyone living with memory problems or a dementia diagnosis and their companions.

The train departs at **3:15 PM** from the **South Devon Railway** and returns by **5 PM**. No booking necessary, ensuring a hassle-free and enjoyable experience.

For more information or specific inquiries, please contact Kathrine at kathrine@conversationworks.co.uk or **07899 993134**.

Purl and a Pint at The Kings Arms, Buckfastleigh

Join our warm and welcoming **Purl and a Pint** group, where creativity flows as freely as the conversation! We meet at **The Kings Arms** in Buckfastleigh on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from **7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**. It's the perfect setting to indulge in your knitting and crochet projects surrounded by fellow enthusiasts.

As the Devon primroses bloom beautifully around us, inspired by the gentle weather, it's a reminder of how nature influences our crafts. Although it's tough finding that perfect soft yellow wool that captures their subtle beauty, our group loves the challenge. Crafting offers a unique opportunity to unleash your creativity, experimenting with colors and designs that reflect your personal style.

If you're considering picking up knitting or crochet, or perhaps you're looking to reignite an old passion, we'd love to have you join us. Our group is full of friendly faces eager to help beginners find their groove.

Upcoming meetings:

- **May:** 14th & 28th
- **June:** 11th & 25th
- **July:** 9th & 23rd

Thinking about joining but wish to have a chat first? Feel free to call Dawn at **07990 332816**. We're excited to meet new friends and share our passion for crafting!

May Events at The Wool Hub

Woolly Nanas invites everyone to a joyful day out at **The Wool Hub** for the fabulous **Woolfest** on **Sunday, 25th May** from **2-5pm** at **Orchard Millenium Green, Buckfastleigh**. This family-friendly event is free of charge, but a donation gives you a chance to win in our prize draw. Enjoy a day filled with alpacas, sheep, felting demonstrations, weaving, spinning, various stalls, enlightening talks, live music, and delicious refreshments.

The Wool Hub is not just about events; we also offer a variety of woolcraft workshops tailored for all ages, including specialized sessions for children. To secure a spot in any of our workshops or children's sessions, please book in advance by emailing woollynanas@gmail.com. We offer free cancellation up

to 7 days before the event.

Upcoming Workshops:

- **3rd May:** Natural Dyeing Workshop from 11am to 2pm. Cost: £20. Join Noni and learn to dye wool and cotton using natural materials. Suitable for all skill levels.
- **10th May:** Spinning Skills Improvement from 10am to 12:30pm. Cost: £30. Enhance your spinning skills with Jackie Millichap, including combing fibre and plying techniques. Basic spinning skills are required.
- **11th May:** Rug Making Workshop from 10am to 4pm. Cost: £40 plus £10 for materials. Create your own small rug (18" x 24"). This session is designed for those with some experience or who have attended a Rug Weaving Skills Workshop.

Children's Craft Sessions (During School Term at Orchard):

- Felting Fun on Mondays from 3:30 to 5pm. Cost: £15. For ages 8 and above.
- Young Weavers on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5pm. Cost: £15. Suitable for all ages, children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Crochet with Evelyn on Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30pm. Cost: £3.

Weekly Drop-in Sessions: Join us at any of our weekly drop-ins, suitable for all ages and abilities. A suggested donation of £5 is appreciated, but no booking is necessary.

- Monday: Felting with Marcelle, 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Tuesday: Weaving, Knitting & Natural Dyeing with Noni & Annie, 10am to 3pm
- Wednesday: Spinning and Weaving with Mandy, 10am to 2pm; Basic Knitting Introduction with Mandy, 11am - 1pm
- Thursday: Spinning and Knitting with Mandy, 10:30am to 4:30pm; Crochet and knitting with Ann in the mornings; 'Sort It' with Jackie, help with sewing, repairing and woolly crafts afternoons
- Friday: Felting with Rita, 1 to 5pm

For the latest updates, keep an eye on our Facebook page. For more details or to book workshops, please contact us at [**woollynanas@gmail.com**](mailto:woollynanas@gmail.com).

Exciting Renovations at Buckfast Methodist Church

The Buckfast Methodist Church is entering a phase of renovation to create better access to our chapel, with thanks to the professionals and Buckfast Abbey for their support. Construction details will be confirmed soon, and during this period, the chapel will be closed on both weekdays and Sundays. We will inform you weekly about alternative locations for worship.

Don't forget our coffee mornings continue every Wednesday at the Valiant Soldier from 10am. We'd love to see you there for a chat and a cuppa!

For more information: Keep an eye on our updates regarding the construction and worship arrangements.

Buckfastleigh Women's Institute: Exciting News and Upcoming Event

The lovely folks at the **Buckfastleigh Women's Institute** have had quite a month! They were treated to a riveting talk from Alastair Shapland, a member of the British University Kayak Expedition to Guatemala. Alastair shared his adventure of navigating uncharted rivers, facing rapids and waterfalls, and even a bee attack. He also talked about the interactions with local villagers. Alastair's donation of the Institute's contribution to the Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Ashburton Branch) was a touching gesture.

Annual Meeting News: The Institute recently held its Annual Meeting, where a new President and Vice President were welcomed to the Committee. They're now looking forward to an enjoyable year with engaging speakers and outings. They also voted in support of the national resolution for this year, 'Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers', which seeks to enhance access to essential life support skills and tools across our country.

The Buckfastleigh Women's Institute would be thrilled to see new faces at their meetings. If you've never attended before, your first visit is on them. It's a great opportunity to forge new friendships and engage in local and national events. Their upcoming meeting is scheduled for 7pm to 9pm on Tuesday, 13th May, at St Luke's Church, Buckfastleigh.

Get In Touch: For more information, visit their [Facebook page](#), or you can contact them directly at 07884 221312 or buckfastleigh@devonwi.org.uk. They can't wait to meet you!

Buckfastleigh Mothers' Union: Sharing Family Experiences and Exploring Mongolia

Our Buckfastleigh Mothers' Union had a delightful April meeting. Heather Sayle led an insightful talk on 'Flourishing Families', sparking a lively discussion among members about their personal family experiences and the changing dynamics over the years.

Next Meeting Announcement: Our next gathering is scheduled for Thursday 1st May at 2.30 pm at St Luke's Church. We're thrilled to have Val Hoare, who will present a talk and screen show on Mongolia. We warmly welcome visitors to join our friendly group and engage in this fascinating exploration.

If you're interested in knowing more about the Mothers' Union or attending our meetings, please don't hesitate to contact Janet Jones on **01364 643627**. We'd love to welcome you to our community!

Orchard Millennium Green: Updates and Call for Volunteers

We regret to inform you that our dear TeaHut at the Orchard Millennium Green will unfortunately not be open on Sundays this year due to a lack of volunteer availability. Nonetheless, rest assured that the TeaHut will be bustling and serving you during all of our events throughout the year.

Save these dates:

- Sunday, May 25th - WoolFest, 2PM - 5PM
- Sunday, June 29th - FunDay, 12PM - 5PM
- Saturday, July 26th - Water Day (more details to follow)
- Sunday, September 21st - Apple Day (more details to follow)

We're currently seeking stall applications for FunDay and Apple Day. If you're interested in participating in either or both of these events, please get in touch at rcprior96@gmail.com.

In addition, we're looking for a few more volunteers to help run some games on FunDay. As a thank you, you'll receive unlimited cups of tea and a free T-shirt! If this sounds like something you'd like to do, please email rcprior96@gmail.com.

Any donations for our Tombola this year will be gratefully received at Tikka's & Mardle Stores. And don't forget to look out for Duck Sales, which will be soon making their appearance!

Updates from Friends of Buckfastleigh Library

Our beloved Buckfastleigh Library may be facing a few potential changes and challenges in the upcoming months. With the county council level elections in May, we're not completely sure of what changes the future may bring. We're also aware that finances will always be a factor in these developments.

Important: A new policy about staff cover during sickness and leave may impact our library. This means that staff from smaller libraries like ours might need to cover for larger libraries during certain periods. If this leads to our library having to close for a session, a note will be placed on the library door to inform you.

In the midst of these potential changes, the best thing we can do is continue to support our library. You can order books you'd like to read by ringing the library on **01364 643638**, visiting us in person, or ordering online. Our staff are always here to help, whether you want to work in the library with your own laptop or need assistance with printing documents.

Also, keep an eye out for fun activities planned for the end of April. Look for our posters and feel free to ring the library for more information. We appreciate your understanding and support during these times and look forward to welcoming you at Buckfastleigh Library.

Best wishes,
Janet Jones

Better Places Invites You to Join Weekly Events in Buckfastleigh

Our wonderful community group, **Better Places (Be Buckfastleigh)**, is still running and supporting a variety of events and activities in Buckfastleigh. We invite you all to join us and take part in these vibrant community gatherings.

Tuesday - Buckfastleigh Social Supermarket: On Tuesdays, the Town Hall opens its doors as a free café space from 2.30pm onwards, with the food store opening between 3-5pm. For a suggested donation of £4.50 per household, you can choose from a selection of items. We make sure everyone gets a fair portion of our stock, which varies weekly depending on the quantity of each item we receive. We buy our produce from *Fare Share*, a charity that redistributes surplus food from the industry to other charitable and non-profit organisations. The food is of excellent quality and never out of date or damaged. Besides the contributions from Fare Share, local businesses also donate food and goods. We also have a 'free' table for donations and

selections. Plus, we offer free tea, coffee, and biscuits! Feel free to come along just for a hot drink and a chat. We also run a Social Supermarket in Bovey Tracey.

Thursday - Little Lambs Early Years Group: Every Thursday, we run the Little Lambs Early Years Group at St. Luke's Church Hall. From 10am-12pm, your kids can enjoy plenty of free play while you enjoy a friendly cuppa. It's a lovely social space to make friends and have a healthy snack. Best of all, it's absolutely FREE!

We can't wait to see you at our next event!

Buckfastleigh Community News

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