

THE PARISH PAPER

St. Mary the Virgin
Payhembury
Vol 58 No 9



See pages
8 and 9 for the
full story



Rectory notes – Purple

My school friend Steve and I were Orchestra Prefects, i.e. supposedly responsible. This gave us access to the shiny new music block. So we felt it our duty to test the shiny new music system after school one day. Deep Purple at maximum volume was called for. It was FANTASTIC! What we hadn't reckoned with was that Mr Morgan's office, Head of Music, was directly overhead and he was in. Smoke on the Water brought smoke out of his ears. We were squarely to blame for his disturbance.

Blame. What do we do with it? When it's on us, sometimes we'll take it on the chin. Hard, but necessary. But I know that at other times I try to pass it onto someone else. I'd rather protect my fragile self and find arguments why it's someone else's fault. Or at least seek to share blame so it's not me alone in the spotlight. Sometimes we flip the other way and unnecessarily blame ourselves, or others do.

We rehearse these techniques in childhood. Two siblings confronted by their parents: 'He started it'. 'No, she started it.' And so it goes on. Subtly these habits shape our adult lives. Political leaders are to blame for our woes. Or those different from ourselves. The organisation I worked for before being a vicar introduced a 'No Blame culture'. Easier said than done.

What's all this got to do with purple, my chosen colour of the month? Purple is the ecclesiastical colour of Lent, running through March and leading us to Good Friday. Purple was the colour of the mock-royal robe draped by soldiers on Jesus midst their abuse, before he was led out to the Cross. Blame swirled everywhere. Jesus steps up and says, "I'll carry the blame," as he spreads his arms wide to sweep it all on himself, and offer peace to all those pointing fingers of fault.

Deep Purple played heavy rock, but their name surprisingly comes from guitarist Ritchie Blackmore's grandmother's favourite song, a gentle 1930s piano tune set later to romantic lyrics: a soft centre behind the hard exterior. Behind the brutality of Christ's crucifixion lies the softest of centres, God's love shouldering our hurt and blame. A purple patch for the universe.

Rev David Carrington

Team Vicar of Payhembury and Feniton with Escot
The Rectory, Station Road, Feniton O1404 850905
revdavidcarrington@gmail.com

Payhembury Church Wardens: Babs Leach (841409) and Pete Dutfield

Sexton: Mr Jim Kimber (841320)

Feniton Church Wardens: Cara Sanders(850262) and Barbara Hemsley (07790 143193)

Escot Deputy Church Warden : Janet Welch (850940)

CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH 2026

All Otter Vale MC services at <https://ottervalechurches.org/ministry/ovmc-services/>

Sunday 1st March

Escot 4pm
Feniton 9.15am
Payhembury 11am

Lent 2

Evensong (LL)
Storytime (ST team)
Parish Communion (DC)

Sunday 8th March

Escot 11am
Feniton 10am
Payhembury 6pm

Lent 3

Parish Communion (DC)
Morning Worship (LL)
Reflection with music (LL)

Sunday 15th March

Feniton 11am
Payhembury 9.15am

Lent 4

Mothering Sunday Family Service (BH))
All Ages Mothering Sunday Service (DH/LL)

Sunday 22nd March

Feniton 11am
Payhembury 9.15am

Passion Sunday

Parish Communion (DC)
Café (LL/DC)

Sunday 29th March

Escot 11am

Palm Sunday

Joint Parish Communion (DC)

Friday 3rd April

Escot 12noon

Good Friday

Good Friday Reflection (DC/BH)

Sunday 5th April

Escot 9am
6.30am
Feniton 11am
Payhembury 11am

Easter Day

Parish Communion (DC)
Sunrise Service (DC)
Parish Communion (MAC)
All Ages Parish Communion (DC)

Church Flowers

February 18th to 2nd April is Lent—
no flowers during this time.

Vacancy - Parish Church Treasurer

Do you enjoy doing finances? Do you have basic book-keeping and IT skills? Would you like to help support village life?



St Mary's parish church needs a Treasurer. If you may be interested, please contact either the Vicar Rev David Carrington 01404 850905 revda-vidcarrington@gmail.com or churchwarden Babs Leach 01404 841409 rjwleach@icloud.com, for further details and a conversation.

St Mary's supports the spiritual and social wellbeing of the village, through: Cafe Connect, soup lunches and coffee mornings; festival celebrations and concerts; weddings and funerals; support for the C of E school; and through pastoral care, in addition to weekly Sunday worship. The church bells form a vibrant part of the village soundtrack!

Rev David Carrington



DEVON BUSINESS
& EDUCATION TRUST



TIME
TOGETHER



DEVON BUSINESS
& EDUCATION TRUST

TIME
TOGETHER

Coffee & Cake






JOIN US MONTHLY

● FRIENDS ● COMPANY ● FUN ● FOOD

Our programme is designed to get people together in our local community through organised events. Our next lunch events are:

15 January	2 July
12 February	10 September
12 March	8 October
9 April	12 November
7 May	10 December
4 June	

We look forward to seeing you all soon

If you'd like to join us - Contact Anita on 01404 850 852 or 07777 617 415 or email timetogether@dbetrust.co.uk

JOIN US MONTHLY

● FRIENDS ● COMPANY ● FUN ● FOOD

As an extension to our lunch events, we are now also hosting coffee and cake events at the Payhembury village hall. Our next coffee and cake events are:

29 January	18 June
26 February	16 July
26 March	24 September
23 April	22 October
21 May	26 November

At Payhembury village hall 13.45-15.15.
We look forward to seeing you all soon!

If you'd like to join us - Contact Anita on 01404 850 852 or 07777 617 415 or email timetogether@dbetrust.co.uk

EVENTS ORGANISED BY DEVON BUSINESS & EDUCATION TRUST
Based at Devon Business & Education Centre,
Lower Tye, Payhembury, Hordle, Devon, EX14 3HL

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Calendar for March 2026

Every Friday—Arts & Ctafts, The Six Bells, 2 to 4pm

Wed 4	Broadhembury Gardening Club, Memorial Hall, 7 for 7.30pm
Sat 7	A Night at the Races, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sun 8	Village Spring Clean, 9.30am
Tue 17	Girls' Night Out, The Six Bells, 7.30pm
Wed 18	Coffee Morning, Parklands, 11am to 12
Mon 23	Parochial Church Council Annual Meeting, in the church, 7pm
Thu 26	Pop up Farm Shop, Tuck Mill, 5 to 8pm,
Sat 28	Churchyard cleanup, 10am to 12

April 2026

Wed 1	Broadhembury Gardening Club, Memorial Hall, 7 for 7.30pm
Fri 10	Monthly Lunch, The Six Bells, 12 to 2pm



**Monthly lunch at
The Six Bells
Friday 13 March 12—2pm
(please book your table on 841261)**

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES HELD IN THE VILLAGE

MON	9,30—11.30am	Apple Pips, Village Hall
TUES	6.45pm 7.30pm	Pilates, Village Hall Bridge & Cribbage, Six Bells
WED	9.45am	Pilates, Village Hall
THUR	9—11.30am 6pm onwards 7.30pm	Café Connect, Church Tennis Club Short Mat Bowls, Village Hall
FRI	2—4pm	Art & Crafts, Six Bells

Hello Villagers—Another month has gone, doesn't time fly! Thank you so much to Jan and Eryl for hosting our January coffee morning, sadly the weather was foul for their first coffee morning, probably the reason for a low turn out but the welcome was warm and cosy.



Our next coffee morning will be hosted by Pat Le Page at her home, Parklands, on Wednesday 18th March 11 - 12pm. So please come and support us. If anyone needs transport or directions, please don't hesitate to call me on 841 842. If I can't help, I will know someone who can.

Sandra Ford

Calling all singers to form a choir for Easter. Practices on Thursday evenings, 7.30 at Babs' house.



All welcome.
Tel 841409

Saturday 28 March 10—12
Churchyard clean up
All volunteers welcome

Girls' night out at The Six Bells

Tuesday 17 March 2026 7.30pm



**Friday 16 October is booked
for the annual church quiz in
the village hall.**



Tabletop Sale Trail—Saturday 11 July

For our next fundraising event, the church is planning to organise a tabletop sale, where anyone in the village can put outside their house a table with goods for sale (or even open their garage) and buyers wander around from house to house (map will be provided) to pick up some bargains.

The church will be providing cream teas.

For those who do not live in the village, tables can be put out on the village green or possibly in the village hall or school field or you could share with a friend. We hope perhaps the school may be interested in taking part?

We will charge a fee of £10 per table.

Children are encouraged to have their own table at £2 each.

Please contact

Christine Thair (01404 841322) or Babs Leach (01404 841409) to let us know if you would like to be involved, so we can gauge uptake.

Payhembury Weather www.payhembury-weather.co.uk Weather for February 2026

Rainfall: It is no surprise there were record amounts of rain in January with well over twice the normal amount recorded. February has continued the trend with 20 mm on 5th February. Several times it has been difficult to drive out of the village at the peak of the downpours and pot holes are everywhere. On the plus side Devon's reservoirs are now 95% full.

Temperatures: The mean temperatures have been close to average for January but there was a sharp air frost on 6th January. February has started near the average.

Weather elsewhere: Since late January, New York has endured a cold snap, including 13 days of temperatures of 0 deg.C or below, one of the longest stretches of sub-zero weather the city has seen in six decades. The Hudson river had many ice floes on it. Marine biologists have called 2025 the year of the octopus after record numbers were seen off our coasts. This is thought to be due to record sea surface temperatures last April and May. In late January we were once again treated with a display of the Northern Lights in Devon and on 13th February six planets were aligned in the early evening sky.

Payhembury Weather Jan 2026					
Monthly Rainfall	237	mm	+133	mm	from normal
Days of Rain	27	days			
Wettest Day	28.2	mm	27	Jan	
Mean Max Temp	8.4	degC	+0.8	degC	from normal
Mean Min Temp	1.7	degC	-0.4	degC	from normal
Warmest Day	11.7	degC	11	Jan	20:07
Coldest Day	-5.6	degC	6	Jan	01:16
Windiest Day	14.8	m/s	23	Jan	13:13

Current weather in Payhembury can be viewed at www.payhembury-weather.co.uk through wunderground. If you want to see the table above a few days after the end of the month it is usually posted on the Payhembury Parish Facebook page.

Roger Saunders

BROADHEMBURY GARDENING CLUB

Last month was an evening with an expert panel of 4 on our Gardening Question Time. It was great fun with some quirky answers from our very knowledgeable panel.

On **Wednesday 4th March** our speaker is Tim Ellis, a Horticulturalist, Nurseryman and Botanist who will be talking on those little critters - slugs, aphids and the dreaded vine weevil !

We meet at the Memorial Hall in Broadhembury. Doors open 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available and visitors are always welcome at £2 on the door.

Our Annual Plant Sale this year is on **Saturday 16th May**. If you have a few plants to spare we would very much appreciate you dropping them on the morning or giving them to a Committee member. Please ensure they are labelled.

A heads up for **1st April**: Katie Gentle will be speaking on Composts.

Val Stringer



Messy Church continues to go from strength to strength with many children, of primary school age, regularly attending each month (which is usually the last Wednesday of the month). It's loud, it's hectic, but it's fun and inclusive.

It's like no other normal church service! We dance, sing, play games, act out bible stories, draw, plant seeds and it all gets very messy! Yet, within this unconventional church service God's word is being explored, children are praying and learning and friendships are growing.

This year, we are exploring the fruits of the spirit - from the New Testament Galatians 5:22. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We are taking one 'fruit' and exploring what this means each month - how can you show kindness? How can you be at peace in a troubled world? The games we play can test us, for example, showing patience when playing pass-the - parcel or doing a sports challenge illustrates that working for peace can be hard work! It is wonderful seeing our young leaders stepping up and leading some of these sessions, indeed two whole services, coming up with their own ideas for activities and a talk. We always finish with hot dogs and cakes cooked by members of our lovely team. The children love it and we offer a warm welcome to anyone who might want to join us for their first time.

Thanks to our wonderful team; Becky, Izzy, Julie, (Rob doing the tec!), Anita and Nicola with Young Leaders: Izzy, Seb, Arwen, Alice/ Freddie, Sammy, Maya and Heidi. Bakers; Olwen, Roz and Julie.

Open the Book goes into our Payhembury and Feniton primary schools to lead their whole school worship assembly once a fortnight. It's part of The Bible Society's vision for the bible to be read and understood more widely, with a clearly defined set of bible stories adapted to be read out loud and acted to the children. It is very successful and impactful because it is so visual and the children remember the story simply and boldly told. As we only have a few team members, the children themselves often have to help us, some with speaking parts and it's amazing how they are so brave and bold themselves to take this on, often with no rehearsal! This year we are telling the stories from the Old Testament, starting from the Creation. At present, we are telling the story of Joseph, the dreamer, and his forgiveness to his brothers. It is always heart-warming to receive feedback from the staff and children themselves about how much they love us coming in to tell these stories.



Nicola, Cara, Ann, Valerie and Graham



Cafe Connect continues to be a successful way of connecting people in our village and making new and deeper friendships over time as we meet in church every Thursday morning throughout the year. A group of volunteers help run this, hosting in pairs, and serving coffee/tea and home-made cakes to those who visit. We have our regulars that are very faithful in supporting us, often between 8-16 people, but we also meet new people, some who pop in during their group walks, which swell the numbers at times. The idea grew out of 'lockdown', and it continues to be a blessing to connect in this way; to meet, chat, laugh, comfort, and support one another. A warm welcome awaits to anyone who may want to visit us on a Thursday morning!

Nicola

Thank You

You don't realise what a caring Village we live in until something awful happens, but what a wonderful place to live! I have been inundated with love, good wishes, cards, help and delicious food. "Thank you" really doesn't express how I feel. Our wonderful neighbours, the lovely soup ladies, Babs, The Six Bells, our church community, there really are too many people to mention. I really feel very spoilt and loved.

Steve would have been overwhelmed by all the love and a little embarrassed by all the lovely comments. You made his goodbye very special with all the beautiful flowers, the church looked amazing, more so with all the love attached to it. I shall miss him dreadfully but with your support and love I shall cope

Sandra



Paul's Nature Notes January—February 2026

There have been few memorable wildlife moments this cold and relentlessly wet winter and so, when one does come along, it is time to savour it. On 1 February I was finishing my lunch when I caught a slight movement out of the corner of my eye. A bird had settled in a tree close to the house and was showing some white, which roused my curiosity. I grabbed my binoculars and up popped a magnificent male Sparrowhawk looking somewhat miserable in the rain. It stayed where it had settled for 20 minutes or so allowing me plenty of time to admire his heavily barred chest, hooked beak and piercing orange eyes. What a bird! Then, as the rain eased it left as silently as it had arrived but left me with a memory which will last for a very long time indeed.

Did you see that chap from the RSPB who appeared on Winterwatch? He clearly disapproves of feeding birds and wants us all to stop. Some chance of that happening! His comments did, however, leave me thinking that, if nobody fed birds, just how many would struggle to survive in the increasingly cold and prolonged wet winters we have been suffering? Having seen the dramatic decline in birdlife during my lifetime, something has to be done. He clearly does have a point, as disease can be a problem, although it is a few years since I last saw any evidence of Trichomonosis or Papillomavirus in our bird populations.

Here in our part of Devon we are fortunate in having healthy numbers of many declining UK species but we must not allow ourselves to become complacent. It is now recognised that flat bird tables can become a source of disease from mouldy food and droppings, as can hanging feeders where food can become compacted and rot in times of wet weather. The RSPB makes it clear that unless we clean our feeders weekly with hot soapy water and disinfectant then we should stop altogether. It also tells us to rotate feeding locations and to stop feeding for two weeks if we see sick birds.

Paul Lister (paullister175@gmail.com or 841696)



Charlotte Logan, who has just moved
from Bridgwater to 1 Tale Common Head.



We would like help please to do various bits of clean/repair/fill/replace around the parish on

Sunday 8th March

09:30 Village Green

Free coffee and roll!

Please let the Parish Council know in advance if you plan to be there and of any specific things you think need attention.

Thank you for your help - See you on the 8th!

Payhembury Parish Council (clerk@payhembury-pc.gov.uk)

TUCK MILL POP UP FARM SHOP



Thursday 26th March

5pm to 8pm

SELLING OUR OWN GRASS FED RUBY RED BEEF
FREE RANGE SADDLEBACK PORK AND SAUSAGES

MULLED CIDER - CUDDLE A LAMB - FREE PARKING
OUR DELICIOUS BURGERS AND HOT DOGS FRESH FROM THE BARBY

FOR INFORMATION ON WHAT BAKED OR PREPARED PLEASE CONTACT JEN ON 07710 847204

TUCK MILL, PAYHEMBURY, EX14 3HF

Parish Spring Clean & Annual Parish Meeting - reminder 9.30am, Sunday 8th March – Village Green

Parish Spring Clean: is being held on Sunday 8th March. Please meet at the Village Green at 9.30am for a free roll and hot drink before the work starts. If you plan to take part, please can you let the Parish Council know so they can plan for the refreshments. If you have any suggestions of areas of the parish that need a spring clean or things that need fixing, please let the Parish Council know.

Annual Parish Meeting: this will take place at 9.30am on Sunday 8th March, whilst people are having a hot drink and a roll before the Parish Spring Clean. Come along to find out more about what has been happening in the parish over the last year and what is being planned for the coming year.

Dawn Chamberlain, Parish Clerk

We have two great band bookings in the next 2 months, Gaz Brookfield returns and will be with us for **Saturday the 28th March**. The band filled the hall last year, so book your tickets early. There will be a bar and the doors open at 19.00.

On **Saturday 18th April** the 'Swamp Stomp String Band' will be performing. Swing, blues, country and western and everything in between. Don't miss the band's first appearance in our hall. Doors open at 19.00 and, as usual, there will be a bar!

The end of last year I tried to introduce a dancercise evening class, it was only for a couple of weeks each Wednesday from 7pm until 9pm. A fun bit of musical exercise and still home in time for cocoa and brandy. If you are interested for it to be started up again please comment on the event post on the Payhembury Parish Hall Facebook page. Two hours of various music, line dancing (anyone available to be a caller)? A bit of country & western. Gentle exercise guided by me, the last period would be free dance to the oldies. Abba, Bee Gees, Motown - you call it, and, if anybody still has energy left, a 90's blast. It will be £5 on the door, all proceeds go to the upkeep of the hall. In these high cost times our hall needs any funds input; you should see our water/heating and electric bills. Please use your hall, it is a brilliant community asset and well worth the energy to keep it.



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On a last bullying note, we are looking for a couple of village residents to fill the hall committee group spaces. We have had a few retirements of long serving members, it's an easy and lively group and the meetings are a modest, roughly 4 times a year.

Patrick, Bookings Manager.

Update on the Construction of Paytherden Solar Farm

This development is in Clyst Hydon and Tale in our parish. The company, Bluefield, regularly send updates to the Clyst Hydon magazine. Here is an extract from their February update:

“From late February we will be constructing the temporary construction access opposite Lanelands, which will involve widening the existing field entrance and upgrading with hardstanding to allow for construction deliveries. All drivers of construction vehicles will be made aware of the approved transport route and the protocols as agreed in the Construction Transport Management Plan. This access will be removed once construction of the solar farm and substation is completed.

Upon closer examination of the substation access point adjacent to The Old Post Office and through ongoing discussion with National Grid (NGED), it has been identified that the consented access arrangements are not sufficient to meet the specification required by NGED. To this end, a minor planning application will be submitted to EDDC planning department, hopefully before spring arrives. This alternative access will not lead to an increase in traffic from the original consented application and it will ensure that the temporary construction access referred to above will not need to become permanent. For this application we will need a small additional area of land. Having this additional land for access will ensure vehicles can safely access the site and minimise disruption to other road users. Initial design works have been completed and the team is in the process of carrying out various studies to inform the application. The submitted application and supporting documentation will be available for public viewing on the EDDC outline planning portal in due course.”

Further information can be obtained on <https://paytherdensolarfarm.co.uk/>

BOOK REVIEW —

“Royal Mint, National Debt” by Norman Baker

For any citizen of the UK who enjoys and values our democratic freedom and supposedly fair social values, this superbly written book should be both compulsory reading and a wake-up call.

Subtitled ***The Shocking Truth about the Royals’ Finances***, the very well-qualified author portrays in incredible detail the roles actually played out by the monarchy (mainly funded by tax-paying members of the general public) in these financially very stressed times.

While ordinary citizens struggle with increasing levels of homelessness, housing shortages, rising unemployment, continually escalating costs of living, and a health service under unprecedented strain, the largely secretive cost of maintaining the Royal Family - with its vast and very expensive entourage - continues to rise inexorably and disproportionately, fuelled by both direct and indirect public funding.

Unlike their ‘subjects’, Royals are automatically excluded from any liability to taxation, so no Income, Capital Gains or Inheritance taxes are levied on their huge wealth accrual. Normal legal jurisdiction or accessibility to police support does not apply on any ‘Crown’ property, so the Royals enjoy total immunity from any prosecution through the court system. Royal estates (including two very profitable Duchies) generate vast annual wealth, further boosted by cashing in on high rents then charged to major service organisations including ambulance stations, the RNLI, Cancer Support services and the Navy, all who must have access to ‘Royal’ land to supply their essential services to those in need.

Overall, in 2026 it will be up to individual choice whether the UK can justify continued publicly-funded support for this leviathan where costs vastly outweigh any perceived benefits. Royal supporter or not, the adverse cost-benefits of continuing to maintain this hypocritical institution is a financial liability that the country cannot afford.

Although not a typical relaxing seasonal read, this book is totally absorbing and essential to gaining a detailed understanding of what is *really* happening behind the glamorous royal facade. Find out here and now where our money actually goes.

Very highly recommended.

John Hall



**Marie
Curie**



TOTE BETTING

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

**LICENSED BAR
OPEN AT 7.00PM**

**PAYHEMBURY VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 7th March 2026**

Tickets £6

Including light supper

Under Starter's Orders at 7.30pm

Join us for an exciting Race Night in support of Donna Manser's Journey to the London Marathon 2026! This event is dedicated to helping Donna raise funds for her sponsorship, with all proceeds going to Marie Curie, a charity that provides vital care and support to those living with terminal illnesses and their families. Come along for a night of fun, entertainment, and community spirit as we rally together for a great cause. Let's make a difference together!

CONTACT FOR DETAILS: SEE: Sarah Anning, TEXT: Sarah Anning on 07403549216
SEE: Donna Manser, TEXT: Donna Manser on 07976775976

Next Payhembury Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 11th March 2026, 7.30pm, in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

The next Payhembury Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.30pm. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting with members of the public able to attend either in-person in the Parish Hall or via Zoom (meeting ID = 816 0060 0938; passcode = 209908; **webpage** = www.zoom.us/join) or via telephone (contact the Clerk for details). The agenda for the meeting will be available as normal on the noticeboard and the Parish Council website (<https://payhembury-pc.gov.uk/category/agendas/>).

Roadworks – March & April 2026

The following roadworks are scheduled for the coming months:

9th-13th March: Spence Cross to Hembury Fort Cross – emergency drainage repairs to damaged drainage.

For further information or updates, please see the Devon County Council 'Interactive roadworks map' on the webpage <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/traffic-information/roadworks/live-roadworks-information/>

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

Have Your Say – closing date 26th March 2026

Following the UK Government's decision to simplify local services, the County and District Councils were tasked with proposing options for Unitary Authorities for Devon. Five different proposals were put forward to the Government:

- *"Reimagining Devon"* – three unitary authorities proposed by South Hams, Teignbridge, and West Devon.
 - *"Reimagining Devon"* - three unitary authorities, with a request to modify the boundaries of Plymouth, proposed by East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, and Torridge.
 - *"The Case for Devon"* - three unitary authorities, including a single large unitary council for Devon, alongside the existing Plymouth and Torbay unitary councils, proposed by Devon County Council
 - *"Proposal for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon"* suggests expanded boundaries for the Plymouth and Torbay unitaries, a new unitary council for Exeter and the surrounding area, plus a rural and coastal unitary covering the remaining area, proposed by Plymouth & Exeter City Councils.
- "Proposal for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon"* which is similar to the Plymouth & Exeter proposal, but suggests that Torbay would maintain its current boundaries, proposed by Torbay Council.

The Government are now asking for your feedback on these proposals. **The consultation can be viewed at <https://www.devonlgr.co.uk> and will be open until Thursday 26 March 2026.**

Dawn Chamberlain, Parish Clerk

Time Together celebrates our 3rd Christmas!

In December 2025 the team at Time Together were proud to host our 3rd Christmas lunch, following another year in which we have provided more than 20 events for the people of East and Mid-Devon.

Needless to say, it was a full house – 25 attendees across two rooms of the Devon Business and Education Centre enjoyed a wonderful home-cooked three-course Christmas lunch, including soup, a full turkey dinner and dessert, cooked, as always by the amazing Caroline Bentley. The noise level was high with all the pre-Christmas chat – though there were dips in the buzz when the food was served! Participants enjoyed a Christmas Quiz to debate between courses and, of course, there were crackers!

Our sincere thanks go to our amazing volunteers, who helped both with transport and with serving/entertaining our guests – I think we all had almost as much fun as the attendees!

We are always in need of more volunteers, as there are many more local people who we know would benefit from Time Together events. If you would like to know more about Devon Business and Education Trust and Time Together or you are able to help us with future events, you can contact us on



01884 220150
(select option 3) or
via email at time-together@dbetrust.co.uk. We provide any necessary training and DBS checks and can offer reimbursement for fuel costs.

If you are over 65 and live in East or Mid Devon and you would like to join us for a future get together or you know somebody who would benefit from this group, please contact us in the same ways. We have a full programme of lunch events and coffee and cake afternoons planned in 2026, dates here



LUNCH	COFFEE & CAKE AFTERNOON
March 12 th	March 26 th
April 9 th	April 23 rd
May 7 th	May 21 st
June 4 th	June 18 th
July 2 nd	July 16 th
August – no event	August – no event
September 10 th	September 24 th
October 8 th	October 22 nd
November 12 th	November 26 th
December 10 th	December – no event



We went to a workshop run by the Plunkett Foundation about their report on the future of community shops which are undergoing significant transformations. Once viewed primarily as small, local convenience stores, these businesses are evolving to meet the demands of modern consumers while maintaining their roots in community service. In response to growing environmental concerns and the shift towards sustainability, many community shops will focus on offering eco-friendly products, supporting local farmers and artisans, and minimizing waste through packaging-free goods and reusable options.

The role of technology will also play a crucial part in their development. Digital platforms for ordering, smart shelves, and automated stock management systems will enhance customer experience and efficiency. Moreover, AI-powered personalized recommendations may become common, allowing shops to offer tailored products to their local clientele.

One of the most exciting developments in 2026 will be the potential for community shops to serve as hubs for social interaction and local initiatives. These spaces are expected to integrate educational workshops, co-working areas, and communal events, further reinforcing their importance as community centres.

Ultimately, the future of community shops lies in their ability to adapt while maintaining a strong focus on locality, sustainability, and community engagement—key drivers that will sustain their relevance and success in the years to come.

We'll try our best at Payhembury Provisions. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved in the future of our shop.

Tim Woolgar

INFORMATION PAGE

Non urgent police contact 101

Honiton Hospital 01404 540540 (Minor Injury Unit 8am-8pm)
RD&E Hospital Exeter 01392 411611
V.E.T.S. (Village Emergency Telephone System) 01404 565605

Your Parish Council

Meetings held 2nd Wed of alternate months (starting January) 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Tim Cox	01404 850005	Robert Leach (Vice-Chair)	01404 841408
Phil Chamberlain	01404 841773	Mike O'Hagan	07471 035938
Karen Edwards	01404 849186	Paul Thomas (Chair)	01404 841516
Cllr Mulkerrens			

Parish Clerk: Dawn Chamberlain 07396 841 803

Parish Council email address: clerk@payhembury-pc.gov.uk

Useful numbers at the County Council (all 0345)

General Enquiries	155 1015	Registrars	155 1002
Highways	155 1004	Libraries	155 1001
Disability Information	155 1005	Family Info Service	155 1013
Bus passes	01392 383 688		

Emergencies

Social Services 0345 600 0388
Highways 0345 155 1008
Animal Welfare, Petrol, Explosives 01392 499499

Useful numbers at the District Council

Switchboard: 01404 515616 (Use for all enquiries during office hours)
Address: East Devon District Council, Blackdown House, Border Road,
Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton, EX14 1EJ
Email: csc@eastdevon.gov.uk

In an emergency outside opening hours, phone 01395 516854

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm

There is free parking in the car park in front of the building during opening hours

County Councillor: Cathy Connor, 07548 872107

District Councillor: Richard Jefferies, richard.jefferies@eastdevon.gov.uk

PAYHEMBURY VILLAGE HALL HIRE AND CHARGES

Please Google <https://payhemburyvillagehall.org.uk/> for details about hiring the hall, charges and to make a booking.

PAYHEMBURY PROVISIONS

Opening hours and contact details

Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm

Sunday 8am to 12pm

Saturday 8am to 1pm

Tel: 01404 841856



Messy
Church

SELF CONTROL

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH

ST MARY'S CHURCH, PAYHEMBURY

5:30 - 6:30PM

FOOD PROVIDED

PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN WELCOME