

Brixham Beacon



Shedding light on local news for Fish Town, Cow Town, Galmpton, Churston & surrounding areas

Issue 5

April 2026

FREE



Chris Slack Photography

Sunrise next to Berry Head © Chris Slack Photography

A Tide of Transformation. As we turn the page to April, the familiar salt-spray of Brixham carries more than just the scent of the morning catch; it carries the unmistakable hum of a town in transition. This month, we find ourselves at a unique crossroads between our storied past and a bold, modern future.

Investment in Our "Living Heartbeat". The harbour remains the lifeblood of our community. With Torbay's fishing industry recently netting a £1.5 million bonus for the council budget, the value of our fleet has never been more apparent. While debate continues over the

multi-million-pound expansion of the fish quay, one thing is certain: we must protect the authenticity that makes Brixham "Fish Town".

Shoalstone Seawater Pool:

As the pool enters its Centenary Year, keep an eye on the ongoing repairs.

Looking Ahead:

The Pirate Storm is Brewing! Though we are in April, the shadow of a tricorn hat is already stretching across the harbour. The Brixham Pirate Festival returns next month from: Saturday 2nd May to Monday 4th May 2026 This free-to-attend event transforms the town into a 17th-century pirate haven and the town is already gearing up for what is now one of the UK's largest maritime gatherings. As we enjoy the vibrant floral

displays and longer days, let us remember that Brixham's strength lies in its balance. We are a working port, a tourist destination, and most importantly, a home.



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Ollie's Ice Cream: Set to scoop up success!



The local dessert scene gets a major upgrade as Ollies Ice-cream Ltd officially lands in the heart of the town. The new venture is bringing a fresh chill to Brixham's Quay. Ollie's marks a significant new investment in the town's independent shops. They offer some exciting "artisan" offerings. Speciality sundaes, icecream for dogs, milkshakes, sweet treats, fudge, biscuits, gifts and more. A beautiful walk along the

harbour with an Ice cream. What could be any better!!!

Rum & raisin is my favourite! What is yours?

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SWW Plead Guilty over Brixham contamination

On Wednesday 4th March, at Exeter Magistrates Court, South West Water (SWW) pleaded guilty to a charge of supplying water that was unfit for human consumption during an outbreak of Cryptosporidiosis in Brixham in May 2024. The outbreak, which caused at least 143 cases of sickness and diarrhoea in the town, required SWW to issue boil water notices and supply bottled water for many weeks. Local businesses in Brixham and beyond were badly affected by the reputational damage that was caused to the town, with the tourist industry

being particularly affected by late cancellations arising out of national media attention. A damaged valve was determined to be the cause of the leak, although initially the company denied to customers that they were responsible. The prosecution was brought forward by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI), and several Brixham residents attended to hear the proceedings. Sentencing will take place in June, but in the meantime SWW have stated that whatever amount the fine may be, they will not increase water charges to customers.

L G Brown, Brixham Linens to close!



L G Brown & Co the iconic textile and linen shop on Middle Street, is closing its doors for the final time on 11 April 2026 after more than 60 years of service. *End of an Era on Middle Street* For decades, L G Brown has been a cornerstone of the Brixham community. Known for its traditional service, owners Peter and Pat Brown became local legends for their expertise and personal touch. The shop's history stretches back to the 1940s, with Peter taking over the business from his father roughly 55 years ago. As Peter prepares to celebrate his 80th birthday, the couple has decided to move into a well-earned retirement. *A Changing High Street* While retirement is the primary driver, Peter has previously noted the evolving challenges for independent traders in the town. In recent years, he highlighted how the rise of out-of-town supermarkets and "horrendous" local parking issues have impacted footfall for traditional high-street businesses. Despite these pressures, the shop remained a destination for those seeking high-quality linens, towels, and its famous local tea towels.

Community Tributes

The announcement has sparked an outpouring of nostalgia from residents and long-term visitors alike:

A "Brixham Legend": Local shoppers have described the store as "irreplaceable" and a "step back in time."

Decades of Memories:

Many recalled having L G Brown linens on their wedding present lists or still using tea towels purchased there over 30 years ago.

The Personal Touch:

Customers frequently mentioned the "exquisitely wrapped" parcels and Peter's vast knowledge of his trade.

Final Trading Details

The shop is currently holding a final sale to clear all remaining stock, including its well-loved bed linen and bath towels.

Middle Street, Brixham

The closure marks the loss of one of the town's oldest independent outlets, leaving a significant void in the historic fabric of Middle Street.

Final Closing Date:

Saturday, 11 April 2026

Wishing Peter & Pat a happy retirement and thank you for your service to Brixham!



Pride of Brixham 20 years!

20 Years... That is amazing! We are delighted to be holding this re-union to mark 20 years of Pride in Brixham volunteers, and to give us the chance to share coffee, laughter and memories with former colleagues, friends and volunteers. The celebration will also be tinged with sadness, as we remember Paul Labistour and Dave Bartlett two former Harbourmasters, no longer here to share this time with us. Paul gave us the opportunity to form the group and begin working around the harbour areas, and I'm sure he would find it hard to believe that it was 20 years ago.

In the early days we were just a small group, with the idea that if the harbour office provided paint, we would set about restoring areas around the harbour that needed a little TLC. As people saw us working, intrigue and curiosity grew, and before long we had more members. After two years, we had the idea to create walkway gardens. This meant fund-raising, once again the community was



incredible. So many people shared ideas and offered support, for which we were deeply grateful. As the walkway gardens matured, we went on to win several RHS GOLD awards. This invitation is for everyone who has helped or supported us through these years... PLEASE pop into the Scala Hall, Brixham on Tuesday 14th April, anytime between 11:00am and 2:00pm to say hello. Although I am no longer at the

helm, my lovely friend Pat is doing a remarkable job, supported by her hardworking team, keeping the gardens so lovely. New volunteers are always welcome; Pat's number is on the garden display boards. Looking forward to this reunion, see you soon

*Mary Thompson.
Founder –
Pride in Brixham Volunteers*

*Drop in..RE-UNION
Scala Hall
Tuesday 14th April
11:00am - 2:00pm*



Brixham Future: A successful year!

Brixham Future CIC will be holding its 9th Annual General Meeting in the Conservative Club, New Road, Brixham at 3pm on Wednesday 1st April. The Chairman, Paul Addison will be reporting on the work and achievements of the 'not for profit' organisation in the previous year. He will also be revealing which new projects and events are being worked upon for this year and beyond. After the Annual General Meeting there will be three presentations. The first, is on the Brixham Volunteers Medical and Humanitarian Convoy to Ukraine by Jonathan Parr, a Board member and the Convoy Leader. The second, is by Torbay Council Leader, Dave Thomas on the Torbay plans for Brixham. And finally, there will be a presentation by Sasha Rakonersty, on two new Brixham Future CIC projects, over next few years. The Chair will be reporting on the Micro-regeneration projects outputs delivered in 2024/5. We marked the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on the 8th May 2025, which delivering precious peace to Europe, with

commemoration, educational and celebrations events. We thank everyone who helped deliver the mixture of 40 FREE displays, exhibitions, parades, concert, singing, dancing etc. On the same day, we delivered in Churchill Gardens, on Berry Head Road, in Brixham eight commemoration heritage display Boards detailing the events of WW2 (1939-1945) and the connection to the people of Brixham. In this coming year, we will add to our Boards. We wish to recognise the contribution of the Merchant Navy. Brixham has a strong connection to these gallant seamen, and we feel that their sacrifices should be marked by a specific section. One of the major achievements of our year, was delivering the Brixham Volunteers Medical & Humanitarian Convoy to Ukraine. This involved a substantial community effort in raising over £41,000 from donations and public events, to purchase six vehicles (including two ambulances) and 3,500kg of supplies including anti-biotics and painkillers with the help of local volunteers.

The chairman of Brixham Future CIC, Paul Addison went on to say : One of the major problems faced by our local Voluntary sector, is simply the lack of finance. We now have a unique innovative partnering solution based on partnership working to deliver new initiatives. At Brixham Future CIC, we have devised an Auction in the Brixham Yacht Club, to which people bring in hand portable goods on Friday 22nd May 12 Noon -4pm or on Saturday 23rd May 10.30am -1pm, before the Auction at 2pm. The difference is people nominate which local Brixham area Charity or not for profit group, they want the cash benefits to go to ! Also, the Brixham Auction is a golden opportunity for the Public to come along at 2pm (or before if you wish to view what's on sale) and enjoy all the drama of an auction. The Annual General Meeting will also hear about Brixham Future CIC future Plans beyond 2026/7. There are new projects in the 'incubation' stage -often requiring more than one year timeline to deliver. We are



constantly reviewing and looking for new opportunities, that are feasible and financially viable. As a community based organisation we are also open to good practical, deliverable and fundable suggestions. Also in this coming year, we hope to make substantial progress on both our new Heritage Hub and Heritage Information Boards, details of which will be presented at the meeting by Sasha Rakonersty. Finally, more details will be available on our first 'Brixham Festival of Good Health & Wellbeing' from the Thursday 17th September launch at 6.30pm, and over the following 3-days between 10.30am - 4pm until Sunday 20th. This event will consist of a major exhibition, displays, information, and activities all FREE, to the general public. The Chair will also express our thanks to so many people and groups for their goodwill, support and assistance during the year. They know who they are, so suffice to say thank you, to one and all.

Brixham Town Chaplain

Darrell Holmes

It's official: Easter is more expensive than last year... but not the most expensive ever.

In case you haven't noticed -
- the price of chocolate has soared as high as Mars there's a Bounty on some bars
- the cost is so expensive the shop assistant will only Wispa the price!

Apparently a poor cocoa harvest in 2024/5 is driving up prices. Hence we'll be shelling out for Easter Eggs, probably 50% more than last year (but please keep buying them from our local Brixham shops).

Just to say -

- the cost of lamb is also so high some can baa-ly afford it
- better to pull the wool over your eyes when paying the bill
- that Easter lunch is going to get a roasting
The shortage of lambs at the livestock markets and UK abattoirs is making traditional Easter lunches a costly business. Lamb has risen about 26% in the last five years (but please keep buying meat from our local Brixham shops and butchers).

A word of warning -

- rising petrol and diesel prices are fuelling the cost of motoring
- lack of heating oil supplies is making some people's blood boil
- plane ticket prices have taken off and continue rising
It's because of happenings in the Middle East (in case you missed the news bulletin), meaning that Easter getaways and gatherings just got a whole lot more expensive. Heating oil



is up 240% just now versus five years ago (but please keep buying it from our local retailers). Suffice to say Easter 2026 is probably going to be more expensive and a shock to the bank balance. But it's not the most expensive Easter ever. History records the first Easter 2000 years ago in the Middle East involved a man named Jesus known as "the Lamb of God". Aged 33, he was arrested on false charges and died nailed to cross. Yet three days later he walked out of his sealed tomb, easier than breaking open a chocolate egg. This Jesus personally paid the ultimate price of Easter as he bore the sin and selfishness of the world (including yours and mine): though he'd done no wrong it cost him his life as a sacrifice. For Jesus, the price of Easter was the most expensive ever and for those who believe it's a totally free gift of grace.

(please contact our Brixham churches to receive this gift).

*Darrell Holmes
Brixham Town Chaplain*



Image by PublicDomainPictures from Pixabay

Constituency News . . . Caroline Voaden MP

So, earlier this month, South West Water (SWW) finally pleaded guilty to a crime we all knew they fell afoul of years ago and admitted to supplying water unfit for human consumption during the cryptosporidium outbreak in the Brixham area.

This outbreak resulted in over 140 confirmed cases of the diarrheal disease, cryptosporidiosis – though I know many dispute this figure as being far too low – multiple hospitalisations, and a deep distrust of the water industry that continues to this day. Having watched Channel 4's Dirty Business drama – which was partly informed by the cryptosporidium outbreak – I struggle to see how this distrust will lift anytime soon without root and branch industry reform.

The rot in our water industry is deep. The day after SWW pleaded guilty, South East Water received a multi-million pound fine for repeated supply failures in Kent and Sussex.

In no part of our country is our water industry functioning as it should.

I hope SWW's guilty plea will bring closure for some, but I



have my doubts. Other than a guilty plea, what steps have they taken since the outbreak to change their behaviour? They have resisted certain measures I have suggested, like random testing of the domestic supply in Brixham and Kingswear, which would reassure worried residents at the very least. Whether it is SWW here or South East Water on the other side of the country, it is clear our water industry cannot be trusted to deliver on its most basic functions. Last summer, the government finally started to overhaul our water industry by promising to abolish Ofwat. Progress since then has been glacially slow. I hope the twin news from SWW and South East Water will focus minds and reiterate why reform is needed right now.

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Pillar Avenue	- The Handyman
The Quay	- Bay Coffee - Crown & Anchor - Old Market House
Market Street	- Brixham Library
Middle Street	- Crafty Cwtch
New Street	- The Golden Lion
Galmpton	- Galleon Stores & Galmpton Post Office

Brixham Town Band - We are recruiting!



www.brixhamtownband.org.uk

We need a full team for 2026. Can you help?
Brixham Town Band are preparing for this season's Quayside concerts and to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Calling all current and former brass players.
We need you, beginners, revivers and experts.
We currently have vacancies:

Bass, front row cornet and tenor horn, but as a convert band every section is open to new players. We would love you to play with us!

A friendly, relaxed, non-contesting band with a focus on enjoyment, community and making music together.

If you are slightly interested, please get in touch with:

*Band Secretary, Kim.
Tel: 01803 853438
Email:
brixhamtownband@outlook.com*

*We practice on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Brixham College
Music Department
Higher Ranscombe Road
Brixham
TQ5 9HF*

Home Instead South Devon achieves 5-Star Award

Home Instead South Devon has been ranked within the top five percent of health and social care companies worldwide in terms of care professional satisfaction.

All employees and clients of the home care companies were invited to take part in an anonymous survey by independent employee engagement experts WorkBuzz.

Home Instead South Devon is delighted to have received an impressive Care Professional advocacy score of 98, an overall mark showing how supportive an employer that it is. The rating puts them as a global leader in their sector and gives them a '5 star' accreditation. Clients who receive the company's care were also surveyed, leading to exceptionally high satisfaction scores. This includes 100% of clients saying "I am satisfied with the overall quality of the service" Marian Catana, Owner, says, "To be recognised as a

WorkBuzz 5-Star Employer is a huge honour. It shows that our investment in training, support and wellbeing really matters, and that our people feel valued, listened to and empowered to grow."

Home Instead's care model is different from many others in the industry, focusing on a minimum of one-hour visits, building genuine relationships with clients.

This approach gives care professionals the time needed to fully support clients, while care plans are built around individual needs and preferences, encouraging clients to take part in daily tasks to help maintain independence.

Steven Frost, CEO of WorkBuzz commented: "At WorkBuzz we believe that exceptional employee experience deserves to be recognised and celebrated. The awards have a data-driven criteria and the results are powerful because they come straight from those who matter



most. "It's a pleasure to partner with an organisation like Home Instead who truly care about their employee's experience and are very customer focused".

To find out more about Home Instead South Devon and home care services, please call: 07162 6864172 or visit: www.homeinstead.co.uk/south-devon



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Brixham Battery Heritage Museum



Well, I never knew this was here! That's a phrase commonly heard by the volunteers at the Brixham Battery Heritage Museum up above Fishcombe Cove in, unsurprisingly, Brixham. But surprisingly, it's usually heard from people long resident in Brixham. Almost everyone has heard of Battery Gardens but don't perhaps understand the background to the name. Brixham has a long military heritage. For instance, we know that there was an artillery battery on the headland overlooking the harbour as far back as 1588 when the guns were installed to defend against the Spanish Armada. Later on, guns were again mounted on the headland to defend against Napoleon's anticipated invasion plans as part of the Brixham defences which included the rather larger and perhaps better-known fortifications on Berry Head. At the time Torbay and Brixham were a major anchorage for the

English Channel fleet which could shelter and be resupplied. Although now both car parks the ships got their freshwater from Freshwater Cove and drew supplies of beef from Oxen Cove. Many of the well-known Admirals of the day visited Brixham. Not only Nelson, but also Lord St. Vincent, Cornwallis, Hood, Rodney and Hawke. There was also Earl Howe, who earned the nickname of Lord Torbay because he spent so much time ashore in Brixham. Our most notorious visitor at that time was Napoleon Bonaparte himself, who, as a prisoner on HMS "Bellerophon", spent several days off Brixham waiting to be taken to exile on St. Helena thus allowing him to view the fortifications around the bay designed to prevent him landing here. The fears of a French incursion arose again in the mid 1800's when new guns were added to a site which is now inside Battery

Gardens. The rails used to aim these huge guns firing 60-pound projectiles can still be seen today. The final development occurred in response to yet another invasion threat, this time from Germany in the summer of 1940. In June 1940 a group of Royal Engineers arrived and, over a period of just three months, built an entire coastal artillery battery including observation posts, anti-aircraft positions, troop accommodation and firing platforms for two 4.7-inch guns all designed to protect Torbay from a potential German invasion in conjunction with a similar battery on Corbyn Head. This battery was initially manned by regular soldiers from the Royal Artillery but, as the war progressed these experienced soldiers were moved on for other duties and the operation of the battery itself was passed on to members of D Company, 10th (Torbay Battalion), Devonshire Home Guard. These part time soldiers continued to operate the battery until the Home Guard was finally stood down in December 1944 as the threat of invasion had disappeared. From then on, the battery buildings scattered through Battery Gardens fell into disuse apart from the local Council fitting some of them out as viewpoints by installing benches. And so it continued until 1999 when a group of locals, including individuals who had served at the Battery as members of the Home Guard, decided to set about preserving the battery buildings and to establish a museum to remind and educate the people of Brixham and any visitors, of the role of the battery across time. This group identified the old Artillery Training School as a possible museum building and managed to convince the council to lease it to them. At this point, the building had only half a roof as the other half had been removed by the large tree now growing within the walls. It took years of work from those dedicated volunteers until the building was firstly watertight and then fitted out with electricity and plumbing and eventually displays linked to the battery and to Brixham. While this restoration and conversion work was underway, entities like English Heritage arrived to look at the main buildings in Battery Gardens. These were mapped and

original purpose identified with help from those volunteers who had served as members of the Home Guard. The entire site now is a Scheduled Monument with the Battery Observation Post being a Grade 2 Listed Building.

The volunteers open the museum to the public from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from March until September as well as holding a series of open days during the year. These open days include access to the museum, living history displays, tours of the normally closed buildings in Battery Gardens and end with a display firing WW2 weapons – blanks only of course.

The group of volunteers eventually officially formed themselves into a registered charity, the Brixham Battery Heritage Group Centre. And as for every charity the two key elements are donations from the public to maintain and develop the museum but, most importantly, a supply of willing volunteers. It is a friendly group and the main criteria for joining are a willingness to participate and an appreciation of the local history of Brixham. While many of the displays relate to the military side of things there is no requirement for previous military service to join the group.

So hopefully now people from Brixham can come to visit the museum, either for the first time or as a return visit, so the volunteers will now hear that the site and location are recognised.

For further information Open days or on becoming a volunteer please look at the Heritage Group website: www.brixhambattery.org





Inspire Magazine

Believe you can and you are halfway there!

April gardening tips

Reg Moule *Nurseryman & award winning gardening broadcaster*

Early in the Month

Sow annual climbers e.g. Asarina, Ecchreocarpus, Cobaea, Ipomoea, Tropaeolum and Rhodochiton.
 Dead head daffodils and narcissi – feed them but DO NOT cut off the foliage.
 Keep an eye out for slugs and take steps to control them.
 Prune out any frost damaged shoots on less hardy shrubs such as Pittosporum.
 Plant summer flowering bulbs outdoors e.g. Gladioli and Nerine bowdenii, if you already have overcrowded clumps of Nerines in your garden lift and divide them now.
 For trouble free roses, spray with one of the safer rose combined pest and disease treatments, like Roseclear 3 in 1, or Uncle Tom's Plant Tonic for an organic solution to rose diseases.
 Prune Forsythias and winter Jasmine after flowering.
 Finish dividing overcrowded herbaceous perennial plants.
 Straggly silver foliage plants can be cut back now e.g. Saintolina. (but not down into old wood - that is risky).

Lift and divide pond plants. This is also a good time to introduce new plants too.
 Plant Asparagus crowns and Jerusalem artichokes.
 Divide overcrowded clumps of Siberian Iris.
 Vine weevils will be laying eggs now they can be curbed organically by laying a half inch layer of horticultural grit on top of the compost to prevent successful egg laying.
 Otherwise known infested areas can be treated by watering on Nemasys Vine Weevil Killer nematodes.
 Cover some established strawberry plants with cloches to get an early crop.
 Plant new conifer hedges and trim established ones.
Mid April
 Tackle pernicious weeds, like bindweed, with a systemic weed killer containing glyphosate or Vitax SBK. A similar organic based product would be Neudorff Weedfree Plus.
 Hardy annuals can still be sown in situ outdoors.
 Plant dormant dahlia tubers 10cm (4in) deep outdoors at the foot of support stakes.

Undertake lawn renovations by repairing damaged edges and removing bumps and hollows.
 Watch out for whitefly appearing in your greenhouse, hang up some yellow sticky traps to monitor them. Plant some French marigolds or Coleus cannina near your tomatoes to deter the pests.
 Take conifer cuttings. Pull off 7.5 – 10 cm (3-4in) side shoots. Trim up the base. Dip in hormone and insert in free draining compost.
 Watch out for attacks of gooseberry mildew and gooseberry sawfly, these devastate bushes.
 Plant out cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprout and celery plants.
 Finish planting sprouted maincrop potatoes.
 Sow tomato seeds now for outdoor planting in June.
 Begin planting up hanging baskets, keep them inside until frost risk is minimal.
 Check your greenhouse regularly, as watering, shading and ventilation are important.
 Sow Basil indoors, but do not plant outside until there is no risk of frost.



Start successional sowings of salad crops eg. Lettuce, carrots and radishes.

Late April

Sow tender veg. indoors for planting out next month e.g. courgettes, French and Runner beans. Sow marrow, courgette and squash seed on its side and soak Sweet Corn seed in water for 4 hours before sowing.
 Prune early flowered Clematis after blooming e.g. C. alpina and C. macropetala. This is only necessary where space is limited.
 This is a good time to re-pot any houseplants that are pot bound
 Store unused seeds left in open packets in an airtight container in the refrigerator.
 Treat your lawn to an application of lawn food. Miracle Gro Thick and Green is my favourite as its food is release according to the weather conditions.



Volunteers Needed!

Brixham Battery Heritage Group is a bunch of local people dedicated to preserving the history, heritage and buildings associated with the artillery battery in Battery Gardens. This includes staffing and managing the museum above Fishcombe Cove. The museum opens three afternoons a week and for eight special open days each year.

Volunteers are needed to ensure that this local attraction continues to operate as it has done for the last 25 years. No specific experience is required but an interest in the history of Brixham and its military associations would be an advantage.

If interested please see our website at: www.brixhambattery.org or contact us on Facebook or via email: enquiries@brixhambattery.org

There is no upper age limit but you must be over 18



April Birth Flower

While the daisy and sweet pea are the primary birth flowers for April, the tulip is widely recognized as an official secondary birth flower for the month. As a hallmark of spring, tulips bloom abundantly throughout April, making them a popular choice for celebrating birthdays during this season. Tulips are most famously associated with perfect, deep, and unconditional love.



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Café Shop Plants

Nestled in the beautiful grounds of Lupton House, the Coach House Café is the perfect spot to relax with coffee, cake or a light lunch. Browse our charming gift shop, second-hand book shop and plant shop while you're here.

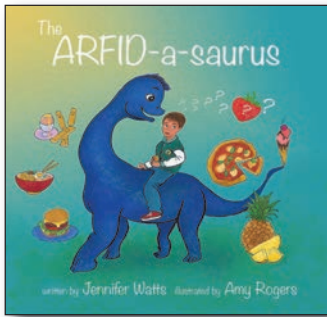
Café open Tuesday to Friday,
10am–3pm

(shop opening times may vary)

www.discoverlupton.com 01803 845800



The ARFID-a-saurus new children's book



Local Brixham, single mum Jen Watts is a full time parent carer for her son, who is 10. He is autistic with multiple additional and complex needs, including severe OCD, anxiety and ARFID eating disorder (Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder), as a result of becoming unwell in the Cryptosporidium outbreak in Brixham. He was hospitalised, and sadly developed ARFID. Jen has written a children's book about ARFID, which is currently being illustrated.

To raise the money needed to illustrate and publish the book, she has set up a Gofundme campaign.

The ARFID-a-saurus is the story of a little boy with ARFID and a friendly dinosaur, who travels the world to help children eat. He meets a little boy who struggles to eat. The ARFID-a-saurus has never encountered this situation before, and he decides to stay for a while with the little boy and try to understand his struggles and help the little

boy feel safe again about food. He learns about ARFID and how different things can affect what the boy feels comfortable to eat, including emotions, textures, surroundings, and packaging. He experiences the fears the little boy feels and see, how hard it is for his mum to support him. Then he learns what can help the little boy, what can make him feel scared about food and what can be done to make that better and how pressure and demand can be detrimental.

That patience and understanding really helped the little boy feel less anxious about food and more able to try when he is ready.

The ARFID-a-saurus has learnt knowledge about ARFID and gains confidence to help and support other children in the future, knowing that with ARFID Fed is Best.

Please follow on Facebook / Instagram – thearfidasaurus www.thearfidasaurus.co.uk Anything you can give or share is very much appreciated and will help to get my book into the hands and hearts of the families and children they help and support.

Thank you

Jen & Rafferty

To support us, please visit: <https://gofund.me/2478e4405> or search gofundme for *The ARFID-a-saurus* or

New, independent bookshop opening soon!



A new, independent bookshop is opening soon in the creative centre of Brixham.

This Spring, Brixham residents Simon and Cate will open the doors of their new bookshop, Into the West. Located on Middle Street among other local artisans, it will cater to a wide range of tastes from fiction and children's books, to natural history, challenging non-fiction and gifts.

Services will include:

- Click and Collect
- A loyalty scheme
- Book signings and events
- Signed and limited editions
- Bad jokes and personal reading recommendations

Simon and Cate say: In J.R.R. Tolkien's work, to go "into the west" means to pass on from this life as we perceive it, and enter whatever comes after.

This is a great metaphor for literature in general and it's why bookshops and libraries are our favourite places on Earth. They're a depository for the whole of human experience and for every human mind that was ever desperate to become known to others. Once a reading experience has altered something inside you, you have become someone new. This is what we're passionate about: we're here to conduct your passage into the west. We can't wait to meet you!

Simon & Cate

Visit our website: www.intothewest.co.uk or find us on Facebook and Instagram for news and up-to-date opening info.

Book signing at Pirate Festival

It's that time of year again, when anyone with even a passing interest in pirates dusts off their tricorne hats and polishes their buccaneer boots — Brixham Pirate Festival 2026 is about to sweep into town!

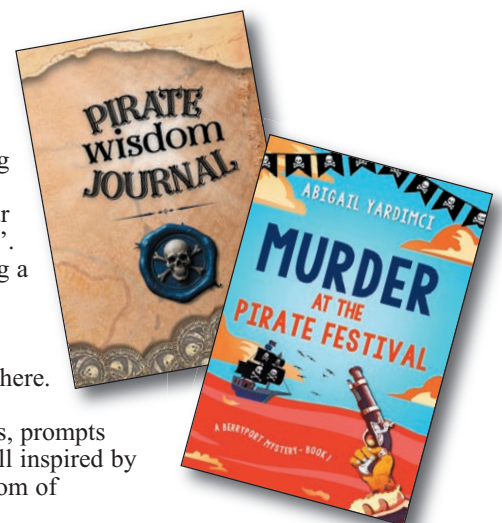
Few are more excited than local author Abigail Yardimci, the writer behind the cosy mystery *Murder at the Pirate Festival*. Having lived in Brixham for almost a decade and raised her children amid the festival's lively atmosphere, she has never been short of inspiration. Although Abigail is best known for her uplifting contemporary fiction, it was the festival's raucous, swashbuckling energy that inspired her to write this young adult crossover novel.

Since launching *Murder at the Pirate Festival* in 2024, Abigail has become a familiar face at the event. This year marks her third appearance, where she'll once again be meeting readers, signing copies, and sharing her work in person. She is delighted to be returning to harbourside favourites, Bertie and Crew and Another Chapter. Abigail said:

"Bertie and Crew and Another Chapter have supported me from the very beginning. They're always open to new ideas and go out of their way to help readers discover my books. I can't wait to get into my pirate gear again and celebrate this story which people love for its ADHD

amateur sleuth and its bright, recognisable setting — the fictional Devonshire harbour town of 'Berryport'. "I'm also launching a brand new *Pirate Wisdom Journal*, perfect for pirate enthusiasts everywhere. It's filled with inspirational quotes, prompts and affirmations, all inspired by the spirit and wisdom of pirates."

To get your hands on a signed copy of *Murder at the Pirate Festival* or the new *Pirate Wisdom Journal*, visit Abigail at Bertie and Crew on



Saturday 2nd May and Sunday 3rd May and Another Chapter on Monday 4th May, between 10am and 3pm.

Pharmacist launches new health services!

A local pharmacist has introduced new private health services in Churston to help residents access convenient and professional care closer to home. Nada Al-Eryani, an independent pharmacist prescriber, is now offering a range of services through her clinic, Eryani Health, including ear examinations and ear wax removal using microsuction, as well as mole and skin lesion assessments using specialist dermatoscope imaging with assessment from dermatologist consultant.



Many people experience long waits to have minor but uncomfortable issues assessed, such as blocked ears or concerns about changes in moles. The service allows patients to have their ears examined and, if necessary, wax safely removed using modern microsuction equipment in a safe clinical setting.

near future, allowing patients to monitor aspects of their health such as vitamin levels, hormone health and other important markers through convenient local testing. Pharmacist Nada Al-Eryani: "Many people delay getting help because they struggle to access appointments quickly or aren't sure where to go. My aim is to provide a safe, professional and approachable service locally so residents can have their concerns assessed without long waits."

In addition to these services, the clinic also offers private health checks including cholesterol testing and cardiovascular screening. As a qualified prescriber, Nada is also able to provide prescription treatments where appropriate following a consultation.

Appointments can be booked online or by phone.

Eryani Health
Broadway Pharmacy
Churston
TQ4 6LE

Further blood testing services will also be introduced in the

Tel: 01803 302905

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Sports season ready:

The Top 5 Injuries and How to Avoid Them

April marks the start of outdoor sports, running events, team training and more active weekends.

With that increase in movement comes an increase in injuries many of which are completely preventable with the right knowledge and early intervention. Here are the five most common spring and summer injuries I see in clinic, and the simple steps you can take to avoid them:

1. Hamstring Strains

Often caused by weak glutes and tight posterior chain muscles.

Prevention:

Regular massage, dynamic warmups and strengthening exercises.

2. Calf Tightness & Achilles Issues

A sudden jump in running or walking mileage puts stress through the lower leg.

Prevention: Gradual increase in training volume + mobility work.

3. Lower Back Pain

Poor core activation and tight hips lead to the lower back taking the load.

Prevention: Hip mobility, deep core strengthening, and technique correction.

4. Shoulder Strains

Common in racket sports, gym users and manual workers.

Prevention: Strengthening the rotator cuff and improving upper-back posture.

5. Knee Pain (Patellofemoral or Tendon Irritation)

Often linked to weak quads, poor foot mechanics or tight hip flexors.

Prevention:

Strength training, proper footwear, and flexibility work. Sports massage plays a key role by improving muscle condition, increasing flexibility and preparing tissues for higher activity levels. But true injury prevention comes from a combined approach, releasing tight muscles, strengthening weak ones and gradually increasing training intensity. If you're gearing up for a busy sports season, now is the best time to prepare your body. A small amount of proactive



care goes a long way in keeping you pain-free and performing at your best.



The Sun is still there!

Some days just feel a bit off - you wake up and everything's a little dull.... not in a dramatic way.... nothing's actually wrong.... it just feels a bit flat, like the world's covered over slightly and it's easy in those moments to think that's just how the day is going to be.... but it isn't.... because the sun hasn't gone anywhere - it's still there.... exactly where it always is and doing what it always does.... you just can't see it right now and that's the bit people forget clouds don't turn the sun off... they just pass in front of it for a while and that's it.... and life's the same - you'll have moments where your head feels busy....

or your energy drops a bit.... or you just don't quite feel like yourself - nothing major - just slightly out of sync and that's not you losing anything.... that's just a bit of cloud - but the thing about clouds is.... they don't stay.... you don't have to chase them off.... you don't have to force anything.... they move when they move Sometimes the more you try and fight how you feel.... the heavier it gets - but when you just let it be there for a bit.... without making it into something bigger.... it starts to shift on its own and you'll notice it in small ways first.... a clearer thought.... a bit more energy.... you catch yourself

smiling without really thinking about it - that's the light coming back through and it always does.... maybe not all at once... . maybe just a little gap at first.... but that's enough.... because it reminds you that nothing's gone - it was just hidden for a bit Soooo, if today feels a bit grey.... don't read too much into it.... it doesn't mean anything about you or where you're going.... it's just a passing moment.... a bit of cloud moving through.... because above all of that.... the light's still there the same as always It will break through again because it always does

Gregg Norton



"Smiling is healing baby"



Trying something new –

Even When We're Not Sure

There's something about this time of year that seems to whisper: "What if?"

As the days become lighter and the natural world shows us signs of renewal everywhere we look, it can stir a small sense of curiosity within us too. For me recently, that curiosity has appeared in a slightly unexpected form: sea swimming.

Now, if you know me well, you might find this quite amusing. I have always been rather resistant to the idea of open water swimming. The cold, the waves, the unpredictability of it all — it never really appealed.

In fact, I was quite pleased when I once came across some research suggesting that very cold water might not be particularly beneficial for women. I happily tucked that information away and used it as a perfectly good reason to avoid the whole idea entirely. Lately something has shifted. Perhaps it's the season. Perhaps it's the influence of the many people I've met who swim regularly, even through the winter months (I still quietly think they might be a little bit crazy). Or perhaps it's simply curiosity. The truth is, I might hate it, but equally... I might

love it. That small space between those two possibilities is often where growth begins. So often in life we decide something isn't for us long before we've actually experienced it. We create quiet boundaries based on assumptions, comfort zones or old stories we've told ourselves. Yet sometimes all it takes is a small willingness to explore. Not because we must. Not because everyone else is doing it. But because something within us gently nudges us to ask, "What would happen if I tried?"

Emily Papirnik



At this time of year many people begin to feel a little more alive again — more energy, more movement, more desire to be outdoors and engaged with the world. Perhaps that's part of the invitation that spring offers us.

Sisterhood of the Brush: 'The Trio + I' Brightening Brixham's Art Scene



'The Mitchell sisters' were born in Torquay, Janet Bolland, Elaine Cavicchia and Lynne Peets. Also joined by an 'adopted (Art) sister' Vivienne Bryant. Vivienne is also a very talented artist and a welcome addition to their "sisterhood". She takes the reins two days a week at the gallery and keeps the gallery open while they are on holiday. They are all artists in their own right. In 2015 Lynne opened the Colours of Brixham Art Gallery at 48 Middle Street, and the COB sisters were created. Together they paint ever-new paintings for the gallery where they take it in turns to sell their collective work which includes, original paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolour, wool and mixed media, giclee' top quality prints from their work, all framed or unframed, cards and little handmade crafty, quirky pieces.

The three sisters prefer to paint en plein air, painting outside in front of a beautiful view. This takes them to beautiful settings to spend the day with a picnic (maybe a bottle of wine) and the time to immerse themselves into their paintings. Interestingly they say "we come home with three very different takes on the scene!" The gallery is a bright, friendly, non-intimidating space with as many art pieces as can be shoehorned into it! You'll need time to see it all!!

Visit us at:
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News from South Devon Players

Laura Jury

The news from South Devon Players is getting very exciting for our 20th anniversary year. So, in the past month, we have secured a small TV deal. These days, streaming services bring all manner of entertainment to our screens. A new entertainment channel, Vomo, globally available on both Roku and Amazon Fire TV, has signed a deal with us, to stream our theatre productions, as filmed by our team at Brixham Theatre, to audiences all over the world. This is an ongoing deal so we are really excited at creating lots of new work for the channel.

We were already excited for our London debut this summer with our summer show, and now this on top, is absolute magic.

Rehearsals for our coming national tour of the 18th century adventure whodunnit,

The Scarlet Pimpernel, are coming along beautifully, with the first performances opening at Brixham Theatre in June. We are always open to new faces and are actively looking for local people who would like to get involved with us behind the scenes, especially with expanding our screen work, and on things like helping with front of house - welcoming audiences etc - at shows, as well as stage crew, helping with stalls and fundraising, on an ongoing basis. If you are interested, drop us a line at any time. And that in a nutshell are the highlights of our past month.

Please look us up on our website at www.southdevonplayers.com, or www.facebook.com/sdevonplayers - tickets available for all live shows.



Brixham Men's Probus Club

Steve Tucker

Brixham Men's Probus Club was founded in 1967. We welcome all retired or semi-retired men from Brixham and the surrounding area. We aim to provide a wide range of speakers and fellowship on a weekly basis. The talks range from Astronomy to Zoology and anything in between. In addition we have a number of social trips out to a variety of interesting locations. We are non political and non religious.

The club meet every week in the Catholic Church Hall, New Road, Brixham. The 12/13 bus stops right outside the venue. The hall is accessible for wheelchair access via a ramped entrance, has disabled toilets and a deaf loop system. All facilities are on the ground floor. There is no joining fee or subscription. There isn't even a dress code - smart casual is fine. Even better is the fact that your first three visits are free! If you become a member after

your three visits it's £3.00 per attendance (card payment please) which includes refreshments and the option to buy raffle tickets. Not at all bad in this day and age. Doors open 09:45 for refreshments and socialising, and meetings start at 10:30. We usually finish between 11:30 - 11:45. New members are always very welcome - just turn up on a Thursday morning. If you prefer to talk to an existing member beforehand,



please ring Steve Tucker on 07585 717525. For more information see www.brixhamprobus.co.uk

Brixham's VE Day celebrations - Friday 8th May

Paul Scott



After the success of their first tea dance held at Scala Hall earlier in the year, local Sax and base duo Blue Bossa will be holding another as part of Brixham's VE Day celebrations on Friday the 8th May. Between 2.30pm and 4.30pm in Brixham Baptist Church Hall opposite the library. The event will feature music exclusively from the 1930s and 1940s and wartime or vintage dress will be encouraged (but will remain optional). Any proceeds will go towards Brixham Baptist Church funds. One half of the duo, Philip Evans, who has organised the event said: "After the last tea dance we put on, people seemed to love it so much and we were asked to do another. We also

realised that there weren't many official VE Day celebrations in Brixham this year, so why not do something with a 1940s theme?"

The event will be limited to 50 people and tickets cost £5, which will include tea, coffee and cake.

Tickets are now on sale at The Front Room Café, Brewery Lane, Brixham. Which is open Tuesdays and Fridays between 10am and 1pm

*VE Day Celebrations Tea Dance
Friday 8th May
2.30pm - 4.30pm
Brixham Baptist Church Hall
Market Street
Brixham
TQ5 8EU*

Classic Cars

Dr Chris Coote

One thing that fascinates classic car owners is any history of their car before it came into their possession. Some history can be obtained from the DVLA in Swansea via a free enquiry based on the number plate details of the car. However, this is limited to the current ownership of the plate and some MOT history to see if the vehicle is currently taxed and in use on the road. Better histories are obtained via the makers car club registrars and secretaries. The very best histories are by word of mouth from previous owners or if you are lucky by inspection of documents such as service histories, garage bills and best of all from owners' notes that have been compiled over previous many years. Registered from new as DAF 265, a friend's splendid 1937 Daimler Mulliner Sports saloon, is a case in point. Owned from new by architect William Wingate, a comprehensive set of motoring notes and archive bills, letters to the factory, records of fuel purchases written in Shell logbooks and even original blueprints and factory drawings, provides a wonderful insight to both pre and post WW2 motoring. Unlike many during WW2, W Wingate (WW) was able to continue using his car throughout the war since he was awarded a petrol ration. His work as an established architect required him to visit many war related building and construction projects all over the country. He kept precise notes of journeys, service items and works plus correspondence with the Daimler factory to obtain spares and advice on

running and repairing the car. At the end of WW2, the car had covered over 90000 miles after its registration in 1937. After WW2 despite the increasing age of the car, WW liked it so much that he was determined to keep it going as his only vehicle. Daimler themselves were taken over by Jaguar after WW2 and there were severe doubts about its continuing survival as an independent car maker. WW wrote to Daimler several times requesting spares and drawings, blueprints, of items that he thought would be likely to wear out in future use. He obtained a large wooden crate of spares including shock absorbers, running gear and suspension items, that were becoming obsolete from the factory. In this way he was able to use his favourite car well into the 1960's. His records show that over 230,000 miles have been driven to date!!!! Fast forward to the present day and the car is resplendent in original Jaguar silver and blue metallic paint after a comprehensive restoration by its current Brixham owner. When he first rescued it from a dingy garage where it had stood for years following the death of WW, he discovered that none of his spanners fitted the fixings on the car. An overheard conversation in Brixham Yacht club led to my offering of a box of my imperial size spanners for his use. We became very good friends and I enjoyed doing mechanical and engine work on this high-quality car whilst the owner put in a prodigious amount of effort to restore the bodywork and interior to its former glory. Affectionately



known as "Daphne" from the number plate, she became well known as a very popular wedding car in our local area. In recent times DAF has regularly been displayed at both international and local classic car shows and is a regular at the Torbay Steam Fayre. The owner is justifiably proud of his Daimler and only too pleased to talk about her and explain the workings of the semi-automatic pre-selector gearbox.

Spotting classics in and around Brixham I was charmed to spot this cute little classic mini which has been treated to a convertible conversion. Very smart with sparkling red bodywork and black mohair hood I am sure it is a barrel of fun on a sunny day!

Contact me on ctc8242@gmail.com for any classic queries and/or comments, alternatively via the



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Brixham Timeline

1946 - 2025

Hilary Emms

1946 - 1954

Population relatively static around 8,800

1951

A suspected case of smallpox resulted in one quarter of Brixham's population receiving emergency immunisation. Diphtheria immunisation had continued with almost every child in Brixham receiving it

1955

Although 233 cases of measles were notified none proved fatal

1960s

At the start of the 1960s, the highest cause of mortality in Brixham was coronary disease and angina with very low incidence of serious infectious disease. Residents travelling abroad were routinely vaccinated against smallpox and cholera. However, there was cause for concern when a suspected case of smallpox was reported onboard a liner entering Torbay, and other visitors were kept under surveillance for the disease.

Further persons were reported as typhoid fever contacts with the appropriate action taken by Brixham GP's

1962

Five employees of a Brixham firm were offered prophylactic treatment following the supply of meat to raccoons at Paignton Zoo which were subsequently reported to have died of anthrax.

No human cases of this disease occurred in Brixham despite the fact that it was not the only scare

1956 - 1967

Population shows a steady trend upwards from 9,120 to 12,830

2001

Population around 17,500

2025

Population around 16,781

Hilary Emms

Brixham Fish Hawkers

Hilary Emms

In 2018 I researched this subject. The information I found and collated proved to become a fascinating record of local social history in many different ways. Due to hard life struggles, courage, bravery, fortitude, and determination to survive and provide was shown by these feisty women. By necessity, often as widows of fishermen or wives of fishermen injured, invalid or ill and no longer able to work they had to provide for them and theirs.

For various misdemeanors (including the fight to be successful women in a predominantly man's world), they were often arrested, in court, regularly unable to pay the fines imposed on them, which then led them to a time in prison. These proved to be the recurring patterns that formed after I scoured all Brixham censuses from 1841 - 1911. During that period I found female fish dealers, female fish sellers, female fish mongers, female fish merchants, and female fish hawkers, with the nucleus

of whom over that period lived in close proximity to each other in addresses near the harbour. In 1864 Lord & Lady Churston introduced hawking licenses to sell fish on the market by issuing the following decree 'the ancient custom to allow the wives and daughters of smack owners to sell their fish at auctions without license be continued without let or hinderance' Plymouth newspapers reported that '26 Brixham female fish dealers proceeded to Lupton House, the seat of Lord Churston, bearing with them a beautifully modelled vessel in full sail as a gift to his Lordship to thank him for his decree'. 'After taking tea in the hall with his Lordship and Lady Churston the hawkers returned to Brixham where later that day a grand tea was held in the Fish Market. Over 200 attended and toasts were drunk to Lord Churston. After tea, dancing commenced which was kept up for some hours with great animation and spirit'

Exciting free walks website for Brixham

Brixham has a diverse and interesting historical background, underpinned by its location by the sea and deep-rooted fishing industry. The town is already well known as a tourist attraction, but locals and visitors alike may not have discovered the fascinating stories linked to Brixham's history, architecture and natural aspects.

BATS (Brixham Arts & Theatre Society) commissioned Dave Barter of Nautoguide to create a set of "interactive walk" maps of Brixham, allowing people to explore and discover the diverse artistic, heritage and natural features of the town.

BATS Director, Cecilia Kean, explains, "BATS undertakes and supports artistic projects across the town and realised that previous attempts at creating themed walks around the town no longer existed. The Buccaneers groups had made Pirate and Smuggler walks with QR codes and there was also a BrixFest map of the centre. When people moved away or groups broke up the paper copies soon ran out and websites disappeared.

We wanted to create a free community resource that would have legacy for the town and is accessible to anyone anywhere." *brixhamwalks.org* works on smart phones and computers alike, is easy to use and easy to share. Acting as a guide, it leads you through various different routes and locations, providing relevant photographs and historical facts. Nearly 35,000 people have viewed the website since it was created, literally from all over the world.

"We have spent a long time researching all about the very unique aspects of Brixham, especially the Steps, Murals and Street Art and the Architectural Heritage. We are now adding a new set of walks on the Glorious Gardens of Brixham, just in time for Pride in Brixham's 20th Birthday" BATS are calling on local groups or people with interest in particular aspects of Brixham's history, arts or nature to send them their information, research and photographs so that other themes can also have walks created on them.



Information can be sent via the *brixhamwalks.org* or the BATS Face Book page www.facebook.com/BrixhamArtsTheatreSociety or directly to Cecilia at: ceciliakean@outlook.com

BATS will have a stand at the Celebration of Brixham event on Saturday 25th April in the Scala Hall from 10.30 to 2 so do drop by and see how the walks work in person.

P B F **Brixham Pirates Festival - May Bank Holiday Weekend**
2nd - 4th May 2026 - www.brixhampiratesfestival.com



Brixham Pirates Festival

Set sail for adventure this spring as the Brixham Pirate Festival 2026 prepares to transform the harbour into a bustling haven of swashbuckling spectacle, live entertainment, and family-friendly fun.

Returning to the town's historic waterfront, this much-loved community festival promises a packed programme across the Early May Bank Holiday weekend.

Visitors can expect everything from lively pirate parades and dramatic skirmishes to toe-tapping music and immersive street entertainment - all set against the stunning backdrop of Brixham's iconic harbour.

Festivities begin in true pirate fashion on Saturday morning, with the grand Pirate Parade setting off from the William of Orange statue. Costumed crews, musicians, and mischievous pirates will wind their way through the town, bringing colour, noise, and plenty of "arrs!" to the streets. A special Children's Pirate Muster, Parade and best dressed competition on Monday ensures even the smallest buccaneers can join the fun.

Across the weekend, multiple stages will keep crowds entertained. The Main Stage offers a lively mix of music and performances, while the newly introduced Shanty Stage celebrates traditional sea songs in a unique harbourside setting. Meanwhile, the ever-popular Poop Deck Stage delivers a varied lineup of acts, ensuring there's something for every taste.

One of the festival's standout attractions is the thrilling skirmishes and firepower displays aboard the Golden Hind, on Saturday and Sunday where visitors can witness cannon fire, pirate battles, and maritime drama. Around the town, you'll also find bubble artists, mermaids, caricaturists, and interactive experiences bringing the pirate world vividly to life.

Food lovers won't be disappointed either. From local favourites like fish and chips to global street food, plus plenty of rum and refreshments, the festival's traders and eateries offer a feast fit for any crew. The bustling Captain's Bazaar and market stalls provide opportunities to browse crafts, clothing, jewellery, and pirate treasures. Entirely powered by volunteers, sponsors, and community spirit, the Brixham Pirate Festival remains free to attend - though donations are encouraged to help secure its future.

Whether you're a seasoned pirate or a first-time visitor, this year's festival promises a memorable voyage full of adventure, laughter, and seaside charm. Hoist the colours and join the crew - Brixham awaits!

Lady Lego Lou
Quarter Master



k Photography



Do you comply?



'Comply Right' Takes the Stress Out of Health & Safety

For many local business owners, "Health and Safety" conjures up images of complex paperwork and eye-watering consultant fees. But for one Brixham-based startup, it's about community, innovation, and simple peace of mind.

Comply Right, founded in November last year by Ben Suermondt, launched with a clear mission: to ensure no business across Torbay is ever "scared" of compliance again. Built with the support of friends, family, and the Torbay Start Up scheme, Ben saw a gap for a service that felt like a partnership rather than a cold, one-off inspection.

"You aren't expected to be a Health and Safety expert that's where we come in," says Ben. "We support you so you can focus on running your business." A key part of this support is moving away from expensive one-off fees. Instead, Comply Right works on an affordable monthly subscription, providing an "All-in-One" first aid provision.

This includes monthly checks, 48-hour resupplies, and incident monitoring. Ben recently visited The Bay Coffee Company to hand over a bespoke kit, noting:

"It's not just about a box on the wall; every business needs a proper First Aid Needs Assessment."

Beyond physical kits, Comply Right is digitising safety. Ben recently built a bespoke HACCP* app for The Bay Coffee Company, replacing messy paper logs with a time-stamped, secure digital system that flags risks in real-time. Unlike generic apps filled with expensive, redundant features, Ben's apps are built specifically to match a business's unique needs. By offering modern tools at a fraction of the cost of injury claims or sickness, Comply Right is ensuring Brixham's high street stays protected and tech-savvy.

Contact Ben at info@complyright.co.uk or visit: complyright.co.uk

* HACCP - Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points is a systematic food safety management system that identifies, evaluates, and controls biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material to consumption, preventing foodborne illnesses by focusing on critical control points in the production process.

Money Mike says . . .

Michael McCaul

VAT Registration: The Threshold Holding Businesses Back

VAT registration is a key milestone for any growing business in the UK, but for many, it has become a barrier rather than a stepping stone.

Currently, businesses must register for VAT once their taxable turnover exceeds £90,000 in a rolling 12-month period.

Taxable turnover includes most sales of goods and services that are not exempt from or outside the scope of VAT. Standard-rated, reduced-rated and zero-rated supplies all count towards the threshold. Many small businesses are surprised to learn that even zero-rated income contributes to this figure.

The issue is that the threshold has remained largely stagnant for years. While costs and prices have risen with inflation, the VAT threshold has not kept pace. As a result, more businesses are being pulled into the VAT system, not because they are growing, but because of inflationary pressures.

Research has consistently shown that a significant number of businesses actively manage their turnover to stay below the threshold. Estimates suggest that tens of thousands of UK businesses deliberately restrict growth, delaying contracts or turning work away to avoid the administrative burden and pricing impact of VAT.

This creates what economists



refer to as a "cliff edge," where crossing the threshold can immediately make a business less competitive, particularly in consumer-facing sectors.

Once registered, businesses must comply with Making Tax Digital (MTD) rules, meaning digital record keeping and quarterly VAT submissions through compatible software. While this improves accuracy, it does add a layer of administration for smaller operators.

There are, however, schemes designed to ease the burden. The Flat Rate Scheme allows businesses to pay VAT as a fixed percentage of turnover, simplifying calculations, while the Cash Accounting Scheme lets businesses account for VAT based on cash received and paid, helping with cash flow. The Annual Accounting Scheme also reduces the number of VAT returns to one per year, with interim payments spread across the year. Despite these options, VAT remains a psychological and financial hurdle. For many businesses, the decision to register is a strategic decision

"Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving."

Warren Buffett

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The April Spotlights are on . . .

Galmpton

A Evans Family Foods
Butchers



In the village of Galmpton, near Brixham, the traditional craft of butchery is kept alive by Evans Family Foods of Galmpton. This family-run shop has become a valued part of the local community, known for its commitment to quality, sustainability, and personal service.

Evans Family Foods operate the local village butcher's shop and their aim is to elevate the highstreet by providing easy access online delivery without reducing the produce quality. With over 35 years of experience, the skilled butcher is committed to providing the finest cuts delivered to your door.

They understand the importance of supporting local businesses and farmers, ensuring that every bit is not only delicious but also helps grow our community. Beef is sourced literally a stone's throw away and all their stock is as local as possible.

The service offered is top-notch quality.

Open:
Tuesday - Friday 6:30am – 4:00pm
Saturday 6:30am – 1:00pm
49 Stoke Gabriel Road
Galmpton,
Brixham
TQ5 0NQ
Tel: 01803 842124

**Brixham
Buy Local**

B Galleon Stores
&
Galmpton Post Office



In the heart of Galmpton, near Brixham, the Galleon Stores and Galmpton Post Office serve as a vital hub for daily life. More than just a place to pick up essentials, it plays an important role in keeping the community connected.

The shop offers a convenient range of groceries, from fresh produce and pantry staples to everyday household items. Its compact size is balanced by a thoughtful selection, ensuring that locals can rely on it without needing to travel far. Alongside this, the post office provides key services, including parcel handling, bill payments, and banking support—particularly valuable in a rural setting where such facilities are increasingly rare.

In many ways, the shop reflects the character of Galmpton itself: practical, welcoming, and rooted in tradition. As larger retailers and services move further away from small communities, places like this remain essential. The village stores and post office is not just a convenience—it is a cornerstone of local life, quietly supporting the rhythm and resilience of the village.

Open:
Monday - Friday 7:30am – 5:30pm
Saturday 7:30am – 2:00 pm
Sunday 8:00am – 12:00pm

51 Stoke Gabriel Road,
Galmpton
Brixham
TQ5 0NH
Tel: 01803 842148

C The Manor Inn
Galmpton
Eat - Sleep- Drink



Set in the picturesque village of Galmpton, near Brixham, The Manor Inn is a traditional pub that captures the charm and warmth of rural Devon life. With its historic character and welcoming atmosphere, it has long been a favourite gathering place for both locals and visitors.

The pub offers a classic British menu, with an emphasis on hearty, home-cooked dishes and has many special nights, like Steak Night, the pub quiz and a music quiz running regularly and an ever-changing specials menu.

Inside, low beams and cosy interiors create an inviting setting, while the outdoor seating area provides a pleasant spot to enjoy warmer days. Whether stopping by after a coastal walk or meeting friends for an evening drink, the pub offers a relaxed and friendly environment.

Beyond food and drink, The Manor Inn has rooms with astonishingly comfortable beds and as an old and quirky building, no two rooms are the same and as standard they are all fully fitted with TVs with freeview, mini fridges, mini safes, coffee and tea making facilities and come with our locally famous breakfast.

2 Stoke Gabriel Road
Galmpton
Brixham
TQ5 0NL
Tel: 01803 661101

**Brixham
Buy Local**

Refreshing your routine for Spring

Cal Sherry of Porridge



April is often when spring starts to feel real. With longer days and a sense of change in the air, it's a natural time to reset not just our routines, but also what we're putting into our bodies and our homes. Rather than overhauling everything at once, small swaps can be a great place to start.

Take a look at your everyday staples. Could you switch to wholegrain versions, add more plant-based ingredients, or include foods that support digestion such as oats, seeds and fermented products? These simple additions can help support gut health, which is closely linked to both energy

levels and overall wellbeing. It's also a good time to become a little more mindful of ingredients. Checking labels and choosing products with fewer additives and more recognisable ingredients can be a positive step without feeling restrictive. Spring is often associated with a "clear out," and this can extend beyond cupboards. Many people start rethinking the products they use at home too, from cleaning refills to more eco-conscious alternatives that are kinder to both the home environment and the wider world. At Porridge, our family run health food shop here in Brixham, we stock a wide range of wholefoods, natural supplements and eco home products, and we are always happy to offer guidance if you're looking to make a few simple changes. Spring doesn't have to mean starting from scratch. A gentle refresh, built on small, realistic swaps, can make a lasting difference.



*Porridge – Independent Family-Run Health Food Shop & Café
13 Fore Street
Brixham*

*Open:
Monday to Saturday
9am to 5pm*

*Shop Online via
www.porridgepantry.co.uk*



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Friday	12:00 – 13:30	16:30 – 21:00
Saturday	12:00 – 13:30	16:30 – 20:30
Sunday	Closed	17:00 – 20:30

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44 Middle Street, Brixham TQ5 8EJ
Open Tuesday-Saturday: 10:00am – 4:30pm
01803 362862**



The Pantry's Voice

Spring Vegetable Soup

Ingredients (serves 4)

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 leek, sliced
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1 stick celery, chopped
- 1 medium potato, diced
- 750 ml vegetable stock
- 100g frozen peas
- Salt & pepper

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add leek, carrot, and celery. Cook for 5–7 minutes until softened. Add potato and stock. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 15 minutes. Add peas and cook for another 3–5 minutes. Blend (optional) until smooth or leave chunky. Season with salt, pepper, and stir in mint if using.

Honey & Mustard Roast Chicken with Spring Veg

Ingredients (serves 4)

- 1 whole chicken (about 1.5kg)
- 2 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp wholegrain mustard
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 500g new potatoes
- 1 bunch carrots, halved 1
- bunch asparagus
- 1 lemon, halved
- Salt & pepper

Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan). Mix honey, mustard, and oil. Place chicken in a roasting tin. Rub mixture all over. Season well. Put lemon halves inside the chicken cavity. Roast for 1 hour 15 minutes. After 30 minutes: add potatoes and carrots to the tray. Add asparagus for the last 15 minutes. Check chicken is cooked (juices run clear), then rest for 10 minutes before carving.

Herby Buttered Potatoes

- 500g new potatoes
- 25g butter
- Small handful parsley, chopped
- Salt

Boil potatoes in salted water for 15–20 minutes until tender. Drain and return to pan. Add butter and parsley, toss gently, season to taste.

Easy Lemon Drizzle Cake

- 175g butter (softened)
- 175g caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 175g self-raising flour
- Zest of 2 lemons
- For drizzle:
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 100g icing sugar



Spring Vegetable Soup

Honey & Mustard Roast Chicken



Herby Buttered Potatoes



Lemon Drizzle Cake

Preheat oven to 180°C / (160°C fan). Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time. Fold in flour and lemon zest. Pour into a lined loaf tin.

Bake for 40–45 minutes until golden. Mix lemon juice and icing sugar. While cake is warm, poke holes and pour drizzle over.

Eating out . . . Larder + Garden Cafe

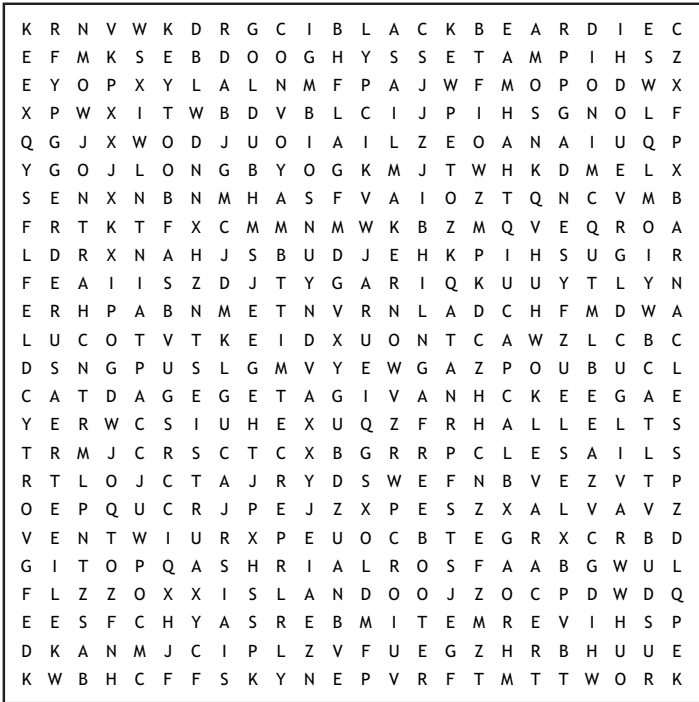
Culinary Compass Scribe



From the moment we stepped through the door, it was clear we were in for a memorable visit. While Brixham and its surrounding areas are well known for their warm hospitality, the welcome here stood out as something truly exceptional. The standard of customer service was not only high, but delivered with a natural ease that suggests a strong ethos embedded throughout the entire team. On arrival, we were promptly greeted and offered menus, along with a helpful overview of the seating options available both indoors and outside. Choosing to make the most of the fine weather, we took a seat in the garden area — a delightful space that offers a peaceful retreat. That said, the interior itself was equally inviting, with a cosy and thoughtfully designed setting. The atmosphere in the courtyard quickly became one of the café's most charming

features. Before long, a sense of community emerged, with customers engaging in conversation — a testament to the welcoming and inclusive environment the café has cultivated. Our order consisted of an americano, a flat white, and a freshly squeezed orange juice, followed by a traditional full English breakfast. We were advised in advance of a short wait for the food due to its freshly prepared nature and the volume of orders at the time. This transparency was appreciated, and it is clear the emphasis here is on quality which was reflected in the dishes served. Overall, the experience was an extremely positive one, combining excellent service, a relaxed atmosphere, and well-prepared food. It is a café we would happily return to and recommend to others visiting the area.

Pirate Wordsearch

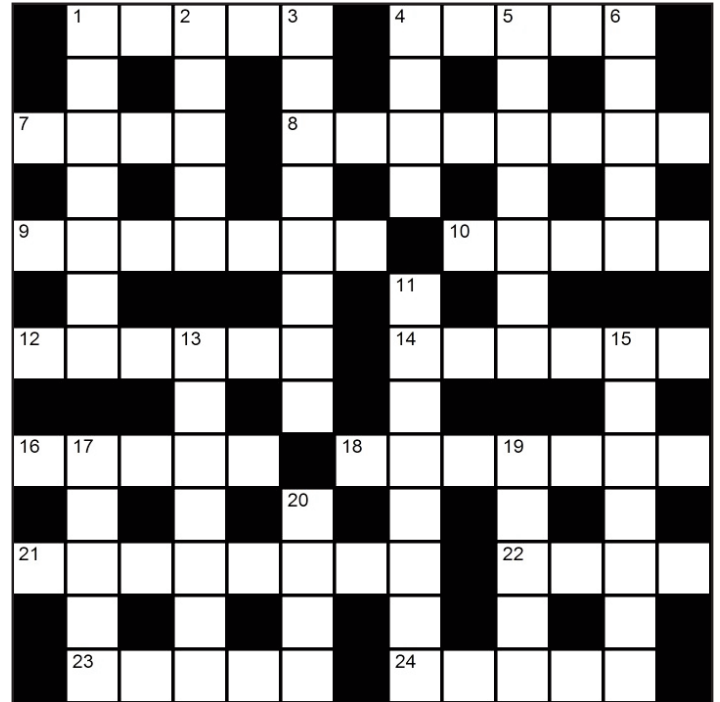


- | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| FREEBOOTER | SCHOONER | PIRATE BOOTY |
| BLACKBEARD | LONGSHIP | CHART |
| BARNACLES | TREASURE | SAILS LAIR FLAG |
| SAILMAKER | SCUTTLE | GOLD SHIP |
| TELESCOPE | RIGGING | SEA |
| SHIPMATES | CARAVEL | SHIVER ME TIMBERS |
| NAVIGATE | CAPTAIN | |
| BANDANNA | CONVOY ISLAND | |

Fun Quiz Answers

1. Robert Louis Stevenson 2. Jack Sparrow 3. Jolly Roger 4. Captain Hook 5. Seven 6. Davy Jones' Locker 7. Neptune 8. Edward Teach 9. Governor of Jamaica 10. Jim Hawkins 11. Mr. Sme 12. J. M. Barrie 13. Grace O'Malley 14. Anne Bonny 15. Poseidon 16. Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital 17. Crow's nest 18. No evidence to say they did 19. Long John Silver 20. Captain Hook 21. The Black Pig 22. Rum and water 23. Ship's biscuits 24. Hispaniola 25. Disease caused by lack of Vitamin C 26. Put him in a long boat 'til he's sober 27. Lt Robert Maynard 28. Cutlass 29. A dance 30. Meat-eating pirate (from French)

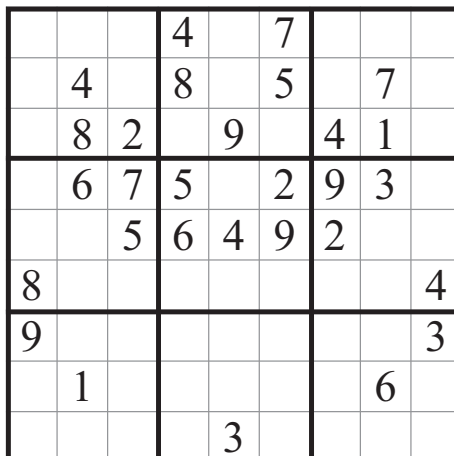
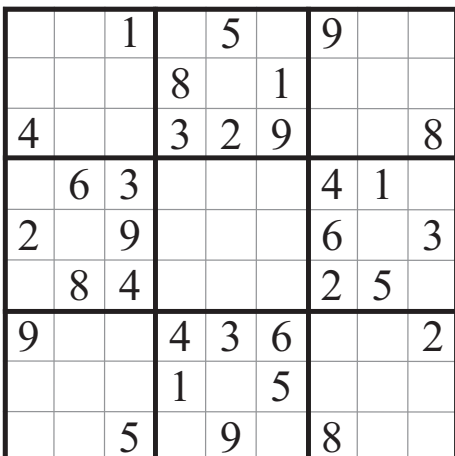
Crossword



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1 Apparel (5) | 1 Jordan's end (4,3) |
| 4 Viscera (5) | 2 Peer (5) |
| 7 Capital of Azerbaijan (4) | 3 Astronaut (8) |
| 8 Engrossed (8) | 4 Expel (4) |
| 9 Church songbook (7) | 5 Motley assortment (7) |
| 10 Hidden store (5) | 6 Bloodsucking worm (5) |
| 12 Fine cigar (6) | 11 Horticulturalist (8) |
| 14 Windcheater (6) | 13 Praise vociferously (7) |
| 16 Shrink (5) | 15 Pear-shaped fruit (7) |
| 18 Version (7) | 17 Scrub (5) |
| 21 Clubman (8) | 19 Cornered (5) |
| 22 Hairy man of Genesis (4) | 20 2.2 pounds approximately (4) |
| 23 Ardent male lover (5) | |
| 24 Cowboy display (5) | |

Sudoku

Fill the 9x9 grid with numbers 1-9, ensuring each number appears only once in every row, every column, and every 3x3 subgrid



Last month's Answers



Pirate Fun Quiz!

1. Who wrote Treasure Island?
2. Name the pirate leader, played by actor Johnny Depp, in the film Pirates of the Caribbean.
3. What is a pirate flag called?
4. Who was Peter Pan's worst enemy?
5. How many seas do pirates sail?
6. What do pirates call the bottom of the sea?
7. What is the Roman god of the sea called?
8. What was Blackbeard's real name?
9. What did Captain Henry Morgan become?
10. Name the cabin boy in Treasure Island?
11. What was Captain Hook's first mate called?
12. Who wrote Peter Pan?
13. Who was the Pirate Queen of Connaught?
14. Who was Jack Rackham's girlfriend?
15. What is the Greek god of the sea called?
16. Who gets royalties from Peter Pan?
17. What is a pirate ship's lookout post called?
18. Did pirates really make prisoners walk the plank?
19. Which famous pirate had one leg?
20. Which famous pirate had one hand?
21. What was Captain Pugwash's ship called?
22. What was 'grog' made from?
23. What were 'hard tack'?
24. Name the ship in Treasure Island.
25. What was 'scurvy'?
26. What is the first thing you would do with a drunken sailor?
27. Who killed Blackbeard?
28. What is a pirate's sword called?
29. What is the 'Hornpipe'?
30. What does 'buccaneer' mean?

A chance for you to add your own bit of colour ...



Competition Time ... Your chance to WIN!

The Letter Lottery

Simply re-arrange ALL the letters to one of the advertisers names, in this months Brixham Beacon



CHEAT OUCH SHOE

Prizes

1st Prize: £50 Cash - Donated by Brixham Beacon

2nd Prize: Meal for Two Voucher - Donated by The Golden Lion

3rd Prize: 45min Massage - Donated by NLW Sports Therapy

4th Prize: Fruit Hamper - Donated by Brixham Greengrocer

March Competition Winners!

1st Prize: £50 - Donated by Brixham Beacon

Winner is: **Nigel Greenwood**

2nd Prize: Meal for Two Voucher - Donated by Golden Lion

Winner is: **Amanda Richardson**

3rd Prize: 45min Massage - Donated by NLW Sports Therapy

Winner is: **Sharon & Tony Coyde**

4th Prize: Fruit Hamper - Donated by Brixham Greengrocer

Winner is: **Gill Goddard**

Brixham Beacon Competition Entry Form

April Issue - Closing date: 30th April 2026

Complete and return this form, enter online at www.brixhambeacon.com or email win@brixhambeacon.com for your chance to win!

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Tel/Email: _____

Return to: Brixham Beacon Competition Box see locations below, or enter online: www.brixhambeacon.com or email to: competition@brixhambeacon.com **Boxes located at:**
 - The Strand Bakery - Crown & Anchor - Crafty Cwtch
 - Brixham Greengrocers - Sweet Memory - The Golden Lion

The Poet's Quay -

The coastguard gets a message,
 It's an S.O.S from sea
 He'll have to launch the lifeboat,
 The service you know is free.
 He'll have to bleep the crewmen,
 Who are scattered all about,
 Cos when they hear their beepers,
 They know they're on a shout.
 They all race down the boatyard,
 They number one to ten,
 But when the Coxswain counts them,
 They're two men short again.
 It's Smithy and Jonesy who are missing,
 But they'll not be very far,
 They're probably up the Kings Head,
 Propping up the bar.
 "We'll have to go without them,
 They surely won't be missed,
 They'll not be any use to us,
 They're probably Brahms and Listz"
 But now they're in a quandary,
 Which boat shall they use?
 "We'll have to ring the Hon. Sec.
 He'll know which one to choose".
 And so they ring the Hon. Sec.
 With a decision he must make,
 "Alright he says Launch out the boat,
 But the inshore boat you take".
 Decision made, the men take off,
 And reach the sinking boat,
 But when they look around them,

The R.N.L.I

There's twenty men afloat.
 "This boats too small" the Coxswain says.
 "It's the Aran, we should have taken",
 Ring the Hon. Sec. and tell him,
 These lives are all forsaken.
 And so they ring the Hon. Sec.
 Who answers with a frown.
 "It's the Aran, you should have taken?
 Don't let the poor men drown".
 "He'll have to launch the big boat"
 But what ever shall he do.
 There's only Smithy and Jones'y,
 They're the only crew.
 So he goes up to the Kings Head,
 And drags them from the bar,
 "You'll be alright" he tells them,
 "They're not out very far".
 So off go Smithy and Jonesy
 They look like a couple of losers,
 "But" say the Hon. Sec. "at times like this,
 Beggars can't be choosers".
 "Hurrah" for Smith and Jonesy,
 They reach the sinking men,
 They save their souls and bring them back,
 Now they're up the Kings Head again.
 So dip you hands in your pocket,
 And give to the R.N.L.I
 They're a great bunch of men, who risk their lives,
 For the sake of you and I.

By Ann Powder

**FREE
 Family
 Fun**

Treasure maps
 can be collected from
 and returned to
 participating shops

Treasure Hunt

Ahoy!

Take a walk through the streets of Brixham to find
 hidden treasures within shop windows!



Treasure can be found in:

**Middle Street
 Fore Street
 Bolton Street
 King Street**



An audience with Annie at Brixham Theatre



Annie at the theatre poetry session

Brixham grandmother Annie Powder has always loved writing. - poems, stories and a journal of her life. But her work has remained hidden, until now.

Annie, aged 83, has just enthralled an audience at Brixham Theatre with two of her poems which she read out loud in public for the first time. The poems about The Seamen's Mission and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) are particularly poignant as Annie's fisherman brother Tony drowned at sea 28 years ago aged only 58. His body was found by the RNLI entangled in the nets of his boat after he had been out fishing alone during the day. "If it hadn't been for them, we wouldn't have got him back," said Annie who has lived in Brixham for nearly 30 years. "And the Seamen's Mission took the service for Tony's funeral." Annie's poems tell the stories of the men who worked for the RNLI and the Seamen's Mission, which supports fishermen's families. They are full of fun but have a serious message about the importance of the work both organisations carry out. "I have always loved writing and was good at composition at school. I lived in a land of make believe", added Annie who has a folder full of the stories and poems she's written over the years, including some stories for children.

She's now compiling a journal of her life with her family of five children and three grandchildren and also memories of her time working first at

Boots in Essex, then as a filing clerk in London and then in Brixham for a local estate agent and in pubs including the Sea Anglers and also fishermen's clubs.

Annie is a volunteer at Brixham Theatre and decided to take part in the new venture there, Poetry People, a series of sessions where local poets can read their own work or invite actors from the theatre's Project X group to do so. "I'm really glad I took the plunge and decided to read out my poems in front of an audience. It was nerve-racking but I did enjoy doing it once I got started and look forward to sharing more of my work now," she said. The free sessions are designed to encourage people not only to write but also to share their poetry. Aspiring actors will also get the chance to perform alongside more experienced members of the theatre group. Dates are also being arranged for training sessions with a workshop leader to help people with their writing skills.

The sessions are open for anyone to drop in and will start at 1.30 pm on Thursday 21st May, Thursday 23rd July, Thursday 17th September and Thursday 19th November. Everyone is welcome.

Find out more about other events at the theatre, a charitable organisation run by volunteers, by visiting the web site: www.brixhamtheatre.co.uk

Community Builder

Helen Ambler



Well, March certainly was a busy one! The FREE Afternoon of Music with Classic Gold running on the 1st Weds of each month 2pm – 3.30pm at The Brixham Baptist Church, started with a bang! A brilliant show of support with lots of singing and dancing! It was great fun – please do come along to the next one to meet new people and make new friends!

The new Womens' DIY group that started up at Men's Shed at The Brixham Baptist Church (running every Wednesday 10.30am – 12pm £3pp), was a huge success with comments from some women saying they felt empowered now to go home and put pictures up on their wall and now felt able to put a shelf up! This is fantastic news and very much needed.

A new Poetry group has started and another one begins – both being held at Brixham Theatre. 'Poetry People' is a FREE group open to all to enjoy listening to, reading, and performing poetry. Hosted by Project X actors and local poets. March 19th, May 21st, July 23rd, Sept 17th and Nov 19th 1.30pm – 3.30pm. 'Finding Your Voice' is a FREE Poetry Workshop open to all to explore reading and writing poetry, developing your writing style and developing your voice – all led by local poet and artist Becky Nuttall. April 16th, June 18th and Oct 15th 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

The Brixham Community Partnership AGM is being held at Brixham Rugby Club on the 22nd of April 7pm – 9pm. David Thomas, Torbay Council lead, will be the main speaker, so please do come along and ask any questions. Subscribe to the mailing list to keep up to date: bcpcchair@gmail.com For funding advice, please do contact Steven Chown our funding advisor on stevenchown@torbaycdt.org.uk and ask him to add you to his mailing list for monthly updates on funding and grants that are available. He also runs advice clinics which you can book in for.

If you would like to chat with me, your local Community Builder, please contact me on 07469 660873 or helenambler@torbaycdt.org.uk. I am in Brixham most days and would love to meet you to discuss how I can help you or any isolated people you know, to get out and about to meet new people or maybe support with setting up a new group! I would love to hear from you!

Working with TORBAY COUNCIL and COMMUNITY FUND

- info@torbaycdt.org.uk
- www.torbaycommunities.com
- 01803 212638
- @TorbayCBuilders
- 4-8 Temperance Street, Torquay TQ2 5PU

Torbay Communities Stronger together

To receive the **Brixham Beacon** by e-mail each month, visit: www.brixhambeacon.com enter your name and email address

Offering information & signposting to our local community

Paignton Community Hub offers a face-to-face information point with guidance from local organisations each weekday.

No appointment required. Drop in and speak to us today!

Opening times
 Mon 09:30-13:30
 Tues 09:30-13:30
 Wed 10:00 -14:00
 Thurs 09:30-13:30
 Fri 09:30-13:30

Paignton Community Hub



Based at Paignton Library

Hosted by:
Engaging Communities South West

Supported by:
TORBAY COUNCIL
TORBAY HEALTH & WELLBEING VOLUNTARY SECTOR NETWORK

07562 780 102
info@paigntoncommunityhub.org.uk

Brixham Theatre Events

Thu 9th - Sat 11th April 2026
 BOADS Presents – *The Ultimate Musical Rewind*


Thu 16th April 2026
 National Theatre Live - *All My Sons* (2025 Cert. 12A)

Sat 18th April 2026
She Will Rock You –
 At last, the rock show you've been waiting for!

Wed 22nd April 2026
 Movie Night –
Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale (2025 Cert. PG)

Fri 1st May 2026
Forever Elton – A tribute to the Music of Sir Elton John

Wed 6th - Fri 8th May 2026
 Project X Presents: *Ghosts At The Grange* – a murder mystery
 Remember these are just some of what's on offer - head to our website and book early for the best seats in our lovely theatre!



Brixham Town Hall, New Road, Brixham TQ5 8TA
 Tel: 01803 415987 Email: info@brixhamtheatre.co.uk
 Regular Box Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10am – 12pm
www.brixhamtheatre.co.uk

TORBAY LITERARY FESTIVAL

10TH - 15TH AUGUST 2026


Including:
STEPHANIE AUSTIN,
 LOUIS BARFE,
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 CRAIG BROWN,
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HUNTER DAVIES,
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MELVYN HAYES,
 JOHN HEGLEY,
MERLIN HOLLAND,
 HELEN LEDERER,
KATHY LETTE,
 ROGER LEWIS,
CHRIS MANBY,
 GEORGINA MOORE,
LESLEY PEARSE,
 SARAH PEARSE,
MIKE PICKERING,
 SIMON ROBINSON,
GEORGIA TOFFOLO,
 and ANN WIDDECOMBE
 More authors to be added.




www.torbayliteraryfestival.co.uk
 Tickets only available through The Palace Theatre Box Office
www.palacetheatrepaignton.co.uk

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Shanties & Sea Songs 2026



Missin' Tackle Shanty Crew
 Mondays 3, 10, 17 & 24 August 2026
 19.00 – 20.00
 Under the Old Fish Market, Brixham Harbour
 (Next to The Golden Hind)
 Voluntary Collections in aid of
 Devon Air Ambulance



Brixham's Regular Arts and Craft Market

The Brixham Arts and Craft Market is one of the longest-running local markets in the area. Established in 2005, it originally operated on Saturdays along the entire quayside beneath the old fish market. From the very beginning, it has showcased the creativity and craftsmanship of talented local makers. The market runs from Easter through to the end of October (weather permitting). Due to its early success, a second trading day was added on Wednesdays. At that time, approximately 20 local traders took part. Uniquely, the majority of our traders design and create their own work, giving visitors the opportunity to meet the makers themselves and gain a genuine insight into the skill, time and passion behind each piece. This has made the market a firm favourite with both local residents and tourists, offering a true

sense of the area's creative talent. In 2020, when Covid-19 impacted the community, much of the market's original space was relinquished to allow cafés and bars to provide outdoor seating. When trading resumed, negotiations allowed the market to operate every day except Tuesday. Although the footprint of the market was significantly reduced — now accommodating six stalls — this new structure ensures that regular traders can still trade across different days. While smaller in size, the market now offers a varied and ever-changing selection of traders throughout the week. Permanent stalls are erected at the start of each season and remain in place throughout. On Tuesdays, these stalls are generously made available for use by local charities. The market now operates daily from 10am to 4pm, Easter



through to the end of October. The Arts and Craft Market is also a key contributor to the work of the Brixham Chamber of Commerce, a not-for-profit organisation. Stall fees paid by traders provide vital funding that enables the Chamber to support its members, promote Brixham, and invest in the local community. Thanks to the

market traders' contributions, the Chamber is regularly able to assist local festivals, events and community groups, as well as dedicate time and resources to initiatives that enhance the environment for both residents and visitors

We are proud to work with the following regular traders:

<p>Brixham Arts & Craft Market</p> <p>10am to 4pm Quayside beneath the old fish market</p> <p><i>from Easter through to the end of October (weather permitting)</i></p>	<p>Mondays</p> <p>Loveday Designs – <i>Handmade jewellery</i></p> <p>Emalini Art – <i>Coastal art and gifts</i></p>	<p>Tuesdays</p> <p><i>Stalls are generously made available for use by local charities.</i></p> <p>Come and Support Our Local Charities</p>	<p>Wednesdays</p> <p>Loveday Designs – <i>Handmade jewellery</i></p> <p>Soul Scented – <i>Hand-poured candles</i></p> <p>Oyster Cove – <i>Handmade magnets, soaps & candles</i></p> <p>Pirates Ahoy – <i>Original art by Bobby Hayes</i></p> <p>Fanciflair – <i>Handmade pot stands & coasters</i></p> <p>Yesteryears – <i>Coats of Arms & surname histories</i></p> <p>Jane Lancaster – <i>Fused glass artist</i></p>
<p>Thursdays</p> <p>Mackerel Works – <i>Create unique, artisan serving boards crafted by combining natural hardwoods with stunning full depth resin detailing</i></p> <p>Soul Scented – <i>Hand-poured candles</i></p> <p>Miss Beaujangles – <i>Handmade jewellery and artwork</i></p> <p>Fanciflair – <i>Handmade pot stands & coasters</i></p> <p>Decoupage Art – <i>Decoupage vases</i></p> <p>Jane Lancaster – <i>Fused glass artist</i></p> <p>Julia Finzel – <i>Paintings, printmaking & photography</i></p>	<p>Fridays</p> <p>Mackerel Works – <i>Create unique, artisan serving boards crafted by combining natural hardwoods with stunning full depth resin detailing</i></p> <p>Miss Beaujangles – <i>Handmade jewellery & artwork</i></p> <p>Emalini Art – <i>Coastal art and gifts</i></p> <p>Julia Finzel – <i>Paintings, printmaking & photography</i></p>	<p>Saturdays</p> <p>Loveday Designs – <i>Handmade jewellery</i></p> <p>Mackerel Works – <i>Create unique, artisan serving boards crafted by combining natural hardwoods with stunning full depth resin detailing</i></p> <p>Oyster Cove – <i>Handmade magnets, soaps & candles</i></p> <p>Miss Beaujangles – <i>Handmade jewellery & artwork</i></p> <p>Yesteryears – <i>Coats of Arms & surname histories</i></p>	<p>Sundays</p> <p>Soul Scented – <i>Hand-poured candles</i></p> <p>Oyster Cove – <i>Handmade magnets, soaps & candles</i></p> <p>Three Little Fish – <i>Ceramic fish art</i></p> <p>Fanciflair – <i>Handmade pot stands & coasters</i></p> <p>Jane Lancaster – <i>Fused glass artist</i></p> <p>Julia Finzel – <i>Paintings, printmaking & photography</i></p> <p>Meg Brett – <i>Handmade children's clothes & bags</i></p>

Chart Room Upcoming Events 2026

Whether it's a Murder Mystery, Jazz Supper, Maritime History Lecture, Sea Shanty Sing-a-Long, Nautical Quiz or Live Concert, we have something to make everyone's visit to the Chart Room a First Class experience.

Tuesday 14th April 2pm

Maritime History Lecture Lunch #2
The Transatlantic Queens Part one "The Queen Mary"

Wednesday 15th to 23rd April LEGO Worship week.

Special event bringing the world of Adult LEGO to The Chart Room.

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd May

Brixham Pirate Festival Special:
Best dressed period costume photo competition
Win a First Class Afternoon Tea

Tuesday 12th May 2pm

Maritime History Lecture Lunch #3
The Transatlantic Queens: Part Two "The Queen Elizabeth"

Saturday 6th June D-Day

"Murder on the High Seas"
"Churchill's Final Hour" Murder Mystery Evening. Book online

Tuesday 16th June 2pm

Maritime History Lecture Lunch #4
"The Western Lady's"
Alasdair delves deep into the origins of Torbay's favourite ferries.

*Old Foundry Court, 60A Fore St, Brixham TQ5 8DZ
Phone: 01803 856361 www.brixhamsteampacket.co.uk*



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www.chrisslackphotography.com

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Experienced local property professional seeking private investors to explore upcoming residential property projects.

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Initial discussions only. No obligation.

Email: sam@wellproperty.co.uk

Minor adapts -
including grab rails/galvanised hand rails

Household DIY

Painting and Decorating

Basic plumbing and electrics

Tiling and flooring

Flat pack furniture assembly

Garden fencing and decking

Shed assembly

Graham Parker

tel: 07446 063365 / 01803 540231

email: gandchomeimprovements@hotmail.com



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KEN WOOD
- POET - PROVOCATEUR

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or ALCOHOL-FREE ALTERNATIVE

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A HEAD

FRIDAY 8TH MAY | 3PM - 5PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE CHART ROOM - EARLY BOOKING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

ALL PROCEEDS TO SHOALSTONE POOL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Brixham AUCTION

NEW! NEW! NEW!

A new local event in town, for local Charities and non-profits to raise funds from.

TO BE HELD ON
Saturday 23rd May 2pm
at **Brixham Yacht Club**
OVERGANG ROAD (near our fish market),
BRIXHAM TQ5 8AR

This is a different type of Auction.
You can donate valuable items, specifying which Brixham club, charity or local organisation you want the proceeds to go to!

AUCTION ITEMS MOST REQUIRED:

- ✓ Old collectable sea-faring items
- ✓ Antique clocks & watches
- ✓ Military memorabilia
- ✓ Musical instruments
- ✓ Vintage posters
- ✓ Fountain pens
- ✓ Rare records
- ✓ Rare coins
- ✓ Early comic books
- ✓ Antique toys
- ✓ Vintage advert signs
- ✓ First edition books
- ✓ Jewellery
- ✓ Stamp collections
- ✓ Paintings & watercolours
- ✓ and portable items of worth etc.

ON **FRIDAY 22nd MAY 12 Noon - 4pm**
OR **SATURDAY 23rd MAY 10.30am - 1pm**
before the Auction begins at 2pm.

BRIXHAM FUTURES Registered Office: Kings Barton House, 37 Summer Lane, Brixham, Devon, TQ5 0LL

**BATS -
Brixham Arts
&
Theatre Society**

Looking for a great present for a friend or relative who is interested in the arts, architecture, community or volunteering?

Gift the a membership to BATS for only £10 a year!

They will receive regular newsletters, social events and can help put the art into Brixham, whilst being fully covered by insurance when volunteering on events and projects.

See website for details or call 07884 166508
www.brixhamtheatre.org.uk

Pilates classes with Claire

Mondays
All Levels -
9:30am - 10:30am at Brixham Lab
Beginners -
6:15pm - 7:15pm at Manana

Tuesdays
8 week Beginners Course -
6:15pm - 7:15pm at Manana
Next course starts starts-
Tuesday 3rd March

Thursdays
All Levels -
10:00am - 11:00am
Scala Hall

email: clairehawkins4@icloud.com
07734 084151
www.clairehawkins.co.uk

Brixham Walks

Brixham has a diverse and interesting historical background, underpinned by its location by the sea and a deep-rooted fishing industry

Visit many areas linked to Brixham's history, culture and natural aspects

Available on your smart phone, tablets and computers

www.brixhamwalks.org

A simple to follow and use map, it takes your current location and automatically displays the information available in formats suitable for disability access requirements.

Coasters Run Club
A relaxed community run club in Brixham

Social runs along the coast and around town, mainly just to get outside, moving and meeting others - followed by a coffee, a chat and always a sweet treat!

COASTERS

Instagram: [@coastersrunclub](https://www.instagram.com/coastersrunclub)
Email: coastersrunclub@gmail.com

Torbay Steam Fair

**31st July,
1st & 2nd August 2026**

**The Old Showground
Churston Ferrers
TQ5 0JT**

www.torbaysteamfair.co.uk

Brixham Orpheus Male Voice Choir (BOMVC)
Events List 2026

Saturday 11th April
Ceilidh
at **Galmpton Village Institute**
7-10pm. Entry £10pp.
Students & under 18's £5pp

25th April
Concert at Goodrington Church
Doors open 6.30pm
support act Quay Harmony
in aid of Children's Hospice Southwest

www.bomvc.co.uk

Beacon Directory



Useful Numbers

Emergency Services/Utilities

Action Fraud	0300 123 2040
British Gas	0800 111 999
CrimeStoppers	0800 555 111
Fire Station	01392 872200
Floodline	0345 988 1188
Police	101 or 0845 277 7444 (In an emergency always call 999)
South West Water	0344 346 2020
Western Power	105 or 0800 678 3105
Marine Life Rescue	01825 765546

Banking

Brixham Banking Hub	0345 722 3344
Brixham Post Office	01803 882226

Healthcare

Out of hours 111

Brixham Community Hospital	01803 881399
Compass House Surgery King Street & Galmpton	01803 855897
Mayfield Medical Centre	01803 495400
Community Dentist Service	01803 217777

Councils

Brixham Town Council	01803 859678
Torbay Council	01803 201201
Emergency out of Hours	01803 701310
Brixham Harbour Office	01803 208443
Waste Services, Swisco	01803 701310
Highways	01803 207740 / 01803 701310

Help & Support

Alcoholics Anonymous	0800 917 7650
Brixham Food Bank	07873 164211
Brixham Library	01803 853870
Samaritans	dial free from any phone 116 123 or 0330 094 5717 local call charges apply
Torbay Citizens Advice	0808 278 7859
Tourist Information	01803 211211
Victim Support	0300 303 0554
Help the Homeless	0300 456 4876

Taxis

AB Cabs Brixham	07936 860949
Brixham Minibus Taxis	01803 857050
Brixham Taxis	01803 853000
Dans Cabs	07947 546399
Homeward Taxis	07735 629880
Mainland Taxi's Ltd	07970 121466
Premier Cars	07964 078645
Town Taxis	01803 852619
Waves Taxis	01803 446688

Clubs & Associations

Brixham Cricket Club & Social Club

North Boundary Road, Brixham TQ5 8LH
Tel: 01803 853836



Brixham Does Care

Town Hall, New Road, Brixham TQ5 9JA
01803 857727 Email:
admin@brixhamdoescare.co.uk



Brixham Future CIC

www.brixhamfuture.co.uk

Brixham Probus

Every Thursday 10:00-12:00 in the
Catholic Church Hall, New Road, Brixham
www.brixhamprobus.co.uk



Brixham Rotary

More details of the club and its events, who
meet at Brixham Yacht Club on the second
and fourth Tuesdays of the month are
available on the Club website:
www.brixhamrotary.org and Facebook page



Brixham Youth Club

Ages 11 to 18 3:30pm - 5:00pm Term Time
Only. Fun & Games After School Free
Admission - Tuck Shop
Scala, Town Hall, Brixham TQ5 8TA



Chamber of Commerce

Meet on the last Tuesday of the month in
Feb, Apr, June, Sept and Nov
Email: info@brixhamchamber.co.uk
www.brixhamchamber.co.uk



Community Builder

Contact Helen on:
07469 660873 or email:
helenambler@torbaycdt.org.uk



Galmpton & Churston

Women's Institute

Meet once a month on the first Friday of the
month at 2pm. Usually with a speaker
followed by tea and biscuits at Village Hall
Galmpton, TQ5 0LT

Email:
galmptonandchurston@devonwi.org.uk



South Devon Players Theatre & Film Company, Brixham.

contact southdevonplayers@gmail.com
www.southdevonplayers.com
www.facebook.com/sdevonplayers

The Friends Centre

Tel: 01803 224970
email: tfc@brixhamdoescare.co.uk



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www.visitbrixham.uk



Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

How nice to read a FREE magazine, from the first page until the last, which is full of information and stories!

M. P.



visitbrixham.uk

In Memoriam

Notices are free of charge

Please include: Name, date of passing, age, funeral arrangements, flowers and donations information.

email: news@brixhambeacon.com

Suicide Prevention Movement
EST. 2025
Find us on: facebook - Suicide Prevention Movement
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Copy Deadline for May Issue - 20th April 2026

Looking for a new hobby?

Like to meet new friends?

Are you competitive?

Enjoy social events?

Come along to our 2026

'Try it Day'

Brixham Bowling Club

Saturday 18th April

Nelson Road, Furzeham
Brixham TQ5 8BH



See what we have to offer!

Just turn up with flat soled shoes

Contact Edwin 07710 212753 or Yvonne 07876 294843

or see our website for more details:

www.brixhambowlingclub.co.uk



Local Churches

All Saints' Church

Church Street, TQ5 8HG 01803 851340

Beacon of Light Fellowship

11A Mount Pleasant Road, TQ5 9RP 01803 473228

Brixham Baptist Church

Market Street, TQ5 8EU 07778 510983

Services every Sunday 10:30am www.brixhambaptist.org.uk

Brixham Community Church

Brixham College main hall, TQ5 9HF 07772 591357

10:30am every Sunday. Email: admin@brixhamcc.co.uk

Brixham URC Church

4 New Road, Brixham TQ5 8NE 01803 853794

Chestnut Community Centre

3 Poplar Close, TQ5 0SA 07855 090589

Church of St Mary the Virgin

Church Street, Churston Ferrers, TQ5 0JE 01803 845692

Fore Street Methodist Church

15 Fore Street Brixham TQ5 8AA

Our Lady, Star of the Sea Catholic Church

43 New Road, Brixham TQ5 8NB 01803 853406

St Mary's Church

St Marys Square, Milton Street, TQ5 9JY 01803 857357

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Brixham Bowling Club - Come join us

You can find our friendly and welcoming club at the end of Furzeham Green, by the tennis courts. The club was founded way back in 1913 and was registered as a Charity in December 2021.

The purpose of the Club is the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation by the provision of facilities for playing bowls. We are affiliated to Bowls England and Bowls Devon and are committed to promoting a safe environment for everyone, of whatever age, to enjoy taking part in games of bowls. The game doesn't require much physical strength but provides gentle exercise.

Every year we organise a 'try it' day at the beginning of the new season when people of all ages are encouraged to come along and have a go at the sport with the aid and encouragement of more experienced players. In 2025 a large and varied



group of people (see photo) enjoyed the event, 17 of whom joined us as novice members over the following few weeks. We provide lots of support to people who wish to become members, particularly those who have never played the

game before. For those new to the sport, we offer a reduced subscription and free coaching. We organise weekly informal Club evenings and all new members are encouraged to take part in friendly games both between our own members and

against local and touring sides. Each year the Mens and Ladies Captains sponsor a charity and last year over £1300 was raised for the Torbay RNLI. This year we expect to raise a similar amount for the Devon Air Ambulance

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