



SUMMER TIDY UP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join us (for as long as you can) to tidy and clean St Mary's Church
Polishing, dusting, sorting, light gardening and cleaning
We'll provide the tools, guidance and refreshments if you can
provide the time



10.00 – 14:00

ST MARY'S CHURCH AYLESBEARE

Please contact Tansi (Church Warden) for more
information via St Mary's Facebook Page or call
07754 107373

AYLEBEARE WI

MONTHLY MEETING MAY 2025

We were pleased to welcome 3 visitors to the meeting. 'Jerusalem' was sung.

At our Annual meeting last month, some changes had been made to the Committee and Officers. Our Treasurer and our Secretary who had both been in place for around 16 years had stood down but were remaining on the committee, and we welcomed their replacements. Also, 3 new members have joined the committee so we look forward to some new ideas.

Following our usual news from DFWI and NFWI, we enjoyed a talk from Teresa Evans - one of our members. Teresa is accomplished in a variety of crafts and has lived in several parts of the world. During her time spent in Italy she became interested in Murano glass and visited the glass works there. She was able to tell us about the history of the development of glass making and how important it had been many centuries ago. She had brought along some of the jewellery she has made with glass beads, demonstrated how it is done and helped some of us to make a pair of earrings each.

It was very interesting and members enjoyed the chance to 'have a go'.

After a pause for refreshments, we enjoyed a quiz about glass.

16 July - Rebekah Pearson - 'Devon Land Girls'

No meeting in August

17 September - a museum talk

Visitors welcome £3.00 at the door. After 2 visits, joining WI would be expected.



Aylesbeare WI

Wednesday 16th July
7.30pm in our Village Hall

'Devon Land Girls'

A talk by Rebekah Pearson



Visitors very welcome - £3 pp
(Bring and Share Supper)

Email aylesbeare@devonwi.org.uk for info



This month I wanted to divert a little from the norm, and to take inspiration from the Countryside Code, as seen on the Eryri National park website (Snowdonia). I came across it the other day and thought that the ideas could well be worth a little personalised Aylesbeare take, and a good reminder to all. So here we are.

Keep dogs on a lead

Keeping your dog on a lead, especially when near livestock, is the best way to ensure the safety of you and your dog.

For us at the RSPB this is the most significant one on our reserves including Aylesbeare Common, Withycombe Raleigh Common in the south (near Exmouth) and Venn Ottery Common in the north. Yes this applies around livestock but most importantly it applies to give ground nesting birds the best chance of success in rearing young, during the breeding season. You'll see that all our access gates have signs on them at this time of year (from 1st March to 31st July) asking you to keep dogs on a lead. We are aware that the sign has been missing for a while at the Newton Poppleford entrance at Hunger Hill but we are printing new signs and apologise for any issues that the missing sign is having. It's a funny one because for one thing, we have many visitors who like to visit us because we have a 'dogs on leads' policy – because they prefer to watch wildlife knowing they will not have dogs running around, or because they are not comfortable around dogs. Thanks if you are already mindful of other people when walking your dogs on our reserves.

Take your litter home

Litter is damaging to the natural environment. You should also take any food waste home with you.

This goes without saying and indeed we are fortunate that those who visit us seem to appreciate the environment enough not to spoil it. We rarely find litter. Thank you...

If people do leave anything behind, bear in mind someone has to pick it up and that will probably be us, or perhaps good-willed visitors. Mostly our litter is beyond our control - to be found on the road verges.

There is a dedicated, quiet pair who can sometimes be seen collecting the rubbish on our local verges, leaving it in white bags for the council team to collect. It's a fantastic thing that they do, without thanks; but we would like to thank them.

Respect plants and wildlife

Be careful not to damage and tread on plants or disturb nearby wildlife. Stay on the path where possible.

Like dogs, people too may disturb wildlife. If you hear birds alarm-calling, or agitated, you may be the cause so please move on quickly.

Follow signs and directions

This includes signs on gates and at entrances. We try to keep these up to date. Look for signs saying that livestock is present. On Aylesbeare and Harpford common, there are usually cattle or ponies present all year. There may be livestock on our reserves at any time.

Stay on the path

Staying on the path helps to minimise the effects of land erosion.

This is not just for mountains... It is something that you may not think about we think about it a lot, especially when it comes to driving around in the winter. Muddy paths and loss of vegetation from excess footfall cause erosion. In short, the more that a new 'path' is used, the more defined it becomes and the more obvious too, which increases its use. And if you're on a bike, please refrain from going off piste because tyres so quickly churn and rut the earth, and create new routes which open up access into the middle of the heath; this could easily deter birds from nesting there. Livestock create their own tracks – of course – but ideally we humans would stick to the paths, especially during the breeding season.

Leave gates as you found them

If you come across any open gates, leave them open. If you come across any closed gates, make sure you close them behind you.

Again, hopefully this is straightforward. I would like to add please don't block vehicle gates at any time of the year! Occasionally we have issues with this and it is not funny if you have an issue with animals and you can't drive in to access them. We are lucky that many of you are good at letting us know when there are issues with our gates not self-closing. Please check your gate has closed behind you.

Be considerate of other walkers

Always be considerate of other walkers. Remember that a friendly greeting always goes a long way.

A lovely one! And perhaps one of the most important ideas – because in following the countryside code, we are hoping to act in ways which preserve other people's enjoyment of the commons - this week, or this summer, or for many years to come.

Fiona Daggett
Warden

RSPB Aylesbeare Common

Contact Details for Groups using the Village Hall

Country Dancing	Barbara Farmer	01392 466326
Move it or Lose it	Genevieve Temple	07496 838951
Pheonix Choir	Emma Palmer	01404 823083
Sewing	Frances Hawkins	01404 812329
Table Tennis	Katharine Clarke	07788 541617
Toddlers	Sam Lees	07912 618971
W.I.	Ro Dickman	07812 094160
Zumba	Wendy Anderton	07801 867392

For Hall Booking Enquiries, call Frances Hawkins on 01404 812329
or email franhawkins@btconnect.com

RHS Gardening Tips for July

www.rhs.org.uk

1. Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering
2. Care for houseplants while on holiday
3. Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise
4. Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
5. Pick courgettes before they become marrows
6. Start picking tomatoes as they ripen, continuing to remove sideshoots and feed and water the plants
7. Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up
8. Deadhead, feed and water for a long-lasting show. Put a saucer under containers to reduce watering
9. Don't worry if your lawn goes brown, as it will soon bounce back when we have rain
10. Harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines



Aylesbeare Village Hall Bookings - JULY 2025

DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME
1st	Tuesday	Sewing Group	2pm - 4pm
2nd	Wednesday	Parish Council	7.15pm - --
3rd	Thursday	Move it or Lose it	10am - 11.am
		Zumba	6.30pm - 7.30pm
4th	Friday	Toddlers	10 am - 11.30
5th	Saturday	Private	10.30 - 1.30pm
6th	Sunday	Private	9.30am - 12.30pm
7th	Monday	Table Tennis	10.30 - 12noon
		Phoenix Choir	2pm 3.30pm
10th	Thursday	Move it or Lose it	10am - 11am
		Zumba	6.30pm - 7.30pm
14th	Monday	Table Tennis	10.30- 12 noon
15th	Tuesday	Sewing Group	2pm - 4pm
16th	Wednesday	W. I.	7pm - 10pm
17th	Thursday	Move it or Lose it	10am - 11am
		Zumba	6.30pm - 7.30pm
18th	Friday	Toddlers	10am - 11.30 am
21st	Monday	Table Tennis	10.30 - 12noon
		Phoenix Choir (concert)	2pm - 3.30pm
24th	Thursday	Move it or Lose it	10am - 11am
		Zumba	6.30pm - 7.30pm
25th	Friday	Private	
26th	Saturday	Private	
		Private	
28th	Monday	Table Tennis	10.30 - 12noon
29th	Tuesday	Sewing Group	2pm - 4pm
31st	Thursday	Move it or Lose it	10am -11am
		Zumba	6.30pm - 7.30pm

To book the village hall or for any queries, please contact
Frances Hawkins on 01404 812329 or
 franhawkins@btconnect.com