

East Boldre *and beyond* e-newsletter

01 April 2026

Hello Everyone

Three main items of news this month – advance notice of the new Romany Heritage Exhibition, information about junior tennis coaching and the details of the Holy Week Easter Services. We also have the usual monthly police report in our Neighbourhood Watch section. Please don't forget to send in your notices and advertise your events in this free newsletter. And please tell your friends about it or forward a copy to them. They can request a copy on the village website using the link above.

Romany Heritage Exhibition 2026

The East Boldre Village Hall Heritage Team Presents

New Forest Romany Heritage Events 2026

An exhibition reflecting 500 years of Romany Gypsy life, including the opening of the Gypsy Compounds 100 years ago.

Photography * Crafts * Performances



Launch Event:

22nd - 25th May - Boldre War Memorial Hall

With an additional event on:

30th May - 1st June - Thorney Hill Community Centre

Please visit our website for opening times, accessibility information and activities to expect in each location: www.eastboldre.org

All events are free to attend.

CULTURE
IN COMMON



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

With thanks to Tony Johnson and Steve Antczak
Photo credit: Jack Loveland. The Wells family at Shave Green compound

Bigger and better than the 2024 exhibition, and timed to commemorate the opening of the Gypsy Compounds a century ago in 1926.

Our 2024 exhibition proved to be very popular with over-four thousand people viewing it at East Boldre, Thorney Hill and the New Forest Heritage Centre. It featured about 500 images of New Forest Romanies. This has now increased to over 800 images. We will also have a display of Romany art, models and full-size Romany horse drawn vardos (Gypsy caravans).

Everyone is welcome and admission is FREE.

Since East Boldre Village Hall is undergoing refurbishment, we have relocated the exhibition to Boldre War Memorial Hall. And there will be another chance to see it at Thorney Hill Community Centre.

For full details, [click here](#).

Can You Help? We must transport some large items on 21 and 25 May. If you have a van or trailer, can you help us move some art display boards from School Fields Hall to Boldre Hall and some portable stage blocks from William Gilpin School to the Boldre Hall on Thursday morning 21 May and return them after 4 pm on Monday 25

May. We may also need to transport some goods to Thorney Hill Community Centre early on Saturday 30 May and return them on Monday 1 June after 4 pm.

HOPE Needs You

Could you help HOPE eradicate loneliness in older people across the New Forest?
Could you give a couple of hours a week to help someone who still has so much to offer? Time spent listening to stories is so much more than time - it is HOPE that someone cares.

If you are interested in volunteering as a befriender, please get in touch.
befriending@hopenewforest.org or call 01425 705997.

Services at Beaulieu, Exbury and East Boldre Churches

For full details of Church Services at Beaulieu, Exbury and East Boldre, [go to the Beaulieu Churches website](#).



Junior Tennis Coaching

Summer and Autumn Terms 2026

Qualified, experienced Coach, James Sherwood
7-11 year olds

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 pm in term time commencing 15 April 2026
Free of charge

To join the waiting list or for more information please contact:

Fiona Duncan 07739 187969

Jay Devonshire 07768 156513

jervisdevonshire@me.com

For more information about the East Boldre Tennis Club, [visit the website](#).

Easter Services

Experience Holy Week & Easter

At

Beaulieu Abbey Church

Buckler's Hard Chapel

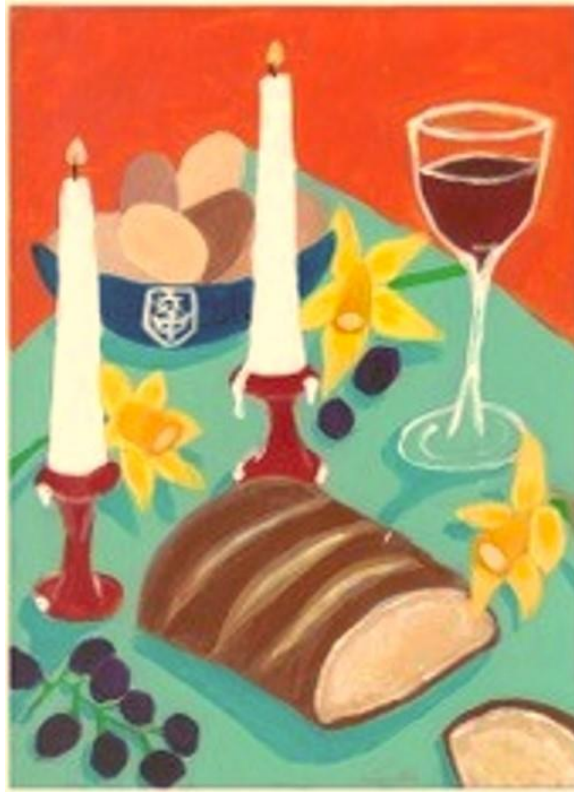
St Katharine's, Exbury

St Paules East, Boldre

www.beaulieuchurches.org.uk

Traditional, Inclusive, Inspiring

All welcome



Bread and Wine at Abbey Church
By Iona Hamilton Stubber

Maundy Thursday 2 April 2026

Paschal Eucharist at Beaulieu Abbey Church
With hand and foot washing, stripping of the Altar and Vigil.

Good Friday 3 April 2026

2:00 pm Musical Reflections of the Stations of the Cross at Beaulieu Abbey Church. Come for a few minutes or stay for the hour (60 mins).

7:00 pm Music at Beaulieu's Come and Sing Stainer's Crucifixion.

Tickets £15 and available from www.musicatbeaulieu.org

Saturday Easter Eve 4 April 2026

4:00 pm St Paul's, East Boldre. Beginning with Hot Cross Buns and an Easter Egg Hunt, we have a short Taize style mini-service, before heading outside to light the Easter fire.

Easter Sunday 5 April 2026

6:00 am Sunrise Outdoor Eucharist on the Village Green (Timbrells) by the Beaulieu River. (35 mins).

8:00 am BCP Holy Communion at Buckler's Hard (35 Mins)

9:30 am Sung Eucharist at Beaulieu Abbey Church ending with an Easter Egg Hunt (60 mins)

11:30 am Easter Morning Praise at St Katharine's, Exbury ending with an Easter Egg Hunt (35 mins).

Neighbourhood Watch

Warning – Fake Banknotes

Colleagues from police forces across the country have issued warnings about counterfeit banknotes, for more details please see:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/articles/c9v0epdjzlv0> .

We too regularly receive reports of counterfeit banknotes – sometimes just one or two fake notes amongst a bundle of genuine banknotes, so whether you are a customer or vendor, please do check all your banknotes carefully as the Bank of England advises they do not reimburse for counterfeit currency. For more advice please see: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/counterfeit-banknotes> .

If you receive a fake banknote, the advice is to contact police who will seize it

Catalytic Converter Theft

We wanted to highlight some crime prevention advice relating to catalytic converters after a recent rise in reports. From the start of the year we've received 31 reports, that's compared to five reports in the previous four months across Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight.

Of the reports received 12 have been in the New Forest, six in Test Valley, four in East Hampshire. Areas including Hart & Rushmoor, Fareham and Havant have also been affected.

These reports have related to vehicles in car parks or on roads as opposed to outside the front of a property. They have happened during daylight as well as at night. Cars including Honda CRV, Honda Jazz, Lexus, Toyota Auris, and Prius, have been targeted.

There are ways you can protect your vehicle if, like many people, you don't have access to a garage:

- Find out where your catalytic converter is located on your car; if it's at the front of your car, park with the bonnet towards a wall if possible
- If it's at the back, park it with your exhaust to the wall
- If parking in a public car park, consider parking alongside other cars and incorporating a wall
- Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to get under your car
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, you can ask for your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove
- Alternatively, you can also etch a serial number on the converter so that if it is stolen and then recovered, we can get your converter back to you
- You can purchase a 'cage clamp' which is a cage device that locks in around the converter to make it more difficult to remove
- Speak to your dealership or garage about the possibility of adding a tilt sensor that will activate the alarm should any thief try to jack the vehicle up to steal the converter
- If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations.

In the event your catalytic converter is stolen, please report online via our website <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> and include any markings so that we can identify your converter if it is recovered.

Local Beat Report

Hello and welcome to the March 2026 Beat Report for the New Forest Heart area. Your team is PC 24901 Mark ROBERTS, PC 27901 Stuart READHEAD and PCSO 14495 Richard WILLIAMS.

On Thursday 16th April we will be at the Community café in the church at Minstead at 2.30pm and at this meeting we will be discussing Scams and how best to avoid them. Then on Tuesday 21st at 11am we will be at the Happy Cheese Pub in Ashurst with the Ashurst and Colbury Neighbourhood watch team and an hour later at midday on Brookley Road in Brockenhurst, just opposite Tesco.

The following day, Wednesday 22nd you can join us at the Lyndhurst Parish Council Offices at 11am and then on Thursday 23rd we will be at the Bramshaw village store at 8am and then at Bartley Post Office at 9am.

Our Beat Surgeries last for 30 minutes, unless demand is high of course, but as we always say if you can't come to any of these meetings you can always call or email us, but to report a crime or any anti-social behaviour dial 101 or go the Hampshire and IOW Police website. Of course, if it's an emergency always call 999.

We also have security bike marking sessions planned for Saturday 4th April between 10am and midday outside the BOOST BIKE HUB in Brockenhurst, on Sunday 5th April again between 10am and midday in the Community Garden next to the Lyndhurst Community Centre in the main car park. We will also be at the PEDALL site in Ashurst on the site of the hospital opposite the birthing centre on Saturday 18th April again between 10am and midday. Bring your bike to us and we will security mark it for you and add it to the national Bike Register. The service is free thanks to new Forest District Council who have funded this initiative.

We are also holding another one of our Walking in Partnership events on Tuesday 14th April at 1pm but haven't chosen a venue yet. These events are for solo walkers or for people who don't feel comfortable walking on their own in the New Forest and they are led by Forestry England. If you would like to be added to our mailing list so that we can let you know exactly when, where and what time these events take place please email richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk

Twelve sheds, garages and outbuildings were broken into in March in Brockenhurst, Longdown, Winsor, Copythorne, Lyndhurst, Beaulieu, Cadnam and Ashurst where two expensive e-bikes were stolen. At the other break-ins power tools and garden machinery were taken. An attempt was also made to get into the café at Bucklers Hard but the suspects ran off once the alarm sounded.

Also stolen this month was a cast iron statue of a deer from outside a property in Lyndhurst, a wallet from the Tesco on the High Street in Lyndhurst and a car from outside a pub at Emery Down which also had an expensive bicycle locked to it. One car was broken into whilst parked in a New Forest car park, which was Brock Hill on the Rhinefield Ornamental Drive and five vehicles in Fritham and Calmore have had their catalytic converters stolen and a diesel particulate filter (DPF) was taken from a van parked on a site in Cadnam overnight.

Just two shopliftings in March, both were at the Tesco in Lyndhurst and a suspect has already been identified for one of them and will be dealt with soon.

Three cars were damaged deliberately just before midnight at the beginning of the month by two people who smashed all of the windows on all three cars. This happened at a property of the main A31 at Stoney Cross. We have CCTV footage of the offenders and if you have any other information that will help us identify those responsible, please contact us quoting incident number 44260100369. And eggs and potatoes were thrown at a house in Brockenhurst on two separate occasions in the early hours of Friday 20th March. The crime number for that incident is 44260132194 so please let us know if you have information to help identify the people responsible for that one. Thank you.

Criminal damage was also caused to a car parked in Noel Close in Brockenhurst where the door was scratched for no apparent reason and to property on the site of Beaulieu Marina.

This month's Op Mountie took place at Hawkhill Inclosure – and in the two and half hours from 1.30pm we stopped 9 vehicles, 5 were given tickets for speeds of 58, 57, 52 twice and 50 and 4 were spoken to and given advice by our partners at the National Park Authority, Forestry England and on the New Forest Roads Awareness Team. Op Mountie is our multi agency approach to reducing speed and animal accidents across the New Forest and is now in its 4th year. Please stick to the speed limit, especially across the Forest, and a massive thank you as always to the vast majority of drivers that always do. And the Safer Roads Unit motorbikes were also out again in March and had their busiest session in the Forest so far. On Roger Penny Way and the Beaulieu Road just outside Lyndhurst 34 offences were recorded in just two hours with 5 of those vehicles exceeding 50mph with one driver reaching 57mph on a 40mph road.

Your local Police team are:

richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk 07554 775469

mark.roberts.24091@hampshire.police.uk 07392 314340

Dates for your Diary

Music at Beaulieu

Tickets for all concerts except Glyndebourne can be bought online.

It is possible to buy tickets directly from the Ticket Office by calling 07770 859900 and on the day at the door, if the concerts are not sold out and subject to availability.

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club

Membership is £12 per annum. Membership secretary Lynne Hubbard 01590 612408. Visitors to talks £4.

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3 April

Music at Beaulieu presents Come and Sing Whose performance brings Stainer's Crucifixion to life through shared participation and expressive choral music. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-8:10 pm. £15. If you want to sing, rehearsals start 6:00 pm.

April 23 Thursday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club. 7.30pm, Beaulieu Village Hall. Talk by Casper Todd, head gardener at Lepe House, on the development of their gardens.

April 24 Friday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club. 10.30 – 12.30pm, Visit to Lepe House Garden. Guided walk Led by Casper Todd. Booking essential, places limited but must exceed a minimum of 14 people. £15 on the day to include tea/coffee and cake. Directions will be provided nearer the time. Please RSVP to our Secretary, Lesley-Anne Kerr lapkerr@gmail.com

May 9 Saturday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club. 2 to 4pm, School Fields Hall, East Boldre. Plant Sale. Bring along plants to be sold to provide funds for our club and buy more to take home.

9 May

Music at Beaulieu presents Reflection, A Soprano and Piano Recital of Romantic Songs. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-9:00 pm. £15.

6 June

Music at Beaulieu presents the Awards Concert 2026. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-9:00 pm. £10.

June 16 Tuesday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club. 7.30pm, East Boldre Village Hall. Talk - Ben Turner returns to speak about Inspiration from Tresco Abbey Gardens.

July 4 Saturday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club Summer Show, East Boldre Village Hall. Bring your exhibits to the hall between 9.30 and 11.15am. Judging from 11.30am. Show opens at 2.15pm and awards at 3.45pm.

4 July

Music at Beaulieu presents an Opera Evening with Wessex Glyndebourne Association 2026. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-9:00 pm. £30 or restricted views £10.

July 18 Saturday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club. Beaulieu Village Fete. Our stall is run by the committee, selling plants, pots, etc. All help and contributions welcomed.

18 July

Music at Beaulieu presents The King's Men of King's College, Cambridge. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-9:00 pm. £25.

15 August

Music at Beaulieu presents Summer Jazz by Sarah Bolter's Jazz Quintet. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-9:00 pm. £15.

September 5 Saturday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club Autumn Show. East Boldre Village Hall. Bring your exhibits to the hall between 9.30 and 11.15am. Judging from 11.30am. Show opens at 2.15pm and awards at 3.45pm.

12 September

Music at Beaulieu presents Baumring-Gledhill & Chapman: French Cello & Piano Masterworks. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-9:00 pm. £15.

3 October

Music at Beaulieu presents The Magic of Mozart. Music at Beaulieu's 2024 Award Winner, Emme Hensel, is the flute soloist in Mozart's charming concerto in D. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-9:00 pm. £25.

October 6 Tuesday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club. 2.30pm, East Boldre Village Hall. Talk by Gwynn Davies on Spring Bulbs for the garden.

November 12 Thursday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club. 6.30pm, Beaulieu Village Hall. Annual General Meeting followed by refreshments.

14 November

Music at Beaulieu presents Emma Johnson MBE: Clarinet in Recital. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 7:00-9:00 pm. £25.

November 26 Thursday

Beaulieu and District Gardening Club. 2.30, East Boldre Village Hall. Demonstration of Christmas wreath making by Fin of Belle and Blossom.

5 December

Music at Beaulieu presents a Festive Joy: A Seasonal Piano Recital. Beaulieu Abbey Church, 4:00-6:00 pm. £15.

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If you have not received this newsletter before and you think that it contains helpful information, please forward it to your friends. The more people who use it and contribute to it, the better it will be. By subscribing to this free community newsletter, you will always know what's going on in the village and you will receive important Neighbourhood Watch information without delay.

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