



The Official Newsletter of Bovey Tracey Town Council



www.boveytracey.gov.uk | March 2026 | Issue 79

SCAN HERE



for a digital copy | Find us on



NEW OUTDOOR GYM OPEN



The new Outdoor Gym at Mill Marsh Park is now open! The gym opened with a calisthenics session led by Vigilantes Street Workout on Sunday 20th December.

The outdoor gym is free to use and open all day, every day. The space welcomes everyone and encourages people to get active outdoors. An app can be downloaded to help users plan their own fitness regimes at the gym.

The facility was installed by The Great Outdoor Gym Company (TGO), and was funded by Bovey Tracey Town Council and National Lottery Awards for All Community Fund.

Mayor Cllr Sheila Brooke said: 'This gym represents an investment in the health, wellbeing and future of our community. We're thrilled to be supporting a space that welcomes everyone, from young people discovering new sports to adults looking to get active outdoors.'

TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVES SILVER QUALITY AWARD



We are pleased to announce that Bovey Tracey Town Council has been awarded the National Association of Local Councils Silver Quality Award, recognising excellence in local governance and community leadership.

Mayor Cllr Sheila Brooke said: 'We would like to thank our councillors, staff, and volunteers for their dedication, and our residents for your continued support and involvement in helping us serve our community better every day.'

MESSAGE FROM OUR TOWN MAYOR

I want to acknowledge what has already been a very challenging year for many residents. Persistent daily rain has caused significant damage, particularly to our popular play park and the walking routes so many people rely on. Our thoughts are especially with those who have experienced damage to their homes. Thank you to our Groundsmen, Pete and Roger, and Town Clerk, Mark, who are working hard to resolve the weather related problems where they remain an issue.

We also recognise the pressures facing our High Street businesses. We would like you to know that the Council is working hard to prioritise repairs, support local trade, and invest your money carefully to protect and strengthen our parish for the future.

I would like to invite you to meet your Councillors at the Annual Town Meeting on Monday 23rd March from 6.30pm at the Riverside Community Centre. Coffee and cake will be served from 6.30pm, followed by a presentation about Climate Action in Bovey Tracey at 6.45pm. Come along to learn more about what's happening locally and share your thoughts.

I hope you will find this newsletter helpful. Please let us know if you would like to see different things in the next issue. A very warm welcome to Anna Jones, Deputy Town Clerk, who joined the team in February.



Sheila Brooke, Town Mayor

BOVEY TRACEY LIBRARY



If you haven't yet visited Bovey Tracey Library, do pay them a visit! You'll discover a wide range of activities, resources and support. From reading groups, to health and wellbeing information, free activities for children, free computer use, WiFi and scanning, and much more!

In addition, library membership provides you with free access to digital reads including eBooks, eAudiobooks and ePress, as well as a range of online resources such as Ancestry.

The Library also runs free drop-in or bookable IT support sessions every Friday morning. From learning how to use your mobile phone or completing an online form to accessing apps or sharing photos, a friendly Digital Volunteer is happy to help.

A Home Library Service is also available – delivering books to people unable to get to the library because of health, mobility or caring responsibilities. Dedicated volunteers can choose and deliver books to your home, including large print, audiobooks and jigsaws, free of charge.

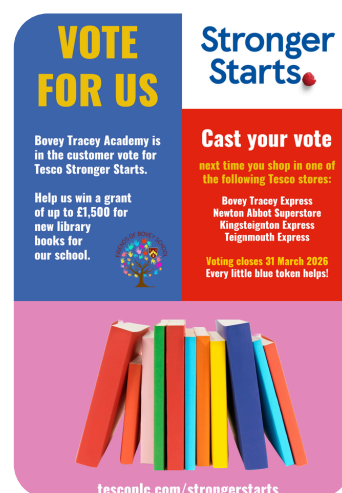
For further information on any of these services, please call Bovey Tracey Library on 01626 832026 or email: boveytracey.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk.

BOVEY TRACEY ACADEMY IN TESCO STRONGER STARTS SCHEME

Bovey Tracey Academy is bidding for a cash boost from the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme. Stronger Starts provides grant awards of up to £1500 to local community projects. Three groups in every community have been shortlisted to receive grant awards and Tesco customers can vote for the group they think should take away the top award in their local Tesco store.

Bovey Tracey Academy is one of the groups on the shortlist in Devon. Their project aims to provide additional books for the school library to make it more accessible, relatable, and appealing to every child.

To vote, use the blue tokens given out at the check-outs when you shop. Voting is open until 31st March 2026 at Bovey Tracey Express, Newton Abbot Superstore, Kingsteignton Express, and Teignmouth Express.



MILL MARSH PARK PLAY AREA - TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Due to recent flooding, Mill Marsh Park Play Area is temporarily closed. Flooding has caused the safety surfacing to lift and sections of the fencing to become damaged, creating potential safety risks. Additional temporary fencing has been installed around the park.

We are working on carrying out repairs and hope to reopen soon.



EMERGENCY PLAN REMINDER

Following recent flooding, we would like to remind you that our Emergency Plan is in place to help us respond quickly and safely during incidents like severe weather and flooding.

The plan sets out key contact numbers on what to do before, during, and after an emergency. You can view the whole plan on [our website](#).

Thank you to our local fire service for their help in responding to these incidents.

Prince Rupert Way Play Park

Heathfield families are set to enjoy a better play park as the Town Council has agreed to seek ownership of the Prince Rupert Way play park from Teignbridge District Council. The deal could include more than £26,000 to kickstart the fund to improve the play park for Heathfield residents.

Cllr Lisa Robillard Webb said: 'We're keen to get the refurbishment started as soon as possible. We're anticipating receiving the £26,000 from TDC, and hopefully the Town Council can help too. I'd really like to make a nice job of it to show Heathfield that we care.'



Always feel free to book a call via 01626 834217, or email us: cllrlisarobillardwebb@gmail.com or hannah.mills-brown@boveytracey.gov.uk.

BUDGET & PRECEPT SETTING FOR 2026/27

Bovey Tracey Town Council operates and looks after a wide range of community facilities and services including allotments, bus shelters, a cemetery, community centre, public toilets, public open spaces, play areas and community grants. For a full list please see www.boveytracey.gov.uk.

The Council is committed to assisting local voluntary groups working within the town, by offering grants and practical support.

The budget for 2026/27 has been approved, and Band D households are being asked for an extra 62p a week to help cover unavoidable costs so the Town Council can stay in good shape for the future. Lower income households could avoid any increase entirely if they qualify for Council Tax relief.

The full budget is available to view via www.boveytracey.gov.uk/Annual-Accounts/Town-Council.

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE: NEW KITCHEN ACCESS

We're delighted to share that the Riverside Community Centre now has a kitchen directly accessible from the main hall. No more taking the long way round just to make a cuppa. Hall users can now help themselves to crockery, hot water and other essentials, creating a more relaxed and informal atmosphere. For larger groups, our trusty urn is still available.



While the kitchen isn't large enough to operate a full commercial or preparation kitchen, we do have a new oven suitable for reheating large trays of pre-prepared food. We hope this added flexibility will make the Riverside Community Centre even more useful for community events, classes and gatherings.

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE: ROOM HIRE

Spaces Available to Hire

Main Hall - from £10 per hour:

- Includes use of the new kitchen
- Ideal for classes, parties, community groups and one-off events

Office Spaces - from £2.50 per hour:

We have three offices available for hire, each set up for a different purpose:

- **Office 1:** Large desk and office chair – perfect for focused work
- **Office 2:** Set up as a counselling room with two comfortable chairs
- **Office 4:** Round table suitable for meetings of 3-4 people

All offices have access to a shared foyer for waiting clients, as well as the extended kitchen.

If you're interested in booking a one-off session or arranging a regular class or activity, please get in touch: helen.tate@boveytracey.gov.uk.

AROUND TOWN

The Mayor has planted a cherry tree in Mill Marsh Park as a thank you to the businesses and residents who helped the town once again win a gold award at South West in Bloom.



DOGS WELCOME IN OUR OPEN SPACES:

Recreation Ground:

Public Spaces Protection Order Dogs on lead. It is an offence to not pick up dog foul.

Mill Marsh Park:

It is an offence to not pick up dog foul. Please note no dogs are permitted in the Children's Play Area.



Telephone Box Refurbishment: The Town Council is working to internally renovate the telephone box in Cromwell Way into a free library. Volunteers will start renovating the exteriors of the Cromwell and Old Town Hall Telephone Boxes in March.

Heathfield Community Centre: volunteers have cleared a site where rotten fencing is due to be replaced by a native hedge. The project is led by Trees of Hope, a Community Interest Company helping disadvantaged communities in Zimbabwe with a plant nursery aiming to help locals replace lost forestry.



Three nesting boxes have been installed at the Riverside Mill, Fore Street, to encourage more swifts to nest in Bovey Tracey. Swifts are on the official Red List of endangered species, so providing nest sites is critical. The Town Council and Make SouthWest worked with Alistair Whybrow of Kingsteignton Swifts to install the three boxes during recent roof repairs at Riverside Mill.



TOWN COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

Town Mayor

Sheila Brooke 01626 830596

Deputy Town Mayor

Martyn Evans martyn.evans@boveytracey.gov.uk

Tony Allen 01626 836239
 Ulli Arnold ulli.arnold57@gmail.com
 Corin Burton corin.burton@boveytracey.gov.uk
 Claire Day claire.day@boveytracey.gov.uk
 Debbie Fletcher debbie.fletcher@boveytracey.gov.uk
 Eoghan Kelly 01626 833495
 Glen Kennedy 07771 831047
 Hannah Mills-Brown hannah.mills-brown@boveytracey.gov.uk
 Steve Oldrieve 01626 836052
 Lisa Robillard-Webb clrlisarobillardwebb@gmail.com
 Sue Simmons 07766 857165
 Charlie West 07510 389073

Town Clerk Mark Wells 01626 834217

Deputy Town Clerk Anna Jones 01626 834217

Forthcoming Town Council Meetings

You are welcome to join any of the council's meetings. All meetings usually take place in the Riverside Community Centre, unless otherwise stated.

Mon 2 March	Planning & Environment Committee	6pm
Mon 2 March	Finance, Resources & General Purposes	7pm
Mon 16 March	Full Council	7pm
Mon 23 March	Annual Town Meeting & Community Awards	6.30pm
Mon 13 April	Planning & Environment Committee	6pm
Mon 13 April	Finance, Resources & General Purposes	7pm

Hall & Office Hire and Bike Pod Hire at Riverside Community Centre

Please contact our Centre Manager Helen Tate on 07946 059637 or for booking calendars and a booking enquiry form go to our website.



Accessibility statement:

If you require this information in an alternative format, please contact the Town Council Offices.



South West in Bloom

