

Yelverton

PROFILE OF ASSOCIATIONAL LIFE

Completed: October 2022



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Would you like to make any comments or queries, about this PAL? Contact: insights@devoncf.com

PALs are compiled by the DCF Community Insight Team whose job it is to develop networks and connections to better support people in Devon.

To find out more about the work of DCF, visit: www.devoncf.com

What is a PAL?

A Profile of Associational Life, or PAL, provides a snapshot of what the social fabric in a place-based community looks and feels like. Communities operate in networks of public buildings and spaces, formal and statutory organisations, informal community-based societies and clubs, workplaces, reciprocity, mutual obligation, trust and the social cohesion that comes from history of a place and how the people who live there do things together. PALs map out what is available in a community and collects stories and feelings from people who live or work there.

PLEASE NOTE: PALs cannot cover absolutely everything about a community. Community information changes rapidly and some information may be out of date. If you are involved with a community organisation and would like to take the information in this PAL and keep it updated on your website/noticeboard etc then please feel free to do so!

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INTRODUCTION

Yelverton is a large village in West Devon, located on the edge of Dartmoor. It is within easy access of Plymouth and the nearest large town, Tavistock, and lies within the parish of Buckland Monachorum.

It used to have a railway station, which opened in the 19th century and closed to passengers in 1962. The existence of the railway, however, made the village a popular place to live for people commuting into Plymouth.

The area is famed for The Rock, a rocky outcrop in Buckland Monachorum which seems to have a human face when viewed from the north. The Rock has several names – Roborough Rock, Yelverton Rock, Duke of Wellington's Nose and George III's nose – but most locals simply call it The Rock.

An airfield was constructed at the beginning of the Second World War as a fighter station to defend Plymouth. The layout is still visible but mostly overgrown with grass. In 1944 a plane hit the tower of St Paul's church resulting in the death of the pilot. Another plane carrying President Roosevelt landed in Yelverton once due to heavy fog on the way to the intended destination.

The roundabout is central to the village, with the main road running right through it. There are two small shopping areas – the forecourt near to the roundabout and the odd-shaped piece of land to the west known as Leg O Mutton Corner.

Due to its Dartmoor location and number of National Trust properties nearby, the village is popular with walkers and visitors. There are several bed and breakfasts in the area.

Musician Seth Lakeman is from neighbouring Buckland



Introduction Contd.

Monachorum. Neighbouring areas include:

Bere Alston

Bere Ferrers

Buckland Monachorum

Crapstone

Dousland

Hexworthy

Horrabridge

Meavy

Milton Combe

Postbridge

Princetown

Sheepstor

Walkhampton

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The local Rotary Club organise a variety of community events, such as an annual Fun Day and Charity Barn Dance.

The RAF Harrowbeer 1940s Weekend runs annually in August and is free.



DEMOGRAPHICS

The Yelverton parish of St Paul's has a population of 1,496. It ranks 8,830 out of 12,382 (where 1 is the most deprived) making it a relatively wealthy area compared to the rest of the UK. There are very low levels of poverty and a slightly higher than average population of older people than the rest of the diocese.



The data for the 2011 Census available on Nomisweb also includes Horrabridge. It shows that nearly quarter (23.1%) of the people have their daily activities limited a little (12.8%) to a lot (10.3%), although most of the population are in good or very good health. Over one in 10 (12.2%) people provide some unpaid care, mostly less than 19 hours a week.

Most properties in the area are detached (39%) and there are many large houses worth over £400k. There is a high percentage of property ownership (74.6%). The CUF look up tool shows 10% of houses are social housing.

There are very low levels of crime.

Facts & Figures: Yelverton

IMD ranking: 8830 out of 12382

Working age poverty: 5.5%

No qualifications: 15.9%

Social housing: 10%

Lone parents: 11%

Ethnic diversity: 4.4%

Unemployed men: 2.8%

Unemployed women: 1.3%

PUBLIC SERVICES & TRANSPORT

The local GP is Yelverton Surgery. There is a defibrillator located just outside the surgery. The Rock Dental is the local dentist, they provide NHS treatments to children only, adult treatments are private. There is also a physiotherapist, podiatrist – Yelverton Foot Clinic - and a pharmacy.



Yelverton Fire Station

Drake Vets

There is a Co-op store, butchers and a post office. There is also a garage/petrol station. A few people commented that Yelverton has 'everything you need'.

Given its location, Yelverton is within easy reach of both Plymouth and Tavistock by car, making it popular with tourists. There are also several bus services regularly

linking Yelverton to Plymouth and Tavistock (No. 1, 55, 56, 98, 104, 105, X1). Although the local bus service is generally good, a few people commented on how expensive it was. In addition to this there is also the following services:



The Tavistock Country Bus, a volunteer-run community transport initiative, has some

services that run through Yelverton. This includes the 113 service that runs the 1st and 3rd Weds of the month from Tavistock to Trago Mills and only has 8 spaces available that can be booked



Public Services & Transport Contd.

in advance. The 123 runs on the first Sat of the month from Tavistock to Exeter calling at Yelverton at 9.30am and 5.04pm. The 111 runs on the fourth Saturday of the month from Tavistock to Torquay and again just runs from Yelverton in the morning with one return in the afternoon, as does the 112 running from Tavistock to Dawlish. Many services only run from April to September.



LOCAL POLITICS

Yelverton falls within the parish of Buckland Monachorum, which also includes the villages of Clearbrook, Crapstone, Milton Combe and Buckland Monachorum. The local councillors include:

Ric Cheadle, an Independent who is Chair of the Yelverton Community Group and is Deputy Leader of West Devon Borough Council.

Lucy Wood, a member of the Green Party.

Other parish councillors can be found [here](#).



COMMUNICATION

There are a couple of well-used noticeboards by the bus stop near the main shopping area of Yelverton. The Co-op store also has a community noticeboard inside the shop. There is also a notice board in the community room at Briar Tor and in the doorway of one of the cafes in the main shopping area.



West Dartmoor Mission Churches produce a monthly church and community magazine, Around & About, which includes Yelverton and surrounding areas. It costs 60p.

Tavistock Times Gazette is the local newspaper.

Dartmoor Links comprises several magazines that are delivered to various communities across Dartmoor.

Social media groups:

Yelverton Roundabout has local community information, news and photographs. It has 4,280 followers.

Advertise Your Business - Horrabridge-Tavistock-Yelverton Areas has 369 members.

Yelverton Village has 49 followers.



EDUCATION

There are no schools within Yelverton. The nearest primary schools are in Meavy, Walkhampton, Horrabridge (all approx 2 miles from Yelverton) and Buckland Monachorum (2.5 miles from Yelverton). The nearest secondary school is in Tavistock (approximately 6 miles from Yelverton) or Plymouth (7+ miles from Yelverton).

Penmoor Nursery School opens for preschool children in term time only at the village hall. It was rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted during their last visit in 2020.



ENVIRONMENT

Much of the land in and around Yelverton is owned by the Maristow Estate, such as Leg O' Mutton. There were some concerns raised earlier in 2022 by Cllr Susan Woollacott (in a personal capacity not as a representative of the parish council) about the clearing of a wild area on Leg O' Mutton that was rich with insect and plant wildlife.



Maristow also own the Harrowbeer airfield which was built in the 1940s to aid defence efforts during the Second World War and closed in 1945. The area is now popular with walkers and is used for sheep grazing and an annual 1940s event. The Yelverton 'rock' is located here, a prominent mass of stone.

The Scout Hut is located in a small field/play area behind St Paul's Church Hall. It has a

Environment Contd.

compost area and a firepit.

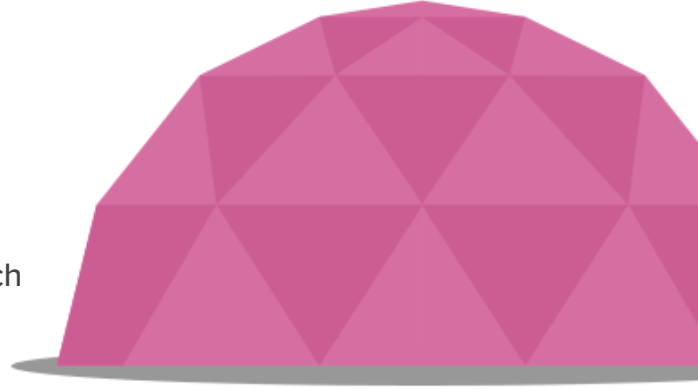
There is a clothing and shoe bank/recycling outside the fire station in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity and one by St Paul's in aid of the Salvation Army.

There are plenty of opportunities for walking and cycling in the area. For example, Drake's Trail runs through the area and is a 21-mile cycle/walking route.



COMMUNITY HUBS

St Paul's Church Hall is a large, welcoming building just behind the church where Yelvercare run their lunch club on the first and third Weds of the month. They also run the cinema from here on weekends. There is a toddler group on Weds mornings. A Scout and Brownies group meets here. Fitness classes run on Monday and Tuesday mornings and there's a badminton club on Thursday evenings.



Yelverton Village Hall (also known as Yelverton War Memorial Hall) is available to hire and has a hall, bar area, meeting room, car park and accessible toilets. In the grounds are bowling, tennis and football clubs. Penmoor Nursery School run from here during term time only. Various community groups run from here, generally in the evenings, see Community Groups section for further information. There is also pilates, martial arts for children and yoga.

Holy Cross Catholic Church has some religious groups who meet there, including a women's group.

There is a local pub, The Rock Inn.

Briar Tor retirement housing has a good-sized community room where the Rotary Club run a popular friendship club (see community groups section for further details). It has a free library.

St Paul's Church Hall



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Autism

West Devon Autistic Women's Group - Volunteer led group for those who identify as an autistic woman. A formal diagnosis is not required. A monthly coffee and chat takes place in Yelverton.

Arts, culture and heritage

Yelverton and District Local History Society meet in Meavy Parish Hall on the third Tuesday evening of the month.

The Spitfire Society – a group for aviation enthusiasts.

Community support and development

Yelverton Community Projects manage the play park,
Yelvercare and Yelverton Cinema:

- Yelvercare provides voluntary care for older people to residents in Yelverton and surrounding areas. Services include transport, befriending, lunch club and more. Transport is mostly for medical and other appointments and the lunch club is held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Yelvercare can only be contacted via on weekdays between 10am and 1pm.
- The Cinema is affordable at just £4 for an adult and £2 for children and is based at St Paul's Church Hall.
- The play park is community run and in good condition with play equipment for children, a toddlers area and a MUGA.

Rotary Club of Yelverton run a friendship café at the Briar Tor Community Rooms every

fortnight for carers and for people with dementia or memory loss. They also run other events, such as fundraising, and have recently installed a defibrillator outside the doctor's surgery and deliver defibrillator and CPR training. They have also put a



Community Groups Contd.

'Happy to Chat Bench' outside the Rock Methodist Church.

Emergency

British Biker Relief Fund is based in Crapstone and supports bikers and their families after serious road traffic accidents.

Food

The nearest food bank is in Tavistock, although they do supply Yelverton and there are collection points at the Rock Methodist Church, St Paul's and Holy Cross in Yelverton.



Dartmoor Bakery are working with the community church project 'Horrabridge Love Thy Neighbour' to help people in the local area through a 'pay it forward' scheme.

Health and wellbeing

Plymouth and Cornwall Cancer Fund will be opening a new charity shop in Yelverton and are seeking volunteers.

Hobby and skill share

Dartmoor Radio Club meet monthly at the village hall and is a group for amateur radio telecommunications enthusiasts.

Harrowbeer Interest Group maintains a website on the history of the RAF Harrowbeer airfield.

Rural

Young Farmers Club

Sport & leisure

Yelverton Bowling Club runs from the village hall as does Yelverton Scottish Country Dancers and the Tennis Club.

Yelverton Scottish Country Dancers runs on Thursday evenings.



Community Groups Contd.

Women

Yelverton Ladies Open Group meet on alternate Thursdays at the village hall from Sept-July. It's a friendly group with a range of speakers, pub meals, quizzes and outings.

Youth and children

Yelverton Play Park is a community funded and managed play park and managed by Yelverton Community Projects.

Poppins Yelverton is a toddler play group at St Paul's.



Scout hut behind St Paul's Church Hall

NSPCC Yelverton Fundraising Committee organise fundraising events throughout the year, such as the upcoming flower arranging demonstration and cream tea at St Paul's on 22 November 2022.

INDUSTRY & ROUTES TO EMPLOYMENT

Most people tend to commute by car or work from home. Just a small percentage of people regularly use public transportation as a means of getting to work. People work in a wide variety of professional jobs, many at a senior level, in neighbouring areas such as Plymouth and Tavistock.

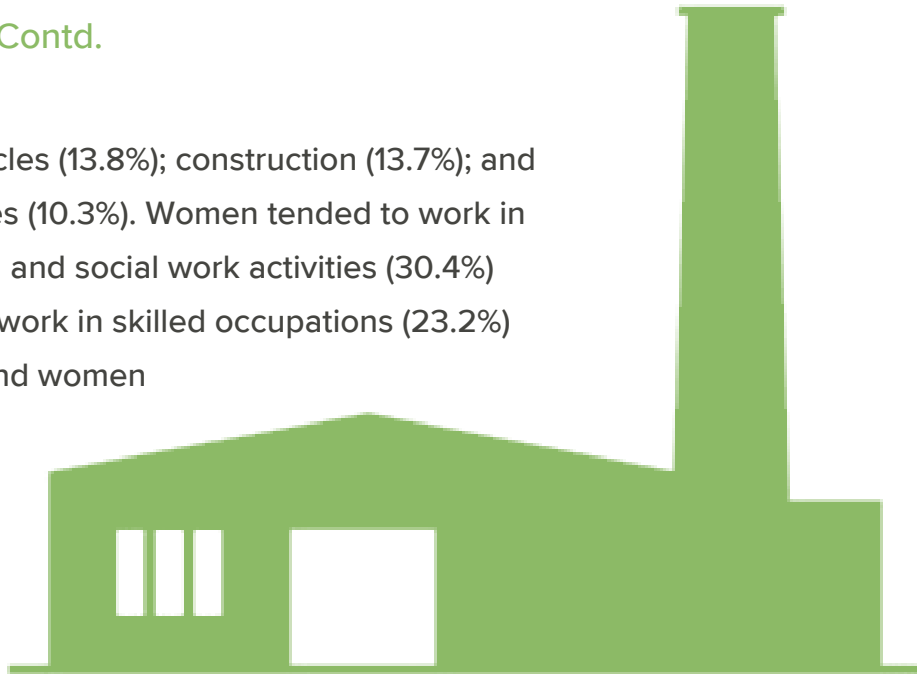


There are a couple of care/residential homes that employs some local people. One is a luxury home with 25 residents, the other an assisted living facility with 28 residents. Yelverton Business Park is a small business estate in Crapstone which also provides some local employment.

According to the 2011 Census, which also includes Horrbridge, men tend to work in the following industries: wholesale and retail trade;

Industry & Routes to Employment Contd.

repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (13.8%); construction (13.7%); and human health and social work activities (10.3%). Women tended to work in the following industries: human health and social work activities (30.4%) and education (16.1%). Men tended to work in skilled occupations (23.2%) or professional occupations (20.7%) and women tended to work in professional occupations (25.4%).



COMMUNITY COMMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Yelverton is clearly an area with significant wealth – according to the land registry in 2016, the average house price was over £400k, making it one of the most expensive places to buy a house on Dartmoor. There appeared to be a large number of very large, detached houses in the area.



Of course, like most places, there are pockets of deprivation and real need. Someone mentioned how there were some of the older generation who were 'property rich, financially poor' and isolated. Mike from Yelvercare told us they had about 50-60 volunteers who helped with the lunch club or driving people to medical appointments. Services are by donation (e.g. contribution to the cost of petrol) but people don't have to if they cannot afford. They also offer free social outings in the summer and winter to bring people together. They offer telephone befriending although they said this

was more over Covid lock down and is only occasional

now. He told us that prior to Covid they put on more social events, however they don't do these now as often as the needs of the clientele have changed.

Community Comments & Opportunities Contd.

Yelverton Community Group told us they had been fortunate in the past to have been gifted some donations in the wills of people who had lived locally, which enabled them to set up the community run play park. They also gave us the impression that the community were responsive to community needs, such as some local people offering to pay to install a new picnic table after the old one was damaged purposefully.



Certainly some of the people we spoke to in the community said how much they loved living there, 'I love it, wouldn't live anywhere else', although some people said 'it's just a roundabout' and that there's 'not much going on', particularly for young people. When we visited on a weekday, the bus stop was very busy with lots of people traveling to Plymouth, Tavistock or neighbouring villages and the car park busy with dog walkers, hikers and cyclists.



The roundabout certainly dominates the village. There was apparently some talk of re-routing the roundabout in order to turn it back into its original purpose, a village green, but after consultations with the community, Dartmoor National Park, and Maristow Estates, it did not appear to be a financially feasible option at that time.

Someone mentioned that they felt the other villages had more of an identity and that, for example, Meavy Parish Hall had more going on than Yelverton village hall. Looking online there appeared to be a similar number of community groups using both



Community Comments Contd.

halls although Penmoor Nursery uses Yelverton Hall during the day term time so many other community events are held in the evening or weekend rather than day time. There appear to be few community events held in Yelverton that really bring the community together. However, Yelverton does have two well used community spaces – the village hall and the hall at St Paul's - so there may be potential for further community events and engagement.



As there are no schools in Yelverton and a number of options of primary and secondary schools within a commutable distance, there was mention that this may be keeping local children separate from each other as, especially for older children, there was little opportunity to mix. While there is a toddler group and nursery, there are no youth clubs other than Brownies and Scouts and very little for young people to do locally or places for them to 'hang out'. Some of the local churches may, in future, have an interest in setting up a youth club, although this may only be

appealing to a restricted demographic of young people within the area.

The nursery runs from the War Memorial Hall during term time which does restrict access during the day-time for the community. Groups that do run from the hall tend to do so in the evenings or weekends.



There were several posters around the village promoting a 'Grandparents Day Rally' on 2nd October 2022 for people who have had access to their grandchildren stopped.

