

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL & BUTCHERS HALL REPORT NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2025
DATE OF REPORT 07/12/25**

Town Hall

1. General Update

- a) Bookings across November and December in the Town Hall remain consistent with expectations for this period, with a number of regular hirers returning for festive markets, and Christmas concerts.
- b) The next Town Hall bar audit is due to take place on Wednesday 13th January 2026. Improvements in processes/training have been made to address the concerns arising from the previous bar audit.
- c) The Town Hall continues to host a number of regular weekly hirers including Full of Life (Monday and Friday), Line Dancing (Tuesday), Vocal Harem (Tuesday), Dartmoor Dancers (Wednesday), Zumba (Thursday), as well as U3A (monthly).
- d) The Town Hall welcomed the annual hirer 'Tavistock Musical Theatre Company' back during the week of the 3rd November – 9th November for their performance of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. They sold out almost all showings and feedback from the hirer was excellent.
- e) Bookings have continued to come in for exhibitors at the Town Hall & Butchers Hall Wedding Fair which is due to take place on Sunday 1st March 2026 which we aim to grow from its inaugural event in 2025. Advertising for this event has been prepared and arranged to begin in January 2026.
- f) Work has been undertaken in the Mayor's Parlour to restore areas which have been affected by damp, including a new system for displaying the photographs to reduce future damage.
- g) Dates have been booked in for the replacement of the Town Hall main stairs and landing carpet. This project will also include repainting of the main entrance stairway.
- h) Shortlisting for the proposed Markets and Events Assistant Maternity Cover position is underway following the end of the application period for the role. Interviews are due to take place WC 15th December, with an appointment to be made subject to the Council approval.

Butchers Hall

- a) Feedback from traders has continued to be largely positive, however it has been felt that the traffic lights have had an impact on the volume of footfall at the markets when compared to similar markets during this period in previous years.

- b) During this period Butchers Hall has been hired externally by groups such as Miss Ivy who has held three Christmas Markets, as well as a group running a pop up promoting carers rights, and the Tamar Energy Community who returned with their annual event.
- c) The feedback from traders who exhibited in Butchers Hall during the Dickensian Market was very positive, with good footfall being reported through the majority of the event.
- d) Dates for the themed markets for 2026 have been sent out to all regular traders who attend the Butchers Hall markets.

The schedule of themed markets for 2026 is as follows;

Youth Market – 14th March

Spring Fair 9th – 11th April

Nature Inspired Market – 24th & 25th May (*as part of Tavistock Country Garden Show*)

Makers Market – 19th & 20th June

Summer Fair – 6th – 8th August

Youth Market - 29th August

Art & Craft Fair - 24th – 26th September

Goose Fair – 14th October

Youth Market – 31st October

Makers Market – 13th & 14th November

Dickensian Market – 4th December (*subject to confirmation*)

Christmas Markets – 12th – 23rd December

Advertising/Marketing

The Butchers Hall Christmas markets have been advertising through various editions of links magazine which are distributed to local households, along with posters and leaflets which have been displayed and distributed around the Market & Events complex.

Advertising has been arranged for both the Wedding Fair and Youth Market in March, with printed adverts being placed in local print media, along with online event listings to attract visitors and traders to these events.

Work is being undertaken to update the designs of both the Butchers Hall Themed Markets, and Tavistock Arts market ready for the relaunch in 2026.

Butchers Hall In House Market Dates 2025

Butchers Hall Christmas Markets - 11th December – 23rd December. It has been challenging to find traders for some of these markets, approx. 50% are undersubscribed and this will be reviewed for 2026.

Thomas Coates

Town Hall & Events Manager

Tavistock Town Council

Tom.coates@tavistock.gov.uk