

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN HALL & BUTCHERS HALL REPORT JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
2026  
DATE OF REPORT 24/02/2026**

**Town Hall**

**1. General Update**

- a) There has been a period in the Town Hall from mid-December to February which has consisted only of regular hirer bookings, with the first bar function for 2026 due to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. From this point onwards the calendar for the Town Hall begins to look significantly more full, with a large number of hirers opting to rebook the equivalent dates in 2026 as they had in 2025.
- b) The Town Hall Bar audit took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026, and the report produced by the auditor was positive, both in terms of the balancing of stock, and the overall organisation of the storage areas.
- 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). We have now received a request from our regular Wednesday evening hirer for an additional evening class on Thursdays which will be targeted at beginners. This will begin taking place from 26<sup>th</sup> March onwards.
- d) Bookings for the Town Hall & Butchers Hall Wedding Fair have improved over the last few weeks with late enquiries continuing to come in. If the new enquiries continue to confirm their bookings at the event then it is now likely that the footprint will cover the Town Hall, Bedford Square and Butchers Hall as originally planned.
- e) The new Markets and Events Assistant (Maternity Cover, 12 months fixed term) began on the Week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> January. She has spent time across all areas of the Markets and Events complex being trained in key aspects of Markets and Events delivery across the first few weeks in her new role.
- f) Events upcoming for February and March include events such as a Psychic Evening, Wedding Ceremony and Reception, Lions Club Charter Night, Scottish Dance Evening, Wellbeing Fair, and a Morris Dance Evening.

## **Butchers Hall**

- a) The first event for 2026 took place in Butchers Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> February which was Tavistock Arts Market. This event was well attended and feedback from traders was generally good. The February and March Arts Markets have proven difficult to fill over the last few years so it was positive to see an increase in trader interest in these events for 2026.
- b) Advertising has been commissioned to begin to promote the new event for Butchers Hall in 2026 which is a regular Tuesday Vintage and Antique Market to complement the existing offer in the Pannier Market. We aim to use the next two months to build a trader list of suitable traders ready for the start date for this market is April 7<sup>th</sup> 2026.
- c) Bookings for the Youth Market have been steadily coming in, however currently we still have around 10 spaces remaining. Staff are continuing to work on attracting new traders who meet the criteria to exhibit at this market, and we have been approached to host the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF) Youth Market regional finals on Bedford Square in July which we plan to use as further promotion to attract more traders to the two Youth Markets later in 2026.
- d) The majority of pitch allocations have now been completed for 2026, with just the last few events of the year left to allocate. Once this has been completed then all traders will be notified of their confirmed dates, and of any dates that they have been wait listed for.

### **The updated schedule of themed markets for 2026 is as follows;**

Youth Market – 14<sup>th</sup> March

Spring Fair 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April

Art & Craft Fair – 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May (17<sup>th</sup> May to run alongside EAT Festival)

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

Makers Market – 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June

Summer Fair – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August

Youth Market - 29<sup>th</sup> August

Art & Craft Fair - 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September

Goose Fair – 14<sup>th</sup> October

Youth Market – 31<sup>st</sup> October

Makers Market – 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November

Dickensian Market – 4<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Markets – 11<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December

## **Advertising/Marketing**

Advertising materials have now been printed for all upcoming markets taking place in February and March, including the Youth Market and Wedding Fair and these will be positioned in prominent areas around the Market and Events complex to promote these events.

Updates to the schedule of charges have now been completed following the endorsement of the Fees & Charges for 2026/27 at Full Council. These have been distributed to both regular and existing hirers, as well as new prospective hirers.

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