

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL & BUTCHERS HALL REPORT MARCH/APRIL 2026
DATE OF REPORT 17/04/2026**

Town Hall

1. General Update

- a) A number of events were held at the Town Hall during March and April, including two ceilidhs, a two-day wellbeing fair, Tavistock Lions Club's charter evening, and a wedding ceremony with drinks reception. Feedback from these events was very positive, and notably all except the wedding were from returning hirers—an encouraging indication of ongoing satisfaction. Most of the hirers have already expressed interest in booking similar dates again in 2027.
- b) The Town Hall Bar audit, conducted on 31st March 2026, produced a generally positive report. A small number of recommendations were made by the auditor to further strengthen stock management, and actions are already underway to address these. This includes a review of the current product range as part of efforts to streamline the overall bar operation. In addition, prices across the bar will be increased during April to maintain margins in response to rising supplier costs.
- 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). Dartmoor Dancers have now begun operating on Thursdays in addition to their Wednesday class, with the Thursday class being primarily aimed at beginners.
- d) Across the remainder of April and May we have upcoming events such as the TTC Civic Ball, Mount Kelly Choral Society Concert, An evening of poetry, TTC Grants Presentation evening, an evening of country music, Dartmoor National Park cultural heritage meeting, and a small wedding ceremony.
- e) Staff training continues to be a priority in order to ensure that service delivery levels are maintained and improved to ensure that customer experience remains very good. We have also worked to strengthen areas of health and safety knowledge within the team, with staff attending courses such as COSHH Awareness, Asbestos Awareness, Fire Safety Awareness, Data Protection, and Cellar Management.

Butchers Hall

- a) The Arts Market held on 4th April proved to be very successful, with the market being fully booked. Footfall was positive and we continue to receive applications for the remaining Arts Market dates, most of which are now waiting list only.
- b) The youth market proved to be successful overall, although there were some challenges in attracting traders who met the criteria, resulting in approximately 60% occupancy. Those who did attend created a vibrant and diverse market, with a broad range of ages represented within the under-30 category. A representative from the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF) attended and engaged with the traders, and we are hopeful that at least one will be put forward for the NMTF Young Trader Awards regional finals in July.
- c) The Spring Fair took place from 9th to 11th April. While there were some challenges with occupancy on the Thursday, overall capacity across the three-day event was strong. Friday was well attended, and Saturday reached full capacity. We are continuing to explore ways to attract more traders on weekdays, with the aim of restoring overall occupancy to a healthier level, following significant challenges with trader levels in 2025.
- d) External hirers continue to book Butchers Hall for a varied range of events, with a two day makers market taking place in March, and a popular Vintage fair retuning for their first 2026 event on 18th April. We also have a new event for Butchers Hall taking place in early May which is a Teddy Bear Fair which we expect to draw significant interest.

The schedule of themed markets for 2026 is as follows;

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

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 – 20th & 21st November

Dickensian Market – 4th December

Christmas Markets – 11th – 23rd December

Advertising/Marketing

We have now received new signage for the front and rear of Butchers' Hall, comprising three A-frame signs that can be updated to promote the specific event taking place each day. This follows a request from the Butchers' Hall representative, who felt the existing signage did not clearly convey the theme of each market to visitors.

In addition, the Tavistock Arts Market banner has been renewed after deteriorating over time. The new banner will be installed during the week commencing 27th April, ahead of the Arts Market on 2nd May.

Town Hall staff will shortly begin work on a new promotional brochure to market the venue for hire. The plan is to produce a concise leaflet for display in on-site stands and for local distribution, alongside a more detailed brochure tailored to prospective hirers seeking comprehensive information about the venue.

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