

"Five years on: The local community and North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team return to Belstone Tor to celebrate Gilby Taylor's inspiring legacy

Saturday 5 September 2026 | Belstone, Dartmoor

Five years after one of Dartmoor's most uplifting community achievements. Friends, family, volunteers and members of North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team ('NDSART') will return to Belstone Tor to celebrate the life, joy and lasting legacy of Gilbert Taylor ('Gilby').

In September 2021, NDSART volunteers joined forces with Gilby, his wife Jane, and a huge circle of friends and local supporters to help him fulfil his dream of standing once again on the summit of Belstone Tor. Living with multiple sclerosis, Gilby was carried to the top of the iconic landmark. An extraordinary moment of determination, teamwork and community spirit that allowed him and Jane to revisit the views they had treasured as keen hillwalkers.

The challenge captured hearts across Devon and beyond, receiving widespread media coverage and raising approximately £10,000 for the search and rescue team. It became a shining example of what a community can achieve when it comes together.

Gilby sadly passed away in August 2025, but the Belstone Tor Challenge remained one of the happiest and most meaningful experiences of his later life, an achievement he celebrated often and with great pride.

To mark the fifth anniversary of that joyful day, NDSART, Gilby's widow Jane Taylor, local residents and members of the original support team will gather in Belstone on Saturday, 5 September 2026 to retrace the route, reconnect as a community, and celebrate the positive impact the challenge had on Gilby, his family and everyone involved.

The anniversary celebration will include:

- A community walk to Belstone Tor
- A reunion of participants from the original challenge
- A group photograph on the summit
- A symbolic celebration marking five years since the ascent
- Refreshments and a chance for supporters to gather afterwards in Belstone
- Fundraising activities supporting North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team

Jane Taylor said:

"Gilby talked about the Belstone Tor Challenge with such joy. It was a day filled with laughter, friendship and community spirit, and it meant the world to him. Bringing everyone together again feels like the perfect way to celebrate that happiness, thank the volunteers, and enjoy the sense of togetherness that made the original challenge so special."

A spokesperson for North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team said:

"The Belstone Tor Challenge showed what can happen when a community comes together with kindness and determination. Five years on, we're delighted to join Jane, friends and local residents in celebrating Gilby's story and the incredible spirit that made the day unforgettable."