The Editor welcomes interesting news items, reports etc. for publication. Items for inclusion in Focus should be accompanied by the name of the originator, which may be withheld from print if requested. The aims of Focus are:

- To produce a non-political monthly magazine serving the people of the parish of Thorverton, providing them with information on activities in the parish;
- For the magazine to be one that villagers are proud of;
- To provide a window for those outside Thorverton to see what the village has to offer;
- To promote local businesses through advertising; and
- To run at a small annual profit, but with surplus funds put to support village organisations for the benefit of Thorverton residents.

Items for publication, adverts, changes to adverts, Diary entries, changes to Thorverton Information lists should be sent to the Editor, preferably as plain text in an email, or as a Word doc file or a pdf file email attachment (to thorvertonfocus@gmail.com) **by the 20th of the month** prior to publication please. All items received are acknowledged, so if you don’t receive an acknowledgment within a few days, please assume not received.

Computer file formats: We prefer plain text files: .ODT files, .DOC files, .RTF files and .WPS files because our team have software that can read such files. BMP and JPEG files are preferred for advertisements and pictures.

Advertisements and Notices

Poster Type Advertisements: maximum size is half an A4 page. Text for advertisements should be prepared as near as possible to how it is intended to appear. Pictures must be supplied as required on the advertisement. **Focus reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or notice at its sole discretion for any reason whatsoever.**

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

The following advertising charges apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Maximum dimensions</th>
<th>COST per ENTRY</th>
<th>FULL YEAR (11 entries)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Half page</td>
<td>18.2 cm x 12.2 cm</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
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LOCAL ORGANISATION and CHARITIES ADVERTISEMENTS

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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
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<td>Half page</td>
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<tr>
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<td>free of charge</td>
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**Front Cover:** Thorverton redrawn by Michael Griffin (original was used on cover 25 years ago)

The opinions and views expressed by contributors within the magazine are not necessarily those of Focus producers or of the Focus Committee.
Editorial

I hope that you like the front cover sketch this month. It is, in fact, a redrawing by Michael Griffin of a sketch that he drew many years ago featuring a few well-known Thorverton sites. The Butcher’s Shop shown as a functioning shop gives some clue as to the date of the original sketch. Because the copy we had to work from wasn’t in very good condition, Michael was good enough to redraw the sketch for us. While I don’t mind selecting photos for the front cover – and on some occasions we have big village events (such as the Arts Festival) which we want to advertise on the front of Focus - I would be very happy if anyone else would like to offer any sketches for the cover. Something relatively simple in terms of detail tends to reproduce best. I would be happy to offer a small reward for any that we use.

I won’t say too much more about the Focus AGM because I gave that some coverage in February’s Focus, but if you can get along to the AGM on 1st March, please do. It is in the Baptist Church schoolroom at 7.30pm. If you are unable to join us then, but would like to get involved in helping to produce Focus, do get in touch. Our production and distribution team could always do with some new blood.

I have been enjoying the slightly warmer weather and looking forward to a bit more warming up so that I can get onto my allotment, get some seedlings started off in the greenhouse and get out on my bike. Early spring in Devon with its abundance of daffodils and primroses is quite different from many of the more urban parts of the country. It is probably something that we take for granted, but is worth spending a few moments now and again to reflect on the lovely countryside around us. I have also been doing some work about the house because my sister and her husband will be staying with us for as few days at the end of the month, so over the past few weeks I have tried to get done all of those little jobs around the house which I had been putting off.

No letters this month. Come on Thorverton, what is up with you? I was pleased to receive and be able to include a piece by Jemma Hughes in memory of her husband, Chris, who died in late-January. Coincidentally, the Lanes knew Chris when we were living in Ashtead, in Surrey, and he was vicar of the church there, so it was a real surprise for us when we moved to Thorverton (more than 20 years ago) to find that Chris had also moved to Thorverton. Small world.

Neville Lane
Focus Editor

In this Focus

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The Revd. Chris Hughes

Chris died in January after a number of years coping with cancer, greatly helped with the care and treatment from the RD&E, Tiverton Hospital and Wyndham House Surgery. When he retired 12 years ago, we returned to Devon, county of his birth, which he often referred to as, “God’s own county,” particularly during our time in the Home Counties!

Despite ill health, he was determined to carry on with plans for what was left of his life….a life in which he worked and played hard! So, secretly he had riding lessons on Exmoor, having ridden briefly, years ago, in order to visit an elderly parishioner, living deep in the Ashclyst forest. However his knees gave up on him so he bought a small fishing vessel that thankfully, he finally sold, much to my relief! Always interested in many country pursuits, he worked with springer spaniels until old age caught up with him and he had Labradors instead; fishing, golf and collecting books on natural history, through which, he acquired a wealth of knowledge that he could always recall, immediately. Latterly, he learnt how to play Bridge.

As a boy, Chris attended St Andrew’s Church in Plymouth with his family, taking on his own personal faith with God in his late teens. He studied farming at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester and farmed briefly in North Devon & the Cotswolds. One night, God called him to full time ministry. Obediently, he went to St John’s Theological College where, in the last month of training, whilst speaking to young people about his work with handicapped refugees, we met. He was offered two curacies, one in Hull or one in Broadclyst, Devon. No hesitation there…..Broadclyst! He was ordained in Exeter Cathedral and we were married the following year. Sport was one of his passions. You name it, he played it! He enjoyed the strong camaraderie and friendship that came from playing in a team including the competition but was always determined to win! He was delighted when asked to play cricket for Thorverton. I had not heard this story until recently and I do not know for which village club he was playing, but after opening the batting, he left the field, having made around 60 runs…to take a funeral, returning later to finish his innings, scoring over a century!!

Over 50 years in ministry, he led churches in Bridestowe, during which time our children, Nic and Helen were with us, and then we moved to Buckland Monachorum, where we were very happy and saw God’s will powerfully in action. He was on the Management Team of Lee Abbey in North Devon. It was a big change for us when Chris felt God was calling him to Ashtead, in Surrey, but once again, God used his leadership gifts to increase church membership and the church grew. Lastly, he served at Ballater and Aboyne in Aberdeenshire where we made lasting friendships….. Then it was back, full circle to beautiful Thorverton, where we have spent many happy years. He felt privileged to preach in the Netherexe Mission Community churches especially The Family Service in Thorverton and meeting up again with old friends, cricketers and hockey team members; countrymen and a number of farmers who remembered him.

Thank you for all the cards, flowers and messages so many of you have sent me. I have had so much support for which my family and I are so very grateful. Jemma
School Report
The children at Thorverton School have been excited to see their new play equipment being put in place. More on this in the next Focus.

Just before half-term the children had a talent show, organised by the School Council, which included a wide range of performances.

Veda Dymond, who has been in the school office for more than thirty years, has decided that the time has come to put her slippers on and her feet up; she will be retiring at Easter.

I am hoping to have occasional contributions from the schoolchildren in future editions of Focus.
Thorverton Parish Council

Listed below are some points raised at the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 14/02/17. The latest meeting minutes can be viewed on the notice board in School Lane or on the website. The next meeting will take place on 14th March 2017 at Thorverton Memorial Hall at 7.30pm and all are welcome to attend. Alison Marshall – Clerk. thorvertonpc@gmail.com www.thorvertonparishcouncil.org.uk

Planning matters – to view planning documentation go to: https://new.middevon.gov.uk/planning/
Planning Applications and Decisions received to the date of the meeting –
Application: 17/00079/DPD Discharge of Planning Obligation – Poole Farm, Thorverton. No comment from the PC.
Application: 17/00182/CAT Notice to reduce limbs of 1 Oak tree by 2m and fell 2 Acacia trees within a Conservation Area. No comment from the PC.
Decision: 16/01956/HRN Hedgerow Removal Notice for the relocation of 52m of hedgerow at land South of Willhaven, Thorverton. Permission granted.

Repairs to Thorverton Bridge
C/Cllr Squires has reported that a Public Meeting is being arranged regarding the planned closure of Thorverton Bridge which is in need of repair. More information will be posted on the School Lane notice board, and on the website, when received.

Grant Giving Policy
The PC resolved to give the following Grant Funding i) up to £4,000 to Thorverton & Brampford Speke Community Project towards the creating of a bridleway in Hulk Lane to enable the right of way and road to be kept open ii) £750.00 to Thorverton PTFA towards the purchase of some additional IT equipment.

DCC Highways – village matters
A site meeting has been arranged for the end of February to discuss the following matters with DCC Highways:
- A road sign for Jericho Street advising that the street is too narrow for HGV’s following damage to property
- Taking back the verge to the wall, outside the School in School Lane, to provide room for parking
- Moving the existing 30mph signs towards the outskirts of the village
- Creating a footpath from Silver Street to the Cricket Field
- Repairing the wall in Dark Lane
- Moving the current zig zag lines in School Lane towards the junction with Bullen Street

The new Cemetery
The Parochial Church Council (PCC), and new Rector, have confirmed to the PC that the existing Churchyard is to be closed when full and that the PCC does not have any future plans to develop a Graveyard extension, or new Cemetery, within the village. The PC is now taking advice on how to take this matter forward bearing in mind the £30,000 of ring-fenced funding, collected from Precept over several years, it has put aside for a new Cemetery.

Recreation Ground
Cllr Graham Sims has planted a new Sweet Chestnut Tree in the Rec so why not take a look? Whilst there you could also visit the new Wildlife Garden and have a go on the new gym and play equipment – something for all ages!

Who are your Thorverton Parish Councillors?
Chairman: Cllr Stuart Crang of Bidwell Barton, Vice Chairman: Cllr Nick Bright of Fair Oak, Cllrs Rob Turner and John Spivey of Dinneford Street, David Reygate and Hilary Lawson of Jericho Street, John Hodge of Silver Street, David Waldron of School Lane, Graham Sims of Cleaves Close and Neville Lane of The Glebe.
Notice Board

THORVERTON CHURCH CHOIR ♫

If you like singing and choral music and would like to be a valued member of our community’s church choir regularly supporting church services, then you’d be most welcome to join us. Why not come to hear us sing one Sunday?
We have around 20 regular members of all ages. Do contact me for more information.

Thursday Practices at Thorverton Church
7.45 – 9.00pm : Mar 2nd  Mar 16th  Mar 23rd  Mar 30th  Apr 12th WED  Apr 27th

Sunday Services with Choir
Mar 5th  Communion Service 9.30am
Mar 19th  Choral Evensong 6.00pm
Mar 26th  Family Service 9.30 for 10.00am  Mothering Sunday
Apr 2nd  Communion Service 9.30am
Apr 16th  Family Communion Easter Sunday 9.30am
Apr 30th  Mission Community Service
JOINT CHOIRS here at Thorverton Church 10.00am

CONTACT :
Choir Director and Accompanist Heather Kershaw 01392 860419
heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk
http://www.netherexe.org/who-we-are/the-churches/thorverton

Welcome Café
The Welcome Café will open its doors again on
Monday 6th March from 2.30 pm
in the WI Hut.
Come and join us for tea, cake and a chat.
Anyone welcome.

The Arts Festival (Church Week) is on the 9 -13 May
as with other years the kitchen will be serving refreshments for the full 5 days.
The catering makes money for the Church because donations of: time, money, and food are generously given. So this is a reminder to those who have helped before, or newcomers to the area who would like to get involved.

Do contact myself Tina Ayre . .on Exeter 860434 or e mail ayre.ratcliffe@virgin.net

with offers of help or ideas, there will be much more information in April’s Focus. Many thanks.

Thorverton Baptist Church
Open Door
Problem? Need to share? Prayer request? If you need a sympathetic listening ear, the back room at the Chapel is open every Thursday between 10.00 and 12 noon when I will be happy to meet you.

Revd Maurice Harrison 01392 966861

WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(Interdenominational)

Prepared by Christian Women of the PHILIPPINES

All warmly welcome (including men)

Friday 3rd March 2017
at the Baptist Church, Thorverton
11am
Followed by Soup Lunch
Focus on Thorverton

6

Vol. 48 No 3 March 2017

Sun Mar 19th 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG
Thorverton Parish Church

This will be a reflective, traditional-style Book of Common Prayer service, with readings, prayers and choral music sung by Thorverton Church Choir.

You are all very welcome.

Lambing Day
Michael & Tina Ayre invite you to a lambing day on Saturday 18 March 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Visit our sheep shed and see the baby lambs and sheep at lambing time at Ratcliffe Farm, Thorverton, EX5 5PN.

All are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult and sorry but no dogs.

All donations to be split between the Thorverton church and The Farm Community Network

Curry Supper and Quiz
Fri. 7 April 7 for 7.30 pm
Upton Pyne Village Hall

£10 (booking essential, call 01392 841402). Bring your own drinks

Friends of Upton Pyne
Focus on Thorverton

Voluntary Drivers Scheme for Wyndham House and Exe Valley Surgeries Patients

The VOLUNTEER DRIVERS are
Jean Hawkins 860849 John Kiely 861545
Doreen Beer 860731 Stephen Roach 861042
Mary Smith 861916 Dave Sleep 860678

LINK UP service takes patients with medical appointments from home to surgery or hospitals in the area. If you require transport contact one of the drivers mentioned above, giving them as much notice as possible. If you use the service a realistic donation towards the drivers’ expenses would be appreciated. Payment is paid direct to the driver who issues a receipt. It may not always be possible to arrange a lift, as all our drivers are volunteers and cannot be expected to turn out on every occasion, although they will do their best.

Roger Higman (Co-ordinator) 860571.
roger.higman@homecall.co.uk

Focus on Thorverton

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 1st March

7.30pm

At the Baptist Church

Your chance to comment on what Focus has achieved over the past year and to offer ideas as to what we might do better for the coming year.

All are welcome

We particularly like to see one representative from each village organisation, if possible, please.

TCT LTD
NEWSPAPER/STATIONERS & THORVERTON POST OFFICE
(your local BANK)

Quarry Car Park, Lynch Road
Thorverton EX5 5NG 01392 860455

offering a very wide range of post office and banking services, easy CASH withdrawal, newspapers, magazines, stationery, posting and packing materials, health lottery tickets, phone top-ups, laundry service, photocopying - service with a smile!

EASY PARKING
TCT Shop
Mon - Fri 8.00 - 5.30 (closed 1.00 - 2.00)
Sat 8.00 - 12.00
Sun & BHs 9.00 - 10.30

Thorverton Post Office
Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.30 (closed 1.00 - 2.00)
Sat 9.00 - 12.00

Sustainable Crediton

Energy Future Talk and Annual General Meeting

6 March 2017 19:30 to 21:00

The Lamb Inn, Sandford

Our Energy Future: bright or dim?

Before the AGM there will be a talk by Simon Tytherleigh entitled 'Our Energy Future: bright or dim?'

GARDENING VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Could you help keep the flower beds of JUBILEE GREEN, in the centre of the village, neat and tidy for all to enjoy?

If you like gardening, have some spare time, or just want to keep fit why not volunteer?

For more information please contact Alison Marshall, Thorverton Parish Council, 01392 861228 or thorvertonpc@gmail.com
Thorverton Parish Council – Allotment for rent

The Parish Council has an Allotment in the village for rent at a cost of £10 per year (plus a £25 refundable deposit) so if you are interested in extending your garden or having a go at growing your own fruit, veg and flowers, please contact the Clerk, Alison Marshall, on Thorverton 861228 or thorvertonpc@gmail.com for more information.

Friends of Upton Pyne AGM

Saturday 11 March 10.30 am
Upton Pyne Village Hall

join us for free bacon butties, Danish pastries and coffee

and two short presentations by the PCC:

The church restoration - David Marshall

How the church is used now - Veronica Clarke

TADS are having a party and we’d like you to come

Join us for some March Madness on Saturday, 25th March 2017 at the WI Hut. Strut your stuff on stage or, if that’s not your thing, watch someone else strutting theirs. Bring a dish to share, a bottle of your choice, glasses to go with the bottle, and, of course, yourselves (16+ only).

Dress from your favourite decade (optional) and have fun.

From 7:00pm onwards.

Limited accommodation so please RSVP and let me know at the same time if you will be doing a “turn”. Sheena on 01392 860843 or sheena@marhaus.co.uk

Food will be shared, so for advice on what to bring contact either

Sue Batty 01392 860140 sue.batty@hotmail.co.uk or
Sue Renison 01392 860156 susanrenison764@btinternet.com
COFFEE MORNING & BRING & BUY

Saturday 18th March 2017
Memorial Hall-Silver St.-Thorverton
10.00am – 12.00pm

Come and help us raise money for abused and abandoned ex-racing greyhounds. At least 9,000 greyhounds retire from racing each year at the age of only 3-4 years. Approx half are re-homed by the racing industry and private charities – the rest just “disappear”. (RSPCA data 2009)

ALL FUNDS GO TOWARDS SPONSORING A DOUBLE KENNEL AT THE RUSSET SANCTUARY CAMBORNE

For more information please telephone Anne on 01392 860 370

- Cakes & Produce
- Fun stalls
- Raffle
- DVDs
- Tombola
- Bric-a-brac

In aid of The Retired Greyhound Trust (Reg.No.269668)

UPTON PYNE AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Monday 20th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Our speaker this month is a return of a favourite

Neil Lovesey from Pickett Lane Nursery

with his new presentation

‘Why Did it Die?’

Garden Club membership £10 per annum

Non members are always welcome to all our events entrance £3

Raffle and refreshments
SILVERTON & EXE VALLEY SENIORS
March 2017 activities Newsletter

Events & activities for the plus

COFFEE MORNING – Tuesday 14th March
St Mary’s Church Hall Silverton is the location between 1000 & 1130. An opportunity to chat, take part in our optional quiz and raffle or book an outing. Entrance charge £1:00 includes refreshments. Everyone most welcome

MONDAY WHIST – Mondays 06 & 20 March
St Mary’s Church Hall Silverton starts at 2:00 PM prompt. Entrance fee £2.50 includes refreshment and raffle ticket. It’s fun and keeps the brain cells active!

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY OUTINGS

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>16th March</td>
<td>Sherborne &amp; Royal Signals Museum Blandford</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th April</td>
<td>Ports of Bristol and SS Great Britain</td>
<td>£20</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st May</td>
<td>Barnstaple/Bideford and Marwood Hill Gardens</td>
<td>£15</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st June</td>
<td>Sidmouth &amp; Jurassic Coast Cruise &amp; Cream Tea</td>
<td>£22</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th July</td>
<td>Steam Railway (WSR) and Exmoor Tour</td>
<td>£22</td>
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Our first outing of the year on the 16th March is to the lovely Dorset ancient market town of Sherborne where we will spend the morning. In the afternoon we visit the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford Camp where there is something for everyone to see including an Enigma decoding machine. Inclusive cost £15

Our second Outing on the 19th April is to the Ports of Bristol where we will have a guided coach tour of the Port in the morning. In the afternoon, we visit the SS Great Britain, Brunel’s ship which changed the World. Inclusive cost £20.

If you are interested in any of the above events or would like to join the Club please contact Martin Clough Club Secretary 38 Hederman Close Silverton Devon EX5 4HW Telephone 01392 860971 e-mail: martin.mcassoc@btconnect.com or visit our website http://www.sevs.info for more details of our programme

Behind the Badge
Alex Leger, author of Blue Peter: Behind the Badge, which covers almost four decades of this hugely popular TV programme, will be speaking at a supper in the village hall in Bramford Speke on Friday March 24, 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and are available now.

Alex, who first moved to Topsham when he was three, and returned around 25 years ago, served as an Army officer before moving into television. Having started off working with Blue Peter legends John Noakes, Peter Purves and Lesley Judd, he subsequently worked with every one of the 30 or so presenters who followed them until his recent retirement.

Alex’s job saw him filming the Blue Peter presenters on their many adventures. He produced famous films such as John Noakes climbing Nelson’s Column, Simon Groom reporting from famine-hit Ethiopia, and Carol Keating in Cambodia.

Bar and raffle. Everyone is welcome. For tickets call Pat Brazil on 01392 841475.

Bramford Speke Twinning Association.
Villages in Action
Foxhole Theatre presents…

Egil

A Viking poet from Iceland sails around the North Sea, fighting, escaping and delivering unforgivable insults in thunderous verse. Egil is the greatest of the Viking poets, and his adventures and poetry are recorded in one of the greatest Icelandic sagas. Peter Oswald performs his version written in English rhyming verse; in three parts, of twenty minutes each. Peter performed the first part at Shakespeare’s Globe and York Minster – now he performs all three, from Egil’s close shave at York with Erik Bloodaxe, to his mad preposterous end in the bogs of Iceland.

His show demonstrates his versatility as a writer, poet, storyteller and actor, as he assumes a variety of characters, telling fast-paced stories full of surprise, danger and revelation, in poetry that has delighted audiences all over Britain and in the US. Peter was recently awarded a travelling scholarship by the Society of Authors, who wrote “The astonishing Peter Oswald…his subtle, layered story-telling and dazzling use of language mark him out.”

Howard Gayton will accompany Egil on guitar, percussion and mandolin.

"Oswald has the priceless gift of dramatic speech" The Times

www.peteroswald.net

Licensed Bar
and refreshments

Suitable for all ages
Adults £8.50
Child £6.00

Brampford Speke Village Hall
Thursday, 30th March at 8pm

For further information and to book advance tickets phone 01392 841785

News from “Villages in Action”

Since 2011 “Villages in Action” has lost 90% of its funding and is now struggling financially. Despite the valiant efforts of the volunteers, staff and Board of Trustees, it has been unsuccessful in securing further long term substantial funding, although East Devon, Teignbridge and West Devon Councils have continued to fund it and have done so for over 22 years.

The Spring Programme will continue as planned but at the end of this season the rural touring scheme as it is structured at present will cease to exist and Brampford Speke Village Hall Trust will no longer have the opportunity of welcoming high-quality professional arts events to our community hall at a low ticket price thanks to generous “Villages in Action” subsidies.

We give thanks to our patrons Michael Morpurgo OBE, Richard Stillgoe OBE, Mike Bull, Matt Harvey and Luke Treadaway and to our wonderful Director Roger Werner and his amazing staff for their continued support.

“Egil” by Peter Oswald will be my very last event after an amazing 22 years of being a volunteer promoter for “Villages in Action” and it gives me great pleasure to welcome such an acclaimed international artist to our small village hall for the enjoyment of this community and as a fund raiser for our village hall.

Sue Satchell
Promoter, Villages in Action
The Big Nationwide Pub Quiz
At The Thorverton Arms
On Wednesday 15th March
Start 7.30pm

Please inform them at the Bar if you would like to take part in what should be a great quiz evening

FREE CPR TRAINING
(Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation)

For anyone who missed last year’s sessions, or those who just want a refresher.

Please contact 01392 861185 for more information

BOOK CLUB
Meets at The Thorverton Arms on Thursday 30th March at 8pm

To discuss “Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

Do join them

If you wish to get ahead you may want to know that April’s book will be Shtum by Jem Lester

Thorverton Parish Church
FAMILY SERVICE
Sunday 26 March

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY
Open from 9.30am
Service starts at 10am

Spring daffodils at Berrisbridge
Church Services and News

**MARCH 2017 SERVICES & INFORMATION**

The Netherexe Parishes - A Mission Community in the Diocese of Exeter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 1 March</strong>  Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>07:30 pm</td>
<td>Huxham</td>
<td>KC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 3 March</strong>  Women’s World Day of Prayer</td>
<td>Joint Service</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Thorverton Baptist church</td>
<td>BOF</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 5 March</strong>  Lent 1</td>
<td>Family Service</td>
<td>09:30 am</td>
<td>Newton St Cyres</td>
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<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Thorverton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Service with a Smile</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Brampford Speke</td>
<td>LF</td>
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<td>Service of the Word</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Cadbury</td>
<td>Lay Led</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Service of the Word</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Stoke Canon</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee, Cake &amp; Company</td>
<td>11:15 am</td>
<td>Rewe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>[C]</td>
<td>Poltimore</td>
<td>HW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 12 March</strong>  Lent 2</td>
<td>Sunday Service</td>
<td>09:30 am</td>
<td>Brampford Speke Baptist Chapel</td>
<td>BOF</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>[C]</td>
<td>Huxham</td>
<td>SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>09:30 am</td>
<td>Thorverton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Informal Gathering</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Stoke Canon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Open Door</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Newton St Cyres</td>
<td>Lay Led &amp; KC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Service of the Word</td>
<td>11:15 am</td>
<td>Rewe</td>
<td>Lay Led</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>[C]</td>
<td>Upton Pyne</td>
<td>SS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 19 March</strong>  Lent 3</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>08:30 am</td>
<td>Brampford Speke</td>
<td>KC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>[C]</td>
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<td>Coffee, Cake &amp; Company</td>
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<td>Rewe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>[C]</td>
<td>Poltimore</td>
<td>MSS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sung Evensong by the Heritage Singers</td>
<td>06:00 pm</td>
<td>Bishop M Shaw</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sung Evensong</td>
<td>[BCP]</td>
<td>Thorverton</td>
<td>Lay Led</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 26 March</strong>  Lent 4 &amp; Mothering Sunday</td>
<td>Sunday Service</td>
<td>09:30 am</td>
<td>Brampford Speke Baptist Chapel</td>
<td>BOF</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Holy Communion</td>
<td>[C]</td>
<td>Newton St Cyres</td>
<td>KC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>09:30 am</td>
<td>Thorverton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family Service</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Thorverton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family Service</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Cadbury</td>
<td>Lay Led &amp; LF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family Service</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Huxham</td>
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<td>Family Service</td>
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<td>Family Service</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Stoke Canon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Service of the Word</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Upton Pyne</td>
<td>Lay Led</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Holy Communion</td>
<td>[C]</td>
<td>Rewe</td>
<td>SS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 2 April</strong>  Lent 5</td>
<td>Family Service</td>
<td>09:30 am</td>
<td>Newton St Cyres</td>
<td>Lay Led</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>[C]</td>
<td>Thorverton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Service with a Smile</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Brampford Speke</td>
<td>LF</td>
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<td>Service of the Word</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
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<td>Service of the Word</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Poltimore</td>
<td>Lay Led</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Service of the Word &amp; APCM</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Stoke Canon</td>
<td>Lay Led &amp; KC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee, Cake &amp; Company</td>
<td>11:15 am</td>
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**Services in the Netherexe Parishes**
Your parish churches aim to provide a variety of service types to meet the needs of the whole community. Most Sunday services except those early in the morning include hymns and music. Everyone is welcome at all services.

**Service With A Smile**

These services are designed for all ages and with the needs of young children especially in mind. They are informal and contemporary in style often including a children’s activity at the beginning; without communion and are led by lay teams. Services usually last about 35 minutes and are followed by refreshments.

**Family Service**

Family services are suitable for all ages, may be with or without Holy Communion, are contemporary in style and are often followed by refreshments.

- **Holy Communion [C]** Traditional service in contemporary language [one hour]
- **Holy Communion [BCP]** Traditional service in traditional language [one hour]
- **Morning Prayer [BCP]** Traditional Morning Service [Mattins] from the Book of Common Prayer [about an hour]
- **Evening Prayer [BCP]** Traditional Evening Service from the Book of Common Prayer [about an hour]
- **Common Worship [CW]** Common Worship Service

**Daily Morning & Evening Prayer in the Netherexe Parishes**

For daily services the format is generally Book of Common Prayer at Thorverton and Common Worship elsewhere, and the timing is about 20-30 minutes. All are welcome.

- **Morning Prayer** is said on Mondays at 9.10pm in Stoke Canon church (during the school term, this takes the form of Collective Worship for Stoke Canon C. of E. School); on Tuesdays at 9.15am in Stoke Canon Chapel.
- **Evening Prayer** is said on Thursdays at 5.00pm in Newton St Cyres; contact Sue Browne on 01392 851460 for location.

**Variations:** None

**Who’s Who ……..? Abbreviations Key**

| KC | Revd Katie Cross | Rector | 01392 759612 | katie.cross@netherexe.org |
| SS | Revd Preb Sue Sheppard | Associate Minister | 01392 861022 | sue.sheppard@netherexe.org |
| LF | Mrs Laura Ford | Reader | 01392 841753 | laura.ford@netherexe.org |
| TBC | To be confirmed |

**Associate Ministers**

- MSS Revs.’ Michael & Sharon Simpson
- HW Revd Harold Whitty
- BOF Baptist Officiant

For more information about the Netherexe Parishes please see [www.netherexe.org](http://www.netherexe.org) or contact:

Mrs Margaret Lowe [Administrator]

Tel: 07594 714590 - Tuesday & Thursday [08:30 – 16:30]

Email: margaret.admin@netherexe.org

Correspondence: The Netherexe Parishes, PO Box 734, Stoke Canon, Exeter, EX5 4WP.

**Would you like a lift to church?** May we offer you a lift to the parish church or to a joint service elsewhere?

For transport to Sunday services from locations in Thorverton parish, please ring Steve Rendell on 01392 860780.

For transport from Rewe parish please contact Guy Sheppard on 01392 861022

**Parish Letter**

**Peace, perfect peace**

“Peace” is the third of the ‘fruit’ of the Spirit, after “love” and “joy”, which St Paul describes in his letter to the Galatians as characteristic of a life directed by the Holy Spirit. We have been asked by our vicar, the Rev’d Katie Cross, to take the ‘fruit’ as a thread running through our services as we worship in the parish churches month by month this year. So, in March, we consider “peace” and ask how Christians may reflect this quality in their lives and, moreover,
how the Church may set an example of peace and work to bring it about in the world.

I have a vested interest in the world being a more peaceful place, with a son serving in the Royal Marines who spent two tours in Afghanistan, a daughter who lives in Paris where the peace has been shattered by terrorist attacks in recent times, and another son who enjoys travelling in far off parts. Even in our peaceful villages, one cannot perhaps help feeling a sense of unease these days. The confrontational approach of certain world leaders and their actions may seem directed not so much towards maintaining peace but, instead, creating instability that one may envisage tipping over, so easily, into conflicts that will affect everyone. The reassurance of the predictability of character, policy and events is not a feature of our age, but then has it been of any time?

There is a passage in St Matthew’s gospel where Jesus tells people not to worry about their lives. He encourages them to rely on God and makes the point that no one of them can add a single hour to their lives by worrying. The important thing is to seek God’s kingdom first and his righteousness and the rest will fall into place. There is no point, he says, in worrying about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. This is not an encouragement to bury one’s head in the sand or to assume that faith in God will ensure that one does not experience misfortune or worse in life. For, as Jesus acknowledges, each day has enough trouble of its own.

Yet, I am sure that, despite his counsel, most of us do spend our time worrying about small as well as big things. My early career as a solicitor, in part dealing with personal injury claims, has perhaps left me with a heightened awareness of the perils of life, particularly as they might affect my children so that, even though they are now grown up, I am often exhorting them to be careful about something, or to watch out! Just how does one follow Jesus’ advice not to worry?

Perhaps by going back to another of St Paul’s letters, this time to the Philippians, where he writes of “the peace of God that passes all understanding”. This is a peace that is so great that it can neither be contained nor explained by the human mind. Again, it does not mean that awful things will not happen but it is to be filled with an assuredness, a faith, that, come what may, we experience God’s love and ultimate protection. You may know some people who live with that sense of peace about them. It is a much more positive stance than a stoical resignation in the face of events. From the time of the early Church through to its use in our services today where we sometimes “exchange the peace”, Christians have greeted each other with the words: “The peace of the Lord be always with you.” And responded to that greeting with: “And also with you”. Facing persecution, the early Christians knew that they would need that peace if they were to endure what might befall them, and so it is in some parts of the world today.

Finally, I am struck by the fact that St Paul refers to the fruit of the Spirit rather than the fruits. Unlike the seven gifts of the Spirit, such as understanding and knowledge, which it seems may be received individually, I wonder whether a point is being made that the fruit are together characteristic of those who live by the Spirit. A person so living will, therefore, exhibit love, joy and peace, as well as the other six characteristics Paul lists. To discover more about those, why not join in the services in the parish churches where you live, and where they will be considered over the coming months. Indeed, you may look to see them exhibited by those present.

*Tel Sue on 01392 851460 to check places available.

Peter Colebrook, Thorverton
Baptist Church

The crowd, a pariah and a dinner party...
(Gospel of Mark chapter 2)

Jesus and the crowd... what a subject for study in those three words. Mark is the shortest of the gospels, and yet the word 'crowd' occurs 38 times. Jesus and the crowd are inseparable, and he is often portrayed as looking with compassion on the multitude that continually press around him. "Moved with compassion" is the King James' Version. They arouse his pity because of their needs. They seem like sheep without a shepherd. He wants to meet those needs and does so with a threefold response.

He teaches the crowd gathered outside Peter's home in Capernaum; he heals those who need it, whatever the nature of their suffering might be; and in the case of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, he supplies food to hungry people.

It is customary today to speak of holistic mission and here Jesus gives us the example and reminds us that we have to minister to the whole person. This is why missionaries do not content themselves with preaching the gospel but also build hospitals to treat the sick and schools to educate the mind. Remember the motto of the Salvation Army - soup, soup and salvation.

But Jesus is also concerned with the individual as well as the crowd and as he walks along he comes across the open air booth of Levi, the tax collector. This is the man also known as Matthew who was later to write a gospel aimed particularly at a Jewish readership. But at the moment his job is to collect taxes, always an unpopular undertaking. Because of his profession he is despised by his fellow countrymen and women as a Quisling, serving the hated occupying power and at the same time lining his own pockets. Jesus does not share this widespread attitude of contempt and calls Levi to his service. Jesus looked past the outward appearance into the heart of this collaborator. What did he see there? Perhaps the secret self-loathing of a man because of the nature of the work he was doing and the kind of person he had become. Levi must have heard the preaching of Jesus. Much of it had taken place within hearing distance of his tax booth. Perhaps he had been brought to a state of inner repentance and a readiness to receive forgiveness. So when the call of Jesus came he obeyed at once and stepped out of his old way of life to become a follower of this revolutionary teacher.

Such a radical break with the past called for a celebration and so Levi's associates are invited to his house. Jesus and his disciples are also guests at the dinner party. The Pharisees are there too, and sneeringly quiz the disciples as to why their Master mixes with such riffraff. Jesus has a ready response to the criticism. For him to refuse to have dealings with disreputable people would be as absurd as a doctor refusing to deal with the sick. The sick need a doctor and sinners need the Saviour. The latter are the category Jesus has come for and the disreputable people he is mixing with are obvious members of that group.

The crowd, an individual and a celebration. In each of these contexts Jesus was calling people to himself. He is equally at home in each of these situations. Wherever he is found he is not there to minister to people who claim, with a large measure of self-delusion, to be in excellent spiritual health, but to the sick and needy, and above all to those who recognise their need.

"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” We should all be grateful for that.

Maurice Harrison

Women’s Institute

Janet East was welcomed to the February meeting by the President, Mrs Barbara O’Higgins. Janet has a very deep passion for animals and entitled her amusing talk ‘The Trials of Running a Small Rural Farm’. Janet told us that her parents had come from farming backgrounds and she herself had always loved the countryside.

When she went to University in Guildford she was sadly dismayed with the ‘town and townies’ at first, but soon came round to enjoying life when she discovered the hockey and rugby teams! She met her husband, who knew nothing about country life, whilst at University.

When they were first married, Janet and her husband bought a house with half an acre of garden, which was mainly lawn. Janet told us that her husband was not keen on grass mowing, so she had suggested that some sheep would be a good idea. At first he firmly refused, but as the grass grew, he came round to the idea – so the first two Jacob lambs were purchased. She invited a friend’s ram to join the maturing lambs and in no time the flock of sheep increased. Janet soon persuaded her husband that half an acre of lawn was not enough for the sheep and so they bought a thirty five acre farm. All went well until they had a heart-breaking set back – a dog attack, when they were left with several dead and injured sheep and lambs.
One day a shepherding friend told her she needed a sheep dog, so she bought a border collie and trained her very successfully. Her shepherding friend then told her she needed two dogs in case one should fall ill, so Janet bought another and trained that one too. She did so well with the dogs that her friend persuaded her to enter sheep dog trials, which she decided to have a go at. Her first attempt ended with the sheep she should have got round a series of obstacles and into a pen, jumping into a nearby stream.

The next attempt at sheep dog trials saw Janet’s sheep being driven into the farmer’s wife’s vegetable patch. And so Janet’s trialling career ended abruptly. Life went on smoothly until Foot and Mouth hit the area. They had no disease on their own farm but we were told what a depressing time it was for all livestock keepers.

After a few years, Janet yearned to return to the Westcountry, and they were drawn to purchase a smallholding with a Devon longhouse (and an Aga!) at Payhembury. One of Janet’s dreams was to run a B and B, and to enable this they had an old cow shed which was attached to the house converted into en-suite bedrooms. Her husband, a qualified chef, enjoys the catering side of things. So her dream came true. Janet had several amusing tales to tell about people that had stayed on their farm. Wool and woollen products were at first sold at Farmers Markets but Janet now finds the internet far better for her sales – she told us that her sheepskin rugs and blankets have gone as far afield as Barbados and Switzerland. Janet’s husband butchers the meat which is then sold mainly in whole lamb packs. Janet enjoys sharing her love of animals and the country and she has developed a link with local schools – the children come to see the sheep and lambs and learn about life on a sheep farm.

Janet and her husband have extremely busy lives, and despite the ups and downs life throws at them, they clearly thrive on their love of people and of course the animals.

In March, Don Archer will be with us to talk about Chatsworth House. New members, guests or anyone interested will be most welcome.

**Welcome Café**
The Welcome Café will open it’s doors again on Monday 6th March from 2.30 pm in the WI Hut. Come and join us for tea, cake and a chat. Anyone welcome.

*Judy Bright*

**A History of Thorverton**
The following was discovered amongst the papers of a late villager. The person concerned thought it may be of interest for Focus readers. It was written in April 1956. Its accuracy has not been verified.

Thorverton Population: 1801= 1,168. 1851 = 1,511. 1901 = 813. 1931 = 717. 1949 =751

This is a large and ancient village between Exeter and Tiverton near the river Exe, on whose banks the Thorverton Flour Mills stand, not far from the site of the old mills on the mill leet near the railway station. There is beautiful hill scenery, fertile red earth, good for wheat, barley, and apples and once famous for its apricots.

There are several old farms, Raddon Court takes its name from the range of hills nearby. Red Hill was a Saxon Estate. Other old farms are Upcott, Bidwell, and Lynch. Traymill, to the north of the parish on the Exe was built about 1400 and has traceried windows, arched doorways and the original hall roof. Thorverton Bridge is the most recent of several bridges. The first bridge in 1307 was probably of timber. Both old Thorverton and Traymill were Domesday Water-mills serving the manor of Silverton.

Still in the village is the butchers shop (1763) and the Dolphin Hotel (18th century) standing at busy cross roads. The main streets are followed by a channel stream, as in several South Devon villages. Thorverton has no squire as, since the time of Edward 1st the manor belonged to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral.

They and another big resident landlord owned two thirds of the parish, 4000 acres of land with two thirds of the people living in the village itself. Originally the manor belonged to the abbey of Mainsustice? (Writing hard to decipher) in Normandy and was purchased in 1276 by Sir John Wiger and given to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter. Two great fairs were held every year, one the last Monday in February, chiefly for fat sheep and the other on the Monday after 18th July for lambs, at which 400 were frequently sold at one fair.
A hundred years ago (from letter date) there were 4 bakers, 3 blacksmiths (one of which was a part time dentist), 4 grocers, 2 saddlers, 4 tailors, 2 shoe makers, 2 plumbers, 2 wheelwrights and a chandler. Also a parson and curate, a surgeon, a solicitor, an accountant, auctioneer, veterinary surgeon, a builder, corn miller, apple nurseryman, a maltster and a druggist. Very few of these now remain. As well as the National School there was a Boarding School, first at Court Hayes (now pulled down) and later at Pynes House. The church of St Thomas-a-Becket was rebuilt in the late 15th and early 16th centuries and restored about 1834 when the nave was rebuilt.

There are slate floor slabs to the Tuckfields of East Raddon—a hamlet one mile west of the village where the abandoned workings of the stone quarry are still to be seen. Thorverton Stone was used to build many houses and churches in the neighbourhood, of which Newton-St-Cyres was one.

Charities of £60 was left by John Bury in 1618 to be lent to poor tradesmen. In 1673 Thomas Adams left £100, part for education and part for bread. Other gifts for education brought in more money. Margaret Tuckerfield for bibles and coats for poor children in 1710.

The village school began in a small way in the year 1763 and by 1815 was too small for about 140 children in the parish. The schoolmasters’ salary was £9 a year and in addition one shilling and a quarter for each child. In the year 1817 there were 40 boys and 36 girls in the school. This was about half the children of school age in the Parish. In 1841 the National School took over education.

The church is in Gothic style, has eight bells dated 1861, 1674, 1673, 1662 and two in 1894. The church was restored and transept added in 1864 and registers date from 1725.

Before the opening of the Exe Valley Railway in May 1885 the village was served by carriers who took people and goods to Exeter and Tiverton. In 1924 the Women’s Institute was formed and in 1927 a hut, for the use of members was erected. After the Second World War (1939 – 1945) the Conservative Club was bought as a Parish Hall. (The following was difficult to decipher, but here goes ….)

A Chapel was built, probably by Presbyterians, in 1715 and taken over by the Baptists in 1832.

Same again?

Complementary therapy was frowned upon when I was at medical school. In the mid 1980’s the medical press denounced acupuncture on a regular basis. However now it is a fully recognized part of hospital pain management programmes and has a scientific database that is supportive of its use. It is now relatively common for GPs to use treatments such as acupuncture, hypnosis, and a variety of relaxation techniques including Mindfulness (adapted from Buddhist philosophy).

Complementary therapies are not all scientifically proven to be as effective as their enthusiasts would wish however they almost all have one thing in common; they enable a therapist to spend individual time with a patient over a period of weeks or months. It is interesting that the ground rules of continuity and consistency seen in complementary therapies are also the core feature of good General Practice. Although GPs are unable to have the luxury of a one hour initial assessment we do have the flexibility of seeing patients more often when required and several 10 minute slots over many weeks soon add up. Often the frequency makes up for the limited length as the effects of time on symptoms is one of the strongest pieces of information regarding diagnosis that we have.

There have been many breakthroughs in medicine over the last 30 years but maybe none as fundamentally important as the realization that the time spent with the practitioner is probably the most important part of most therapy. The doctor as the drug has been a theory that has been difficult to prove. Science requires strict control conditions that cannot be easily created in consultations. Patients are not blind to who we see and as in all relationships we will have preferences. The fact that this relationship itself contributes to patients getting better is referenced this month in a study in the British Medical Journal showing that patients who see the same GP are less likely to require hospital admission when sick. The benefits of continuity of care and the trust that develops over time are essential to good medicine and it is great that the research to prove this is starting to be published.

Anthony O’Brien
Wyndham House Surgery

Sylv Gregory
Poetry

The Snowdrop

Born of the snow
Bathed in the dew
Dressed by the frost,
Her fairness grew.
Kissed by the breeze,
Blessed by the rain,
Softly she spoke
Of spring again.
Cold was the soil,
Dark was the bed,
Strong was the faith
Which upward led;
No warmth she knew
Except inside
Her tiny heart,
From which spread wide
The spark and start
Of every spring,
Its new sprung hope
Its wondering.
One snowdrop small and sweet as love
A gift of joy from Heaven above.

Doreen Beer
From "Poems of the English Countryside",
published in 1996.

Rainfall Record

January 2017 was the driest January in Thorverton for the past ten years [at least].

Gus Christianson recorded just 46 mm of rainfall in Silver Street during January, some 34mm less than the previous driest January in those ten years. It included 23 days with 1mm or less of rainfall recorded.

The first five days of February matched the total for the whole of January.

Recipe

Spinach and potato gratin
A sustaining dish made by mixing, 1 lb (500g) potatoes boiled and mashed with butter, milk, freshly grated nutmeg, and black pepper, with 6 oz (150g) finely chopped, cooked spinach.

Pile into a buttered, ovenproof serving dish, sprinkle with grated local Cheddar and brown under a hot grill.

Good with stews, or casseroles.

Paul Cleave
Sustainable Credition
90th Birthday Celebrations

We left Blundon on Saturday 11th February heading towards Exeter, to meet two other family members, then on to Thorverton. The cathedral bells were ringing in Exeter and so too were Thorverton church bells when we arrived.

We made for the Memorial Hall and found it decorated with photos and items relating to ‘Bill Ford, aged 90’

From mid-afternoon to evening my guests kept arriving. There were 61 names in the birthday book and cards and gifts received with many thanks. Some cards and gifts got separated so I am not sure of all my well-wishers, however, I am most grateful for all the cards, gifts and good wishes.

A celebration only happens with a lot of people and organisation. I feel my birthday has been thoroughly celebrated by more than 60 people attending.

Thank you to my daughter, Anne who, in conjunction with Jane and Barbara, made the whole day possible.

Special thanks to Jane and her team of Sue, Heather and Sue for their hard work and to Penny for the birthday cake.

PS. Barbara - I wondered why page 11 was missing from my copy of Focus. Now I know why!

_E W Ford_

_Photos by Mike Stannard_
Legal Eagle

Marriage and divorce has been much in the news of late and three matters have caught my eye over the past couple of weeks.

When Martin Shervington and Elisa Evans are married in a bar in Cardiff in May, in front of 50 friends, the bride and groom intend that their vows will be exchanged in a digital recreation of a futuristic nightclub beside an undulating lava lake. For the guests, of course, it will still be a Cardiff bar. In order to transport themselves to a virtual reality world Martin and Elisa will have to wear virtual reality headsets and the ceremony will be conducted by Lisa Kotecki of AltSpace VR, who will be plugged in 5,000 miles away in the headquarters of the California company that created the virtual reality venue.

To those of you who have been watching Italy’s Invisible Cities and/or have read ‘The Carnivìa Trilogy’ by Jonathan Holt none of this, in a technical sense, will come as a surprise. It does, however, raise interesting questions regarding the legal recognition to be afforded to the union. Under UK law a civil venue must meet certain criteria and the officiant must be someone certified to lead civil ceremonies. It is, I feel, unlikely that the chosen virtual reality venue will satisfy the criteria and whilst Lisa Kotecki is certified to lead ceremonies in America it would appear that she has not obtained the same authority in Britain.

Arun Arora, communications director of the Church of England has rightly cast doubt on whether a virtual ceremony would be recognised legally. “For it to be a legal marriage it needs to take place physically in a place, because to be married you need a marriage certificate as proof. And it requires you to say where it has taken place. Otherwise, it’s just two people wearing virtual reality headsets in a bar.”

The couple have recognised that what they plan may not be recognised as giving rise to a valid marriage and accept that they may have to do a second, real-world ceremony to make it all official.

The second matter to attract my attention concerns Khaled Hayatleh, an Oxford Professor, who split from his wife, Reem Mofdy, after she “tried to run him over” in her red convertible BMW. The Professor failed to convince judges that they were never married. He had insisted that despite the fact that they had lived together for 14 years they had never legally tied the knot.

The relationship came to an end in 2012 following the attempt by Mofdy to run him over. Mofdy received a criminal conviction, and the couple each filed to divorce the other in 2013.

The pair went through an arranged “religious marriage” in the Syrian city of Homs in 1999. Professor Hayatleh did not attend the ceremony but instead sent his brother to stand in for him, a valid and legal move under Syrian law. Professor Hayatleh insisted that the marriage was invalid under Syrian law. Lord Justice McFarlane in the Court of Appeal said that, under English law, the marriage was presumed to be valid unless Professor Hayatleh proved otherwise. The three judges at the court of Appeal ruled that there “could hardly be clearer proof” that Professor Hayatleh always considered himself to be married because he was the first to file for divorce.

The decision has important consequences as it means that Ms Mofdy is entitled to the same financial and other rights as any other woman divorcing after a valid marriage.

The third matter concerns Tini Owens, 65, who wanted to divorce her husband Hugh, 78, claiming that their 39 year marriage had irretrievably broken down. Hugh, a mushroom farmer from Worcestershire opposed the application and argued that the couple should stay together in old age “to enjoy 30 odd years of shared experiences”.

In a ruling which was described by Tini’s lawyers as extraordinarily unusual, Judge Robin Tolson refused to grant Tini’s divorce petition. The judge described the allegations made by Tini against Hugh as “exaggerated” and “minor altercations of a kind to be expected in marriage”.

Just 1 per cent of UK divorces are contested, and it is almost unheard of for a judge to rule against a spouse seeking to divorce.

Unsurprisingly Tini has asked the Court of Appeal to overturn the decision. The judges will give their decision at a later date.

Clive Hamblin

Footnote to February article.
I promised to let readers have details of the decision regarding my Sister-in-Law, Claudia’s chickens. Unfortunately I am unable to do so as the judge has deferred her decision until 6th March. Presently the chickens are being housed indoors due to the outbreak of bird flu.
Focus on Thorverton

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Cookery Class

I was reminded by a Focus reader recently of the cookery pages which used to appear in Focus. I have reproduced the one below from a 20 year old issue. (Unfortunately the writer of the article signed it with initials only.) Perhaps readers would like to share their own tips and recipes with us. Send them in or write them down and hand to a member of the Focus team and we will print them - Eileen Mason

Pasta and the Real Ragu

Most people, these days, eat pasta in one form or another. Not only is it quick and easy to cook but it is nutritious and easily digestible. It should not, of course, be overcooked; it should be ‘al dente’ – biteable to the teeth. If cooked too long it can become a soggy mess but instructions on the packet are so good now you can’t really go wrong. The only extra tip is that if you add a dessertspoonful of oil to the water in which you are going to cook the pasta, it will not stick together after draining.

‘Ragu’ is the true name of the Bolognese sauce which, in one form or another, has travelled around the world. Unlike the one advertised on the television, it is not a sauce based on tomatoes, it is a meat sauce with a little tomato puree added. There must be one hundred and fifty varieties of Bolognese sauce, some good, some bad, but here is a recipe for the genuine Italian version which is worth trying. Certain ingredients are optional but, like most Italian sauces, it is not difficult to make, not fattening and quite delicious.

Ingredients - enough for 6 generous helpings
8oz lean minced beef
4oz chopped chicken livers (optional)
1 carrot
3oz ham or bacon chopped small
1 onion
1 small piece celery
3 teaspoons concentrated tomato puree
1 wineglassful white wine
2 wineglassful stock/water
½ oz butter
Salt, pepper. Nutmeg

Brown the bacon gently in the butter. Add the onion, carrot and celery all finely chopped. When they have cooked for a few minutes add the minced beef and turn until evenly browned. Now add the chicken livers and tomato puree, then the white wine and seasoning. Add the stock or water. Cover the pan and simmer gently for 30 -40 minutes. Serve with the cooked pasta.

(this recipe is equally good for lasagne or other pasta dishes requiring a meat sauce)

Salsa di Pomidoro (Tomato Sauce)
This is another simple sauce for pasta. I do suggest that you use tinned Italian plum tomatoes rather than fresh ones. We don’t get enough sun in this country to provide the necessary colour and sweetness. Lovely as our own tomatoes are to eat raw in the summer, for a sauce such as this the tinned ones are best.

Ingredients for 4-6
2lbs ripe tomatoes or 2 large tins of Italian plum tomatoes
1 large onion chopped finely
1 small piece carrot chopped finely
1 teaspoon dried basil and oregano
1 pinch sugar
Salt and pepper
A little butter or olive oil

Heat the butter or oil in a saucepan and the onion and carrot until golden, not brown. Add all the other ingredients and simmer gently, with the lid on the pan until everything is thoroughly soft. The sauce can be liquidised at this stage or ‘mashed’ down. For a thicker sauce leave the pan on a gentle heat without the lid - it will become thicker as the liquid evaporates.

A Little Humour from Sylv Gregory

"Setting a good example for children takes all the fun out of middle age."

William Feather

When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out."

Erma Bombeck

"Few things are more satisfying than seeing your own children have teenagers of their own."

Doug Larson

"Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble."

Dennis Fakes
Upton Pyne & District Garden Club

On Monday 20th February Deborah Baker, a professional photographer and very keen gardener, came to give us a talk. She bought a house in Cornwall in 2003 which was 600 feet above sea level and devoid of any trees. Over the next six years the garden was completely transformed. Windbreaks were put in place, small hedges and deciduous trees—sometimes in a trio—were planted and to see the pictures it was amazing how the garden was transformed and continued to thrive despite the salt winds and at times of course very heavy rainfall. The garden was opened a few times to the public before Deborah left Cornwall and moved to Devon.

Unfortunately we were unable to see many of the second or third sets of pictures due to technical computer problems. Deborah has published a book called In Paradiso containing these pictures which she has created by transferring several different images on top of each other of flowers, trees, plants, leaves etc. and then deleting parts which she did not want to keep. The results were rather surreal but certainly very colourful. Sadly we also missed out on seeing her pictures of Dartmoor.

Our next talk will see the return of a very popular speaker Neil Lovesey. Neil owns and runs a nursery and his new presentation will be Why did it die? This may give us answers as to why some of us have lost plants and shrubs in the past and where we have made mistakes. This talk will be on Monday 20th March at 7.30pm.

New members are always welcome and if anyone does want more information about the Garden Club then please give me a ring on 861 205.

Ros Rowlerson

Raddon Top

![Photo by John Spivey](image-url)
Berry Dairy General Stores

One of the best things about running Berry Dairy General Stores is being able to offer delicious food and drink, produced close to Thorverton by family-based and small-scale companies, who work with passion and pride.

I aim to make sure that Berry Dairy stocks the highest quality, local cheese, bread and cakes, meat, fish, beer and cider, fruit and vegetables so that we can all enjoy wonderful food without having to leave the village. Buying locally means that you are supporting local producers and can enjoy food which is fresher and has travelled less distance to reach you. I thought you might like to know a little more about the people who produce the food stocked in your local shop. This month we start with the basics; dairy products and eggs.

Dairy products

Berry Dairy stocks Trewithen milk from the Glynn Valley in Cornwall. Trewithen Dairy is owned and run by the Clarke family, who have farmed in the Glynn Valley since 1976, and started crafting dairy products there in March 1994. You may wonder why our milk comes from “across the border.” We choose Trewithen because their 150 staff focus on producing the very best milk, cream, butter and yoghurt and know that every drop of milk comes from just twenty-five herds, all within a twenty-five-mile radius of the farm, and all the cows are cared for to the very highest standards.

Marilyn and Dave Johnson take a similar approach, albeit on a smaller scale, at Norsworthy Farm at Gunstone near Crediton. Their goats roam freely all year round (although they do choose to stay in if it’s raining!!). Norsworthy Farm produce includes artisan cheeses that are soft and creamy, plain or with herbs, semi-hard with a buttery flavour and a cream cheese rolled in charcoal. Look out for cheese tastings in Berry Dairy soon!

Berry Dairy also stocks Norsworthy’s raw goats’ milk, from which many people derive great health benefits. The unpasteurised milk is said to help reduce allergies and digestive complaints. It contains less lactose and has smaller fat globules than cow’s milk, making it significantly easier for the human body to digest.

Eggs

Our eggs are from Black Dog north of Crediton and they are free-range too. Black Dog Eggs was set up at the family farm by Merv Ayre fifty years ago, and is now run by his son Phil, and daughter Lou. The eggs are produced by free-range Lohmann Browns - which are the thoroughbred of the hen world. They’re friendly, hard-working hens which lay great eggs with nice thick shells. They have freedom to roam over 100 acres of land, grazing alongside a herd of Ruby Red cattle and a flock of Dorset sheep. The eggs are collected and packed daily, so they are delivered to us within 48 hours, at the most, of being laid. Black Dog Eggs believe that a “healthy hen is a happy hen and a happy hen lays healthy eggs”. They have RSPCA accreditation and the ‘Lion Quality standard’ certificate of conformity to prove they look after their hens well.

It’s a real pleasure to work with people who care about their animals so much, and it’s great to be able to make their delicious and nutritious products available here in Thorverton. I hope you enjoy eating them!

Jan Wills
Berry Dairy General Stores, Thorverton
01392 861060

Photo: Lou Ayre of Black Dog Eggs and Dave Johnson of Norsworthy Goat Farm in Berry Dairy

Photo by Jan Wills
New Development takes shape

23 Feb 2017

Photos by John Spivey
The evening started with the society’s AGM. We are now down to 41 members and new members or visitors are always welcome and a list of talks is now in the February edition of Focus.

With the AGM out of the way Richard was able to deliver his talk with the aid of power point and an old magic lantern slide show. He is with the English department at Exeter University but his interest in old photographic slides started after he attended and exhibition entitled “Life through the lens” in 2013 at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM). The museum has a collection of over 4700 glass slides and he volunteered to photograph and catalogue the collection. The old glass slides are 3.25 x 3.25 inches square and were projected onto a screen from a magic lantern. Originally the lanterns used oil lamps for the light source so the projected image was poor. Projection was improved with electric light bulbs but these were very hot. The photographic process for producing slides was the same as that used for producing photographic prints – instead of exposing the negative onto photographic paper is was exposed to a glass slide which had a photo sensitive coating. A protective piece of glass was then mounted onto the image.

Slide shows were very popular and slides were produced commercially for showing. The beauty of a slide show was that it could be presented to an audience with an element of showmanship. The RAMM produced some of their own but others were donated or bequeathed by local enthusiasts. One local was Alfred Rowden who provided 1200 slides. He started his working life in a dairy and rose to become it’s managing director. He was a very keen photographer and during WW1 he was based in Basra and Baghdad where he took many photographs. Another benefactor gave over 700. Mr F W Rowley was the curator of the RAMM from 1902 until 1932 and he was a driving force behind increasing interest and activity at the museum.

In cataloguing the slides they have been divided in subjects. These are Natural History, Historic Exeter, Local Views, Human Physiology, Agriculture and personal collections.

Human physiology slides were produced by a local doctor and possibly used as a teaching resource. There was a big use of slides as temperance propaganda and there is a lot of religious material in the collection as well as art work. There are a lot of images of local Devon views. Country lanes, harbours, Clovelly, Okehampton, Exeter Cathedral Close, Exeter high street, and Bickleigh and the Exe Valley all feature in the collection. Work is ongoing to try to identify the different photographers who captured the images.

Another prolific photographer was William Weaver Baker, a chemist who worked in Exeter. His wife was also a photographer and about 600 of his slides are in the collection. Some are very odd like his doll series. Many are of cats but there are many farming views, seaside views, trains and North Devon.

Richard showed a collection of glass slides taken from the cathedral on a sunny day in the 1920’s with people appearing to be making their way to the Royal Clarence Hotel. Others slides were aerial photo’s from the 1930’s and included the Cathedral and the now demolished Mary Major church which was at the west end of the Cathedral Close.

Others were post WW2 images taken from the Cathedral north tower and showed Bedford Circus and the ABC cinema after the Blitz of 1942.

Robert Turner
The Garden in March 2017

March is the real beginning of outside gardening jobs and a good start now can put you ahead for the rest of the season. So whenever the weather allows, get outside and clear and tidy up areas that you know need a bit of attention. I always find that once I have started on these jobs, I become enthused to go onto another part of the garden but starting in the first place is quite hard work! At least we agree on something then - Ed

Roses should be pruned this month. You might even have started by pruning your climbers and shrub roses at the end of February. Hybrid tea roses, i.e. large-flowered, need to have any damaged or weak growth removed. Prune back strong stems to 3 to 5 buds from the base. Always cut to an outward facing bud and aim to have about 5 stems per bush. For floribunda roses, i.e. cluster-flowered, follow the pruning for hybrid tea but not so severely. Cut stems at 5 to 7 buds from the base and allow 5 or 6 stems on each plant. Miniature roses can be pruned quite severely to remove weak growth. For weak growing varieties, cut back to 3 buds from the base, and stronger varieties 5. If a plant throws up a very strong shoot, remove these to help maintain symmetry. Lastly, for modern shrub roses, tip and tidy and remove any damaged stems. The aim is to remove sufficient growth to allow the healthy development of new wood.

Ornamental grasses should be tidied now and any dead grass removed. Deciduous grasses will soon throw up new shoots so clearing away last year’s growth will help. It is very difficult to do this once the new shoots have emerged. Do not cut back evergreen grasses to the ground. Pull out dead grass and tidy the length, cutting off about one third.

Shrub pruning falls into two categories. Group 1 plants form ripened shoots the previous year so leave these until they have flowered, usually spring and early summer e.g. Forsythia, Wieggela, Philadelphus. Group 2 plants will flower on this season’s growth. If they are left unpruned, the new growth forms at the end of last year’s stem and results in poor flowers and a lank, floppy plant. Plants such as Perovskia and Buddlejah therefore need to be pruned back to a framework, cutting back to healthy buds. These plants then produce new shoots this season and flower later in the year.

If you have brought in your Dahlias, now is the time to start them off in soil and put them out in the greenhouse. Water regularly to keep the soil moist but not too wet. Once they are out in the greenhouse you must become a weather watcher and anticipate cold weather and use fleece to cover them. However you must also be aware of the problem of too much heat and ensure there is plenty of ventilation. Plants out in a green house need daily checks on their conditions.

Broad beans, sweet peas and peas can also be brought on in the green house but they must be in a mouse free zone. I achieve this by balancing a metal tray on my tallest plant pots and put the seed plant pots on the tray ( 4 seeds to a pot ) These are all on the work bench so they get maximum sun and heat. Make sure they are not too close to anything that a mouse could climb over and then reach them! The Dahlias can go on the green house floor as mice do not like them, however slugs do. Put down some slug protection. I use organic slug pellets Out in the veggie plot, get your potato bed ready for planting by adding manure or organic compost if you haven’t already done so and dig well.

Your potatoes will like rich well drained soil. Nearer the end of the month, planting can take place. I find planting in rows best as I know where to look for my potatoes when harvesting and I can ridge up the soil around them when they are growing and not disturb other potatoes. If you have a very small area for just a few plants, it is not so important. When digging the soil, stand on a plank so that you do not cause compaction and when you make your drill a spade deep, add slug pellets and a fertilizer. I use chicken pellets for this as they slowly break down as the potatoes are developing. Spinach and parsnips can also be sown this month outside. Spinach likes a rich soil and parsnips need a soil with no added fertilizer or otherwise they are likely to fork underground.

Well, Neville, have you got all that. No time to rest yet, your garden needs you!

Happy gardening

Lorraine

PS If you are very keen, start some tomatoes inside. However, they need to stay inside until there is no chance of frost and they become quite big!! I have a poor record with tomatoes, thank you Lorraine, so will again stick to green veg and potatoes I think - Ed

Lorraine Colebrook
Nature Notes

February has been so cold with many mornings showing evidence of frost that to date I’ve not seen or heard any reports of frogspawn. A few butterflies have been on the wing but I personally have not seen any. I have written about the ivy plant this month and moved onto the letter C in my A to Z. Now it’s March and the beginning of spring, a month when it can snow or be incredibly warm. I suspect that March will be cool and rainy.

Ivy is an invaluable plant for wildlife. This time of year its berries are a food source for birds. During December I saw a blackbird and wood pigeon take ivy berries. In January I saw a hen blackbird take a fly by swipe at a berry and land on our shed to juggle the berry within its beak and swallow it. Ivy flowers are a magnet to insects as a source of nectar and pollen in autumn. Feeding on ivy flowers is a daytime and night time activity as during the night it is autumnal moth species who take its honey. In our garden in January I noticed something had been eating ivy shoots and on glancing down at the ground there were droppings and I knew then that the roe deer (whom I’d disturbed on a couple of occasions days earlier) was the nibbler.

Ivy has different shaped leaves. Those on flowering shoots are more rounded than those on non-flowering shoots which have typical ivy-shaped leaves. Its Latin name is *Hedera helix*, the helix bit denoting spiral-shaped because of the way it clings and twines.

Dense clumps of evergreen ivy are roosts for birds, bats and overwintering butterflies. I have seen house sparrows and wrens going to roost in ivy that has grown over the entrance to our shed. Their droppings at the foot of the door prove this roost is frequently used in cold weather. During winter time, especially for Christmas decoration you may have brought long strands of ivy into the house and unwittingly woken up a hibernating butterfly.

A-Z Crabs

I wrote about crabs in September 2014 Focus after doing a rock pool ramble in the July at Beer. I was fortunate to see Shore crab, Broad-clawed Porcelain crab and a spider crab. Broad-clawed Porcelain crabs are tiny at only about half an inch and are fairly common in the South West. The Shore crab, also known as Green crab is the most frequently encountered crab and is around four inches in size. In April last year four of us did a trip to Wembury beach and among other lovely sea creatures we found a Velvet Swimming crab with red eyes and striped legs. Here is a photograph I took of what I think is a Shore crab due to its size and colour and it is carrying its eggs. The Shore crab *Carcinus maenus* is not liked by fishermen because it has a tendency to steal bait. It is a scavenger but will also eat ragworms and shellfish such as mussels. Tiny Shore crabs are included in the diet of the Purple Sandpiper and other birds. This wading bird is a winter visitor to Devon and has been regularly seen on both north and south coasts. Soon it will return to its breeding grounds in the high Arctic although a few breed in Scotland in a location kept secret to prevent egg thieves and disturbance.

Trees

During a walk round “The Square” ie. Dinneford Street - Barton Cross - Jericho Street - Silver St - Jubilee Green - The Bury, I took photos of all the significant size trees. Only 12 ! Do we have enough trees enhancing the Thorverton landscape? My personal view is that we could do with planting more trees. If you have a suitable place, why not make 2017 the year you plant a tree for the enjoyment of future generations?

John Spivey

See John’s photos of Thorverton trees in winter on the following page (even better when you see these in our online colour version of Focus – Ed)
TARTS News

Thorverton Amblers Ramblers and Trampers

Recent walks:

Saturday 21st January – from Scrumpy the dog

Another interesting week.

For most of the week I was with the master in Bath, helping him with yet another building project. I also had the pleasure of a visit to the dog grooming centre, coming out really clean and smart. However I started to regret the visit when I was told I was too smart to go on the planned TARTS walk. Fortunately this turned out to be an idle threat and Saturday morning saw me meet up with 15 two legged TARTS.

It was in Dulverton that I was finally allowed out of the car. The first part of the walk was along the bank of the River Barle as far as Marsh Bridge. At one point the path did rise steeply but it was only a short climb. The views at Marsh Bridge were tremendous so the two legged ones decided to stop for warm drinks, though some like me wanted to move on as it was rather a cold day.

We then had a steady uphill climb up a tree lined valley towards Court Down. Just before the top there was an option of turning right and following a track down to Dulverton, or carrying on up to the top of the hill. I went with the party who chose the summit option and was pleased that there was a great 360 degree view to justify the extra climb. We then descended joining the track to Dulverton the others had followed.

After the 4 mile walk all enjoyed a great lunch at the Bridge Inn. The TARTS organisers are left to debate why the turnout was so good. Was it a) the shorter length of the walk b) the anticipation of a good lunch, c) the fine weather d) the beautiful area chosen or e) the choice of leaders?

Scrumpy

Hemyock and the Wellington Monument 11th February 2017 led by Mike Stannard

Eight intrepid souls braved overcast skies for the drive to Hemyock on the upper River Culm in the Blackdown Hills. Departing from Millhayes Bridge we ascended to the plateau and followed a well-marked trail through beech woods and meadows. Looking across the valley to the west we could see Culmstock Beacon, where we hiked along Black Down Common in June 2014.

Wellington Monument Photo by Mike Stannard

We approached the Monument above the head of the valley and saw it through a light snowstorm, which arrived without wind and was quite agreeable to hike in. We learned of the eventful history of the Monument, which was repeatedly plagued by lack of funds such that the original plans for a cast iron figure of the Duke at its apex and a circle of figures at its base were never realized. Even the plans to mount a display of cannon at its base came to naught, as the cannons sent by sea from Woolwich arsenal in 1818 never left the quay in Exeter. Four guns were eventually installed surrounding the monument in 1910, but had to be removed during the Second World War for scrap metal. The single cannon now on display was installed in the 1985 by the Wellington Rotary Club. The obelisk is now fenced off for renovation by its current custodian, the National Trust.

We returned to Hemyock under brightening skies passing through Culm Davy, the site of a medieval chapel of ease.
Saturday 18th February

Fourteen Tarts set off to Lynton to begin a walk from the Valley of the Rocks. Driving down the North Devon Link road we hit very foggy conditions and we thought this might be a repeat of the recce when it was very misty and wet most of the day. As it so happened, we were blessed with sunshine and it was dry all day. We soon encountered the goats including a very young kid who were grazing the steep cliff side. During our coffee break one intrepid Tart climbed a rocky outcrop known as The Castle. The walk then took us through woods towards Croscombe. We lunched in a steep sided field where there grew gorse bushes covered in bright yellow flowers. Now roughly half way on the walk we went through fields to Slattenslade, then picking up lanes to enter Crock Pits Wood and onto Crock Point. Here clay pigeon shooters waited for us to pass by and where we spotted an egret flying along. We puffed our way up through Rooks Cleave Plantation eventually meeting the road that took us up past Lee Abbey and back to the car park.

Future walks:

Saturday 4th March – led by Royston

Saturday 18th March – led by Graeme

All walks meet opposite the church at 0930, and are suitable for dogs unless otherwise stated. Shorter walks are usually 4 – 6 miles in length and longer walks 6 – 9 miles, however precise details of each walk (length, gradient, lunch information etc) will be displayed approximately a week before the walk in the Old Post Office Window and on the village notice board. If you would like to be included on the email list contact Caroline (07749775304) or Graeme (860203).
Thorverton Cycle Rides  No. 3: Stoke Canon and Columbjohn

After the short but tough ride in the last Focus, I thought that you might welcome some easier gradients on a lovely ride in the Exe and Culm valleys. The spring is a great time of year for this ride.

From outside the Thorverton Arms head eastwards along Silver Street towards the Ruffwell. At Latchmoor Green turn right at the crossroads and follow the road for just over a mile to a junction with another minor road. Turn left here and then right at the next junction. Turn right at the next junction and follow the road down past Burrow Farm and Cross to Oakhay Barton. Cross the level crossing by the old and now rather sad looking signal box and take the left fork to the shop at Stoke Canon. You may want to stop for refreshments from the shop or across the road at the community-run, volunteer-staffed Stoke Canon Inn.

Turn left at the main road – be careful on this road – and then right immediately after the church. After a bit more than ½ mile this will bring you to Huxham. I recommend a very small detour to the right to see Huxham church, which was rebuilt in the 19th Century but preserves its Norman font and has a 15th/16th Century timber screen.

Back at the junction, take the road signposted to Columbjohn. This road runs past Bussells Farm and Ratcliffe’s to a junction at Columbjohn Farm. Turn left and pause at the bridge. From here you can look across to Columbjohn Chapel, which was built by Sir Thomas Acland in 1841. The estate of Columbjohn dates back much further though, being recorded pre-Conquest. It was bought by the Aclands in the reign of Elizabeth I and was, apparently used by Fairfax while he was in the area in the English Civil War.

Back on the road, go westwards, crossing Paddleford Bridge. This bridge is one of only 16 medieval single-span bridges in England and, although it was much rebuilt in about 1700, it retains much of its historical interest and is a scheduled monument. Carefully cross the main road and continue westwards for about ¼ mile to a junction which you should recognise as you were here earlier. Turn right, then next left and retrace your route to Thorverton.

Photos by David Smith and Martin Bodman

Neville Lane
Thorverton Parish Information

AIR AMBULANCE EMERGENCY - QUOTE NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE
RECREATION GROUND - Sheet 192 SS 923019 MEMORIAL HALL FIELD - Sheet 192 SS 926019

Carers’ Support Group  Anne Higman, Wyndham House Surgery, Silverton. 860034.
Meetings - 3rd Wednesday of month, Wyndham House, 2.30-4.30 pm

Church (C of E)
Mrs Margaret Lowe, Administration Manager, 07594 714590. margaret.admin@netherexe.org

Rector
Rev. Katie Cross, 01392 7596212 , email: katie.cross@netherexe.org

Church Wardens
Edwin Greed, Fortescue, Netherexe. 841231.
Royston Kershaw 25 The Glebe 860419.

Church Choir

P.C.C. Treasurer
Jean Brown, Rydal Cottage, Bullen Street. 861176.

Friends of Thorverton Parish Church Trust
Royston Kershaw 25 The Glebe 860419.

Church (Baptist)
Minister: Revd Maurice Harrison, 966861.
Secretary: Fiona Harrison, 966861.

County Councillor
Margaret Squires, 01363 84337, margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk

District Councillor
Clrl. Bob Deed. 01392 861258, bdeed@middevon.gov.uk

Doctors:
New Valley Practice, 03333 442 988. Wyndham House Surgery, 860034.

Electricity (Western Power)
edf Bill Enquiries: 0800 365 000. Street lights: 0870 556 1851.

Friends of Thorverton & Silverton Surgeries
Christine Walker, 881501.

Gas Emergency
0800 111999.

Leonard Trust
Secretary: Mrs. E Hughes, 3 Dinham Mews, Exeter EX4 4EH.

Library (Exeter Mobile)
Every 4 weeks 3.35 – 4.20 Thursdays Quarry Car Park.

Member of Parliament
Mel Stride. By writing: Mel Stride MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
By phone: 02072197037. By email: mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk

Parish Council Chairman
Cllr. Stuart Crang

Parish Clerk
Mrs Alison Marshall, Dinneford House, Dinneford Street, Thorverton, EX5 5NU. 861228.

Parish Council Meetings
2nd Tuesday of month, at The Memorial Hall, 7.30 pm.

Parish Allotments
Contact the Parish Clerk – 861228.

Parish Council Notice Board
Situated in School Lane, opposite the Thorverton Arms.

Planning notification applications
at http://data.gov.uk/apps/planningalerts via email when a planning application is published in one’s street, neighbourhood or wider area.

Pension Service
PO Box 93, Plymouth PL6 5WJ. 0845 60 60 265.

Police
Non-emergency number: 101.

Post Office Portacabin (TCT Ltd)
Quarry Car Park, Thorverton EX5 5NG Tel: 860455
Mon. to Fri: 9 am-1.00 pm, 2 - 5.30 pm. Sat: 9 am -12 noon, Sun: 9 - 10.30 am for newspapers only.
Business Manager: Jan Hamilton 07764461575.
Chair and Company Secretary: Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, 860419.

Public Telephone Kiosk
Opposite the Church, outside the former Bell Inn, Dinneford St.

Thorverton C of E Primary School (Part of the Exe Valley Federation)
Executive Headteacher (Exe Valley Federation): Mr John Jolliffe.
Head of School (Thorverton): Mrs Sarah Parkes 01392 860374.
School Office (Thorverton): 01392 860374.
Chair of Governors (Exe Valley Federation): Jackie Enright 01392 851859.
Clerk to the Governors: Ms Jessica Benger: 07795 515048.

School P.T.F.A.
Chair: Julie Davie 1363 772309, Vice-Chair: Pippa Eyles 861767,
Secretary: Rachel Milden, Treasurer: Rachel Parker.

South West Water

Thorverton Millennium Green Trust
Chair: John Spivey, 01392 861324.
Secretary: Maggie Dunlop, 01392 861185. www.thorverton.org.uk
Thorverton Organisations

Amateur Dramatic Society (TADS) Chair: Sheena Hunter-Hedges 01392 860843, Vice Chair: Bob Hyde, Treasurer: Simon Hedges, Minutes Secretary: Mary Ette. Meetings: last Tuesday of the month at the Exeter Inn, 8pm. Members and non-members welcome.

Art Group Barrie Phillips, Crossmead, School Lane, Thorverton. 860529. Meet Fridays during term-time at the Memorial Hall, 10.00 am-12.00.

Arts Exchange Becky Stannard, 7 The Glebe, 860737. Monthly meetings in members’ homes at 8.00 pm.

Association Football Club Chairman: Andy Harris, 01392 851664, Secretary: David Gregory, 2 The Orchard, Brampford Speke, 841803.

Bridge Club Graeme Culshaw, tel: 860203. Meets 1st/3rd/5th Thursdays of month from 7.00pm New members always welcome, no partner needed. Contact Graeme for venue.

Clarinet/Saxophone Group Contact Peter Mason 860727. Meets every Thursday morning.

Cricket Club Chair: Charles Kislingbury, Secretary: M C Denford, 14 Moorlands, Tiverton EX16 6UF. 01884 255076, Fixture Sec: J Meredith, Grayley, Dinneford Street.

Focus Magazine Chair: Michael Ayre, Ratcliffe Farm, Thorverton. Editor: Neville Lane, 2 The Glebe, Thorverton. 861062, Secretary: Geoff Bulley, Broadlands, Thorverton. Treasurer: Bob Swaffield, Schiehallion, School Lane, Thorverton, 860309.

Friends of Silverton & Thorverton Surgeries Coffee Mornings in the Lamb Inn, Silverton. Held at 10-12 noon on the last Thursday of every month except December.

Golf Society Players of Thorverton C/o Exeter Inn, 01392 860206.


Ladies Group Meet 2nd Thursday of month, (Venue and time - see Focus Notices).

Memorial Hall Committee Chair: Mike Shelton, tel. 861027. michaelshelton232@btinternet.com Secretary: Mike Baldwin, tel. 860853. sjml@hotmail.com Bookings: thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com Website: www.thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Memorial Hall Market 2nd Saturday of the month, at the Memorial Hall, 9.30 - 11.00 am.

Thorverton Pre-School Wendy Coles 861283 / thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com Mon 9.00-11.45am & 12.45-3.15pm & Lunch Club 11.45am-12.45pm, Tues/Weds 9am-11.45am &12.45-3.15pm & Lunch Club 11.45am-12.45pm. Thurs 9.00-11.45am; 12.45- 3.15pm & Lunch Club 11.45am-12.45pm during term-time, at Thorverton Primary School site.

Thorverton Ambling, Rambling and Tramping Society (TARTS) Caroline Prince 07749 775304 or Graeme Culshaw 860203 See notices of walks in Old Post Office Window, Bullen Street.

Toddler Group Fiona Meredith milestones@btinternet.com or Amy Crebo welshpixie@yahoo.co.uk Thursdays at the Memorial Hall, 9.30 - 11.30am.

Royal British Legion Chairman/Hon.Sec. : Alex Fice, Lynch Cottage, Thorverton 861136, srf@hotmail.co.uk Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Felicity Cashmore.

Women’s Institute Bookings: Sue Maguire, 860631 W.I Meeting: 1st Tuesday of the month at the W.I. Hut, 7.30 pm. Whist: 4th Tuesday of the month, at the W.I. Hut, 7.30 pm. W.I. Market & Coffee: 4th Saturday of the month, W.I. Hut. 10.00 to 11.00 am.
Doctors’ Surgeries

New Valley Practice

Drs. J. Wride, L. Anderson, A. Hall, J. Harris, E. Saunders, G. Cameron, E. Ziegler, L. Worsley

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<tr>
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<th>Crediton</th>
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GPs on Duty

Thorverton: Drs. Harris, Saunders, Cameron, Ziegler

Crediton: Drs. Saunders, Harris, Hall

There are no surgeries on Saturday or Sunday, but a doctor will be on call for emergencies only on 111.

Extended surgeries will be offered in Thorverton, late evening surgery in Crediton. Please ask at reception for details.

Repeat prescriptions (Monday-Friday) – You can request your repeat prescriptions by calling our in-house dispensary on 01392 861622 or by using our online repeat prescription request at www.newvalleypractice.co.uk

Please note that 48 hours’ notice is required for all repeat prescriptions.

We accept credit/debit card payments for NHS and private prescriptions.

We now operate a home delivery service for housebound registered patients. Please contact us on 01392 860273 for more information.

We are now accepting new patients
Wyndham House Surgery
Fore Street, Silvertown, EX5 5HZ
Telephone: 01392 860034
www.wyndhamhousesurgery.co.uk

We are currently accepting new patients and are happy to consider patients from out of area

Currently rated as an OUTSTANDING Practice by the CQC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Dr</th>
<th>Dr Anthony O’Brien</th>
<th>Dr Catherine Burkill</th>
<th>Dr Nick Keysell</th>
<th>Dr Jemima Ewart (GP Trainee)</th>
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<td>*emergencies only</td>
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Please note: The doctors are happy to speak to you on the phone instead of an appointment if you prefer. Please request this from reception when you telephone.

Surgery hours: Monday - Thurs. 08:30 - 18:00.
               Friday 08:30 - 17:00.

Dispensary hours: Monday - Thurs. 08.30 - 18:00.
                  Friday 08.30 - 17:00.
There is now no closure for lunch and prescriptions may be collected all through the day.

Repeat prescriptions can be ordered online via our website.
We also operate a home delivery service for housebound registered patients.
Please contact our reception or dispensary for more information.

On-line appointment booking.
Flexible appointments at beginning and end of day if required - just ask.
Waste Collection Dates for 2017

Collections on Mondays, unless stated otherwise

General refuse, recycling boxes and food caddy
March 6th and 20th

b) Chargeable garden waste and food caddy
March 13th and 27th

Mobile Library
The service provided in Thorverton is every four weeks, in the Quarry Car Park on Thursdays between 3.35 and 4.20pm.

Dates 2017: 9th March / 6th April / 4th May / 1st & 29th June/
27th July / 24th August / 21st September / 19th October / 16th November / 14th December.

Union Flag Flying days in March
1 March St David’s Day (in Wales only)
10 March Birthday of the Earl of Wessex
13 March Commonwealth Day (second Monday in March)
17 March St Patrick’s Day (N Ireland only)

Road works
If you want to see up to date information on road works, visit: http://roadworks.org/.

Bus Services

Turner's Tours / Carmel Coaches No 678
Cheriton Fitzpaine – Thorverton section served on Tuesday (renumbered Service 675), Wednesday and Friday only: 10.09 from The Berry and the Baptist Chapel. Return 13.35 from Exeter bus station, Stand 5.

Stagecoach (service 55B) Mon-Sat (except Bank Holidays)
To Tiverton: 07.55, 10.10, 12.10, 14.10, 16.10, 17.29 (this is the 155 service; on Saturdays it is the 55B and runs at 17.10), 18.10 from The Berry and Broadlands.
Return from Tiverton Bus Station: 07.40, 08.35, 10.45, 12.45, 14.45, 15.55 (Mondays to Fridays term-time only), 16.45, 17.45.

To Exeter: 08.05, 09.00, 11.10, 13.10, 15.10, 16.20 (Mondays to Fridays term-time only), 17.10, 18.10 from The Berry and Broadlands.
Return from Exeter Bus Station: 07.30, 09.45, 11.45, 13.45, 15.45, 17.05 (this is the 155 service; on Saturdays it is the 55B and runs at 16.45), 17.45.

Stagecoach 55 service runs pretty much every half-hour in each direction along the Exeter-Tiverton road, stopping at the Thorverton turn (the Ruffwell). Please consult Stagecoach 55 Group timetable for details of this service.

Stagecoach free service to the Co-Op, Broadclyst, from Broadlands on Tuesdays 9.20am.

Stagecoach offers a variety of concessions for regular commuters, shoppers, children, students and jobseekers as well as one-day unlimited-use Explorer tickets. Further details from Stagecoach: 01392 427711 or 01803 664500 or www.stagecoachbus.com or www.devon.gov.uk/devonbus.

Devonbus Timetable Information: call Traveline 0871 200 2233 Timetables available at the Post Office
### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 1st</td>
<td>Focus AGM, Baptist Church, 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 3rd</td>
<td>Women’s World Day of Prayer, 11am, Baptist Church, followed by soup lunch. All welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 4th</td>
<td>Open Mic evening at the Thorverton Arms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 4th</td>
<td>TARTS walk, meet opposite Parish Church, 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 6th</td>
<td>Welcome Cafe Reopens, WI Hut, 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 7th</td>
<td>WI 2.30pm. Don Archer: <em>Chatsworth House</em>. WI Hut.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 9th</td>
<td>Ladies Group, Moss Bank, 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 11th</td>
<td>Saturday Market, Memorial Hall, 9.30 – 11.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 14th</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 15th</td>
<td>Big Nationwide Pub Quiz (in aid of prostate cancer), Thorverton Arms, 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 16th</td>
<td>Blues Jam evening at the Thorverton Arms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 18th</td>
<td>Coffee Morning &amp; Bring &amp; Buy, Memorial Hall. 10-12 noon for Retired Greyhound Trust. (NB not Feb as advertised last month)</td>
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<td>Sat 18th</td>
<td>Lambling Day at Ratcliffe Farm - see the baby lambs, 10am to 6pm, donations to charity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 18th</td>
<td>‘Mr &amp; Mrs’ evening, Memorial Hall, 7.00pm</td>
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<td>Fri 24th</td>
<td>History Society, 7.30. WI Hut. Dr Peter Marsden – <em>Exeter &amp; London, a tale of two capital cities.</em></td>
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<td>Fri 24th</td>
<td>Supper with Alex Leger, author of Blue Peter, Bramford Speke Village Hall 7 for 7.30. £10.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 25th</td>
<td>WI Coffee Morning. Coffee, bacon burgers, stalls. WI Hut. 10-11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 25th</td>
<td>TADS March Madness, WI Hut from 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 28th</td>
<td>Memorial Hall AGM. Memorial Hall. 8.00pm. All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 30th</td>
<td><em>Egil</em> performed by Peter Oswald, Bramford Speke Village Hall, 8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 30th</td>
<td>Book Club (<em>Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys</em>), Thorverton Arms, 8pm</td>
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### APRIL

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 4th</td>
<td>Easter Bingo, Memorial Hall, 7.00, eyes down 7.30.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 8th</td>
<td>Saturday Market, Memorial Hall, 9.30 – 11.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 11th</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm</td>
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### MAY

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<tr>
<td>Tues 2nd</td>
<td>WI 7.30pm. AGM. WI Hut.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9th – Sat 13th</td>
<td>East Devon Arts Festival at Thorverton Parish Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9th</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 13th</td>
<td>Saturday Market, Memorial Hall, 9.30 – 11.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 20th</td>
<td>Pie and Quiz Night, Memorial Hall, 7.00</td>
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<td>Sat 27th May</td>
<td>WI Coffee Morning. 10-11am. Coffee, bacon burgers, stalls. WI Hut.</td>
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### JUNE

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 6th</td>
<td>WI 7.30pm. <em>Devon Wild Life</em>. WI Hut.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 10th</td>
<td>Saturday Market, Memorial Hall, 9.30 – 11.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 24th June</td>
<td>WI Coffee Morning. 10-11am. Coffee, bacon burgers, stalls. WI Hut.</td>
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### JULY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 1st</td>
<td>Summer Ball, Memorial Hall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 4th</td>
<td>WI 7.30pm. Anne Dalton: <em>Broken China</em>. WI Hut.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 8th</td>
<td>Fun Day, 11.00 – 4.00</td>
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