

FOCUS ON THORVERTON



September 2020

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50p

FOCUS MAGAZINE INFORMATION

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At the present time *Focus* is produced each month except January.

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.

Advertisements and Notices

Poster Type Advertisements. 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:

| | Maximum dimensions | COST per ENTRY | FULL YEAR (11 entries) |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Full page | 24.4 cm x 18.2 cm | £14.00 | £140 |
| Half page | 18.2 cm x 12.2 cm | £7.00 | £70 |
| Quarter page | 8.5 cm x 12.2 cm | £4.00 | £40 |
| One-eighth page | 8.5 cm x 5.8 cm | £2.00 | £20 |

LOCAL ORGANISATION and CHARITIES ADVERTISEMENTS

COST per ENTRY

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Half page | £3.00 |
| Quarter or one-eighth page | free of charge (for up to 3 months) |

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"Focus"**

Front Cover: Raddon Top – photo by Ollie Wills

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

Editorial

September already; summer almost behind us. What a very strange few months it has been – and still not quite back to normal. I do hope that schools will be able to fully reopen in September. I am fortunate enough to have stopped working anyway (some may wonder whether I ever did truly work, but that is a matter for discussion another day), but I know that it must have been – and in some cases must still be – very difficult to carry on working with any degree of normality. Several locally based businesses advertise in *Focus*. I hope that readers will try to support these businesses wherever possible so that they can continue operating. It doesn't take much for some small businesses to go out of business, but restarting can be far more difficult.

It would be great to have a few events to publicise and subsequently report on. I am hopeful that we will get more through the autumn. One event which you could take part in, or failing that support those who are taking part in, and thereby help the Church Fabric Appeal, is the Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Day. This is on Sunday 12th September. I hope to join this event and visit all 10 churches in the Netherexe Parishes. We do have some lovely churches (see my series of articles which ran in *Focus* during 2019-20 – available on the *Focus* Wordpress site if you missed any).

If you wanted to stay closer to home, perhaps you could walk around the village with your eyes wide open and see if you can identify the locations where the ten photographs were taken which comprise the

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“Where in Thorverton?” competition on page 28. Yes, this is the same competition that I featured in August's edition, but as I received no correct answers I am giving you a second – and final – chance. Do have a go.

One particular joy for me of this time of year is to be able to harvest both from my allotment and from the wild produce in the hedgerows. The weather has made this a bit of a chancy business over the past two or three weeks, but I am still hoping to be picking through September. I am particularly looking forward to making some blackberry and elderberry wine this autumn. It is finding enough elderberries that always presents a problem with this, so any signposting to abundant supplies would be most welcome (but please do this privately because I don't need everyone to know). If you have a glut of vegetables, the reissued Thorverton Recipe book could contain the answer as to how to use them up. See page 12 for details as to how to get hold of a copy.

I will just take the opportunity to remind readers that my time as editor is rapidly nearing an end. If you would be interested in taking over please make contact, either with me or with our chairman, Michael Ayre. He's not too hard a man to work for!

Neville Lane
Focus Editor

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Peter Mason

Tribute to Peter Mason on the occasion of the interment of ashes

On the morning of Thursday 30th August some 30+ well-distanced persons gathered in bright sunshine in the upper area of the Parish Churchyard in order to say farewell to their friend and neighbour Peter Mason. Sadly, attendance had to be restricted to 30 because of government regulations, though several of Peter's choir and church band colleagues had made a point of gathering in Dark Lane as a tribute to their fellow singer and clarinettist. The very moving ceremony was conducted by Rector Rev. Katie Cross with input from church warden Royston Kershaw. Royston reminded those gathered that he had sung alongside Peter in the bass section of the church choir for many years. 'I supplied the volume,' quipped Royston, 'and Peter the accuracy.'



Playing Cornet in Jazz Band in Liverpool

(More photos on back page of Focus.)

Peter was a gifted musician, able to play several instruments. Music played an important part in his life, in particular his love of jazz and male voice singing. These were both illustrated for us by, on the one hand, Chris Barber's 50s version of 'Petite Fleur', and 'Bach Prelude' played as a saxophone solo by Michael Garson, and on the other hand by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir's rendition of 'Morte Christi.' These pieces came to us courtesy of Royston's diminutive player and were listened to in a reverential hush. A further tribute was paid to Peter by the reading of Tennyson's 'Crossing the Bar':

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea...
I hope to see my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.*

This seemed a fitting contribution given Peter's connection to the sea. As a young man Peter had sailed all over the world as a Marine Engineer with the Merchant Navy.



Officer Cadet with British Petroleum

As the service concluded and we dispersed, it was with the conviction that we had shared some intimate moments together, in a lovely setting, which were a worthy homage to a well-loved Thorvertonian.

Peter asked that his funeral service should contain 'lots of music, lots of singing'. When the world is back to some sort of normality perhaps we can all get together again and have just that in remembrance of him.

Following the ceremony, refreshments were served in the garden at Peter and Eileen's home, where Jackie Mann put on her usual splendid buffet selection. Peter's family have a long-standing connection with the Mann family pre-dating his arrival in Thorverton and he enjoyed many a pint at the 'Exeter Inn' over the last 30 years.

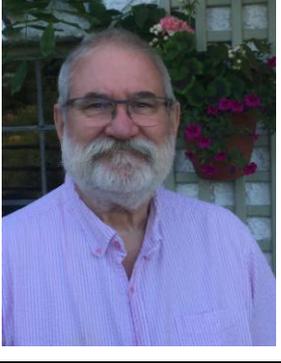
It was good to be able to continue for a while in a more informal setting, spending time with Peter's friends and neighbours and assuring Eileen of our support. All in all, I felt privileged to have been a part of both the formal and informal aspects of this memorable occasion.

Maurice Harrison

Thorverton Parish Council

There was no meeting of the Parish Council in August, so instead of the usual report on decisions made at a meeting, we take the opportunity to introduce you to your councillors.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at **7pm on Tuesday 8th September** by way of Zoom. Please contact the clerk, Alison Marshall, for details should you wish to join to see the meeting. There are currently just 8 councillors, but we are hoping to co-opt two more councillors at this meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p><u>Neville Lane (Chairman)</u></p> <p>I became a Parish Councillor in May 2015 and was elected Chairman in May 2019. I moved to Thorverton with my wife and two young children in 1996, having previously lived in Surrey. For 34 years of my working life, until my retirement in 2017, I was a civil servant with the Ministry of Agriculture and Defra, so I have developed an interest in farming matters, which I have been able to maintain as a volunteer with the Farming Community Network.</p> <p>I have enjoyed editing the village magazine, <i>Focus on Thorverton</i>, for the last 15 years. I am a keen tennis and bridge player and also enjoy time on my allotment in Thorverton.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Andrew Foster (Vice Chairman)</u></p> <p>Although born in Devon, I spent most of my life in South Bucks before being fortunate enough to move to Thorverton; I recognise that this is a special place to live and would like to contribute towards the community using my commercial and management background.</p> <p>I'm a keen walker so regularly use the local footpaths and country lanes; as an enthusiastic rugby fan all my life, I now especially enjoy supporting the Chiefs. I live in Berrysbridge with my wife, where there is always plenty of work to do in the garden.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Stuart Crang</u></p> <p>I was born at Bidwell, and after time spent at university and working as a chartered surveyor, have farmed there for more than thirty years.</p> <p>I have been on the Parish Council since 2007, serving as Chairman for six years, so it would be fair to conclude that I think it is an important and worthwhile, albeit small, cog in the machinery of government. My other parish commitment is as a Trustee of the Leonard Trust.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Sam Fice</u></p> <p>I am new on the Parish Council scene having only joined the Council in March 2020. I have lived in Thorverton for 40 years and have close family ties to the village with my children being the 6th generation of our family to attend the village Primary School.</p> <p>I have an engineering background and have operated my company from the local area for the past 13 years. I hope to be able to use my practical knowledge to help the parish. Away from work I enjoy family life and sport.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p><u>John Hodge</u></p> <p>I was born in the village, attended the local primary school, then "Tiverton Grammar School", followed by an electrical apprenticeship and several years as electrician. I joined BT in 1973 and worked for them just under 40 years. When I got married first time I had to leave the village as nothing was available to rent or buy, so I have an interest in housing for the younger people. I moved back home in 2011, following the passing of my parents, to the family home with my second wife.</p> <p>I belong to various organizations ie RBL, local history society, and for several years was involved as booking agent for the Memorial Hall. After the Country Show died after two bad wet years, I was involved in the starting up of the "Funday" which has been taken over by the Hall now.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Graham Sims</u></p> <p>I have lived in Thorverton all my life and was elected onto the Parish Council in 1999.</p> <p>I worked in the Steelstock Industry for 44 Years starting as a H G V driver, retiring as warehouse manager. I am member of the Thorverton Speed Watch and I like to see a safe and tidy village.</p> <p>I like all kinds of sport, playing football for Thorverton AFC for 20 years plus. My hobbies are fishing and classic cars.</p> |
|  | <p><u>David Waldron</u></p> <p>I first lived in Thorverton in 1976 and returned here in 2011 to enjoy an active retirement.</p> <p>I wanted to contribute to village community life and first became a Trustee of the Memorial Hall, spending two years as Treasurer and securing significant grant funding for its major refurbishment project. I was elected a Parish Councillor in 2015 and my aim is to build an even better Community for the benefit of all.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Keeley Wells</u></p> <p>I was elected as Parish Councillor in May 2019. I am a Thorverton local having been here all of my life and raising my two children here. I work as an Accountant for Devon County Council in Children's Services. I am a keen netballer and like to keep fit.</p> <p>I would like to bring local issues to the attention of the Council and help make decisions that will benefit our wonderful village and keep it a fantastic place to live.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Alison Marshall (Clerk)</u></p> <p>In 2014 I left behind 30 years in retail banking to join the world of local government. My first new role, in January 2015, was as part time Clerk to Thorverton Parish Council and, in April of that same year, I also became part time Personal Assistant to the County Officer at Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC). Over the next couple of years I became a qualified Council Clerk, by gaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration, and also set up a self-employed business involved in the annual auditing of town and parish councils across Devon and Somerset. More recently I have moved from DALC and have taken up the position of part time Clerk to Feniton Parish Council in East Devon.</p> <p>I was born in Plympton and have lived in Devon most of my life. In 2009 I moved to the beautiful village of Thorverton with my husband, Colin, and we currently have a dog, two cats and a boisterous grandson who takes up all our spare time!</p> |

Thorverton Co-Operative Trust Ltd supporting THORVERTON POST OFFICE

WHY?

Q Are we encouraging people to have their newspapers delivered when they are quite capable of walking to the PO?

A During lockdown we were ALL being encouraged to stay at home as much as possible. Even now we can't cope with too many people wanting to enter the PO building

– **ONE OUT ONE IN.** So delivering or putting papers in the outside box, helps to protect our staff and customers and also means you don't need to wait for ages outside, just to come in to collect a pre-paid for paper! Paper sales are in the garage on Saturdays.

THANK YOU!

For your support as customers of the Post Office and TCT's shop.

To our amazing committed and helpful Post Office staff. ☺

To all who help us on the TCT side especially early in the morning unpacking, marking up and delivering, most of whom are unpaid volunteers.

COULD YOU?

Help one morning with unpacking and marking up papers?

Deliver papers around the village?

Make more use of the TCT shop and PO and help us to keep going?

Become a TCT member for **£10 per annum** which helps to keep our business solvent? We now have **208** members but there are many more residents in the village and users of our amenity.

ASK or TALK WITH SOMEONE

At the Post Office/TCT shop 860455

or contact Heather Kershaw 01392 860419

TCT SHOP + Thorverton Post Office

Opening hours

Mon - Fri 9.00 – 1.00 and 2.00 – 5.30

Sat 8.00 – 12.00 (PO opens at 9.00)

Sun 9.00 – 10.30 (newsagent only, PO closed)

Pre-paid-for papers will be delivered or put in the box from 8.00 every weekday and on Saturdays and from 9.00 on Sundays

Heather Kershaw 01392 860419

TCT Ltd Chair, Company Secretary and Membership

Secretary

Post Office/TCT Shop 01392 860455

To the Council of Thorverton Co-operative Trust Ltd

I/we

(address + postcode).....

(e-mail).....

wish to become (a) member(s) of Thorverton Co-operative Trust Ltd and hereby apply to be admitted subject to the provisions of its Memorandum and Articles of Association (see PO notice-board or contact the Secretary to view the full document)

OR

wish to renew membership of TCT Ltd

I/we enclose membership fees (**£10.00 per person**) for the year 6/2020– 5/2021 (cheques payable to Thorverton Co-operative Trust Ltd).

TCT bank details are: **Thorverton Cooperative Trust Ltd The Cooperative Bank sort code 08 92 99 account number 65176665**

I give my consent to TCT Ltd to hold these contact details for the purposes of running TCT Ltd and Thorverton Post Office. I understand that these details will not be shared with third parties.

(signature(s)).....

Please return this form with your payment to Heather Kershaw TCT Membership Secretary c/o **Thorverton Post Office**, post/deliver to **TCT Ltd 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5LS** or **pay online**

Notices



Thorverton Royal British Legion

Thank you everybody for a fantastic response to the “Cream Tea” delivery service we provided on Saturday the 8th August. Altogether 321 teas were delivered. They were all cooked and packed on the Saturday morning ready for the four delivery teams to deliver. We really hope you all enjoyed them.

38 cream teas were donated to NHS workers and 5 to the elderly, of which a total of 18 were paid for by local residents. Thank you to the people who paid a little bit extra for their cream teas, and also thank you to all the people who made generous donations. A total of £1,400 was raised. We are donating £600 to the NHS charity “Help us Help you”, £600 to the Royal British Legion “Poppy Appeal” and £200 to the RBL Thorverton Branch/Community Fund. Thank you for your kind and tremendous support.

From Alex, Penny Fice and all the team.

Remember loved ones by moonlight and support Children’s Hospice South West

Sponsored by:  National friendly

children's hospice SOUTH WEST
memories by moonlight

Saturday 26 September 2020

Remember and celebrate the life of someone special
 To find out more and request your memory pack visit: www.chsw.org.uk/moonlight

 Making the most of short and precious lives across the South West
 Registered Charity No. 1003314



Children’s Hospice South West (CHSW) is inviting people to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one and raise vital funds for the charity.

A **Memories by Moonlight** ceremony will be broadcast live on Facebook from the **Little Harbour children’s hospice in St Austell at 9pm on Saturday, September 26**, giving people the opportunity to light a candle and come together virtually for a special evening of reflection.

The poignant and uplifting ceremony will feature readings from all three of the charity’s children’s hospices – Little Harbour, Little Bridge House near Barnstaple and Charlton Farm near Bristol. It will also include music, poems and a 2-minute applause to celebrate the lives of those no longer with us. The names of loved ones will also appear along the bottom of the screen.

Kiley Pearce, Events Fundraiser for CHSW said: “Due to the pandemic, the charity has had to adapt many things over the last few months – the care and support we offer to children as well as the fundraising events that help to fund that vital support for more than 500 local families.

“We hope our new Memories by Moonlight event will give people a lovely way to support the work we

do while remembering the special people in their lives.”

Everyone who registers to take part in the event, which is being sponsored by National Friendly, will get the chance to join the virtual memory ceremony. People can then choose to simply donate in memory of their loved one, or complete a walk or activity at a time and location that suits them and ask friends and family to make a donation towards this.

Participants will receive a beautiful memory pack in the post, which will include a candle bag to decorate, along with a tea light to light on the evening and a booklet to accompany the memory ceremony.

Kiley added: “We are delighted to be bringing Memories by Moonlight to people across the South West and beyond. We look forward to connecting with everyone at the memory ceremony on the evening of September 26, which we are sure will be a very special night.”

To sign up to Memories by Moonlight simply visit www.chsw.org.uk/moonlight. Registration is just £10 and a memory pack, along with details of how to access the Memory Ceremony, will be sent in the post. For more information about the event, you can also call the CHSW Fundraising Team on 01726 871800.

Children’s Hospice South West (CHSW)

- Children’s Hospice South West was first registered with the charity commission in 1991 and celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2016
- It is dedicated to making the most of short and precious lives, providing the best possible hospice care for life-limited children and their families
- There are three hospices in the South West: Little Bridge House in Barnstaple (opened 1995), Charlton Farm in Bristol (opened 2007) and Little Harbour in St Austell (opened 2011)
- CHSW is the only children’s hospice in the South West. It costs around £11 million to run the 3 hospice sites each year and the charity relies almost entirely on voluntary contributions
- CHSW delivers a range of services including short breaks, specialist play, music therapy, activities for siblings, palliative and emergency care, end of life care, bereavement support and specialist medical care - all available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- The services are free for families. To find out more about our work, visit www.chsw.org.uk

For further information please contact Caroline Swain, Media Officer, Children’s Hospice South West, caroline.swain@chsw.org.uk or call 01726 871800

Free parking to boost town centre spending

Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) is introducing free parking in its main towns as it continues to support the economic revival of the district.

From 1st August to the 30th September, visitors will be able to claim two hours free parking in selected car parks in Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton.

The following car parks will allow a two hour free parking period between 8:00am and 6:00pm:

- Market Place, Tiverton
- Market Street, Crediton
- Station Road, Cullompton

A 'free ticket' from the machine must still be displayed on arrival by entering the last 3 digits of the car's registration number and pressing the green button to print.

SILVERTON LINK UP - COVID-19

Our priority is to protect our volunteer drivers and patients, hence our position following latest government advice is, regrettably, to continue with the suspension of our hospital and surgery medical appointment car service until further notice. We will return the service as soon as it is safe to do so.

If you require any further information, please contact Roger Higman (01392 860571) or roger.higman@icloud.co

The Thorverton and District History Society

The Committee has taken the decision to postpone the talks planned for September, October and November. We hope that they can be rescheduled for 2021 along with the talks booked for the first half of this year. However, it remains to be seen how the Covid-19 situation progresses and we shall do our best to keep you updated via *Focus*, Facebook and Nextdoor.

Robert Turner

Morris Off

I am sorry to report that the Bradninch Millers Morris will not be able to perform for us on 4th September as had been scheduled.

The restrictions because of the coronavirus situation have made it impossible for them to fulfil their programme. They very much hope to reschedule for 2021, which we will publicise when we have the date.



Church Services and News

JOIN ME AT 10AM ON THE PHONE

Sunday Worship



Ring 0333 011 0616
Access Code 146 99 99

We also offer a Sunday service via Zoom (a video conferencing system), details below:

11am Zoom Church Service (a repeat of the telephone service but with the added bonus of being able to see people via your computer).

For the Zoom service you **either** need to click the link below on your computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/96051498892?pwd=dno0R05teVpFa1NmRWpxaHBjZ0prZz09>

Meeting ID: 960 5149 8892

Password: Church

or ring this telephone number to connect to the audio: 0208 080 6591

Meeting ID: 960 5149 8892. Password: 591980

THE NETHEREXE PARISHES

Private Prayer and Contemplation.

Our Churches will be open, or closed, as follows:

Bramford Speke - Remains closed at this time.

Cadbury - Open Saturdays 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Huxham - Remains closed at this time.

Newton St Cyres - Open Fridays 4:00 – 6:00 pm
[please wear face covering]

Poltimore - Remains closed at this time.

Netherexe - Remains closed at this time.

Rewe - Open Wed. 8am –12:00 & Sat. 1pm–5:00pm

Stoke Canon - Open Thursdays 9:30am - 11:30am

Thorverton - Open Wed 10am–4pm & Sat 4-6 pm

Upton Pyne - Remains closed at this time.

Parish Letter

Upton Pyne looks to the future

When our village church fell on hard times a few years ago a group of people got together to raise the several thousand pounds needed to complete that year's essential repairs.

The aim of the group was to raise funds to help maintain an historic, beautiful and culturally important building, with personal significance for many local people, which had been at the heart of the community for centuries. Devon is rich in glorious country churches in need of funds for repairs and, as the Rector at that time said, the Christian community did not necessarily need such a building in which to worship. Beautiful though the church might be, and grade 1 listed, it was only 'on the cusp' of being considered worthy of financial support, he added.

So the group set to, determined to help preserve the fabric of this lovely building for all residents and visitors to enjoy and benefit from. One thing, of course, led to another. The initial 'fire-fighting' drive for funds for essential repairs led to a longer-term restoration project supported by a generous Government grant to fix the roof.

Upton Pyne now has a delightfully pink-hued, restored church in which to hold religious services, baptisms, weddings and funerals, all adding to the tapestry of village life. The church has been enlivened further by fund-raising concerts – classical, choral, folk – and fairs. All of these activities provide cohesion within the community which is as valuable as the cash raised for pointing and plastering, damp-proofing and drains.

I just mis-typed and wrote 'fun-raising' by mistake. But perhaps that wasn't such an error after all as the fun has, in the past, been noticeable. All sorts of money-raising events gave the parish new opportunities to socialise, eat, sing, shop and chat and they pull in people from further afield. A Sheffield folk musician, on the trail of two great uncles from Star Barton who died in WW1, came back with his wife to give a concert in a packed church after he heard about the fund-raising efforts. Many other wonderful musicians have also performed for free and the village is blessed to have such good friends.

Locally, the wealth of talent, ability and willingness to participate has been astonishing in such a small village. New allegiances have been formed, new events created, and generous support offered from unlikely quarters.

What is it about the church that inspires people to want to help preserve its presence in the community?

It may be that, for them, the church represents history, culture, a place of peace and spirituality, a way of life. Or perhaps it is seen as a tangible link to the past generations that have lived and worshipped here and, in some cases, given their lives in war to protect our freedoms.

Whatever people's reasons for supporting us, we hope you will continue to do so in the months ahead as the church building is reopened after the closure caused by Covid-19.

Linda Findlay, Friends of Upton Pyne

Baptist Church

*Make a joyful noise into the LORD, all ye lands;
Serve the LORD with gladness:
Come before his presence with singing... (Psalms)*

Sing unto the Lord, for he hath done excellent things... (Isaiah)

If only ... for no live singing has been heard in our churches and chapels for more than five months now. And yet it is at the heart of Christian worship, as it was part and parcel of services in the Jewish Temple as recorded in the Old Testament. The above verses are but a fraction of those that summon the people of God to enter his presence with songs on their lips and in their hearts. The New Testament revelation perpetuates the tradition, as when St Paul exhorts the Church at Ephesus: *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord.*

When the Jews were exiled for some 70 years from their homeland following their mass deportation by their Babylonian conquerors in the sixth century BC, the issue of songs and singing was a real one. Their captors taunted them: *Sing us one of the songs of Zion, to which the Jews' plaintive response was How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?* For us it is not the land that is strange but the times. They have indeed constituted a sort of exile for church people, an image that Peter Colebrook picked up in July's Parish Letter, an apt symbol of the experience which the Church has been going through over the last few months.

And now there is hope of a return from this exile, at least there is if the government can be persuaded to take into account a recent study carried out by scientists at the University of Bristol, which concluded that there is no specific excessive risk of transmission of the coronavirus due to singing. However, the study also demonstrated that LOUD speech and singing both carry extra risk. In other words, it is volume that we have to fear rather than

the manner in which the number of aerosols and droplets are produced.

Personally, I could live with that. I would be happy if we could resume our services while singing softly. It would be a start. But given the government's lack of consideration for its churchgoing citizens up to now I will not be holding my breath (which would of course, put the kibosh on the whole exercise anyway).

So we must continue to possess our souls in patience and in hope:

*This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way,
While each in expectation lives,
And longs to see the day.*

St Paul longed to see believers *teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with gratitude in your hearts to the Lord.* May it be soon!

Maurice Harrison

Devon Historic Churches Trust, Ride and Stride Day

On or around 12th September, several members of Thorverton Parish Church will take part in this annual event. They will cycle or walk around at least some of the 10 churches of the Netherexe Parishes. Some will visit all of the churches*, others just some.

The aim is to raise money for the Devon Historic Churches Trust and for our Fabric Appeal. You can read all about it on our Facebook page: Thorverton Parish Church Ride and Stride Campaign, where you can also donate. If you don't do Facebook but would still like to support us you can get directly to our online giving page at: <https://bit.ly/2FDrwSn> or send a cheque payable to Thorverton PCC to 25 The Glebe. Thank you.

*Royston Kershaw
Churchwarden*

* The full set is: Brampford Speke, Cadbury, Huxham, Netherexe, Newton St Cyres, Poltimore Rewe, Stoke Canon, Thorverton and Upton Pyne.

Arts Festival



As many of you know, each year the Parish Church of St Thomas of Canterbury in Thorverton is turned into an art gallery for the East Devon Arts Festival (EDAF), but that this year, the 50th year since the Festival has been running, the church has been unable to hold the event because of Covid-19. However, the church has instead created virtual art and craft exhibitions on Facebook!

As the Arts Festival is usually a significant fundraising activity of the church, raising approximately £6,000 each year, the cancellation of the event has meant that there is a large financial shortfall without the income usually generated.

This led to the church launching the East Devon Arts Festival Appeal so that individuals can support Thorverton Parish Church by contributing on a donation page.

Royston Kershaw, a churchwarden at the church, said: “Every year, our village comes together to do this, and lots of people help us run the exhibition in all sorts of ways - it’s great for the community. We know that they’re willing to support the church in different ways, some give money, some give their time, and not only the people in the village but the artists and contributors are great supporters of the exhibition, so we decided to launch an appeal.”

So far, the appeal has raised approximately **£3,500**.

Royston said: “It’s a real measure of how much support the Festival has, and it’s a sign of the local goodwill to the church, even among people who don’t go to church very often.”

So that’s what started us off, and then one of the exhibitors came up with the idea of setting up an online gallery, and I realised we could quite easily use Facebook to do an art exhibition, and it’s been quite popular, we’ve reached thousands of people!”



Some of the crafts available for purchase through the EDAF virtual exhibition

The reason for doing the exhibition isn’t just for earning money, but it’s to create a platform for people to exhibit their work, and to showcase some fantastic artists, which is very worthwhile.”

You can view the exhibition on the EDAF Facebook pages by clicking:

<https://www.facebook.com/EDAFappeal>

For the Art Gallery:

<https://www.facebook.com/EDAFvirtual/photos>

For the Craft Gallery:

<https://www.facebook.com/EDAFcraftex>

The exhibition also supports the EDAF Appeal as the church receives a small commission when pieces are sold through the online galleries.

Thorverton Parish Church would be very grateful for any donations which you can give by clicking on the “Shop Now” button which will take you to the donation page, or by clicking:
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/814a237b-de52-4e32-97ef-c398572804f9>

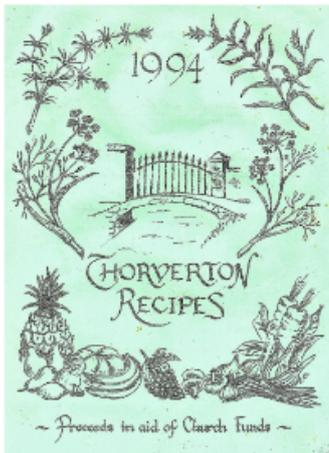
If you would like to make a donation but don’t wish to do so online, please email for instructions:
eastdevonarts@aol.com

The exhibition is still growing so if you want to see more, make sure to ‘Like’ and ‘Follow’ the pages on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/EDAFappeal>

Thorverton Church needs **your** help

We must raise about £60,000 to repair our beautiful church



26 years ago the people of Thorverton put together a book of favourite recipes to raise money for the church.

We have reprinted this very useful and popular book in a handy A5 size.

It's a taste of Thorverton in 1994 and is still relevant for the 2020's

Copies available for just £5 from:
The Post Office, Berry Dairy, The Exe Valley Farm Shop, The Spar in Silverton.
Or ring
Jean—01392 861176

If you would like to give money directly to the fabric appeal where you can 'gift aid' it you can use this qcode.



You can find out more about the appeal on the Netherex Parishes Website under the heading 'donating'

Here is one of the recipes from the book:

MARROW CHUTNEY

Cooking time about 2 hours. Makes about 7 lb. and best left for a few months to mature.

3 lb. marrow (or courgettes) peeled, seeded & diced,
3 lb. cooking apples peeled, cored and chopped,
8 oz. onions peeled and chopped,
1 large garlic clove (optional) peeled and crushed,
4 oz. sultanas, 4 oz. dried apricots, 4 oz. raisins,
2 oz. chopped blanched almonds,
4 oz. preserved ginger chopped (or 1 tblsp ground),
4 tablespoons mustard seeds,
1 tablespoon salt, 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon,
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg, 1 teaspoon ground cloves,
1½ pints malt vinegar, 5 tablespoons whiskey,
3 lb. sugar,
1 tablespoon chilies, seeds removed, and finely chopped or ground chili powder.

Method: Place all ingredients into a large pan and bring to the boil, stirring. Reduce the heat and

simmer for 1½ hours or so, stirring occasionally until thick and like jam.

Spoon whilst still hot into prepared jars. Seal with airtight covers (vinegar proof).

Pamela Palmer

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHTER for Newton St. Cyres Tennis Club following a funding award from Viridor Credits Environmental Agency to replace the existing flood lighting system with LED lighting. This is brighter, energy saving and low maintenance lighting replacing the existing, ageing system which is expensive to maintain and becoming a drain on club funds for no additional benefit.

The new lighting system is part of the Committee's plan to update the facilities at the club. This started two years ago with a successful application to Viridor Credits for funding to extend and modernise the clubhouse, a former Exmouth beach hut, which was too small and inadequate for the needs of the members and visiting teams.

The renovated clubhouse now has a viewing area of the courts, changing room with toilet facilities, and a better equipped kitchen area for hosting visiting teams and social events.

The courts too will have a new look this summer as they are being resurfaced and will reopen for play in mid September. The colour scheme has been reversed and the courts will be green with a terracotta surround. Members have been playing at Exwick Sports Hub and Sandford Tennis Club during the resurfacing period - many thanks to both of these venues for allowing us to use their courts while ours were closed. And thanks to the lighting contractors Luminance Pro and court resurfacers Courtstall for their work in updating our facilities.



The club hopes the new facilities will attract new members from the community and local villages. There are weekly sessions to cater for all ages and abilities, including a popular weekly Junior Coaching Programme. Adult coaching is also available. There are daytime and evening club sessions during the week as well as opportunities for match play in the Exeter and East Devon leagues.

Chair Elaine Hennessee said ‘The grants we received from Viridor Credits have enabled us to completely transform the facilities at our small, friendly tennis club. THANK YOU VIRIDOR!’ The committee would also like to thank member Martyn Hopwood for all the work he put in on the grant application.

We were hoping to have a grand opening of the newly-surfaced courts and new lighting in September, but because of Covid restrictions it will be a somewhat reduced ceremony at the beginning of our American Tournament on 27th September. If you are visiting the Rec, do stroll over to look at the smart, newly resurfaced courts, and for any other queries about membership please see our website: www.newtonstcyres.tennisclub.co.uk

Sally Baldwin

Wyndham House Flu Clinics

First clinic - Saturday 12th September 2020 Over 65 year-olds only

This year we will be holding 3 influenza clinics. The first is on 12th Sept. for patients aged 65 and over only, the second on 31st October for patients with chronic conditions aged 18 – 64 and the third for those over 50 not included in any of the other clinics with a date yet to be announced, as we are awaiting details from the Government about vaccines and timescales

With each event we will send out notifications to individuals via text and emails together with information on our website, Facebook page and posters & signs at the surgery entrance. Please try not to phone the surgery to make enquiries about flu vaccination as this further stretches our workloads during a time when most of our work is via the phone for other, clinical, issues. Now is a good time to update your mobile phone and email details with us, preferably by email or in person

Slots for the over 65s on Saturday 12th September have been reserved in alphabetical groups with the exception of patients who are listed as shielding; they should attend between 9am and 10am.

We will have a system of queueing outside to ensure social distancing and will ask people to enter the waiting area when the clinician is ready to see them. We are keen to ensure that large numbers of people don't turn up together. You can attend anytime within your slot, you do not have to be there at the beginning of it.

Don't forget to wear a face covering and please ensure that you wear clothing that will enable you to easily bare your upper arm for the clinician. Given that it is September, please make provision for the possibility of inclement weather.

Please do not attend if: you have a temperature, you are outside your allocated slot, or you are under 65 years of age. If you cannot make your allocated slot, don't worry as there will be other opportunities to receive your vaccination.

*Anthony O'Brien
Wyndham House Surgery*

The Friends of Wyndham House Surgery

In the hope that the rules on accessibility will be eased the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Wyndham House Surgery will be held on the **7th October 2020 at 2.30pm** in the Community Hall, Silverton.

Dr Anthony O'Brien will speak about "virtual medicine".

All are welcome.

In the event that cancellation is necessary we will endeavour to give the matter the widest possible publicity

Funding from Focus

Do you need some assistance with funding?

Focus is in the fortunate position of having some money available, which the *Focus* Committee would like to make available to help the village.

If you want to apply for funding, please write or email the *Focus* Editor.

The Committee will take into consideration the benefit to the village (although this will not necessarily just be the number of villagers likely to be positively affected) and what other sources of funding the requester might have.

Funnies

I thought you would want to know about the Third Strain of the NILE Virus (TYPE "C"), which is due to hit.

Even the most advanced computer programs from Norton, McAfee, Nod 32 and others cannot take care of this one. It appears to target those who were born prior to 1958.

Virus Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send an e-mail to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to reply to an email but only send it to yourself.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to click on SEND before you've finished.
7. Causes you to click on DELETE instead of SEND.
8. Causes you to click on SEND when you should DELETE.

It's called the C-NILE virus! A lot of us have already been inflicted with this deadly disease and unfortunately as we age it gets worse.

You never realise how antisocial you are until there's a pandemic and your life doesn't really change that much.

The Flat Earth Society are worried that social distancing will push people over the edge.

The main function of the little toe on your foot is to make sure that all the furniture is in place.

I bought a pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

You drop something when you're young - you pick it up. You drop something when you're older - you stare at it for a bit, contemplating whether you actually need it any more.

The brain is our most wonderful organ. It works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from your birth right up until you fall in love.

Instead of a sign that reads, "Do not disturb", I need one that says, "Already disturbed - proceed with caution."

Golf - the adult version of an Easter egg hunt.

Recipes

It's getting towards the end of the blackberry season, but hopefully there will still be enough around over the first couple of weeks of September for you to have a go at the following:

Blackberry Pavlova for 4 - 6

Devonshire blackberries are good on a Pavlova.

Pavlova base:

- 3 egg whites
- 150g (6 oz) caster sugar
- a little vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon cornflour
- 1 teaspoon cider vinegar.

Whisk egg whites and gradually add the sugar and vanilla. Mix cornflour and vinegar to a paste and add this when stiff egg peaks form. Spoon the mixture onto baking parchment in a 20cm circle and bake at 150C/Gas 2 for about 1 hour until the Pavlova is a pale caramel colour.

Blackberry compote



- 250g (8 oz) blackberries,
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice,
- 50 g (2 oz) sugar,
- 1 teaspoon cornflour

Place the blackberries, sugar, and lemon juice in a saucepan and bring to the boil, simmer gently for a few minutes then add the cornflour mixed to a paste with a little water. Bring back to the boil then set aside to cool.

Spread a generous layer of whipped cream on the Pavlova, spoon over the blackberry compote, finishing with a few fresh blackberries and a sprig of mint. Enjoy!

Paul Cleave, Sustainable Devon

Poetry

The Aphid's Sonnet

I'm an aphid, I love my oozy slime.
We come in colours black, white, brown and green.
We're just a few; here are some friends of mine
about to suck the sap from stems unseen.

We know we have a bad press, that's for sure,
and do a lot of damage to the plant.
But do not care and must breed more and more,
then wait to hear the gardeners have a rant.

Oh no, the soapy suds have been brought in,
We'll lose our slime and ooze without delay.
Our gorging habits have become our sin
and due to this we now must surely pay.

And so, a word from aphids now deceased,
One lonesome aphid soon becomes increased!

Lorraine Colebrook

The World as Stage



*All the world's a stage and
all the men and women
merely players.*

*They have their exits and
their entrances and one
man in his time plays
many parts,*

His acts being seven ages.

The stage works as a metaphor.
We are born and then we die.
It leaves us asking for much more;
Shakespeare does not question why.

Like actors, we come and go
On the stage that we call life,
It adds up to a seamless flow,
Light moments alternate with strife.

Our parts vary with our ages
So our roles appear assigned;
We can move beyond these stages,
Each of us with our own mind.

Who we are and what we do
May often seem to be confined;
The part we play is up to us:
Casting by age can prove unkind.

Andrew Hoellering

Cordelia

King Lear: Nothing comes of nothing.

Cordelia has much to fear;
Her father's irascible old Lear.

Which one will the king despise?
She speaks truth; her sister lies.

The problem remains the same:
It's falsehood that stands to gain.

Andrew Hoellering

Cream Tea

To have, or have not, a cream tea?
But it would be lovely for me.
I've been a bit down, you see,
So bring me that scone, I plea!
Watching a film on TV,
Or chasing a stray bumble bee,
Or bouncing a babe on your knee,
There's nothing quite like a cream tea!

Alison Marshall

Myrtle

She is afraid.
The darkness is coming again.
She is not safe.
She can not escape the fate that she knows is coming.

'Myrtle'.
She hears the call but she can not reply.
Her voice is lost and her breath is quick.
She is frozen, scared, wanting to cry.

'Myrtle'.
Nearer this time but still she cannot reply.
Suddenly, the cloth above her head is lifted and the
light floods in.
She sees a friendly face and she is no longer scared
or alone.

'Myrtle, I've been calling you', her Mother says.
'There was a spider, here in my den', Myrtle replies.
Her Mother smiles and takes Myrtle's hand. 'Silly
thing', she says softly.
'It was huge, black and very hairy' Myrtle protests.
They both laugh loudly together.

Alison Marshall

A Year on our Farm – September

We managed to combine all our oil seed rape, and get the straw baled and sold. We take the seed which is tiny, the size of mustard seed, straight from the combine into a trailer and we deliver it to a grain co-operative we belong to at Cullompton. They will then sell it on our behalf. It didn't yield as well as it should and is an expensive crop to grow. Rape, being a brassica, is grown as a break crop, ie. to give the soil a break from just growing cereals; so we may look at the legume family (peas and beans) to use as our break crop in future years.

EU legislation banned a chemical that was used on rape to control flea beetle, claiming it affected the honey bee, resulting in having to spray the crop more often with not so efficient chemicals. This means more input into the crop and less yield. The legislation has caused a reduction of about 70% nationally in the area of rape now being planted, as it is no longer economical to grow - meaning roughly a 70% reduction in early flowers for the honey bee and other pollinators. Honey bees have died from lack of food and numbers are half what they were five years ago. The UK, which was self sufficient in rapeseed oil, is now importing it from countries where the chemical has not been banned. Political policies and science don't always work together.

We have combined some of our barley, and most of the grain was sold straight from the field to a neighbouring farmer. The straw was baled into big bales and some put in our shed and some delivered to a farmer at Rackenford.

For the vintage machinery buffs.....the old photo, put in last month's *Focus* by JG was showing Jack driving an Allis Chalmers "B" and Michael on a Massey Sunshine binder. We still have both machines. We used to grow wheat for thatching reed each year, but it is a very labour intensive crop, and we now only plant it if our house needs thatching. We are very proud of the fact that all the thatch on our big house was grown on the farm.

We have been selling fat lambs, and the price is still holding up well. To determine a fat lamb, they are weighed - we're looking for something between 38 and 41kg (80-90lb) - and we feel their backs to make sure there is a good covering of meat over the bones. We are paid a price per kg dead weight and that is about half the live weight - so about 20kg; and the price fluctuates each week. Last week we also picked out 50 of the smallest lambs, and took them on a Friday market. They sold very well considering they were only 15-25 kg live. These are called store lambs

and often bought by dairy farmers to graze behind cows through the autumn and winter.

An advert came out on the 1st of August for our puppies and they were all sold by the 2nd. They won't leave us till September, and are getting loads of attention from the grandchildren.

We are now waiting for some dry weather to finish our harvest. We knew, as it was planted late, that it would be nearly September before it would be ready.

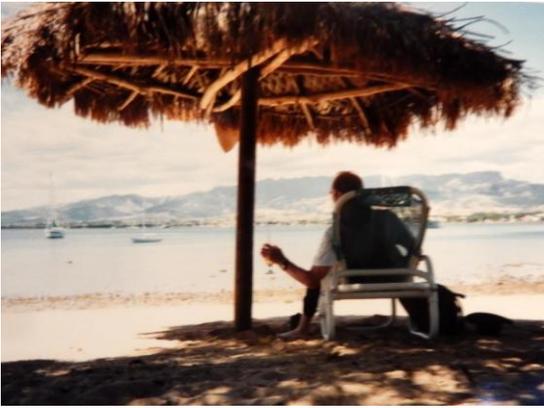
Tina Ayre

The Joy of the Extra Day

If air travel ever becomes risk free, and you want to go around the world, then the best direction is east. The reason for this advice is that, as you cross the International Date Line, you actually gain an extra day. My experience of this phenomenon was in 1994 after visiting friends in Hong Kong, Brisbane, Sydney, and Hamilton, New Zealand. I then flew onward from Auckland to Fiji and spent a couple of days exploring Nananu-i-Ra, a small (2 miles by 3 miles) island off the north coast of Viti Levu. A typical tropical (desert?) island with mangroves, palm trees and a basic back-packers' accommodation on the edge of the white sandy beach. Lots of wildlife, and colourful tropical fish on the coral reef in the warm water.

At lunchtime on Saturday I was ferried across to the main island and caught the rickety local bus from Ba to Nadi in time for the evening flight to Hawaii. I settled into my window seat on the plane and waited for take-off ... and waited ... until an announcement. "*Sorry, aircon faulty, flight delayed for 24 hours ... report to customer services and you will be directed to a nearby hotel.*" So, an hour later, I was installed in a beach-front 4* hotel a few miles up the coast at Lautoka. Much better than my usual accommodation on a back-packer's budget.

On **Sunday** morning, after an excellent full breakfast, I strolled down to the local dock where small boats were offering trips across to the islands. I have fondness for small islands (like Samson in the Isles of Scilly), so the opportunity to explore one more was too good to miss. 10am saw my small ferry boat splashing through the waves to Becana Island with another sandy beach and a few palm-leaf umbrellas and canvas sunloungers scattered in front of the small resort. After 4 hours beachcombing and exploring the sandy paths round the island, and lunch under one of the umbrellas, I caught the afternoon ferry back to Lautoka and the transport to the airport.



Becana Island

This time, following a fairly slow boarding procedure, the plane took off at 18.50 on Sunday evening bound for Honolulu. Seven hours later the plane landed on the island of Oahu ... at 01.50 on **SUNDAY morning**. But, I thought, “*I’ve already had Sunday, so this is actually an extra day.*” I hired a car at the airport and an hour later I was parked by Waikiki Beach. I wandered down to the water’s edge and looked around for crowds ... No-one, not a soul; I had the beach entirely to myself and no risk of sunburn, despite an almost full moon!



Waikiki Beach

After a few hours' snooze in the car by Diamond Head, I spent my extra day driving anticlockwise slowly round Oahu. On the north coast I paused, and parked, after hearing Hawaiian music, and walked to the beach to join many parents watching the first-rate, final presentation by teenagers at the end of a week learning the hula dance.



Hula Camp

Further along the coast I followed a small sign “Sacred Falls” pointing to a path into the jungle. This

turned out to be an hour’s walk leading to a clearing in the trees with a vertical waterfall dropping into a delightful pool, ideal for swimming. So I joined a dozen other intrepid travellers for a refreshing swim across the pool to be splashed (and beaten) by the crashing water.



Sacred Falls

I ended my 48 hour day at Makaha at the western end of the island. After watching the clear red sun drop into the sea, I pitched my small green tent on a level patch of grass on the edge of the sandy beach. I slept well and was back at the airport later on **Monday** having completed a 30 hour circuit of the island.



Oahu Camp

It then occurred to me that, due to the delayed flight, there would be an excess of passengers wanting the onward flight to Los Angeles. I asked at the check-in if I could help them by converting my flight destination to San Francisco instead. They were quite pleased to make extra space and willingly put me on the next American Airlines flight to SFO. It was better for me because I avoided the need for the extra flight from LAX to SFO, and I met my friends on the Monday as originally arranged. It truly was an **extra day in my life**.

Of course, if you travel round the world in a westerly direction you end up losing a day, which is very disappointing. (*I lost my extra day in 2007 leaving LA on Saturday and arriving in Fiji on Monday en route to NZ.*)

John Spivey

Legal Eagle

For many, hair loss is a traumatic experience. Over the years people have sought to hide their loss under a wig; Julius Caesar in 44 BC wore a toupee to hide his thinning hair. My grandmother, when she was in her 90s, went through a series of, on the whole, unsuitable wigs, one of which made her look like Charles I without the beard. In more recent times treatments have been introduced to arrest hair loss or, as an alternative, to replace that which has been lost. Newspaper and television advertisements encouraging people to undergo hair transplants abound. Famous people extol the virtues of the procedure; Shane Warne, Darren Gough, Wayne Rooney, James Nesbitt to name but a few. Recent figures show a huge increase in the business of combating hair loss among men.

Edward Willett, a personal trainer, paid £4,000 for what he thought was a hair transplant. Sadly, Mr Willett did not get what he thought he was going to get. Mr Willett agreed to undergo a ‘hair replacement’ procedure which was described by Dr Greg Williams as essentially a hairpiece or partial wig of human hair, attached to the head with adhesive. Mr Willett believed that what he would be getting was a hair transplant which involves the taking of hair follicles from the donor area of the scalp with a cutting tool, and then inserted into tiny cuts made into the recipient site, where they bed down and grow in the previously bald area. The cost of such a procedure ranges between £5,000 and £12,000.

Mr Willett sought to recover the cost of the procedure saying, that instead of the transplant which he thought he was getting, he was mis-sold a glued on “wig” that triggered his asthma. In evidence Mr Willett claimed that he had made it clear from the outset that he did not want a wig. Richard Rowe, of International Hair Studio told Central London County Court that Mr Willett had been clearly advised that he was signing up for “hair replacement” rather than a surgical hair transplant.

As a rule, when one signs a document, which I assume Mr Willett did, the law makes the not unrealistic assumption that not only have you read the document but also that you have understood it. In consequence one is usually bound by the terms of a signed document. So, if we assume that Mr Willett signed a document in which the procedure was described, quite correctly as “hair replacement” and given that this is what Mr Willett got, then his case would appear doomed. However, Mr Willett claimed that at all stages of the discussion, not only had he made it clear that he did not want a wig, he was assured that what he was getting would not be a wig. The court found Mr Willett a compelling witness.

How then to overcome the fact that Mr Willett had signed a document agreeing to the very procedure that he received? I do not have access to the judge’s findings, but one possible approach would have been to rely on the decision in **Curtis -v- Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Co [1951]**. Mrs Curtis took a white satin wedding dress to the shop of the defendants for cleaning. On being requested by the shop assistant to sign a paper headed “Receipt,” Mrs Curtis asked why her signature was required and was told that it was because the defendants would not accept liability for certain risks, including the risk of damage by or to the beads and sequins with which the dress was trimmed.

Mrs Curtis signed the “Receipt” which, in fact, contained a condition which read: “This article is accepted on condition that the company is not liable for any damage howsoever arising.”

When the dress was returned there was a stain on it which could not be explained. Mrs Curtis sued, and the company sought to rely on the exemption. The county court judge found for Mrs Curtis and the company appealed. Denning L.J., in the course of his judgment said, “In my opinion when the signature to a condition, purporting to exempt a person from his common law abilities, is obtained by an innocent misrepresentation, the party who has made the representation is disentitled to rely on the exemption...”

If we ignore the exemption issue and simply read the judgment as saying that if during the course of negotiations, a term of the contract is misrepresented to you and you sign the contract believing the term to have the meaning which has been represented to you, then you will not be bound by the actual meaning. On this reasoning Mr Willett, who had been assured that what he was getting would not be a wig, was entitled, despite the technical language of the document signed, to expect a procedure which would not involve him wearing a wig.

There are, of course, other mechanisms that the court might have used to find in favour of Mr Willett; on occasion courts have been persuaded that a written document should give way to an oral undertaking, or that the arrangement between the parties can be seen as involving both the main contract and a collateral contract.

Whichever device the court used on this occasion, Mr Willett was successful in his claim to recover the cost of the procedure and presumably International Hair Studio was ordered to pay the costs of the action.

Clive Hamblin

From The Archives

The extract here is from *Focus* of December 1973:

THE PARISH COUNCIL

At a special Council Meeting held on Friday, 16th November, which was attended by a selection of Parishioners, it was unanimously agreed that Mr.S.Petts be co-opted to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Rev.W.H.Savage.

The only other business discussed was the planning application by the Church Commissioners to develop the Glebe Land, which was referred to a Public Meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Monday, 19th November.

.....

A Public Meeting was held in the Memorial Hall on Monday, 19th November at 8.00p.m. The Parish Council called this meeting to discover public reaction to a planning application by the Church Commissioners to build houses on the Glebe Land between the old and new Vicarage.

The Rev.W.H.Savage gave a summary of the situation on behalf of the Archdeacon, and this was followed by a lengthy discussion by several of the one hundred and twenty one people present. On a vote called by the Chairman, Mr.Martin Summers, it was shown by 101 to 12 with 8 abstentions that the meeting was against the application.

RONALD HUGHES
(Parish Clerk)

The next extract is from *Focus* of September 1975:

A Parish Council meeting was held on the 21st August which had been preceded on the 20th August by a public viewing in the Memorial Hall of the proposed detailed plans of the Glebe Development. Letters from two parishioners together with views obtained at the Public Viewing were discussed at length. The plans show the siting of 3 large detached houses, 6 smaller detached houses and 14 semi-detached houses, together with the proposed conversion of the Old Vicarage into 4 two bedroomed and 2 one bedroomed flats and the conversion of the stable into a detached house. Preservation of all standing trees are shown as also is the cob wall on Berrisbridge Road with the exception of the construction of a new entrance to the development about fifteen feet further south than the present entrance. A footpath entrance will be constructed from School Lane just south of "The Lodge". It is proposed that $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land immediately above the school field, New Vicarage and The Lodge will become the new glebe and will be left free of development in order to preserve the view from School Lane.

But the development did go ahead, with people moving in in 1980. I am grateful – as so often – to John Spivey for giving me some copies of photos from the early days of The Glebe and for suggesting that we feature it in Focus.

Here are Sue Rennison's recollections of those early days:

Memories of The Glebe

My family and I moved down from Manchester to Thorverton in 1982. We had fallen in love with the village and felt lucky to have found the perfect home. Our house was at the far end of the Glebe and had been the last to be completed. In fact, we lived in our caravan on Ratcliffe Farm for a few weeks until we could move in. It was August, the children complained about having to eat pizza yet again in the Dolphin's (*now the Thorverton Arms*) back garden because it was too hot in the village!!!!

We eventually moved into The Glebe and met the neighbours. What a welcome we had! This was probably due to the fact that everyone had moved in from outside the area and many of us had children the same age. The Battys lived next door. They had arrived in 1980 when it was still a building site. The Perrys lived next door but one, and they had moved in 1981. There were many other families too - the school must have grown quite appreciably.

We were all learning about the village activities and events. I remember my first visit to Mother and Toddlers where I first met other village mums who made me feel so welcome. We went to raft races, tug of wars, etc etc. BUT...our favourite was the Carnival!!!!

So... Sue Batty, Gill Perry and I spent some idyllic years sitting on doorsteps! The children would be playing together. We would follow the sun. Morning coffee at mine, Make the children a sandwich for lunch at Sue's, Tea and cake at Gill's in the afternoon. We also fitted in walking the older children to and from school ... and a bit of housework!

After watching the 1982 carnival, we decided that in future we would take part. The next few years were therefore spent planning, building, dying sheets, sewing and yet more planning. The first year was the Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe. The Battys had a large Volvo estate car and Dave turned it into a shoe with a giant chimney fixed on the top. We dyed sheets brown to make a cover and I remember painting hollyhocks around it. We dressed the children in their pyjamas and put them to bed in the open boot.

We had got the bug! The following year the same car became a Yellow Submarine. I still smile at the memory of Sue and Gill dressed as mermaids sitting on the bonnet ... with strategically placed shells ... All before the days of health and safety!

The following year was exciting for us! We had the use of a trailer and our float was called Egyptian

Mummies on Holiday. We spent hours drawing hieroglyphics, and Dave made an enormous Tutankhamen mask which finished its days at school. The float looked superb. Sue, Gill and I cut up sheets and covered ourselves in bandages. We thought we were totally anonymous but everybody said they could tell who was who.

Then came Alice in Wonderland. It took hours and hours to build the floats but we had so much fun. We surpassed ourselves with The Ugly Bugs' Ball and won best in Carnival!!!

Other memories? The village bonfire took place on John Lee's field next to us. There was a best Guy competition, fireworks etc... the electrics being plugged into the Batty's house. When the village bonfires were no more, we all joined together for the celebrations in one of our gardens chewing on treacle toffee, ginger biscuits and parkin.

There were so many young families on The Glebe and we were all away from home. Therefore, we organised our own baby sitting circle based on tokens. It cost more tokens if you were out after midnight!

The day of the flood brings back memories. Being a new house, we had just seeded the back garden for our new lawn. Unfortunately, the farmer who was using the field next to us ploughed in a different direction. It rained really heavily and all the water channelled down to our garden in a torrent. Our garden was flooded. The raging river continued through to the garden behind us, down The Glebe and only just missed flooding the houses at the bottom. Needless to say ... no lawn at that point!

The day of the snow had all the children sledging down The Glebe!

The day of the storm also brings back memories. On that day, lightning struck an oak tree on our drive. This resulted in the tree becoming dangerous and so had to come down. The tree surgeon had to bring the most enormous crane to do this. So enormous that I had to go round and ask everyone not to park on the road. It was such a spectacle that we took the whole school up to watch it!

So, many mainly happy memories about The Glebe. We all agree that our children had an idyllic childhood being brought up there.

Although I no longer live there, The Glebe has always meant friendship and a sense of belonging. I wonder if there are any more Glebe memories around?

Sue Renison

The Glebe Development c.1980



Photos by John Spivey

Puzzles

Congratulations to Ian Stoye and Sylv Gregory on correctly submitting their answers. I again applaud their efforts and would very much welcome others submitting answers in future.

The answer to the question about dropping a ball from the Tower of Pisa was 218 feet and $9\frac{1}{3}$ inches.

Here is an interesting little exercise to try:

Write down a number with three digits. Then repeat those digits immediately next to it (so 374 would become 374374). Divide it by 7 (there should be no remainder); then divide that answer by 11 (no remainder again); then divide that answer by 13 (no remainder again). What number are you left with? Try it and see.

Su Doku

Here is another Su Doku puzzle (each horizontal and vertical line must contain each of the numbers from one to nine):

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | | 4 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | | | | | | |
| 1 | 4 | | 2 | | 6 | 8 | | |
| 9 | 5 | | 1 | | 7 | | 2 | 6 |
| | | 6 | 3 | | 8 | | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | | | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| | | | | 7 | | | | 3 |
| | | | | | 3 | | 9 | 8 |

Mid Devon Local Plan

Mid Devon District Council adopted the Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033 on the 29th July 2020.

MDDC is currently updating the Written Statement and Policies Map for this Local Plan to reflect all modifications made and corrections needed and will publish these as soon as practicable on the Council’s website, together with its adoption statement and Sustainability Appraisal. They will also make these documents available to inspect at the Council’s offices at Phoenix House, Tiverton and in libraries in Mid Devon once this becomes possible following a relaxation of restrictions of movement and public gatherings currently in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic

The Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033 now carries full weight in the consideration of planning applications and replaces the Mid Devon Core Strategy (July 2007), Local Plan Part 2 (Allocations and Infrastructure DPD)(October 2010) and Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) (November 2013).

We intend to carry an article in a future edition of *Focus* describing the key elements of the Local Plan.

Silverton Point-to-Point

A few photos of the Silverton Point-to-Point last year. Unfortunately the meeting this spring was not able to be held.



Caption required please.

The Good Old Days?

Unsentimental journey

I have often wondered why there was so little sentiment expressed on both sides of my family when I was a child. In my reflections, I remind myself that both sets of grandparents were born in the tight-buttoned Victorian era, where displays of affection, or even affection itself, were uncommon. In fact, despite the fact that they lived within walking distance, I knew nothing of an intimate relationship with my grandparents.

My maternal grandmother died before I was born, and I remember Granddad Harrison as a fierce old tyrant barking instructions to his adult children, who remained in fear of him long after they had left home. In fact, the only precise memory I have of him is being in his bedroom (he must have been unwell at the time) with him shouting out to one of my aunts, 'Get that kid (he meant me) out of here,' because he wanted to use the chamber-pot.

As for my mother's parents, it was the same lack of any meaningful connection. We were practically never in each other's homes, let alone sharing meals together or simply enjoying each other's company. Their house was gloomy and cold, with gas lighting in my earliest years. There were absolutely no creature comforts in it. One memory I have retained about Granny and Granddad Shakespeare's home is the toilet, situated half way up the garden. Instead of toilet paper, it had carefully cut up squares of pages from the Daily Mirror threaded with string fastened to the wall.

Granny always seemed to be old, dressed in black and of uncertain temper. There was no communication whatsoever with Granddad. I remember that after his wife's death he would visit us to deliver and collect washing, sit down and read out loud from the Daily Mirror while waiting for the bus to take him home.

There was, however, one advantage for the family from his job. He was a miner and entitled to receive extra allocations of coal. This meant that as a small boy I was sometimes to be found surreptitiously pushing an old pram full of the precious cargo, hidden under an old cloth away from the prying eyes of potentially jealous neighbours, from the grandparents' house to ours. No-one we knew had central heating at that time and so extra fuel for our sometimes freezing home was a welcome luxury.

How did we entertain ourselves in those days? The main forms were the wireless (as it was then called) and the cinema, although I do recall a variety concert at my Methodist Church when one of my Sunday

school teachers sang 'We'll gather lilacs in the spring again,' a wonderfully sentimental love song of separation and reunion evoking the society of war-time Britain. Popular radio shows were *Dick Barton*, *Journey into Space* and the quiz shows of Radio Luxembourg.

Most people would go to the pictures, as we used to say then, at least once a week. There were three cinemas within a mile of where we lived. Like most children of my age, I used to love the Saturday morning sessions put on especially for us. We laughed uproariously at Laurel and Hardy and the Three Stooges. We were gripped by westerns and so many series involving heroes and heroines in cliff-hanger episodes which always ended with the promise, 'Continued in our next...' The cinema was so much a part of my life that I sometimes went on my own at an early age (under eight) and can remember returning alone in the dark (the cinema was only a few hundred yards away) on one occasion.

Practically every form of entertainment was banned on a Sunday. Shops, cinemas, theatres were all closed and no sporting events took place on the Lord's Day. Indeed, so as to preclude any possible profanation of the Sabbath in our strongly Methodist area, all the swings in our local park were chained up on a Sunday. It was absolutely forbidden to enjoy oneself. Two activities alone escaped this blanket ban. One was attending church or Sunday school and the other was going for a walk ...

(To be continued)

Maurice Harrison

The Garden in September

September comes around with alarming speed. One minute it is high summer and then the world changes and another season has begun. Although September is still quite summery, in many respects it really has taken up a different atmosphere and quality of light and temperature, mornings and evenings in particular. In fact, the change started much earlier in August and, for some plants and grasses, back in July. However, we don't like to register these changes too early in our minds, so September comes around and focuses our attention on moving on.

In many ways, this is the month to sit back and enjoy the changing colours. I have in the past been tempted to start tidying and cutting back now and, due to lack of time, not done so. This has proved to be a bonus, as the colour deepens and the rather tired, scruffy garden becomes a picture of autumn glory. As in many aspects of gardening, one has to be patient for things to develop.

I thought this month, therefore, it would be fun to think about some of the myths and legends of gardening. Some of these might surprise you. My information comes from ‘The New Scientist’ back in 2018. I was sent the article by a friend who thought I would find it interesting and I certainly did.

For all of my gardening career, I have saved broken pots etc. to place at the bottom of flower pots to improve drainage, sometimes with coarse gravel. Not so, evidently water is held in the small spaces between soil particles and will not move easily into the wider spaces that separate gravel etc. It is not until it is saturated that it will move on, and that means the plant is sitting in saturated soil not well drained soil. If you want to stop the soil falling through the hole at the bottom of a pot, use some mesh.

Another myth that will interest you is when to water. The science points at morning being the best time of day as it is less likely to encourage fungal infections than watering at night. It also seems that the sun burning leaves when watering is also a myth. Except, that is, in the case of hairy plants which can hold a droplet of water above the surface of the leaf so that the midday sun could catch this at the right angle and burn it. It is, however, a waste of time to water at midday in hot sunny weather as it evaporates too quickly for the plant to benefit.

If, however, a plant is showing signs of wilt, whatever time of day, water it immediately and then again soon after until the soil has become wet through. There is very little time between wilt and dead!!

One more myth to give you food for thought is all those coffee grounds that you might be recycling onto your garden. The scientific team found that plants grown with coffee grounds around them grew less well. Coffee grounds contain caffeine and this possibly reacts with polyphenols in the ground making it toxic to plants. If you wish to get the best out of your coffee grounds, add them to the compost heap where the nitrogen in the ground beans can be used up safely.

Well, Neville, all that science is certainly interesting and shows we all have a lot to learn about our amazing plants and how to look after them.

Whatever your plans this September, enjoy your garden. Lovely to have some rain but will it know when to stop!!

Happy Gardening
Lorraine

Lorraine Colebrook

Nature Notes

Around 11.15pm on the night of 20th July I had a great view through binoculars of the comet Neowise. With the naked eye it appears as a smudge and I had noticed this on a previous evening, but as there was some cloud cover I was not convinced of what I had seen.

On a couple of occasions when walking in the garden I've heard tapping and located great spotted woodpeckers, not only searching for larvae in dead and dying elm but also the dead limbs of an ash that has die back.

A male greenfinch brought three fledglings to our bird feeders that sadly were empty. It is good to know this bird of a disease affected species at least has bred a good clutch this year.

I use egg boxes for moths to settle on at the bottom of my moth trap. In early June a buff ermine moth (the moth was beside the eggs) laid eggs on one of the boxes and I set it aside. A week or so later I noticed some eggs had hatched and for the first time in my life decided to have a go at raising these teeny weeny caterpillars. I looked up foodplants eaten by this species and two very accessible plants were in the list, nettle and dock. A suitable container was found and egg box with larvae and snipped off leaves of the plants put inside and container covered with cling film secured by elastic band.



Tiny buff ermine larvae – photo: Jenny Garne, 4 July



Almost mature buff ermine larvae – photo: Jenny Garne, 27 July

It is important to find out the life cycle of the moth to know what is expected of the larvae. In this case the larvae grow to maturity and immediately pupate, overwintering as a pupa within a cocoon among plant debris. As they grew I must have had around 50 larvae, munching their way through days and days of freshly cut leaves. Being a novice at rearing, on three occasions I left the container on its side in a nettle patch to allow an opportunity for larvae to leave, some did and several remained. Finally on 1st August with the remaining very mature hairy larvae I once again placed the container in a nettle patch and the next day they were gone.

A to Z Raddon Top continued.

My daughter and I started our first walk to Raddon Top this year on March 16th. Gorse grows along a great deal of the length of the ridge and this is what we investigate for animal life. Many creatures utilise gorse, whether to feed on its prickly leaves and brilliant yellow scented flowers or use the thick bushes for nesting or protection. By March a good deal of the gorse was in flower. We saw several seven-spot and a twenty-two-spot ladybird and a ruby tiger moth larva there that day. We heard and saw skylark, buzzard and raven.

There were two things to note on this day. Firstly our route on foot is from Raddon to Chapel Corner. There was more traffic along the little narrow lane because the Lynch road was closed due to flooding. Secondly that evening it was announced that we should all refrain from personal contact etc. due to the Coronavirus, the verbal warning before we all went into lockdown.



Ruby Tiger moth larvae wrapped around a gorse leaf. Photo: Jenny Garne

Our next walk was on 5th April and although the sun was shining and nice enough to sit out down in the plane of the Exe valley, it was blowing a gale and horrible at Raddon Top. On the walk up we saw a resplendent male yellowhammer. Along the ridge sightings were sparse, a solitary seven-spot ladybird

and a shield bug that didn't want to be photographed that quickly crawled to the underside of a leaf. That morning at home I happened to see my first swallow of the year.

The 12th April was our next visit and on the way up we saw a very sickly myxomatosised rabbit, lots of butterflies including speckled wood, a buzzard and four migratory silver Y moths we disturbed as we walked through long grass. The weather in the preceding days had been suitable for moth migration from the Continent. The gorse at the ridge was now in full bloom but only bees were evident, especially red-tailed bumblebees that just wouldn't pitch long enough for a decent photograph. On our return a crow flew up from where we earlier saw the rabbit, it was now dead.

I must include here a thank-you to Alex Fice who gave me the information on the origins of the new scots pine plantation at Raddon Top which I included in August *Focus*. You may have read the article on 20th July on the lone pine in The Guardian newspaper (a series called 'Tree of the Week') written by Mike Stannard. It was a complete coincidence we both happened to be publishing about the lone pine and Raddon Top around the same time.

The wildlife of Raddon Top will be continued next month.

Jenny Garne 01392 860875
jenny.garne2@tiscali.co.uk

The Sky at Night

Comets: dirty snowball or slushy ball of rock?

We mentioned orbiting comets last time. Where do they come from? What makes them special? Why did Neowise appear then disappear so quickly in August? Are they related to meteors?

Firstly, the Perseid meteor shower in mid-August: small rocks and debris particles rapidly pierced our thin atmosphere, burning up in seconds as ethereal arrows of light. It happens every year. In fact it's the long remnant tail of a comet which our Earth bumps into each August. The Earth punches a planet-sized hole through this tail on its 2 million miles/day orbit around the Sun; so you can guess that the tail is some 5-6 million miles across. How big are these incandescent particles? Around 1 metre or much less, they were ejected from the comet by high-pressure jets of gas and steam sublimated from the underlying ice while the comet is close to the sun. We cannot see these meteorites/shooting stars in the day as they're

not bright enough. At night some are bright enough to be called fireballs. So, to be clear, meteors are shooting stars - streaks of light in our night sky: rock and pebbles that travel at speeds between 17,000 and 100,000mph.



Comets on the other hand are larger objects typically 6-60 miles (10-100 km) across, comprising rock, ice, dust and gas. A good poster-style set of images of all things bright in the sky can be found here:

<https://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-faq/>

Where do comets come from? Most originate from the outside edges of our Solar System: from those places where planets never formed, or haven't formed yet. Those whose orbits of the Sun take up to 200 years, like Halley's with its 75 yr orbit, mostly originate from beyond the final planet Neptune. Their orbit lies within the same disc occupied by the planets and collide with the larger planets from time to time. Others come from a cloud of icy rocks far, far, further out, taking thousands of years to visit the Sun and with much more eccentric orbits nowhere near the disc of planets.

Halley was the first, predictable comet of recent times. Firstly described in 240BC it was famously depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry. In 1696 Edmond Halley nailed his career to a mast, predicting the next appearance of this obliging comet in 1759. Its reappearance was delayed by the bullying interference of, you guessed it, Jupiter. Eerily and parenthetically, Mark Twain's birth and death coincided with its two next appearances. With a whimper, it then popped up in 1986, dimly positioned far from Earth, yet visited by an armada of spacecraft each capturing images to assert its rocky manifestation. Photos clearly show the jets of gas spewing out to form its telling tail. The images and data obtained clarified the paradox for many comets. They're black: blacker than coal. But just like shiny coal they reflect light, not a lot, but enough for us to see them against the darkness of ineffable space. Do

the sums if you wish but our next chance to see Halley's Comet will not be until 2061.

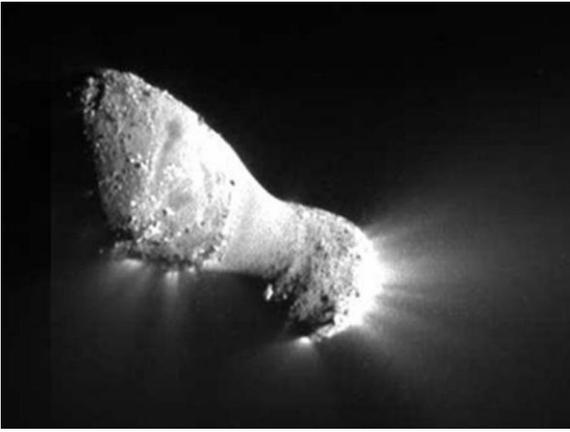
Comet Shoemaker-Levy spectacularly broke apart in 1994 and then, under the planet's enormous gravity, smashed into gaseous Jupiter leaving a chain of muddy shadow clouds created seemingly by a giant pea-shooter. Since this event had been predicted some weeks in advance, it is cited as the largest science experiment conducted yet.

All comets accelerate as they close in to the Sun then, like a whiplash, they are ejected from the Sun's vicinity, their speed preventing them from falling in to the massive body. Rather, they are sent back more or less where they came from, inexorably slowing down, until the Sun's gravity wins and they fall back all over again, as in an eternal cosmic pinball machine. Inevitably, their orbits are long, thin ellipses, nothing like a circle to which the planets aspire.

And why does its tail point away from the Sun? Ah, good question. In fact, the whole structure bears close analysis. The central core or nucleus resembles rubble and dust randomly thrown together; it's actually a remnant of the early building blocks that made up the planets, but for various reasons the process dramatically halted. Maybe there's not enough stuff for even one more planet, who knows! Frozen gases like steam and carbon dioxide are bound to the dusty rock in the deep freeze of space. As the dark surface absorbs heat from the approaching Sun, the ice warms and gases explode out, but not at the accelerating velocity of the comet itself. So, like a jet plane piercing its own sound barrier, the comet plummets through its cloak (coma) of dust and gas which is left behind as a tail briefly lit by sunlight. Another tail, pointing in precisely the opposite direction from the Sun, is caused by the Sun's radiation energising some of the gas and pushing the coloured particles away.

Uniquely, a rocky, misshapen, inscrutable object in 2017 called Oumuamua, had an even more eccentric orbit. Its path away from the Sun was so unexpected and even accelerated by steam jetting from its rear side, that scientists realised it wasn't coming back: the first object deduced to have come from another star system than that of our Sun!

So do you know your Halley's from your Hartley's? Your Swift-Tuttle from your Shoemaker-Levy? These are such rare and subtle phenomena that, like me, you'll be lucky to catch sight, let alone a photo, of these transient, mercurial visitors.



This close-up view of comet Hartley 2 was taken by NASA's EPOXI mission during its flyby of the comet. It was captured by the spacecraft's Medium-Resolution instrument.

Peter Hargood

Letter to her Bank

Here is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by a 96 year-old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his depositing the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly transfer of funds from my modest savings account, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only thirty-one years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has recently become. From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact Status form which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Public Notary, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Please allow me to level the playing field even further. When you call me, you will now have a menu of options on my new voice mail system to choose from.

Please press the buttons as follows:

1. To make an appointment to see me.
2. To query a missing payment.
3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
7. To leave a message on my computer, a password is required. The password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorized Contact.
8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7.
9. To make a general complaint or inquiry.

The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee of \$50 to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. Please credit my account after each occasion. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year.

Your Humble Client (96 years old)

Where in Thorverton?

Sadly I have received no correct answers to the competition in August's Focus – come on, Thorverton, pull your socks up, it wasn't that difficult surely! I will give you one more chance. Answers to me by 20th September please.

All that you need to do is to put the road name against each of the numbered photos – and I will even give you a list of road names to choose from: Broadlands, Bullen Street, Bullen's Close, Cleaves Close, Court Barton Close, Dark Lane, Dinneford Street, Jericho Street, Lynch Road, Milford Lane, Raddon Road, School Lane, Silver Street, The Bury/Berry and The Glebe. There is not a photo for every road though.

1.



2.



3.



4.



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7.



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9.



10.



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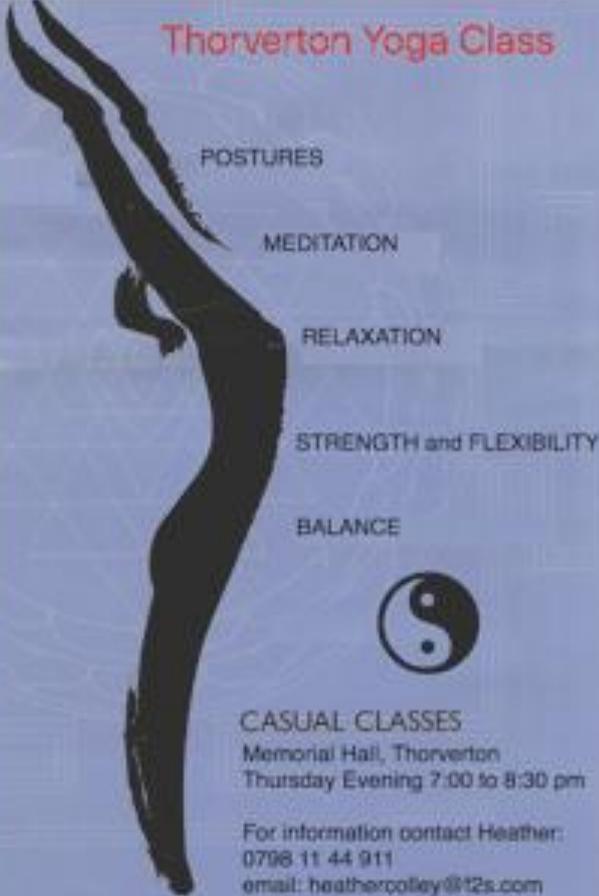
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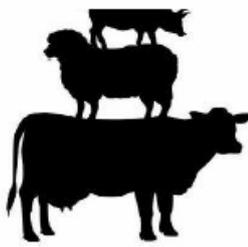


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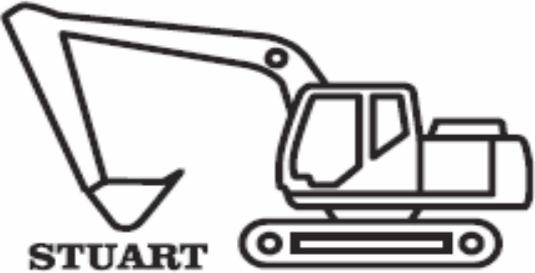
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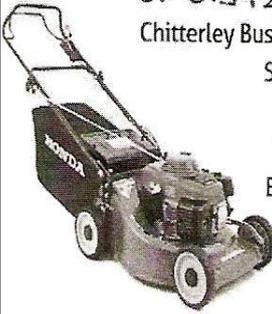
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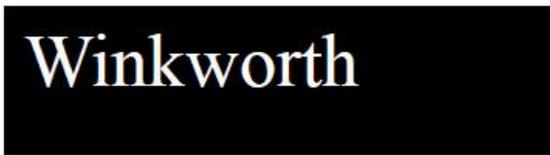
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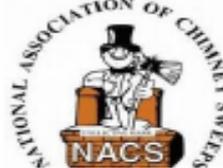
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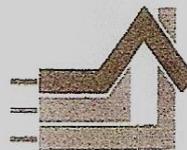


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- Parish Council Chairman** Cllr. Neville Lane
- Parish Clerk** Mrs Alison Marshall, Dinneford House, Dinneford Street, Thorverton, EX5 5NU.
Phone: 01392 861228.
- Parish Council Meetings** 2nd Tuesday of month, 7.30 pm.
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- Amateur Dramatic Society (TADS)** Chair: Sheena Hunter-Hedges 01392 860843,
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- Art Group** Barrie Phillips, Crossmead, School Lane, Thorverton. 860529.
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- Arts Exchange** Becky Stannard, 7 The Glebe, 860737.
Monthly meetings in members' homes at 8.00 pm.
- Association Football Club** Chairman - James Vanstone, 07794 676117
Secretary and Treasurer - Paul Webb - 07944 533372 -
- 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.
- 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.
- Golf Society Players of Thorverton** C/o Exeter Inn, 01392 860206.
- History Society** Chair: Richard Pocock, 01884 855450.
Programme Secretary: Graham Wills 860895.
- Ladies Group** *Meet 2nd Thursday of month, (Venue and time - see Focus Notices).*
- Memorial Hall Committee** Chair: Russ Clarke
Secretary: Mike Baldwin, tel. 860853. sjjml@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** 01392 861707 / thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com
Mondays to Fridays during term-time at Thorverton Primary School site.
8.45 - 11.45 am, & 12.45 - 3.30 pm, & Lunch Club 11.45 am - 12.45 pm.
- 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** Nina Hamilton (thorvertontoddlers@gmail.com or 07787 225989)
Thursdays during term time at the Memorial Hall, 9.30-11.30am. £2 per family,
healthy snacks for the children and tea/coffee for the adults included.
- Royal British Legion** Chairman/Hon.Sec. : Alex Fice, Lynch Cottage, Thorverton 861136,
srbf@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. A. Hall, J. Harris, E. Saunders,
E. Ziegler, C. Nicholls, G. Davies and L. Spriggs

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Newcombes Crediton EX17 2AR | The Surgery, The Bury Thorverton EX5 5NT |
|--------------------------------|---|

Main telephone: 03333 442 988
www.newvalleypractice.co.uk

| | Crediton | GPs available | Thorverton | GPs available |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Monday | 08.30 – 18.00 | Drs. Harris, Saunders, Ziegler | 08.30 – 18.00 | Dr. Spriggs |
| Tuesday | 08.30 – 18.00 | Drs. Saunders, Harris, Hall, Spriggs | 08.30 – 18.00 | Dr. Davies |
| Wednesday | 08.30 – 18.00 | Drs. Hall, Ziegler, Davies | 08.30 – 18.00 | TBC |
| Thursday | 08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm) | Drs., Harris, Saunders, Nicholls, Spriggs | 08.30 – 18.00 | Dr. Ziegler |
| Friday | 08.30 – 18.00 | Drs. Hall, Saunders, Nicholls, Spriggs | 08.30 – 18.00 | TBC |

Extended surgeries are offered on weekday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays in Crediton (pre-bookable appointments only).

GP and nurse (blood tests only) can be booked through SystmOnline.

Please ask at reception for details.

Our doctors can also be consulted online through **eConsult**.

This service lets patients request advice and treatment from our practice online and get self-help advice for hundreds of common conditions.

Please see our website for information and the **eConsult** link.



Please note we do NOT take prescription requests over the telephone or by email.

Repeat prescriptions (Monday-Friday) –

You can request your repeat prescriptions 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.

Wyndham House Surgery

Fore Street, Silverton, EX5 4HZ

Telephone: 01392 860034

www.wyndhamhousesurgery.co.uk

Currently rated as an **OUTSTANDING** Practice by the CQC

| Day/Dr | Dr Anthony O'Brien | Dr Catherine Burkill | Dr Jeff Solman | Dr Annabel Lumley |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday | 09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30 | | 09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30 | 09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30 |
| Tuesday | | 09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30 | 09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30 | 09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30 |
| Wednesday | 09:00 – 11:30 14:00 – 16.00 | 09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30 | | 09:00 – 11:30 |
| Thursday | 09:00 – 11:30 15:30 – 17:30 | | 09:00 – 11:30 | 09:00 – 11:30 15.00 – 16:00 |
| Friday | 14:30 – 16:00* *emergencies only | 09:00 – 11:30 | 09:00 – 11:30 | |

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 There is no closure for lunch and prescriptions may be
Friday 08.30 - 17:00 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

Collections on Mondays, unless stated otherwise.

(These collection dates apply to the majority of the village, but outlying parts may have different collection days)

General refuse, recycling boxes and food caddy

Sept. 1st (**Tuesday**), 14th and 28th
Oct. 12th and 26th

Chargeable garden waste and food caddy

Sept. 7th and 21st
Oct. 5th and 19th

Mobile Library

Thursdays every 4 weeks in the Quarry Car Park from 15.45 to 16.20. Sept. 17th, Oct. 15th, Nov. 12th, Dec. 10th.

New members welcome - contact Tiverton Library on 01884 244644 or tiverton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk.

Union Flag Flying days in September

None

Road works

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

Bus Services

The majority of bus services resumed from 14th June, as below. The temporary pre-9.30 free travel concession for National Bus Pass-holders is being withdrawn to help ensure capacity for workers during peak hours.

Turner's Tours / Carmel Coaches No 678

Cheriton Fitzpaine – Thorverton section served on Tuesday (renumbered Service 675) 10.09 from Bullens Close and The Berry, 10.10 from Latchmore Green. Scheduled to arrive Exeter (via Ellerhayes and Poltimore) at 10.48.

Wednesday and Friday 10.09 from Bullens Close and The Berry. Scheduled to arrive Exeter (via Upton Pyne) at 10.48. Return on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 13.35 from Exeter bus station.

MONDAY-SATURDAY (except Bank Holidays)

Stagecoach (and some Dartline) service 55B:

To Tiverton from Thorverton The Berry & Broadlands:

7.55 (operated by Dartline) 09.16, 11.31, 13.46, 16.06, 17.11 (Saturdays only), 17.29 (Mon-Fri. This is the 155 service), 18.21.

To Thorverton from Tiverton Bus Station:

07.30, 08.35, 09.55, 12.10, 14.25, 15.55 (Mondays to Fridays term-time only), 16.45, 17.45 (operated by Dartline)

To Exeter Bus Station (and St David's train station) from Thorverton The Berry & Broadlands:

08.00, 09.06, 10.27, 12.42, 14.57, 16.27 (Mondays to Fridays term-time only), 17.17, 18.10 (operated by Dartline)

To Thorverton from Exeter, outside Next (via St David's train station): 7.30 (Dartline), 08.50, 11.05, 13.20, 15.40, 16.45 (Sats only), 17.05 (Mon-Fri. This is the 155 service and does not stop at St David's station), 17.55.

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.

SUNDAY and BANK HOLIDAYS (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day)

Stagecoach service 55A:

To Tiverton from the Ruffwell: 10.42, 12.42, 14.42, 16.42, 18.42, 20.42, 22.42.

To Exeter from the Ruffwell: 09.56, 11.56, 13.57, 15.57, 17.57, 19.57, 21.57.

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

Tribute photos to Peter Mason



Church Music Group with Peter Mason on clarinet, second from right



When Peter was Landlord of the King's Head, Topsham