

focus

on thorverton



APRIL 2023

£1.00

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At the present time <i>Focus</i> 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 at thorvertonfocus@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND COPY BY THE 20th OF THE MONTH DEADLINE.

TEXT should be as plain text in an email, or as unformatted TEXT in a Word doc file.

PHOTOS should be sent separately in JPEG or PDF FORMAT.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND POSTER TYPE NOTICES should be prepared as near as possible to how it is intended to appear, with pictures supplied as required. Please consider A5 LANDSCAPE format for posters to ensure inclusion and readability. NB: We cannot guarantee a full page for your poster.

All items received are acknowledged, so if you don't receive an acknowledgment within a few days, please assume not received. Check your item thoroughly before sending, especially dates and contact details.

Focus reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or notice at its sole discretion for any reason whatsoever. Check with editor if you wish to discuss the design of an advert.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

11 ENTRIES PER YEAR	B&W		COLOUR	
PRICES From 1st January 2023	PER ENTRY	FULL YEAR	PER ENTRY	FULL YEAR
Full page (18.2 cm x 24.4 cm)	£30.00	£330.00	£44.00	£484.00
Half page (18.2 cm x 12.2 cm)	£15.00	£165.00	£22.00	£242.00
Quarter page (8.5 cm x 12.2 cm)	£7.50	£82.50	£11.00	£121.00
One-eighth page (8.5 cm x 5.8 cm)	£4.00	£44.00	N/A	N/A

LOCAL ORGANISATION and CHARITIES, ADVERTISEMENTS FREE OF CHARGE (for up to 3 months)

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

Front Cover Photo: Silver Street Magnolia March 26th 2023 Russ Clarke

Welcome to the April edition of the Focus magazine.

Spring has finally arrived and the blackbird is back on his perch just down the road from us and doing his best to wake me around five thirty each morning! However, it is good to hear so much bird song around the village to reassure us that there are many species still thriving around Thorverton. We took advantage of a mild afternoon last weekend and took two of our grandchildren and their dog 'around the world' and were able to watch the buzzards and listen to the larks soaring on the hill and, of course, the enjoy the wonderful view from the top.

Thank you for the wide range of contributions. This month has a host of local events and dates for your diaries including The People's Passion drama at Stoke Canon, the Exe Valley Bluebell Walk, the monthly Film Night, the Cricket Club Race Night as well as the WI Monday Welcome Café and History Society talk all of which, and more, are detailed throughout the magazine.

Fundraisers continue for ShelterBox, Dan's Coast 2 Coast Challenge, Lucy's Larder and also Heidi's Hair Chop, Bluebell Walk and Sherwood House. They are all fundraising for a range of worthy charities.

If you are a local organisation or group who require some funding, then Focus may be able to assist you. Details of how to apply for any Funding from Focus can be seen on page 21 of this month's magazine.

Editor

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DIARY OF EVENTS 2023

Please notify the Editor of additions or changes. Email: thorvertonfocus@gmail.com
Details of most events are in the Notices Section of *Focus*.

APRIL

- Sat 1st ShelterBox Coffee/Cakes/Crafts TMH 10-12 noon
 Sat 1st Phil Beer Solo Tour Newton St Cyres Club. 7.30pm
 Mon 3rd Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Tue 4th WI Meeting, WI Hut – Ros Crook will give a travel talk - 2.30pm
 Fri 7th Good Friday Drama, The People's Passion. 10.30am, St Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke Canon
 Sat 8th Big Breakfast & Saturday Market, TMH - 9.30am
 Thurs 13th Thorverton Ladies Group, 7.30pm at the home of Beryl Grace
 Sun 16th Exe Valley Bluebell Walk, 2.30 - 4.30pm. Byway Farm, Thorverton, EX5 5LN
 Sun 16th Lego club Newton St Cyres Club 4pm
 Sun 16th Open Gardens at Sherwood House 2 - 5pm
 Mon 17th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Mon 17th Rewe and District Gardening Club, Village Hall, 2.30pm. Megan Lodge, talk on stained glass
 Fri 21st Film Night at TMH – LIVING – Starring Bill Nighey 7.30pm
 Sat 22nd WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut
 Sat 22nd Upton Pyne Garden Club Annual Spring Flower Show 2pm UP Village Hall
 Sat 22nd Thorverton Cricket Club Race Night 7.00pm
 Mon 24th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Fri 28th History Society meeting. Killerton Gardens. 7.30pm WI Hut
 Fri 28th Judy & Nick's Plant Sale at the top of Fair Oak drive until Mon 1st May
 Mon 31st Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm

May

- Tue 2nd WI Annual Meeting, 2.30pm in the Hut
 Sat 6th Celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. Thorverton Church until Mon 8th May
 Sun 7th The King's Coronation Street Party, The Bury, from 2.00pm
 Mon 8th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Tue 9th Upton Pyne Garden Club outing to Hartland Abbey and Gardens (see notices)
 Fri 12th Gas-Up Bingo at Sunnymead, Raddon Road, Thorverton 7.30pm
 Sun 14th Gas-Up at Sunnymead, Raddon Road, Thorverton 10am – 4pm
 Mon 15th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Mon 22nd Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Sat 27th WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut.
 Mon 29th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm



The new Terrace area at TMH is close to completion

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Monthly Update

We have received the results of the recent Housing Needs Survey. We will try to place a full version on the website soon, subject to the required approvals, but in the meantime I can give you some basic facts and figures.

The HNS was carried out by Devon Communities Together, an independent charity that has been undertaking such surveys for more than ten years.

The survey was sent to 479 addresses, with 146 returned, a 30% response rate which we are told is higher than usual, so thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

The survey's summary identified the need for 14 Affordable Homes, a mix of social/affordable rented and shared ownership. This is considered a significant number for a village of our size.

In addition, the section for the over 55s showed that 11 households expect to move in the next 5 years, the majority (64%) wanting a home that is better-suited to their needs, but not specifically designed for older people. The question now raised is whether the stock available on the open market in the village is suitable for such downsizing.

So, what happens next? If we are to take this project forward, the first step would be to form a Community Land Trust (CLT), which would take over the work already started by TAHG (Thorverton Affordable Housing Group) set up by the PC. As the name suggests, this is very much a community-led organisation with everyone eligible to join (there may be a nominal £1.00 fee). This Trust would then elect a management team, or group of directors, who would oversee the project.

TAHG will organise an Open Meeting for anyone who is interested in being part of the CLT. This would obviously include those who are looking for Affordable Housing but, in addition, we will need people with specialised skills to become part of the management team – a legal, banking, housing background etc.

We'll let you know more about the first CLT event soon!

To other matters – the current PC will hold its last meeting in April before the next local elections. We are saying goodbye to several of the current Councillors and there are therefore opportunities for new recruits. Take a look at our website for more details if you want to be part of the new projects we have on the go.

P.S. Don't forget to bring some photo ID to the Polling Station next May!

Finally, the Coronation Street Party will be held in The Bury on Sunday 7th May at 2.00pm. Please look out for your personal invite which will be delivered to every home soon. It will be along similar lines to the Jubilee party held in June last year, with a BBQ, live music, children's entertainment and a toast to our new King.

ANDREW FOSTER

Thorverton Parish Council

andrewfoster@ctc-consultants.com

01392 759560

Winter Warmth on Wednesdays

During January, February and March the Parish Council has sponsored Winter Warmth afternoons on Wednesdays, alternately at the Exeter Inn and Thorverton Arms. These have been well supported, with usually around 12-16 people enjoying chat and games with tea/coffee and biscuits. We have been grateful to Rick and Matt at the Exeter Inn and to Mandy and Steve at the Thorverton Arms for making people so welcome and providing lovely warm places for people to meet for these afternoons.

At its March Council meeting, the Parish Council agreed that it should seriously consider sponsoring something similar next winter, probably with a December start.



Thorverton Needs More Councillors

There's a lot to do in Thorverton and the Parish Council is making sure that all these ideas get put into action:

Barliabins – to make more use of this lovely spot.
Affordable Housing - homes for our community.
New Cemetery – complete the purchase & set it up.
Jubilee Green, Quarry Car Park, and Allotments.
Sports facilities – maintaining the Rec. etc.
Millennium Green, De-Fib Trust, TMH & PO assets.

The Council also deals with the day-to-day issues of parking, planning, potholes, allotments, etc. Some Cllrs are stepping down at the elections in May, so now's the time to come and join a friendly bunch of enthusiastic neighbours. It takes a few hours per month of your spare time, but makes a real difference to the village. Don't be shy – ask a Cllr or Jim Roberts - Clerk – 07768 457590 or thorvertonpc@gmail.com Everyone welcome.

What would I actually do as a Councillor?

You would attend the monthly meetings to help the group decide what to do about concerns your community has. The Council makes use of skills you already have; these might be practical help with maintenance or financial or legal knowledge. Whatever your life experience, it'll come in handy.

How much time would it take up?

There are eleven meetings per year which take about 3 hours on a Tuesday night. In between it all depends what you can spare. No-one will make you help if your job, or family needs your time.

Is there any help?

Of course. There's free training in everything you need to know as well as support from your fellow Councillors and the Clerk.

What's the next steps?

Fill in a Nomination Form and take it to Mid-Devon District Council by **4pm on 4th April**. Speak to Jim Roberts (Clerk) 07768457590 who'll send you all you need.

Why don't you come and join us?

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

In April 2022 the Parish Council decided to seek the views of parishioners on the possibility of installing charging points for Electric Vehicles (EVs). The survey ran through May and elicited a good response of 91. Almost 80% of respondents felt that EV charging points should be available in Thorverton, even if they did not expect to make regular use of the points themselves. The Parish Council felt that there was sufficient interest to warrant investigation of the likely costs and benefits of installing charging points.

The Council was most grateful to John Truswell, who has worked tirelessly to get quotes for installation of points in the Quarry Car Park. The installation can be broken down into three elements:

a) Power supply for single-phase electricity provision (which would only be suitable for running relatively slow 7k chargers, taking perhaps 8 hours to fully charge an EV car battery). We received an estimate of £2,610 +VAT for this.

b) Power supply for three-phase electricity provision, i.e. upgrading the current supply from the transformer close to the Quarry Car Park. This would allow the faster 22k chargers to be installed. We received an estimate of £5,675 +VAT for this.

c) Installation of the charging points. Our most competitive estimate was £8,500 +VAT for the installation of two of the faster charging points which would then be owned by the Council. Such points owned by the Council would allow the Council to make a small profit on the sale of electric charge, thus recouping the initial outlay.

There are already some grants for installation of charging points and the government has indicated that from this spring there could be far more significant grants for any upgrade needed for the electricity supply as well, although we are yet to see the detail on this.

When it considered the question at its February meeting, the Parish Council decided not to press ahead at the moment, but to allow an incoming Council (after May's elections) to take a view, when the availability of grants should be clearer. We will keep parishioners updated.

Thorverton Parish Council

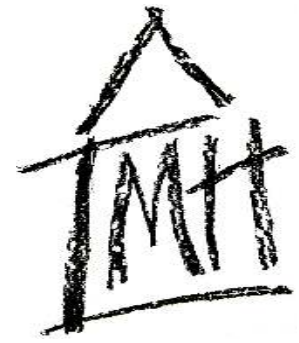
THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL

What's on this month...



There's plenty going on this month in hall with a Coffee & Crafts morning on Saturday 1 April to raise money for the Netherexe Churches' ShelterBox appeal (see page 14).

The following Saturday it's the ever popular Big Breakfast & Saturday Market on Saturday 8 from 9.30-11.30am with the usual books, food and stalls – and plenty of chat.



This month's film is *LIVING* starring Bill Nighy (Oscar Nominated) showing on Friday 21 April, doors open 6.45pm, programme starts 7.30. When Mr Williams (Bill Nighy) a buttoned-up bureaucrat in 1950s London is diagnosed as terminally ill he decides that he could like to achieve something for once. So when a group of ladies come into the Public Works office asking to have a hazardous area in their neighbourhood transformed into a children's playground the formerly ineffectual Mr Williams makes it his personal mission to push the job through until he dies. With deeply affecting performances from national treasure Bill Nighy and rising star Aimee Lou Wood, the film addresses matters of life and death with a winning simplicity that is hard to resist.

If you'd like to learn more about the hall do come along to the AGM on Thursday 20 April from 7.30 to 8.30pm.

THORVERTON CRICKET CLUB RACE NIGHT – Saturday 22nd April



Thorverton Memorial Hall
Doors open at 7pm

Thorverton Cricket Club's RACE NIGHT is in the hall on Saturday 22 April, doors open at 7pm, first race starts at 7.30pm. Buy and name a horse for £5 with a £20 return if your horse wins. There will also be a chance for tote betting on the night, so please bring cash! Entry for the night is £4 per person in advance, £5 on the night – the bar will be open. For tickets and horses speak to Keeley Wells on 07894 118 953 or email: seniors@thorvertoncricketclub.com.

As many of you know, the Hall has been refurbished in recent years and work is currently underway to create a new Terrace area flowing from the back of the hall with a level access that will be much easier for everyone especially with wheelchairs and buggies. The hall and is a wonderful venue for weddings and parties, so if you are planning such an event do come and see what the Hall can offer. Just contact one of the members of the Committee (listed below) and they will put you in touch with the right person.



THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL – help needed!

In the few months since I've become involved in the Memorial Hall, I've been struck in particular by two things: the first is how lucky we are to have such a fantastic resource for the community - the hall is a real asset. The second thing is that the hall is a *busy place* - lots going on with regular events such as Big Breakfast and Film Nights, private hires (children's parties seem especially popular right now...), Villages in Action events, theatre performances, one-off concerts, weddings, Thorfest....

We have a hard-working Committee and a dedicated caretaker and gardener to make sure it all runs pretty smoothly, and we are extremely fortunate to have a stalwart group of volunteers to help with such events as Big Breakfast and Villages in Action.

But we need more help!

Could you spare some time occasionally to organise the chairs for the monthly Big Breakfast and Film Nights? And we are particularly in need of more volunteers to do the occasional stint behind the bar at weddings, parties, theatre events and Bingo – is that something you could do?

So, this is a call for volunteers – a chance for you to become a key part of helping run the hall but without having to take on the more formal responsibilities of being a Trustee.

The plan is to compile a list of people who have expressed a willingness in principle to offer some help and are happy to be contacted by email every couple of months or so, with a list of events for which we are seeking some help.

If you are interested, or would like to find out more about what it might involve, please do get in contact with me. All skills and abilities are welcome and in the case of helping behind the bar, full training will be given.

Any help you can offer would be massively appreciated and would help to keep the Memorial Hall secure for the future. Please do get in touch if you are able to help out, or have any questions.

Penny (Wiles)

Chair of TMH Trustees

Contact details: 07884 312627 or penny@apwiles.co.uk



THE
CORONATION
KING CHARLES
III
2023

Thorverton Church
invites you to join us in our celebration of the
Coronation of King Charles III

Saturday 6th May to Monday 8th May.
9.30 a.m. to 5.00p.m. each day

Coronation and Conservation

Take a tour around imaginative displays of the wonderful variety of environments here in the South West. Think about how we look after them

A trail for younger visitors to follow and an activity corner where you can make your own crown.

You are invited to bring along flowers or greenery from your garden to make a 'jam jar' display

Saturday 6th May (Times to be confirmed)

Watch the Coronation.

We will be showing the coronation and the procession live in the church.

Join friends and neighbours.

Refreshments will be available.

Look out for other events in line with

The Big Sing
The Big Ring
The Big Help Out





***You're invited to the
Thorverton,
King's Coronation, Street Party!***

The Bury from 2.00pm on Sunday 7th May

*Food and a BBQ will be provided along with Live Music and Games for Children
Group Photos and a Toast to His Majesty the King!*

**PLEASE RSVP BY 24th APRIL TO
THE VILLAGE SHOP, THE EXETER INN, THE THORVERTON ARMS
OR POST OFFICE, AND COLLECT YOUR DRINKS VOUCHER.**

To help the organisers with calculating numbers please complete the boxes below:

Name	
Address	
Number of adults attending	
Number of children attending	
Number of children under 11 years of age attending that <u>live in the village.</u> A commemorative souvenir will be provided to eligible children.	

Although the day is FREE, we hope you will be able to help in one or more of the following:

Can you bring a cake/s? If so what type?	
Can you help set up on Sunday morning? If so, how many of you?	
Can you help clear up on the Sunday evening? If so, how many of you?	

If you are unable to help but want to donate towards the costs,
please contact either of the following:

Dors 861434 Ken 07736 240310

We look forward to celebrating this special day with you!
The Thorverton Kings Coronation Group



Open Gardens at Sherwood House

Sunday 16th April 2 - 5pm

Enjoy glorious gardens in spring with a walk, tea and cake!

Sherwood Gardens are a stunning example of award winning magnolias and mature trees, surrounded by streams, ponds and beautiful landscaped paths.

Local resident Emma Raworth's sister Lucy Fletcher recently had a massive stroke. Her right side is impacted, including limb movement, speech, arm and hand movement, reading and writing all severely impaired.

Sherwood Open Gardens visitors will help to pay for Lucy's rehabilitation. Vital support needed includes hydrotherapy (£150 per visit), optometry treatment (£400), speech and language therapy (£400), music therapy (£400) and more. Time is Brain. As much early support will give Lucy a greater chance of living her life to the full once more.



Tickets available on Eventbrite
[learnmusicshouse.wixsite.com/lucythn](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learnmusicshouse-wixsite-com/lucythn)
All enquires: 07984 672 649



Newton St Cyres, Devon EX5 5BT

Nick and Judy's PLANT SALE

Friday 28th April to
Monday 1st May

at the top of
Fair Oak drive
(just past Broadlands)

Tomato plants, Annuals,
Perennials
Proceeds for Thorverton Church

The Thorverton Ladies group

will meet on
Thursday 13th April at 7.30 pm
at the home of Mrs Beryl Grace.
For any enquiries regarding the
group, please contact
Sue Batty on 01392 860140

Badminton Club

The Club plays in
Silverton Community Hall
every Monday afternoon at 3pm.
It currently has a vacancy for 1 or 2 new
members.
If you are interested, please contact
John Spivey (01392 861324).

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

All events are held in the Upton Pyne Village Hall
and everyone & anyone is welcome to join us.

FOR MORE INFO ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT June 01392 841272

Saturday April 22nd @ 2.00pm

ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW



Everyone is welcome to exhibit or just come
along to enjoy the show

We have a Plant Sale - Any donations would be
welcome if you have any plants or seedlings spare



Cookery - Photos - Children's paintings

Refreshments - Raffle

Schedule is available from Chris Grundy 01392 851970

May 9th

COACH TRIP



HARTLAND ABBEY & GARDENS

Price is £24.50 for the Gardens and Woodland walks
to the Church or cove + £2 for entry to The Abbey



For more details or make a
booking please call

Jilly 01392 851634



Welcome Café

Every Monday
(except Bank Holidays)

**2.30pm in the WI Hut
Thorverton**

*Tea, coffee, cake and company.
Everyone welcome*



Rewe and District Gardening Club

Meet every third Monday in the month usually
at Rewe Village Hall opposite the Church
Information: mandsgriffin4@gmail.com

On Monday 17th April 2023 at 2.30 pm Megan Lodge
will be showing and demonstrating her practical skills of
Stained Glass. Visitors welcome at a fee of £1



Leonard Trust

THE LEONARD TRUST: financial assistance for Thorvertonians

Can the Leonard Trust assist you or your organisation with a small grant? Since it was set up by F.C. (Chip) Leonard in 1972, the Trust has helped local people with a wide range of needs, including buying computing, sporting, musical, medical and many other useful items. Money has been given to students for educational travel, Lucy's Larder and to Clubs and the Primary School for a variety of purposes.

If you could benefit in this way, please contact the Trust Secretary, Elspeth Holmes, Drill House, Lynch Road, Thorverton.

Email: elspeth.holmes@btinternet.com Tel: 01392 860535

LEt'sGO

LEGO CLUB

Next Creative Build

Sunday April 16th

"Brickingham" Palace

and other London Landmarks

(in time for the Coronation!)

at 4 o'clock in Newton St. Cyres Church

refreshments provided

All ages very much welcome

For more information, please contact:

Revd Tim Collins

01392 860767

tim.collins@netherexe.org



The photos are from March's 'Hidden Treasures' challenge 😊

Heidi's Big Hair Chop Wednesday 5th April

As you can see, I have waist length hair, but I am going to have 15 inches cut off and will donate it to the **Little Princess Trust**. This amazing charity makes wigs for little girls who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions, such as alopecia. I feel privileged to be able to contribute towards helping a child feel a bit better during such a traumatic time.

Each wig costs £550 to make and so I am hoping to raise enough money for a wig to be made.

Please, please give any money you can.

I, the Little Princess Trust, and a young person would be so grateful. Thank you.

Scan the QR code to go straight to the webpage www.justgiving.com/page/heidis-big-hair-chop

The page will stay open until 26th April.

For offline donations, please send cash to:

HEIDI'S HAIR CHOP,

1 The Close, Rewe, EX5 4EY (off Green Lane near the war memorial). **Thank you.**



Heidi's Fundraiser is fundraising for
The Little...

www.justgiving.com



Bluebells in bloom at
Byway Farm

Making the most of short and precious lives across the South West



Farmer John's Exe Valley Bluebell Walk 2023

-  Sunday 16 April 2023
-  2:30pm - 4:30pm
-  Byway Farm, Thorverton, EX5 5LN
-  Nature walk
-  Event organiser: Friends

For more information

Please call Julia (01363 866 409) or Sally (01884 254 378)



YOUR GAS UP NEEDS YOU!



**This is the 20th Year of Michael Lee's Gas Up!
Let's make it a good one to remember**

**Sunday May 14th 10am-4pm
Sunnymead, Raddon Road**

We need volunteers in the following areas please...

Serving teas and cakes

Barbeque chefs and servers

Parking assistants

*(ideally from a youth organisation like scouts/guides
who would like a small donation to their funds!)*

Help on the gate with fund raising

Help in setting up

Help with a draw and draw prizes!

**All proceeds donated to local charities of Michael's choice,
usually the Air Ambulance**

To register your interest please email pbs.wilson@btconnect.com
with your name, email address and phone number

THORVERTON POST OFFICE & TCT LTD NEWSAGENT/STATIONERS

your local bank

Quarry Car Park, Lynch Road,
Thorverton EX5 5NG 01392 860455
REALLY EASY PARKING + ACCESS

We offer a wide range of **Post Office** and **banking** services (inc. for business), **CASH** withdrawal, cash/cheque deposit, online shopping returns, phone top-ups, gift cards (multi-store + Amazon ones), newspapers, magazines, stationery, greetings cards, local postcards, notelets, posting and packing materials, photocopying + lots more

EASTER CARDS NOW IN STOCK

TCT Shop

Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.30 (closed 1.00-2.00)
Sat 8.00 - 12.00
Sun & BH 9.00 - 10.30

Post Office

Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.30 (closed 1.00-2.00)
Sat 9.00 - **12.00**
Sun & BH Closed

Netherexe Mission Community

Northern Syria/Southern Turkey Earthquake Disaster

In response to this disaster, the churches in the area have pledged to raise money for at least one Shelterbox – approximately £600. The money will be raised through our regular collections during the services on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent (end of February to the beginning of April), we will also use other opportunities for further fund-raising throughout that time. Any monies raised over and above the purchase of a Shelterbox will be split between various charities helping in that area, including the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal.

If you would like to contribute to this appeal, then please leave a donation at the Rectory in Thorverton, leave with a churchwarden or other church members of your church, or you can donate direct to Shelterbox via www.shelterbox.org.

Please do contact me for more information.
All Blessings
Tim



Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community, The Rectory, School Lane, Thorverton

tim.collins@netherexe.com 07449 111663 01392 860767

Thorverton & District History Society



KILLERTON GARDENS:

FRAGMENTS of HISTORY

NICK COX

Nick has a passion for trees
and is a regular Guide at Killerton's gardens

Friday 28th April 2023 7:30pm
Thorverton WI Hut.



Programme of Talks for April and May 2023

Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings. The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Full descriptions of talks and speakers appear in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members. Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk. Any programme changes will be shown on the Exeter Forum website at: www.exeterforum.org

Date	Speaker	Title
Wednesdays 5th & 12th April - No Meetings - Easter Break		
Wednesday 19 th April	Peter Selley	Grave Robbing and Body Snatching in Devon Two hundred years ago, the practice of grave robbing and body snatching was not uncommon in Devon, but why did this happen and what were the consequences. Peter will tell the macabre and sometimes bizarre story of these activities and why they eventually ceased to occur.
Wednesday 26 th April	Alex Leger	Working with the military - presenters under stress Former BBC producer and Director of Blue Peter will draw on his experience working with the military for TV programmes to tell the story of some of the exciting and at times hair-raising ways presenters were challenged whilst filming with the military - programmes that he was involved with. His stories, all absolutely true, will show that life as a television programme maker is full of surprises.
Wednesday 3 rd May	Vicki Samuels	The story of the Britannia The Britannia is the last remaining Class 1 East Coast Smack. She is being restored in Devon as a sea going vessel. Vicki's talk will tell the story of how the Britannia was saved from destruction, her restoration and the mission to tour the coastline of the British Isles to educate people about our maritime heritage and provide opportunities to develop skills of working with sailing ships. The Britannia will visit Exeter sometime in 2023 as part of the events celebrating Exeter's Inland Haven.
Wednesday 10 th May	Peter Kiff Followed by the AGM	Early years of the Salvation Army in Exeter Peter will look at the importance of Exeter in the early years of the Salvation Army, and its impact on the city. Peter is a Redcoat guide and has a lifelong experience of the Salvation Army. This short talk will be followed by the Exeter Forum AGM.
Wednesday 17 th May	Bob Ball	Three Battles that could have changed our World Bob will follow up his talk on King Arthur by looking at three crucial battles that changed the course of history in the UK and the wider world.
Wednesday 24 th May	Roy and Lesley Adkins	Jack Tar – Life in Nelson's Navy This week's talk is a joint presentation with Exeter Heritage Harbour Festival, part of the summer-long maritime event being held to celebrate Exeter's Quay, Heritage Harbour and Ship Canal. <i>Jack Tar – Life in Nelson's Navy</i> will look at the life of ordinary seamen at that time both locally and nationally. For example, did you know that 103 men from Exeter served at the Battle of Trafalgar, four of them on the Victory herself? Roy and Lesley are authors of maritime history and archaeology books and have appeared at literary festivals across the country.
Wed. 31 st May	No meeting - Half term break	

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SERVICES & INFORMATION APRIL 2023

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

Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Thorverton	TC
10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service & Walk of Witness with The Chapel	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
10:00 am	Coffee & Chat	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Cadbury	Lay Led

Monday 3 April

07:00 pm	Night Prayer	Stoke Canon	TC
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Tuesday 4 April

07:00 pm	Night Prayer	Stoke Canon	TC
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Wednesday 5 April

07:00 pm	Night Prayer	Stoke Canon	TC
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Thursday 6 April Maundy Thursday

06:30 pm	Service & Supper	Stoke Canon	TC/Lay Led
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Friday 7 April Good Friday

10:30 am	Mission Community Good Friday Drama	Stoke Canon	JH/Lay Led
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Sunday 9 April Easter Day

06:00 am	Sunrise Service	Netherexe	TC
09:30 am	Family Communion	Thorverton	TC
09:30 am	Communion by extension	Rewe	LF
10:00 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	TL
10:00 am	Holy Communion	Cadbury	JH
11:00 am	Holy Communion	Huxham	TC
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	GC
		<i>Joint with Brampford Speke</i>	
05:00 pm	Holy Communion	Stoke Canon	MSS

Sunday 16 April Easter 2

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Brampford Speke	TC
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Sunday 23 April Easter 3

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
04:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Upton Pyne	LF
06:30 pm	Evening Prayer	Thorverton	Lay Led

Tuesday 25 April

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
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Sunday 30 April Easter 4

10:00 am	Mission Community Service	Stoke Canon	JH/LF
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Evening Prayer: Every Tuesday 6:00 pm in Rewe Church

This information will also be available via our website at www.netherexe.org see "Please Note" section of the homepage.

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

TC	Revd Tim Collins		
JH	Revd Julia Hocking	LF	Laura Ford [Licensed Lay Minister]
TL	Revd Tony Lane	KR	Revd Preb Kathy Roberts
GC	Revd Preb Graham Cotter	MSS	Revd's Michael & Sharon Simpson
SN	Sheila Newton [Licensed Lay Minister]	TBC	To be confirmed.

Revd Tim Collins Rector Tel: 01392 860767 tim.collins@netherexe.org

For more information about the Netherexe Parishes please see www.netherexe.org or contact:

Mrs Juliette Lea [Administrator]
Tuesday & Thursday [09:00 – 15:00]

Tel: 07594 714590 Email: administration@netherexe.org

Mr Peter Shepherd [Administrator]

Monday & Wednesday [09:00 – 13:00]

Tel: 07551 844321 Email: administration@netherexe.org

Correspondence: The Netherexe Parishes, Church Office, St Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke Canon, Exeter, EX5 4AS.

PARISH LETTER

New Life

We associate Spring with newness, freshness and colour. I started writing under a grey, cloudy sky and it didn't seem very Spring-like at all but as I looked out of my window, despite the drabness of the day, I could see the bright yellow daffodils in my garden – one of the first signs that Spring is on its way – and they did not fail to bring a smile to my face, as they do every year.

Easter cards are in the shops now with the usual array of eggs, rabbits and lambs on brightly coloured backgrounds: the card-makers are just as keen as the natural world to encourage us with the colours of Spring.

As I continue to write, the rain is now falling and quite heavily. I appreciate that we have just experienced the driest February on record and this rain is needed but I hope that it doesn't batter down the newly-opened flowers.

Our lives, at times are, very fragile, like those daffodils trying to weather the rainstorms. Grief, illness, worries about money and many other concerns can make us feel that there is little for us to spring up and take on with any amount of enthusiasm. Like the bulbs over the winter, there can be times when we feel little growth; nothing seems to go right, and we are not making headway.

Annual Meetings for your Parish

The Meeting of Parishioners elects the churchwardens of the parish. It is open to:

- (i) all residents of the parish who are listed as such on a register of local government electors, and
- (ii) non-residents whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) immediately following the Meeting of Parishioners is open to all members of the Church Electoral Roll for the parish. It chooses representatives for the parish in church councils and synods, receives the annual accounts of the Parochial Church Council, and reviews the life and work of the local church over the preceding year. Please plan to attend these important and informative annual meetings for your parish.

Newton St Cyres: Sunday 23 April, 11.00am
at Newton St Cyres Church

Rewe with Netherexe: Wed 19 April, 6.00pm
at Rewe Church

Stoke Canon with Huxham: Tue 18 April, 6.00pm
at Stoke Canon Church

(Some meetings have already taken place at:

Upton Pyne Village Hall: Tue 21 March

Brampford Speke Church: Tue 28 March

Cadbury Church: Tue 14 March

Thorverton Church: Thurs 30 March)

If you have any queries or require more information regarding the APCM, please contact
Revd Tim Collins, *Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community, 01392 860767 07449 111663*

The period of Lent in the Christian calendar coincides, in this country, with what is often this bleakest time of the year. Jesus used his time in the wilderness to focus on his relationship with God and to pass over the things that might have brought him short term pleasure or prosperity. Emboldened by the time he spent considering what was important in his life, he began his ministry.

Lent is traditionally, and often still, a period of abstinence from our favourite foods and it might seem a strange thing to encourage us to action, yet it is a time when we can remember what we do have, what we might look forward to, even when there seems little comfort in such things. A time when the weather and the shorter, dark days when we are less busy allow for a period of reflection.

The clocks will have sprung or spring forward shortly when you read this and it will be difficult not to feel enlivened by the light early in the day, the growth in our gardens and hedgerows around us and the birdsong. The churches in the parishes will be celebrating Easter just at this time when the beauty of creation is really coming to the fore and this reminds us of the promises of God and that, each day, He is with us through the good times and the bad times.

Laura Ford

New Environment Group

The Netherexe Churches are setting up a group to support environmental awareness and action.

In wishing to encourage everyone to live their lives in due consideration of the planet, we want to begin by putting our own house (the Church) in better order. We will be considering the impact our local churches have, and suggesting changes to what we do, and we will be looking at the management of our churchyards, carrying out an audit of what's there, and creating a plan for sustained biodiversity.

This group needs new members, from outside the Church as well as within. You don't have to be an expert; enthusiasm is much more important. Age no barrier.

If you think you might be interested, contact Tim Collins at Thorverton Rectory, or Stephen Toogood on 07710 276906.

LUCY'S LARDER DONATIONS WELCOMED

The Larder's existence depends on the generosity of individuals and organisations which is much appreciated.

Continuing donations of food/other items/money are always much needed as demand exceeds supply.

Please pass to Sarah Acock though food/other items may be left in the boxes.

Payments including regular donations may also be made through the Parish Church Treasurer using the following account details:

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THORVERTON CHURCH : MUSIC



Do you enjoy singing?

You are always welcome to come to hear our choir or to join in. We usually sing at services twice a month. The choir usually has weekly Thursday evening practices in Thorverton Church from 7.45 – 9.00pm. We sing a wide range of music.

Church Service on May 7th

We are learning the anthem commissioned by the Royal School of Church Music for the Coronation so hope we will be able to sing it on the Coronation weekend. It's 'The mountains shall bring peace' by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange.

Do you play an instrument?

We also have instrumentalists accompanying some services, so do get in touch if you'd like to be part of the band.

The full list of upcoming services is elsewhere in this Focus edition, but those at Thorverton Church with the choir singing, are listed here:

Apr 2nd Palm Sunday service : **9.30am**

Apr 9th Easter Day informal Communion Service
: **9.30am**

Apr 23rd Evening Prayer with music and readings
: **6.30pm**

May 7th Communion service : **9.30am**

Heather Kershaw Music Director and Organist
Thorverton Parish Church
heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk 01392 860419

Recipe

Celeriac salad

You need: celeriac, mayonnaise, cider vinegar, chopped chives, salt, pepper and a little mustard.

Peel the celeriac and cut into wedges so it's easier to grate. Grate and sprinkle with a little salt. Mix well and allow to rest for 20 minutes. Squeeze out the moisture and season the celeriac with freshly ground black pepper, mustard, add a splash of cider vinegar.

Mix in enough mayonnaise to make a creamy salad. Sprinkle with smoked paprika and chopped chives.

Paul Cleave, Sustainable, Crediton

LETTERS

From Michael Ayre, Chairman, Focus Committee

I was asked at the *Focus* AGM in March to explain why the Committee had decided to raise the price of the *Focus* magazine.

The cost of *Focus* had stayed unchanged since 2017, and feedback from readers had said how they liked the colour pages and asked for more. Colour is much more costly; advertisers are happy to pay the extra for their colour adverts; but it is nice to see articles/photos sent in in colour. We like the *Focus* to make a small profit annually so we can continue to have in our reserves enough money to give to local organisations, when asked, and we do feel that a £1 a month is still good value for money.

From Stephen Toogood

There has been some discussion about the price of *Focus*, so I hope these thoughts may be helpful.

In the March 1994 edition, *Focus* published some cartoons by John Morrish of blessed memory, wondering what life would be like 25 years hence (i.e. 2019). One of them joked that the cost of *Focus* might be £15, and it set me wondering what inflation might have done to the price. So I applied the RPI to the 1994 price, and came up with a price closer to £1 than 50p. Interesting in itself, but then the 1994 magazine was produced on the old Roneo machine, and we have a much smarter product these days.

The second point is that printing costs have gone up by about a third in the last twelvemonth, so it's doubtful whether the old price could have been maintained in the long run.

The third point, and perhaps it's the most important, is that we want *Focus* to remain a quality publication. Advertisers won't want to invest their marketing budget in something considered cheap-jack; and we rely on advertising revenue. The other monthly I read retails at £4.95. and it's not five times the size of *Focus*, and it's not five times more interesting. Is an extra 50p a month going to break the bank? Not for most people, I'd have thought.



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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 village organisations for the benefit of residents of Thorverton.

If you wish 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 be solely the number of villagers likely to be positively affected) and what other sources of funding the requester may have.



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SPRING AT FAIR OAK 1929

Extracts from William Way's diary

Following on from the apple-picking during the Autumn of 1928, we have written a resumé of diary entries for the following Spring - March, April and May.

The first thing that we noticed when looking at Judy's Grandad's diary for this particular year was that there were several sharp white frosts at night in March, although the days were noted as warm. This seems to correlate with the sort of weather we were getting now. He did note that Thursday 14th March was the first night that there was no white frost for weeks.

At the end of March he made specific note of the wind direction which to him must have been quite unusual as each day it appeared to be different (20th East, 21st South, 22nd South West, 23rd North West, 24th North East in the morning, South West to West in the afternoon, 25th South West and West). 'The glass (barometer) was well above change all 6 days'.

The days around the fields were spent cutting and tying up pea sticks and collecting wood together ready for the following winter - also pruning the apple trees. The pea sticks were for his own use but also it is recorded that on 1st May he let Mr Short have 18 bundles of pea and bean sticks.

From the middle of March Grandad turned up the garden and worked the soil. He then tilled onions, potatoes, parsnips and small seeds, although we are sure that the sharp frosts that were around cannot have helped germination. In the middle of April he was tilling kidney beans. He must have been sure of what he was doing as they were pretty much self-sufficient in their vegetables.

As usual he watched rugby in Exeter on Saturdays when it was on but on Saturday 30th March he went on a motor trip to Princetown. This must have been quite a journey for William as he generally did not travel any further than Exeter or possibly Exmouth, Dawlish or Teignmouth. It is not recorded whether it was someone's car, coach or Charabanc, but he noted that the weather was very warm.

On April 3rd he was bringing home a cartful of wood (written as 'draw home wood') and the pony cart wheel broke. This must have been some consternation to him as without the cart he could not transport anything. We assume that he probably had the wheel repaired by Milfords who were Wheelwrights in Jericho Street. It is not like today when you have a spare wheel and a new one can be put on in a matter of minutes.

Once the wood had been collected it was then cut, split and bound. Later on in May he then formed the wood into a rick and thatched it to keep it dry.

A few days later his horse, Artful, had new shoes. Of course the horse is equivalent to today's tractor and has to be kept in tip top condition. They actually kept two horses as Judy's Mum, Ethel, had her own horse called Joey - the equivalent of having two cars today.

At the end of March another large undertaking was to cut out the turf line for a new path through Broadlands fields from the house to the Upton Pyne road. Although the house was built in 1920, Judy's Grandfather did not buy the field known as Broadlands until 1927. This is the drive that we use today - the original entrance to the house was a track from between Higher Dunsaller and Little Silver which then came down through the orchard. The track from the road to the house was then stoned up later in the year and eventually much later widened to take cars when Judy's parents moved back here in 1968.

Apart from work around Fair Oak, Grandad also did work for others such as reed-making at Terley and Ashley farm and also threshing at Mrs Huggins. These were times when farmers helped one another with the larger jobs around the farms as there was not the mechanisation that there is today and it relied on good old fashioned hard manual labour.

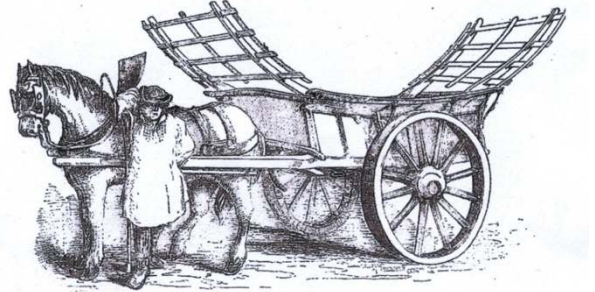
It is recorded that on 11th April he heard the cuckoo and on the 18th he saw swallows.

May is of course a great growing time and especially for weeds, and he spent at least three days in the orchard digging docks and cutting nettles - a time-consuming job for which today one would use herbicides, but it is not the most environmental method.

In between all the work around the fields, he painted the external gutters, rainwater pipes, windows and doors of the house. We noticed from the diary that house painting appeared to be an annual job.

We do not believe William was particularly politically motivated but he has noted that in the general election on 30th May 1929 the Conservatives had a majority of 2,515 (in 1924 it was 1,659).

Nick and Judy Bright



WYNDHAM HOUSE SURGERY

Too little, too much, just right

Despite recent heavy rainfall, Devon is officially still in drought. This made me think that our current ecosystems are becoming just as complex as our own physiological ones.

65% of our bodies consist of water. It is essential for life. So, given its importance, you would expect there to be a clear scientific answer to the question, "How much should I drink a day?" This is not the case as our fluid requirements vary depending on a person's age, body size, gender, environment and level of physical activity.

We need to ensure there is enough fluid in our bodies to maintain normal function of our heart and our kidneys. To do this we naturally take in the equivalent of approximately 8 glasses of water (2 litres) per day. Children need less and pregnant women need a little more. Most of this fluid is from drinks, but some comes from food, such as soups, stews, fruit and vegetables. In a healthy body, the brain detects when the body is becoming dehydrated and initiates thirst to stimulate drinking. It also releases a hormone which signals to the kidneys to conserve water by concentrating the urine.

Being thirsty is not a sign of anything other than a need to drink and rebalance our body fluids. It is a very sensitive mechanism. When we are unwell, we need to drink more. This is because temperature associated sweating, vomiting and loose stools all cause loss of water. Not passing any urine for 12 hours is a significant sign of dehydration, especially in children.

As we get older our body systems are less finely tuned, the cardiac muscles weaker and the kidneys not as good at keeping everything in physiological balance. Combine this with a more sedate lifestyle and it is normal to experience some collection of water in the lower legs / ankles towards the end of the day. This is best treated by wearing support hosiery. Some patients with heart or kidney conditions actually need to limit the amount of water they take to ensure the system is not overloaded. Doctors might suggest restricting intake to a certain number of drinks per day and will also use water tablets (diuretics) to help achieve a finer balance.

Ultimately, we do not need to be concerned about drinking an arbitrary amount of water per day: our bodies signal to us when we're thirsty, much like they do when we're hungry or tired. The only health benefit of drinking more than you need will be the extra calories you expend by running to the loo more often.

So, listen to your body and drink if you are thirsty. Listen to your doctor if they suggest you need to limit how much you drink. If you hear nothing from either of these sources then you can be reassured you have it just right.

Anthony O'Brien, Wyndham House Surgery

Thorverton Cricket Club - April 2023 Update



April will see us get out onto The Station Ground for the beginning of training and pre-season matches - hopefully the weather has improved since the time of writing!

Women's softball training starts on Tuesday 4th April and continues weekly 6:30pm – 7:30pm. This season we are also planning to introduce girls' training 5:30pm – 6:30pm on Tuesday as well as usual junior coaching every Friday.

If you are interested in being involved with Women's/Girls' Cricket then please contact womenssoftballthorvertoncc@gmail.com

Open-age training will start on Thursday evenings 6pm-8pm as soon as the weather allows!

Registration is now open for all adult and junior cricket at the club for 2023. We offer cricket for all abilities and ages 5+ - find out more here www.thorvertoncc.co.uk/joining-the-club/

Race Night at Thorverton Memorial Hall – 22nd April, 7pm

There is still time to get your tickets for the "Race Night" at Thorverton Memorial Hall. All are

welcome to attend on Saturday 22nd April from 7pm to help raise funds for the club.

Entry for the night is priced at £4 In Advance or £5 on the night & includes either a plate of chilli or veggie chilli. The Memorial Hall's bar will be open.

For full details & to buy tickets or a horse, please visit our website here:- <https://thorvertoncc.co.uk/race-night-saturday-22nd-april/>

Club Open Day – 29th April 2023

We will be running a 'club open day' on Saturday 29th April during our first home game of the season v. Sandford. There will be cream teas and the bar will be open. More info coming on our website and social media.

Dan's Coast-2-Coast Challenge

On 3rd & 4th August 2023 Dan Robbins will walk 60 miles from North Devon Cricket Club to Exmouth Cricket Club within a twenty-four-hour period whilst fully padded-up in batting equipment to raise money for Thorverton Cricket Club.

For full details on the challenge & to donate, please visit the challenge's GoFundMe page - <https://gofund.me/a1ad16c1>

Please support Dan in any way you can!

Sponsorship

A big thank you to all of those who have kindly sponsored the club for the upcoming season – we could not operate without you. We still have sponsorship packages available - you can find out

more here www.thorvertoncc.co.uk/become-a-club-sponsor-for-2023/

or contact seniors@thorvertoncricketclub.com.

You can find out more information about everything going on at the club, including all fixtures, on our website – www.thorvertoncc.co.uk.

We also have a monthly newsletter you can subscribe to and a very active Facebook page



Cricket Club Drone Shot



NEWTON ST CYRES TENNIS CLUB

April Update

After our well-attended games party in January, our Sunday afternoon club sessions have become very popular, and made even more enjoyable by tea and home baked cakes being served.

Other club sessions during the week are also very well-attended and often followed by drinks and chips in one of the local hostleries. So not only are you getting great exercise when you join the tennis club, you are also getting a very sociable experience with friendly people of all ages.

Membership fees are due in March, so now is a great time to be joining, and remember you can have a couple of free sessions before you commit to anything. Just contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259.

Junior coaching, run by our club coach Jon Wills, takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time, and there are currently a few places available in some of the groups for the 12-week summer term, which starts on Wednesday 19th April. Please email juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information and to check availability. Jon also offers adult coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills just get in touch via our website www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

Sally Baldwin



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Sky at Night

April sky 2023

April sky. On April 6 a full moon will grace the night sky. Watch it come close to Saturn low in the evening of April 16 and by the 23rd it is very close to Venus. On the 26th it is quite close to orange Mars. Venus will be bright all month. Remember it is closer to the Sun than us, so will always occupy the half of the sky near to the sunset.

The Northern lights/Aurora Borealis



You've either seen them or you haven't. I saw them with Joanna Lumley. For once she was almost lost for words. Admittedly, it was on a TV channel, me observing the observer. These nightlights of heaven were giving their front seat view to anyone fortunate enough to be within 300 miles or so (see fig.1). And what a spectacle, like giant drapes waving in the breeze, painted in primary colours, but always the same hues. Why?

Firstly, they're not unique – you'll see them on any atmospheric planet, like Jupiter and Saturn (see fig.2).

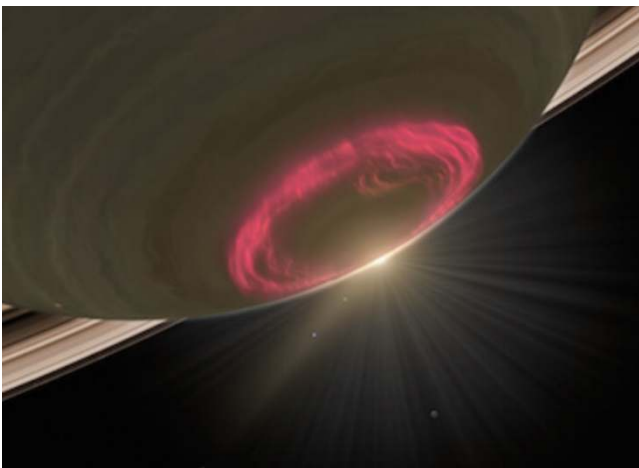


Fig 2 – Saturn. Credit: NASA

They always circle the poles, for very good reasons. The Sun's energetic particles constituting the Solar Wind are sprayed willy nilly around the Solar System and the Earth gets its due share, especially of the Solar Storms which spew large blobs of the stuff. However, the Earth's magnetic field lines which shepherd these cosmic bullets down to the North and South Pole. The atmosphere tends to neutralise them by way of the main gases, the particles of which collide with the wind, become excited (like they are heated up) and seconds later radiate out the specific colours of light (like they are cooling down again). Oxygen gives off green and red light. Nitrogen glows blue and purple. Basically it's a large-scale physics experiment, predictable, repeatable and drawing plenty of tourists along with the Midnight Sun.

Rainbows



Fig 3. Credit: Graham Turner

Ok, they're not strictly night-time entities, but they are in the sky. A daytime product of sunshine and rain. And the Sun is a star after all! Many related effects are seen in the sky, in the mist, clouds, above and below the observer. Rainbow mythology often portrayed them as a bridge between people and the supernatural. Links to lightning, pathway for ancestors, God's token marking the end of floods. It even warns children and heralds plague. I prefer the old Irish Pot of Gold. And what about your mnemonic for recalling the colours? Roy..G..Biv. My favourite is "My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming Planets, but not much use for rainbows.

Look (not directly) to the left to see the sun and then to the right to view the rainbow. You know all about rainbows, pots of gold and all that? But seriously, look at a double bow if you're lucky enough and you'll notice that the inner bow is inverted (see fig.3). Then there's supernumeraries. Look slightly inside a bright primary

bow and sometimes you will see one or more fringes predominantly green, pink and purple. Their numbers and spacing can change from minute to minute. They are seen most often near the top of the bow. Check out the sky above a rainbow which is darker. Oh yes, there's that pot. Rainbows appear identical however far or close they are! Well, the gardener spraying water on a sunny day will notice the bow right next to his/her shoulder (no pot). The road spray behind a lorry could produce a 50mph bow on a bright day, advancing just fast enough to be out of reach (still no pot). If the lorry moves away, maybe there's rain near that horizon. That's where the pot is....on the horizon, always out of reach!

Lightning

This familiar atmospheric aberration contains huge numbers: 300 million volts, 30,000 amps, millionths of a second, and that's just negative lightning. The more energetic positive variety has temperatures of 50,000 degrees C. Don't stay outside in a storm, otherwise get into your car! The explosive effect on air creates the thunder clap. Other claps are merely echoes.

Uniquely, the exact source and mechanism of this perennial phenomenon have been beyond the reach of all but theorists (see fig.4). It's all about streamers and leaders. Pathways consist of electricity (electrons) and charged particles, but mainly electrons, coming out of storm clouds (or volcano dust plumes). Most go down sucking a positive plasma leader from the ground area, which rises up a few metres to meet and provide a final terminus, be it a roof, tower, person hiding under a tree, even the sea! Recent research has shown a 70m

wide cold region in a cloud presenting a critical mass of ice crystals which rub electrons off their neighbours. Streamers of electrons pervade the mass, heat up the air, producing more electrons, a cascade effect that benefits one random pathway, the leader, that we can see or take photos of. Lightning can also travel sideways and even upwards! Around the world there are more than fifty strikes each second in total. They've even been found on Jupiter. Superbolts, observed so clearly by satellite, travel hundreds of kms, often across the Pacific Ocean. The strongest, called mega flashes, carry up to a thousand times more energy, lasting for many seconds and only occur 2 or 3 times each year.

Search the Internet for other exotic examples which include red sprites, found briefly between 50-100km up into the atmosphere. Thought to be generated by the less common positive lightning in the clouds below, they are rarely seen from the ground. Rose red, the main body of the rising column echoes the look of a low-level aurora, tinged with blue at the base! Blue jets are smaller, lower and more defined, rising out of the clouds but well under a sprite or aurora. They're blue because of reaction with nitrogen. So, no more surprises. Keep looking though, there's plenty more to discover, for instance, ball lightning, noctilucent clouds even.

I was nine years old and saw a large green ball silently rolling in the dusky sky above the horizon. I still recall the colour and shape. But what it was I've absolutely no idea.

Peter Hargood



Fig.4. Credit: jasonrweingart.com



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A Talk for Thorverton History Society

A Journey Through Time on the Exe Valley Railway

By Amyas Crump

Recorded by Ann Marshall



On the 24th February we had the pleasure of a very well-attended and popular talk from our local author, transport specialist and vintage film collector, Amyas Crump, on the familiar and well-loved Exe Valley Railway. Sadly axed in the infamous 1960s Beeching Cuts, the line and its association with village life is still remembered by many in Thorverton and the facts, anecdotes and photographs presented were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

Amyas illustrated his introduction to the extent of the connectivity with a 1900 map of the local network. The Exe Valley Railway was a branch line built by the Great Western Railway (GWR) and was in constant use from 1884 until the line was sadly closed to passengers on the 7th October 1963. It ran for almost 25 miles through beautiful Devon countryside and Tiverton was of early significance in the early railway network. It remains a happy memory for those who were lucky enough to travel along this picturesque route. Although the line has been dismantled, most of the route remains unbuilt on, a tantalising thought... and is familiar still for the many recognisable railway buildings, many of which are now private homes, and infrastructure still evident in the local landscape.

For railway enthusiasts the last actual steam engine, a familiar sight pushing the freight and passenger coaches up and down the line, rests in Tiverton Museum, the gift of Viscount Amory. Affectionately known as the "Tivvy Bumper", it was one of the GWR designed 1400 Class steam trains that was intended for branch line work. The 1400 engines were designed to work with a specialist coach convenient for push-pull working (meaning that the engines didn't need to be turned around before making a return trip up the line). These were ideal for working on branch lines, and were used on both the Exe Valley and Culm Valley lines. Originally introduced in 1932 as the 4800 Class, it was renumbered in 1946. There are four examples of the 1400 Class that have been preserved. The Tiverton 1442 of course, 1420 at Buckfastleigh on the South Devon Railway, 1450 on the Severn Valley Railway in Shropshire and 1466 awaiting an overhaul at the Didcot Railway Centre in Oxfordshire.

We all enjoyed a measured progress up the line from Exeter to Tiverton and beyond, accompanied by anecdotes and detailed and personal knowledge supplied by Amyas, visiting all the various stations with images of the past.

Thorverton was indeed one of the busiest stations along the route to Tiverton. In the 1920s Margaret Chubb recalled: *"Friday was, as now, market day in Exeter. Farmers from the surrounding countryside arrived at the Dolphin early in the morning with their lovely big horses and laden carts. Several horses were left for the day, some in the stables or loose-boxes and others just tied up in the yard. The families then walked down Silver Street to the station to join the train to Exeter. The wives would be carrying large baskets, covered with spotless white cloths under which were dressed chickens, eggs, butter, cream and cheese to sell in the Pannier Market in Exeter's Queen Street."*

In June 1961, the then Duke of Edinburgh piloted his own helicopter into Thorverton to visit the Devon Education Committee's Youth service camp. He then slept on a special train parked in the sidings at the station. He spent the night there with a cordon of police officers on guard outside, and the early trains next day were cancelled lest they should disturb his sleep. Special buses were put on to take people to work and school in Exeter and Tiverton. Questions were later asked in Parliament about these happenings!!

Finally at Tiverton, Amyas identified where the impressive and extensive site of Tiverton Station could be found. Opened in 1848, if you should go to Weston Super Mare, you will find the same building design. It extended to five different coal yards, sidings and enormous sheds. Indeed the feature of the Great Western Canal survived as a water supply for the railway long after the decline of the inland waterway for freight.

This was a fascinating journey into local and recent history which rekindled many memories.

LEGAL EAGLE

Some years ago, I had the privilege of serving as a member of the governing body of our village school. During my time as a governor, I became very aware of the role played by volunteers in enabling our school, in common with other schools, to provide many of the extra-curricular activities which add so much to school life. Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and many others gave of both their time and expertise over a range of activities including sporting, art, drama, music and building projects and more.

Such was the role played in 2018, at Langham Village School in Norfolk, by Graham Holdsworth who had agreed to operate the sound board at the school nativity play when the normal sound man was unable to attend. A few days before the performance was due to take place Mr Holdsworth was shown by the usual sound operator, Peter Yetman, how to operate the audio system at the village hall, the venue for the performance, and how to turn the lights off. Mr Holdsworth was shown by Mr Yetman a retractable ladder which allowed access to a loft where the switch was situated. Mr Holdsworth was not given any instructions or training in how to draw the ladder down and put it into place to make it safe for use.

On the day of the performance, and minutes before the production was to start, Mr Holdsworth was asked by Mrs Kossowicz, the head teacher who was described in court as “stressed and anxious,” to operate the stage lights. The lights’ controls were in the loft, to which the retractable ladder provided access. Mr Holdsworth attempted to pull the ladder down as best he could and began to climb it. Rather than foot the ladder, Mrs Kossowicz walked away and started to talk to a person who had come to look for her.

As Mr Holdsworth reached the top of the ladder the top plate on which he was standing moved and the whole ladder swung beneath him. Mr Holdsworth fell hitting his head initially on the edge of the loft hatch and then on the hard floor. Mr Holdsworth suffered a serious traumatic head injury and is now suing in the High Court, Norfolk County Council, the local education authority and the Blakeney Village Hall and Pavilion Trust for damages in excess of £200,000.

I have assumed, though none of the reports which I have read gives sufficient detail, that Mr Holdsworth’s claim is being made under the **Occupiers’ Liability Act 1957** which imposes a duty on an occupier of premises, the “common duty of care”, which is defined in **s2(2)** as “the duty to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that the visitor will be

reasonably safe in using the premises for the purposes for which he or she is invited or permitted by the occupier to be there.”

The term “visitor” simply means anyone who has either the express permission of the occupier to visit the premises, or who can be said to have an implied permission.

There can be more than one “occupier” – **Wheat -v- Lacon & Co Ltd [1966]**. Hence Mr Holdsworth’s claim against both the education authority and the Trust. Both are denying liability. At the time of writing, I have no information as to the defences on which the Trust and the local education authority are seeking to rely.

There can be no question that Mr Holdsworth was a “visitor” for the purposes of the legislation. Whether there was a breach of the “common duty of care” will be determined by the court, having regard to the same general factors as would be considered in a common law negligence action e.g. the magnitude of the risk, the cost of avoiding the risk. The risk in this case would appear to have come about as a result of lack of maintenance or a failure to spot that the ladder required repair. Without more, this duty would appear to be that of the Trust.

My feeling is that the education authority will argue that the Trust was under a duty to ensure that the premises were reasonably safe to be used by all persons involved in the production and all persons attending the performance and that the Trust was in breach of this duty.

The Trust may argue that there was a duty on the education authority to ensure the safety of equipment before use and that the education authority through the head teacher had failed to do this.

It is possible that the court may find that both the Trust and the education authority were occupiers and that both, to some extent, were responsible for the injuries suffered by Mr Holdsworth.

I have not seen it mentioned in any of the reports but a partial defence to Mr Holdsworth’s claim might be that he was guilty of contributory negligence in that he failed to have sufficient regard for his own safety. The argument would be that Mr Holdsworth should have ensured the safety of the ladder before attempting to climb into the loft. If this defence were to be successfully argued it would result in a reduction in the damages payable to Mr Holdsworth – **s(1) Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945**.

An alternative argument to the occupier liability claim in the case of the education authority is that it is vicariously liable in negligence for the failure of the head teacher to ensure that Mr Holdsworth received proper training in the use of the ladder, and failing to ensure that proper support was in place whilst the ladder was in use, although the injuries sustained by Mr Holdsworth appear to be due to the defective state of

the ladder rather than the manner in which Mr Holdsworth was attempting to use it.

Any damages awarded to Mr Holdsworth will, of course, be paid by the respective insurers of the Trust and the education authority should both or either be found liable.

Clive Hamblin



WI Report for March 2023

Unfortunately, our arranged speaker for the March meeting was unable to attend. We were lucky to have Sheila from the Cinnamon Trust at short notice.

Sheila is a passionate volunteer for the Cinnamon Trust, the National Charity for elderly and terminally ill people and their pets. Sheila, who brought her very placid foster dog Sukey along, explained the details of the charity. The Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity which seeks to relieve the anxieties, problems, and sometimes injustices, faced by elderly and terminally ill people and their pets, thereby saving a great deal of human sadness and animal suffering.

The Trust was named the Cinnamon Trust after Mrs Avril Jarvis's Corgi, which sadly died as Mrs Jarvis was setting up the Trust in 1985. The Trust's primary objective is to respect and preserve the treasured relationship between owners and their pets. A national network of some 14,000 community service volunteers has been established to provide practical help when any aspect of day-to-day care poses a problem – for example, walking the dog for a housebound owner. A national fostering service is provided for pets whose owners face a spell in hospital – volunteers take pets into their own homes and supply love and care until owner and pet can be reunited.

The Trust has two unique sanctuaries, one in Devon and one in Cornwall - there are no kennels, no cages, just settees and armchairs, rugs on the floor, a large securely-fenced garden, where animals - whose owners cannot have them anymore and foster homes or long care placements are not an option - can live in comfort. Sheila told us that the Trust does not make a charge for its services, but relies entirely on contributions and fund-raising efforts.

WI Dates to Note:

Tuesday, 4th April, 2.30pm

Ros Crook will give a travel talk.

Saturday, 22nd April

Competition – Most interesting tea towel from your travels.

Tuesday, 2nd May, 2.30pm

WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10.00am -11.00am in the WI Hut.

Saturday, 27th May

Thorverton WI Annual Meeting.

Every Monday

WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10.00am -11.00am in the WI Hut.

except Bank Holidays

Welcome Café from 2.30pm - 4.00pm in the WI Hut.

Tea, coffee and cake. Open to everyone.

All monthly meetings are in Thorverton WI Hut starting at 2.30pm.

New members are always welcome; visitors can also join meetings.

TARTS news

Thorverton Amblers Ramblers and Trampers

Saturday 4th March led by Nick and Judy

Nick and Judy led us on a circular walk of just under 6 miles starting from Sampford Peverell.

We started from the car park at The Globe Inn and headed east out of the village, immediately following the canal where Katie dog very nearly jumped in on the chase of a mallard! We soon headed north, crossing a bridge over the A361 and then following it on a ridge high above the carriageway for a few hundred yards.

The steady drone of the traffic was soon left behind as we headed north away from the dual carriageway passing through the delightful hamlet of Whitnage. It was a steep slog out of Whitnage up to the top of the hill and we stopped about halfway for coffee and to admire the view. Continuing up and over the highest point at Gulmoor we descended steeply to a stream. It was a team effort to cross this stream with no bridge or stepping stones, but with a mixture of sure footedness and the sharing of walking poles I think we all managed to cross with relatively dry feet!

A short sharp slope was followed by a delightful gentle descent towards Uplowman with fantastic views of the Mid Devon countryside around. As we began the last few fields into Sampford Peverell we came across a lamb that was in a field all on its own.



It didn't look too well and shortly getting to the top of the climb we could see sheep with the same markings in the neighbouring field. Four of us – led by Anne and Susannah – herded the lamb back towards its flock, and then alerted the farmer! We ended a delightful walk with lunch at the Globe. The pub was absolutely full but the staff and the food were excellent.

Future Walks:

Saturday 1st April led by Caroline

Saturday 15th April led by Ann

Saturday 29th April led by Neville

Saturday 13th May led by Jenny

Saturday 27th May led by Caroline

Heather has been leading some mid-week walks which tend to be at quite short notice because of the weather so please let us know if you are interested in those and we can keep you posted.

All walks will have details emailed to those on the list about a week beforehand giving details of start location and time, and are suitable for dogs unless otherwise stated. Shorter walks are usually 4 – 6 miles in length and longer walks 6 – 9 miles, however precise details of each walk (length, gradient, lunch information etc) will be displayed approximately a week before the walk in the Old Post Office Window and on the village notice board. If you would like to be included on the email list contact Caroline (07749775304) or Graeme (860203).





NATURE NOTES

Last month I wrote about my mermaid's purses (egg cases) found on Combe Martin beach, and these have been confirmed as Spotted Ray and Blonde Ray, taking Lin Balkwill and my total of ray, skate and shark egg case species to three. On 27th February we drove to Lynmouth and scoured the strandlines of the sandy beach and between us found three egg cases plus I found a tiny plastic pig of the type you would have in a toy farmyard set.

On 7th March my husband and I returned our daughter to Aberystwyth. Around Brecon and beyond, the highest mountains were topped with snow. That afternoon I walked along the beach and picked up six egg cases, some of which had tendrils so I now know these belong to sharks. Around 5.30pm I happened to see two flocks of Starlings fly by from our hotel window. We suddenly realised they were heading to roost beneath the pier. We set off for the seafront where a few people were already gathered to watch the spectacle. There was not a murmur as such but flock after flock of Starlings arrived from the landward direction and then almost immediately dropped down to find a roost among the metalwork.

The following morning before we set off home I walked the fresh strandline and found two egg cases with tendrils. A group of some 20-30 Turnstones were foraging at the edge of the sea. As I walked along, little bits of white were falling out of the sky and landing on my black coat - time to return home. It was white with snow all the way until we got to Bickleigh where the snow line stopped on the tops of the hills.

By now bird nesting is well under way. My first evidence of this activity in the garden was on 23rd February when I saw a hen blackbird carrying a longish piece of dried grass. I saw no more activity until 14th March when a hen blackbird was carrying into our *Lonicera nitida* hedge a mixture of dried grass, straw, small plant roots and dried leaves. Blackbirds nested in this hedge last year.

A favourite town to shop in is Honiton where we always include lunch or cake in Toast Café and Patisserie as part of the trip. From Dowell Street pay-and-display car park you can walk through Toast Café's garden to reach the café. In the garden there is a small pond and it is full of frogspawn.

The Hedge

At the base of the hedge new growth of Hedge Parsley, Hogweed, Cleavers, Dock, Crosswort and Creeping Thistle has appeared. On my last visit, even though it was a sunny day there were no animal sightings.

Other Local Sightings

Sparrowhawk and Merlin, singing Skylark and Chiffchaff have been seen. House Martin and Sand Martin sightings have been reported from other parts of Devon on some websites and we should have our first local returners including Swallow by the time you read this.

Here is a picture from Paul Uglow of his first Common Lizard sighting in Bidwell Lane this year.

A to Z Xanthorhoe

Xanthorhoe is a genus of moth several of which have carpet in their name and these moths are not to be confused with moths whose larvae nibble carpets and clothes. Xanthorhoe moths are found in North America and Canada as well as the UK.



Flame Carpet *Xanthorhoe designate*, Red Twin-spot Carpet *Zanthorhoe spadicearia*, Silver-ground Carpet

Xanthorhoe montanata montanata and Garden Carpet *Xanthorhoe fluctuate* are those likely to be seen in the local area. Red Twin-spot Carpet and Garden Carpet are on the wing from April and the other two species in May. Silver-ground Carpet is easily disturbed from vegetation by day. Flame Carpet larvae have been found feeding on Mugwort. Red Twin-spot Carpet and Silver-ground Carpet larvae feed on bedstraws and other plants. Garden Carpet larvae feed on members of the cabbage family.

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

The Joy of Holiday Jobs

My first holiday "job" for which I received pay (actually £1) was during a holiday in the Yorkshire dales. My parents and I were staying in a B&B in West Burton near Wensleydale during a hot August. I was about 10 (in 1951). Friends of my parents were staying at a nearby farm in Thoraby where the farmer was busy with the hay-making. The hay bundles were forked onto a horse-drawn trailer and transported to the stone-built barn. My father and his friend Albert stood on the trailer forking the loose-tied hay onto the high entrance-window of the barn where I pushed them across onto the already high stack of hay.

It was hot and dusty work and with several fields to harvest we were there most days until the end of the week, when the farmer gave me a whole pound!

Students were, and still are, taken on by Royal Mail to help with delivering Mail over the Christmas period. I did this twice in the early 60s. It involved getting up really early and being picked up by a post van and driven to the sorting office in Holmfirth, where a large pile of mostly Christmas cards had been put in order for my round, which started in the centre of the village and headed uphill to the outlying farms and then down a long road of ribbon-development houses and finishing at my home ... for a very welcome warming soup. The afternoons were often the

same again or sometimes on the parcel delivery around Holmfirth. Watching "Last of the Summer Wine" takes me back to the locations I visited with Christmas parcels. I experienced all weathers including snow, rain, ice, and an occasional invitation to warm up in a house and have a sherry with the customers.

My first holiday job was with Naylor Bros, a company specialising in ceramic clay pipes for drainage, etc. Some were designed to carry fluids under pressure and it was essential they should not crack or split. I was detailed to place each pipe on a rig, fill it with water and increase the pressure up to 15lb/square inch with a long-handled pump. If the pipe split it was discarded and the survivors stacked ready for sale and delivery. I have to say that it was rather boring and only the thought of the pay packet that made it bearable. It was also outside, in all weathers, so a lunch break at 12.30 was welcome. The journey to and from the factory was bicycle and steam train. I think I did this for about 3 weeks one summer holiday.

At University during the teacher-training year, my supervisor asked if I would like to earn some money. Being somewhat financially embarrassed with the expense of running a car on a student grant (in those days you were paid to go to university!), I said yes please. It turned out that the Education Dept didn't have sufficient funds for a full-time lab assistant, but could pay for a part-time employee. So I spent some of my spare time in the lab, building teaching aids and generally odd-jobbing. This experience turned out to be very valuable later in Kenya when equipment was in short supply and we had to make do and mend.

In the USA teachers were only paid during term time so during the long holiday June-September many (most?) teachers take on another job. I think this still happens, but it matches most jobs in the USA where the holiday time is very limited compared with Europe. This also explains why most Americans don't have sufficient holiday time to venture as far as Europe and a large proportion don't even possess a passport (the actual figure is a surprisingly low 37% compared with 75% in the UK). Some teachers have an

agreement to have their pay spread monthly throughout the year. The jobs taken on by US teachers in the long holiday range from more teaching in Community Colleges to physical jobs such as building or taxi driving. I think in the UK the holiday job for a teacher is a fairly rare occurrence.

During my time as a teacher I did not fancy working in the holidays. The rest from the exhausting school schedule was more than welcome.

After graduating I obtained a holiday job (or internship) with the BBC. I had contacted the BBC before I was accepted for university, just in case I didn't get a place. So I had some idea of the jobs available. They were able to make the placement convenient to where I was able to get accommodation. For the first four weeks I stayed with a friend from university who lived in South Manchester. This was convenient for the BBC studios in Manchester. Unfortunately during that 4-week period there were no programmes being made in the studios, but racing from Aintree was due to be broadcast so I helped with setting up the cameras and cabling to the OB vans and mobile studio. The other job was preparing the sound track for puppet-based children's programme about 2 pigs "Pinky and Perky". This had been made in the USA and came with 2 sound tracks; voice and ambient background sound. These had to be mixed, faded and balanced in the studio. Initially it was interesting but after many episodes ... irritating!

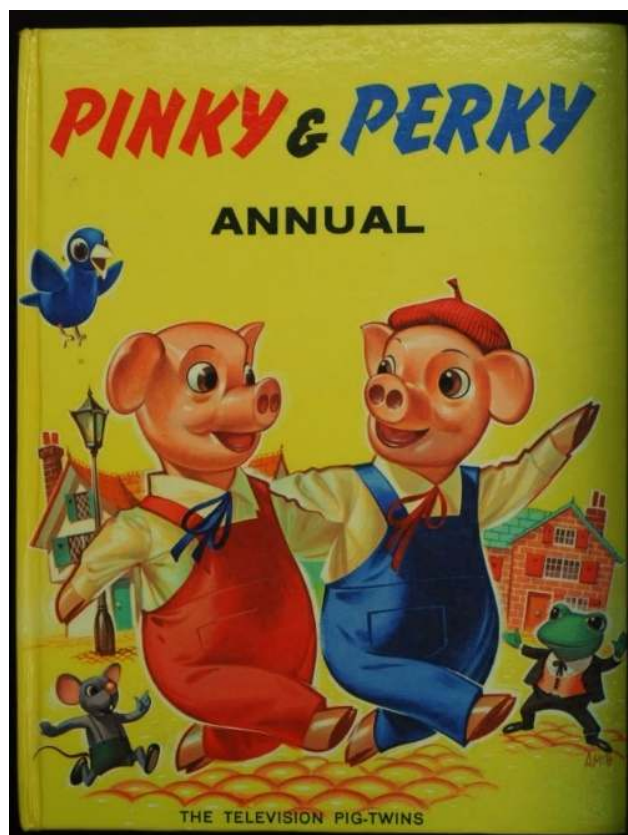
The 2nd four weeks I was stationed on top of the Pennines in Holme Moss transmitting station. This was 524m above sea level and the mast 228m in addition, and only 10 miles from my home. The views down the Holme Valley were (and still are) spectacular. A BBC bus was available which passed the end of our road. This was before BBC2 started broadcasts in colour, so there was just one channel BBC in black and white with low resolution 405 lines. The transmitter still exists but is now used only for radio. (The TV was moved to the tall mast on nearby Emley Moor in the 1980s.) The station contained high power transmitters with

enormous glass valves with gold electrodes. The standby units needed frequent testing to be ready to take over in case of problems in the main machine. During the lunch break I was able to stretch my legs on what eventually became the Pennine Way.

More recently I spent a week at Howmet in Exeter where they produce ultra-strong, single-crystal turbine blades for RR jet engines. Later a few days at Daresbury helping with research with Exeter University Physics Dept on Xray diffraction through diamonds. The Xrays were produced by the 2 GeV electron synchrotron in the SRS Laboratory. At the time they had the world's largest Van de Graaf Generator .

Some holiday jobs are bigger than others, but all are valuable ways of increasing your knowledge of how the world works (or doesn't !).

John Spivey



Bonjour La France

(This article is based on letters that Fiona wrote home to her parents at the time.)

It was December 1967 and we were a young married couple without children. I was a French teacher at a Boys' Grammar School in Birmingham while Fiona worked as a secretary at the university. I had applied for a post-to-post exchange in France and the Council for Educational Visits and Exchanges was sending me to teach English at a lycée in Orange, in the south of France, to replace the teacher who would be coming to take over my post in Birmingham. An exciting experience lay before us...

After we had stayed the night with Fiona's parents in London, a friend dropped us off at Victoria Station and we caught the boat train to Paris - no Euro Tunnel in those days. We were pleased to find that it was possible to book a hotel from the station in Paris and this very helpful service found us a convenient place near the Sacré Coeur. We had in fact been in Paris that August but had not had time to see everything we wanted to and so we decided to stay a couple of nights and do a little tour of the shops and visit the Sainte Chapelle. Apart from the French culture, we were delighted to find that a local cinema was showing 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' starring Julie Andrews. It was superbly dubbed into French, but the songs, of course, remained in English. At that time, Fiona had only 'O' level French and so was relieved to have something she could really understand now and then throughout the film.

The next day we caught the train for the 450 miles down to Avignon, and then a bus for the 20 miles to Orange. It was dark by the time we got there but very bright in the town centre because all the shops stayed open until very late. We went to the address of the teacher who was to replace me but she wasn't in. We hung about for an hour and a half until the concierge of the rather plush block of flats where she lived informed us that he thought she was on holiday...

Fortunately, in the correspondence I had exchanged with my opposite number, she had mentioned that the flat they had found for us was the property of the owner of the local Codec

supermarket. I remembered that we had passed this store on the way in the taxi and so, reversing the tracks we had made, we trundled back to Codec dragging the luggage for our three month stay. Fortunately the owner lived on the premises. He was, however, rather surprised to see us as he explained that the Principal of the lyc e had never actually finalised arrangements for renting the flat to us, and we were only just in time, because in half an hour he was off for a few days' break. It was at that point that we learned that the New Year in France was a big holiday event and everybody who could went away or shut up shop until the 2nd January. In those far-off days New Year's Day was not a holiday in the UK. Anyway, he showed us to the apartment and with a few arm-waving explanations handed us the key and was gone.

Well...by then it was 9 o'clock in the evening but at least we had a roof over our heads for the night, although it was hardly luxury. In fact, we found ourselves in a non-too-clean dimly-lit room in a very old bare-stone-floored building, with no blankets, sheets or pillows on the bed – mercifully, we found a kindly neighbour to lend us some blankets. The kitchenette and small bathroom left much to be desired with regard to cleanliness, and by now Fiona was becoming tearful. In our naivety, we had expected more of a welcome. Fortunately the bed was comfortable so we just dumped all our stuff and slept soundly until the next morning. At least we were warm, as the central heating (a rare luxury back home in those days) was as efficient as it was noisy!

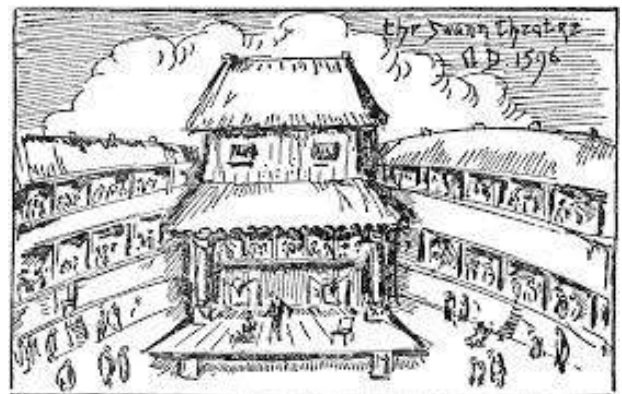
When we went out into the street the next morning, we were surprised to find all the shops open, even though it was Sunday – in those days on Sundays absolutely everything was closed in England. By now the money we had with us was running low, and we spent the last of our francs on milk, bread and ham. We had counted on getting money out of the bank the next day, but to our horror learned that as it was 1st January, it would be closed. We wondered if the Headmaster would be able to help us. We knew he lived at the lyc e so set out to find him, walking through open countryside in brilliant sunshine, though it was bitterly cold. We got lost a few times but with the aid of the town map, found the school - a huge complex like an enormous block of new flats, to

accommodate 1500 pupils - three times the size of its Birmingham counterpart. I left Fiona outside while I went in. Monsieur le Principal was quite nice but I didn't feel I could share our pecuniary plight with him. His less than helpful remark to me was, 'You'd have done better to leave your wife at home.' Fiona was very disappointed when I came out and we felt somewhat desperate, not having anyone to turn to in this alien land.

By now, the reader of these lines must be wondering what possessed us to set off on a journey of several hundred miles without thinking to make more concrete arrangements. To excuse our 24-year-old selves, two French words come to mind - naifs, insouciant. You'll have to wait until next month to find out what happened next.

Maurice Harrison

SHAKESPEARE FOR EVERYONE



Twelfth Night

This is one of the finest of Shakespeare's romantic comedies. The play opens in the palace of the duke of Illyria, who is in love. The object of his affections is a beautiful lady named Olivia, who is mourning the death of her brother and will not permit anyone to see her.

There has been a violent storm off the coast of Illyria, and another lovely lady comes ashore after a shipwreck to mourn a brother she believes is lost at sea. She is Viola, the liveliest and most charming of the Bard's heroines, and when she learns of the lovesick duke, she decides to disguise herself and become his page.

The household of Olivia is not as grave as it might be. Her uncle is staying with her, a fat and cheery old reveller named Sir Toby Belch. He has chosen a suitor for his niece; Sir Andrew

Aguecheek, a limp and well-intentioned knight who knows he is a fool but keeps hoping that perhaps he is not.

The two knights have been sitting up all night getting drunk, and Olivia sends Maria, her waiting woman, to see they stop it. Sir Toby maintains that he has been drinking his niece's health, the least any man can do, and he and Sir Andrew end the scene by comparing notes on their dancing.

The duke of Illyria doubts that Olivia will ever marry him and sends his new page to woo for him. The page is Viola, very charming in her boy's attire, and the duke is sure that so graceful a lad will charm the reluctant lady into accepting him.

Olivia's jester has been absent without leave. Maria tells him he will be hanged for staying away, but Feste is undisturbed. After all, "a good hanging prevents a bad marriage." He knows he is safe with his mistress, for Olivia cannot take anyone's offence very seriously and she is confident enough not to feel that a joke will impair it.

Malvolio, the manager of her household, contrasts with her. He struts with a lordly gait, besotted with the splendour of his self-importance. He loves himself so well that he considers Feste an impertinent clown and deplores Olivia's willingness to laugh at his jokes. He says so once too often, and his mistress tells them exactly what is wrong with him. "You are sick of self-love, Malvolio... To be generous, guiltless, and of free disposition, is to take those things for bird bolts you deem cannon-bullets." But Malvolio cannot take anything lightly if it affects his dignity.

Sir Toby comes lurching in, well fuddled after a night's drinking and blaming it all on the pickled herring. He says there is a young gentleman at the gate but he is so drunk that his niece sends him off to cool his head. Everyone tries to dismiss the young gentleman; even Malvolio cannot stop him. He has a message from the duke and he intends to deliver it.

The young gentleman is of course Viola, come to woo in the duke's name and quite unperturbed by the cool reception from Olivia's household. Olivia is veiled and Viola, after starting off on a splendid speech, suddenly interrupts herself. She is not going to waste her speech on the wrong person. Olivia suggests that she shorten it, and Viola objects to this too. "I took great pains to study it, and it 'tis poetical." Finally Olivia gives in, unveils and listens, and Viola tells her the way she herself

would behave if she were as much in love as the duke:

*Make me a willow cabin at your gate,
And call upon my soul within the house;
Write loyal cantons of condemned love,
And sing them loud even in the dead of night;
Holla your name to the reverberate hills,
And make the babbling gossip of the air
Cry out 'Olivia!'*

The argument is all too successful. Olivia does not fall in love with the duke, however, but with his lively and persuasive page, and when Viola leaves, she sends Malvolio after her with a ring. Meanwhile Viola's brother, whom she believes to be drowned, arrives in Illyria, together with the man who rescued him from the sea. The brother's name is Sebastian, and since he is a twin, he looks almost exactly like his sister.

Maria is really annoyed with Malvolio. She has had enough of his conscious rectitude and his pompous admiration of his own ways, and she decides to play a trick on him. Her handwriting is very like Olivia's, and she plans to write a letter that will make him think Olivia is in love with him. He will have no difficulty believing it, for, as Maria says, he is "so crammed, as he thinks, with his own excellences, that it is his grounds of faith that all who look on him love him." And why should Olivia not love him when he loves himself so devotedly?

The duke meanwhile is passing the time by listening to an old song that tells of "the innocence of love" and by describing his emotions at length to his charming page. Viola listens to him, but she knows more about love than the duke will ever know; she knows how to love in silence.

Maria composes her letter and seals it with Olivia's seal, and then drops it casually near the garden walk. Sir Toby and Sir Andrew hide behind a tree, along with another member of the household named Fabian, and the three of them watch their enemy come sauntering along.

Malvolio is absorbed in his favourite daydream, in which he sees himself married to Olivia, ordering her servants about and lecturing cousin Toby on his shortcomings. The indignant Sir Toby nearly explodes out of his hiding place with the strain of keeping quiet, but he is rewarded when Malvolio stops and picks up the letter.

Maria has done her work well. It is just the kind of letter a woman in love with her steward might

write, cautious and yet adoring. "I am above thee, but not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." It continues with advice on how best to please her. Let him smile continually: "in my presence still smile, dear my sweet." And let him wear yellow stockings and his garters crossed, for such a costume is most pleasing to her.

Malvolio at last sees his dream coming true. "I will be strange, stout, in yellow stockings and crossed-gartered, even with the swiftness of putting on." Practically married to Olivia already, he surges off stage, leaving Maria to stare after him with meditative pleasure. "He will come to her in yellow stockings, a colour she abhors; and cross-gartered, a fashion she detests." What happens then, in Maria's opinion, will be well worth seeing.

Viola is again sent by the duke to plead his suit, and this time Olivia receives her willingly. It is clear to all the household that she is in love with the charming page, and Sir Andrew Aguecheek is outraged. He hopes to marry Olivia himself and has been lending money lavishly to Sir Toby on that expectation. Sir Toby points out that he should have come forward as soon as Olivia showed favour to the page and with a few clever jests "banged the youth into dumbness." Since he has failed in this, nothing remains but to challenge the page to a duel - an appalling project for anyone as cowardly as Sir Andrew.

Viola's brother, in the meantime, has been walking about town as a tourist. The friend who saved him from shipwreck cannot accompany him, since he has the reputation in Illyria of being a pirate and cannot show his face. But he loans Sebastian some money, in case there is anything he should wish to buy, and agrees to meet him later.

Olivia is in a melancholy mood because the page does not return her love, and she decides the solemn and dignified Malvolio will be a suitable companion for her state of mind. She sends for him and he enters on his yellow legs, smiling unendingly in spite of the tightness of the cross-gartering, and greets her with what he feels is an appropriate manner: "Sweet lady, ho, ho." He prances merrily about, refers knowingly to the letter, and calls Olivia sweetheart with a gaiety that convinces her she is dealing with a lunatic. Since Olivia is a kind-hearted woman, she leaves him to the care of Sir Toby, who treats Malvolio as

if he were a demented infant. "We must deal gently with him."

Also in trouble is Sir Andrew Aguecheek, who has finally resolved to fight a duel with the duke's page and has laboriously written out a challenge. Sir Toby sends him off to the orchard to look for Viola, and as soon as she arrives at the house, kindly informs her that Sir Andrew is breathing fire. "He is a devil in private brawl and his incensement at the moment is so implacable that satisfaction can be none but by the pangs of death and sepulchre."

Viola has often found her boy's disguise to be an inconvenience, never more so than at this moment. She hardly knows one end of a sword from the other, and is by no means equipped to fight a duel with the valiant Sir Andrew. Sir Andrew, equally terrified, is hopefully considering the offer of his horse as a bribe if the duke's page will refuse to fight with him. The two reluctant duellists are finally persuaded to face one other with their swords in their quivering hands.

At this point Sebastian's friend enters and mistakes Viola for her twin brother. He attempts to interfere with the duel and is arrested by the duke's officers as a pirate. He implores Viola to give him back the money he lent her, but she naturally does not know what he is talking about, although she would gladly give him a half of what little money she possesses. He is led away by the duke's officers, and then Viola, thinking over what he has just said, begins to suspect that her brother is still alive.

Sir Andrew can see that the page is a coward and so he recovers he is own courage. "I'll after him again and beat him." But unfortunately for him it is Viola's brother he encounters, a vigorous young man who bangs him over the head. Sir Andrew is deeply shocked by such behaviour from the page. "I'll have an action of battery against him if there is any law in Illyria. Though I struck him first, yet it's no matter for that." Olivia hears the commotion and asks Sebastian, who she thinks is the page, to come with her to be married, and Sebastian, bewildered but delighted, agrees.

Malvolio has been tied up in the dark to calm is scattered wits, with Feste disguised as a parson to visit the lunatic and persuade the devils to leave him. Feste is very fond of money, and Malvolio finally bribes him into bringing ink and paper so that he can write a letter to Olivia.

In the street before Olivia's house, Viola finds herself caught up in a series of predicaments.

Sebastian's friend accuses her of ingratitude in refusing to give him back his money; Olivia announces she has just married her; and Sir Andrew Aguecheek accuses her of breaking his head. They have all mistaken her for Sebastian, whose entrance solves the whole problem. The delighted Viola is able to welcome the lost brother she believed to be drowned, and the duke realises that she is the one he really loves.

Everyone is happy except Malvolio, who gets back his freedom through his letter to Olivia and then finds out how thoroughly he has been tricked. Fabian pleads that it was only a joke, but Malvolio will not forgive such an insult to his dignity. "I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you." He stalks out, the enemy of laughter to the end, and the duke, who wants no-one to be unhappy, sends a peacemaker after him.

For no one should be angry in Illyria, and the play closes in joyfulness and with a final song.

Andrew Hoellering

POETRY CORNER

April knocks

We hunker down for one more dreary day,
 But there's a gentle knocking at the door.
 Who can it be? What friend from far away
 Comes unannounced to raise *esprit de corps*?
 It's April, fabled harbinger of Spring,
 Dressed in her tailored coat of freshest green.
 No loud proclaiming trumpet does she bring,
 But tiptoes in, almost unheard, unseen.
 We breathe her subtle apple-blossom scent,
 (You won't find that one in the 'duty-free',)
 Recall what every year her coming's meant,
 And find ourselves charged with new energy.
 It's raining, but the rain is gentler now;
 Look up, and feel the soft drops on your brow!

Wild Garlic

In a place of dampness and of shade
 But in plain view for all to see who will
 An eruption of the early spring, crown-like,
 The head-dress of the Green Man of ancient legend,
 His scalp inches below the fertile soil.
 Not just from the ground its upward trajectory,
 We sense the year ready for take-off;
 So new an image for so old a thing.
 And I am going to pick some, an anthropophagus,
 I want the Green Man's hair
 To become part of me, along with my ancestors
 Who saw the perfect symmetry of malachite tongues
 As if some colossal cheek, but by a baby brother
 And thus allowed.
 But now stand back, in case it's zero hour
 And someone in nature's Cape Canaveral's
 About to press the button.

Stephen Toogood

Puzzles

For economy of space, I don't give the solutions to the Su Doku and Futoshiki puzzles, but do ask me if you ever want to see a solution. I will, however, give the answers to last month's other puzzles as I think that some of you may find these interesting:

a) Cracker Question

The day before yesterday Bill was 7 years old. Next year he will turn 10. How is this possible?

The answer is that Bill was born on 31st December and that the "today" of the puzzle is January 1st 2023 (if you like). Therefore, Bill is now 8, but the day before yesterday he was 7 (the day before his 8th birthday). He will turn 9 on 31st December 2023, so on 31st December 2024 he will be 10. This meets the statement of him turning 10 next year.

b) The Colliding Missiles

Two missiles speed directly towards each other, one at 9,000 miles per hour and the other at 21,000 miles per hour. They start 1,317 miles apart. How far apart will they be one minute before they collide?

The two missiles approach each other with combined speeds of 30,000 miles per hour, or 500 miles per minute. By running the scene backward in time we see that one minute before the collision the missiles would have to be 500 miles apart.

c) Scrambled box tops

Imagine that you have three boxes, each containing two marbles. One contains two black marbles and is labelled BB; one has two white marbles and is labelled WW; and one has one black marble and one white marble and is labelled BW. Someone switches the labels so that every box is now incorrectly labelled. You may take one marble at a time out of any box, and by this process you are to determine the contents of all three boxes. What is the smallest number of marbles that you would need to draw out in order to be certain of the contents of all three boxes?

You can learn the contents of all three boxes by drawing just one marble as the key to the solution is your knowledge that the labels on all three of the boxes are incorrect. You must draw a marble from the box labelled BW ("black-white"). If this marble is black, the other marble in the box must also be black; the box marked WW must therefore contain one black and one white marble and the box marked BB must contain two white marbles. You can apply the same reasoning if the marble that you draw from the BW box is white rather than black.

d) Nobel Prizes

On the occasion of receiving his second Nobel prize Dr Linus Pauling, the chemist, remarked that, while the chances of any person in the world receiving their first Nobel prize were one in several billion (the population of the world), the chances of receiving a second Nobel prize were one in several hundred (the total number of people who had received the prize in the past) and that therefore it was less remarkable to receive one's second prize than one's first. Is this indeed true?

It is not really true. The chances that a previous recipient will receive a prize have been deliberately confused with the chances that any human being will receive a second prize. In theory, the chances of receiving a second Nobel prize are the same as the chances of receiving a first Nobel prize (although of course this is on the assumption that all humans have an equal chance of receiving a Nobel prize).

e) Su Doku

Each horizontal and vertical line and each 3x3 square must contain each of the numbers from one to nine:

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

f) The Race Between Rick and Matt

Rick and Matt race each other at the Rec over 100 metres. Matt wins by 10 metres (I know, it may sound unlikely given what you know about the pair, but please go along with this for the sake of the puzzle).

They decide to race again, but this time, to even things up Matt begins 10 metres behind the start line. Assuming that both run with the same constant speed as before, who wins?

Happy puzzling.

Neville Lane



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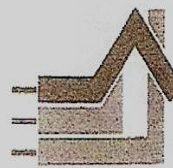
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01363 866319

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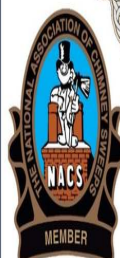
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THORVERTON PARISH INFORMATION

AIR AMBULANCE EMERGENCY: QUOTE NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

RECREATION GROUND: Sheet 192 SS 923019 MEMORIAL HALL FIELD: Sheet 192 SS 926019

Carers' Support Group	Anne Higman, Wyndham House Surgery, Silverton, 01392 860034 <i>Carers Support Group Lunch, Exe Valley Farm Café, 4th Tuesday of the month, 12:30</i> <i>Contact Trish Jones for details 07484 377298</i>
Church (C of E)	Administrators: Juliette Lea, Peter Shepherd Netherexe Parishes Administration, administration@netherexe.org
Church Wardens	Edwin Greed, Fortescue, Netherexe, 01392 841231 Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
Church Choir	Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
PCC Treasurer	Jean Brown, Rydal Cottage, Bullen Street, Thorverton, 01392 861176
Friends of Thorverton Parish Church Trust	Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
County Councillor	Margaret Squires, 01363 84337, margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk
District Councillor	Cllr Bob Deed, 01392 861258, bdeed@middevon.gov.uk
Doctors	Redlands Primary Care 01363 727111, Wyndham House Surgery 01392 860034
Electricity	Report a loss of power 0800 6783 105 (replaces 0800 365 900)
(Western Power)	EDF bill enquiries 0800 365 000, street lights 0800 197 6763
Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Leonard Trust	<i>Supporting local people's needs with small grants, elspeth.holmes@btinternet.com</i> Secretary: Elspeth Holmes, Drill House, Lynch Road, Thorverton, 01392 860535
Library (Exeter Mobile)	<i>Every 4 weeks 3:45–4:20pm Thursdays, Quarry Car Park (See page 61 for dates.)</i>
Member of Parliament	Mel Stride MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 02072 197037 mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk
Parish Council Chairman	Cllr Andrew Foster 01392 759560
Parish Clerk	Jim Roberts 01392 202692 or 07768457590, thorvertonpc@gmail.com
Parish Council Meetings	2nd Tuesday of the month (except August), at 7pm in the Memorial Hall <i>(See Notice of Agenda on the Parish Council Notice Board in School Lane.)</i>
Parish Allotments	<i>Contact the Parish Clerk, 01392 202692</i>
Pension Service	PO Box 93, Plymouth, PL6 5WJ, 0845 60 60 265
Police	Non-emergency number 101
Post Office Portacabin (TCT Ltd)	Quarry Car Park, Thorverton, EX5 5NG, 01392 860455 <i>Mon–Fri 9:00–1:00, 2:00–5:30; Sat 8:00–12:00 (PO opens 9:00);</i> <i>Sun 9:00–10:30(for newspapers only)</i> Business Management Team 01392 860419 Royston Kershaw, Heather Kershaw, Helen Ratcliffe Chair and Company Secretary: Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
Public Telephone Kiosk	<i>Opposite the Church, outside the former Bell Inn, Dinneford Street, Thorverton</i>
Thorverton C of E Primary School (Part of the Exe Valley Federation)	Executive Headteacher (Exe Valley Federation): Mr John Jolliffe Head of School (Thorverton): Mr Chris Holding 01392 860374 School Office (Thorverton) 01392 860374 Chair of Governors (Exe Valley Federation): Jackie Enright 01392 851859 Clerk to the Governors: Mrs Heidi Last hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
School PTFA	Chair: Wendy Coles Vice chair: Elaine Green Secretary: Amy Crebo Treasurer: Peter Stevens thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk <i>Please contact any members of the PTFA via the school office 01392 860374</i>
South West Water	24 hour emergency 0800 169 1144, helpline 0800 169 1133
Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust	Chair: Di Foxford Secretary: Maggie Dunlop 01392 861185
Thorverton Millennium Green Trust	Chair: John Spivey 01392 861324 Secretary: Peter Hargood

THORVERTON ORGANISATIONS

Amateur Dramatic Society (TADS)

Chair: Sheena Hunter-Hedges 01392 860843

Treasurer: Simon Hedges

Minutes Secretary: Mary Ette

For details of meetings please contact sheena@marhaus.co.uk or by phone.

Association Football Club

Chairman: James Vanstone 07985 662384

Secretary and Treasurer: Paul Webb 07944 533372

Bridge Club

Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203 *Meetings 1st/3rd/5th Thursdays of month from 7pm
New members always welcome, no partner needed. Contact Graeme for venue.*

Cricket Club

Chair: Charles Kislingbury 07971 880421

Andy Pitt 07980 789813, andy-91-pitt@outlook.com

Fixture Secretary: James Meredith, 07972 547609, j.meredith51@hotmail.com

Focus Magazine

Chair: Michael Ayre, Ratcliffe Farm, Raddon, Thorverton, 01392 860434

Editor: Russ Clarke, Wagon Works, Jericho Street, Thorverton, 01392 860279

Secretary: Geoff Bulley, 17 Broadlands, Thorverton

Treasurer: Lynda Crossley, 8 Silver Street, Thorverton, 01392 860690

History Society

Chair: Richard Pocock 01884 855450

Secretary: Karen Marshall 01392 860831

Ladies' Group

Meets 2nd Thursday of month (See Focus Notices for venue and time.)

Saturday Market

2nd Saturday of the month at the Memorial Hall, 09:30–11:00am

Thorverton Pre-School

01392 861707, thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com

*Mondays to Fridays during term-time at Thorverton Primary School site
8:45–11:45am, 12:45–3:30pm, Lunch Club 11:45–12:45pm*

Thorverton Ambling, Rambling and Tramping Society (TARTS)

Caroline Prince 07749 775304 or Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203

See notices of walks in Old Post Office Window, Bullen Street.

TMH Committee

Chair: Penny Wiles, 07884 312627, penny@apwiles.co.uk

Secretary: Mike Baldwin, 01392 860853, sjml@hotmail.com

Bookings: thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.co.uk

Website: thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Toddler Group

Liz Armstrong emcarmstrong@outlook.com

*Thursdays during term time at the Memorial Hall, 9:30–11.30am, £2 per family,
healthy snacks for children and tea/coffee for adults included*

Royal British Legion

Chairman/Honorary Secretary: Alex Fice, Lynch Cottage, Thorverton, 01392 861136,
srbf@hotmail.co.uk

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Felicity Cashmore

Women's Institute

Bookings: Sue Maguire 860631

WI Meeting: 1st Tuesday of the month, WI Hut, 2:30pm

WI Market & Coffee: 4th Saturday of the month, WI Hut, 10:00–11:00am



(formerly New Valley Practice)

Drs. Saunders, Griffiths, Harris, Kirwan,
Ziegler, Cook, Vidoni, Nichols, Dunn and Brighton

Newcombes Crediton EX17 2AR	The Surgery, The Bury Thorverton EX5 5NT	Chiddenbrook, Threshers Crediton EX17 3JJ
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Main telephone: 01363 727111 Press 2 for direct line to Thorverton Surgery
<https://www.redlandsprimarycare.nhs.uk/>

	Crediton	GPs available	Thorverton	GPs available
Monday	08.30 – 18.00	Drs. Harris, Saunders, Ziegler, Dunn, Vidoni.	08.30 - 13:00 15:00 - 17.30	Dr Bronte Vidoni
Tuesday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Brighton, Vidoni, Cook, Saunders, Harris, Dunn (pm)	08.30 - 13:00	Dr Natasha Dunn
Wednesday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Nichols, Griffiths, Ziegler, Kirwan.	08.30 - 13:00	Dr Michael Kirwan
Thursday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Harris, Saunders, Kirwan, Dunn, Vidoni.	08.30 - 13:00 15:00 - 17.30	Dr Emma Ziegler
Friday	08.30 – 18.00	Drs. Griffiths, Kirwan, Cook, Nichols, Brighton.	08.30 - 13:00	A doctor will be available

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 SystemOnline.

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.redlandsprimarycare.nhs.uk

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

Wyndham House Surgery

Wyndham Road, 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 Griff Thomas
Monday	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30		09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30	
Tuesday		09:00 – 11:30 14:00 – 17:30	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30	
Wednesday	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30		
Thursday	09:00 – 11:30 14:00 – 16:00		09:00 – 11:30	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30
Friday		09:00 – 11:30	09:00 – 11:30 14:30 – 16:00	

Please note: Consultations are all currently initially by phone. It is frequently more convenient to use e-Consult to let the surgery know your medical issue – this is available on the front page of our website.

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
Friday 08.30 - 17:00 may be collected all through the day.

Repeat prescriptions can be ordered online via our website.

We also operate a home delivery service for housebound registered patients.

Please contact our reception or dispensary for more information.

Flexible appointments at beginning and end of day if required - just ask

Bus Services

TURNER'S TOURS/CARMEL COACHES service 678 (the renumbered service 675)

Cheriton Fitzpaine to Thorverton section served on

Tuesday

10:09 from Broadlands 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 Broadlands 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

STAGECOACH (AND SOME DARTLINE) service 355

Monday-Saturday (except Bank Holidays)

**To Tiverton and Silverton from Thorverton,
The Berry and Broadlands:**

07:55, 09:15, 11:31, 13:46, 16:06, 17:31, 18:21

To Thorverton from Tiverton Bus Station:

06:34, 07:30, 08:35, 09:55, 12:10, 14:25, 16:45, 17:45
(Dartline)

**To Exeter Bus Station (via St David's Railway Station)
from Thorverton, The Berry & Broadlands:**

08:00, 09:06, 10:27, 12:42, 14:57, 17:17, 18:10

**To Thorverton from Exeter Bus Station (via St David's
Railway Station):** 07:30 (*Dartline from Sidwell St.*),

08:45, 11:05, 13:20, 15:40, 17:05, 17:55

Stagecoach 55 service runs about every half hour in each direction along the Exeter–Tiverton road, from 05:45 to 22:15 and stopping at the Ruffwell (Thorverton turn). Please consult Stagecoach 55 timetable for details of this service.

Sunday and Bank Holidays (except Christmas, Boxing & New Year's Days):

09:30–20:00 at 1h30m intervals

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

<http://stagecoachbus.com>

or <http://devon.gov.uk/devonbus>

Devonbus Timetable information: 0871 200 2233
Timetables are available at the Post Office.

Waste Collection Dates

Collections are on Mondays, unless stated otherwise. <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/collectiondaylookup>
(These collection dates apply to most of the village, but outlying parts may have different collection days.)

Food caddies every Monday **except: April 12 (Wed) & 18 (Tues), May 2 (Tues) & 30 (Tues)**

General refuse in black wheelie bins every three weeks on Mondays: April 3 & 24, May 15, June 5 & 26

Recycling boxes fortnightly on Mondays: April 12 (Wed) & 24, May 8 & 22, June 5 & 19

Chargeable garden waste fortnightly on Mondays: April 3 & 18 (Tues), May 2 (Tues), 15 & 30 (Tues), June 12 & 26

Mobile Library

Thursdays 3:45–4:30pm in Quarry/Post Office Car Park every 4 weeks

2023: Apr 13, May 11, June 8, July 6, Aug 3 & 31, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 23

Road works

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

Union Flag-Flying Days in April

23 April: St George's Day



the
People's Passion

**Mission Community
Good Friday Drama**

**10:30 am
Good Friday - Friday 7 April**

**St Mary Magdalene Church,
Stoke Canon**

Be part of the Easter story

Created by Riding Lights Theatre Company

**For more information please contact:
Revd Julia Hocking
email: julia.hocking@netherexe.org
email: administration@netherexe.org**

www.netherexe.org

ridinglights.org/peoples-passion

