

# focus

on thorverton



MAY 2023

£1.00

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At the present time <i>Focus</i> is produced each month <b>except January</b> .	

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](mailto:thorvertonfocus@gmail.com)

**PLEASE SEND COPY BY THE 20<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

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: Raddon Russ Clarke      Diary Page Photo: Millennium Green John Spivey

## Welcome to the May edition of *Focus*

I think you will agree that we have had some cracking mornings during April despite the occasional sudden changes in temperature and heavy 'April showers'. A walk as the morning sun is warming everything up and creating a misty layer over the fields makes you realise how fortunate we are to live in such an area as this. We are privileged to be able to walk out of our houses and, within minutes, be able to hear a plethora of bird song, look out at wonderful vista or look in detail at the huge variety of plants, trees and other vegetation all around us, don't you think?

This month is certainly going to be a significant one for many people across our country. I am not an ardent Monarchist but, like many of you reading this, throughout the seven decades of my life so far, I have respected the late Queen Elizabeth and found some sort of reassurance in having her being there. Personally, I find the new King Charles has some interesting insights as to how we can look after our country and someone who is prepared to connect positively and directly to a wide range of people and has established a more hands on approach to his work over the years.

Thorverton, like hundreds of villages across the land, will be paying a tribute to our new King with the street party in the Bury and Coronation and Conservation displays and trails in the Church throughout the weekend, a great family time to enjoy a drink and a bite to eat with friends and neighbours.

I certainly will raise a glass to the incoming King Charles III, God bless his cotton socks!

Editor

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## DIARY OF EVENTS 2023

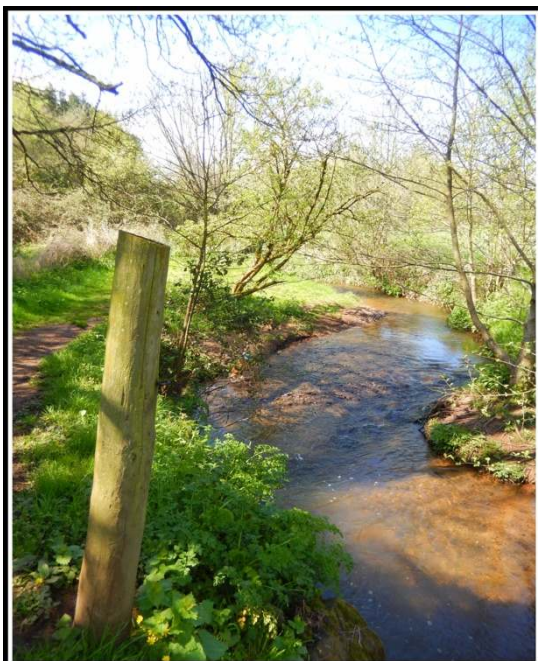
Please notify the Editor of additions or changes. Email: [thorvertonfocus@gmail.com](mailto:thorvertonfocus@gmail.com)  
Details of most events are in the Notices Section of *Focus*.

### May

Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	WI Annual Meeting, 2.30pm in the Hut
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Celebration of Coronation and Conservation at Thorverton Church until Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> May
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	The King's Coronation Street Party, The Bury, from 2.00pm
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	Upton Pyne Garden Club outing to Hartland Abbey and Gardens (see notices)
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library in Thorverton Quarry Park 15.45-16.30pm (see poster)
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Thorverton Ladies Group, 7.30pm (see notices)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Meat Bingo In The Barn at Sunnymede, Raddon Road, Thorverton 7.30pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	TMH Big Breakfast & Saturday Market 9.30am – 11.30am
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Gas-Up at Sunnymede, Raddon Road, Thorverton 10am – 4pm
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
Friday 19th	TMH Film Night – MATILDA The Musical, 7.30pm
Friday 26th	History Society, Iron Age Forts, 7.30pm WI Hut (see notice)
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut.
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm

### June

Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Open Farm Sunday, Woodrow Barton, Brampford Speke, 10.30am
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Bradninch Millers Morris, from 7.30pm (see notices)



ShelterBox

## A Huge Thank You

*from Thorverton Parish Church*

We had great fun raising money for ShelterBox at the Easter Eggstravaganza in TMH on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Your generosity added £413.07 to the donations/church collections in Thorverton making a total of ...

£750.07

Our Netherexe Mission Community group of churches has raised enough together so far to fund four ShelterBoxes with some additional essential equipment.

## THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The local elections take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May and the new PC will meet for the first time on the following Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May. On this occasion eight of the existing Councillors put their names forward and it's therefore an uncontested election for our PC. It means we have two places unfilled and if you're interested in the position please start by contacting Jim Roberts, the PC Clerk, by email at [thorvertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:thorvertonpc@gmail.com).

We had a further **affordable housing** Open Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April when the Thorverton Affordable Housing Group (TAHG) outlined the possible next steps following the recent Housing Needs Survey; ten members of the public attended on a very wet and windy night.

As I wrote last month the Survey got an above average response and found the need for at least 14 Affordable Homes in Thorverton. At the meeting the various options were discussed; Andrew Wiles told the group that partnering with a Housing Association is the most common model, but TAHG is interested in handling the whole affair having seen this in another Devon village. This will require energy and expertise and all present set out their potential individual skills; while there was plenty of enthusiasm for the project we still need people with mortgage and legal backgrounds. The potential for a CLT being successful should not be underestimated - there are 12 CLT's in Devon and nationwide CLT's have built 1000 homes with 7000 in the pipeline.

The meeting therefore agreed to form a Community Land Trust; all the people attending the meeting signed up to be part of the CLT and we hope more will join us soon – contact the Clerk if you want to add your name. While the process has been kick started by TAHG, a working group formed by the PC, the CLT will eventually become a separate entity, run *by* Thorverton people *for* Thorverton people. We aim to have a separate website set up for the CLT which will

mean you have easy access to how the group is being run.

A detailed plan has now been produced that shows the potential layout for the **Barliabins area**; this will be accessible to all including those using wheelchairs, buggies and mobility scooters. This has all come about as a result of the Open Spaces meeting we held last year and a more detailed report will be in next month's *Focus*. If you want to be part of this group please contact Colin Marshall, Trevor Sanders, Bry Uglow or Jan Wills, whose contact details are shown on the PC website.

I was recently asked if this monthly report could once again include recent **planning applications** that have been on the PC agenda; the items below were part of the last meeting and I have copied these details from our Minutes. Further details can be seen on the MDCC website.

### Planning and Consultations

1. 23/00476/Full Kerikeri Revised siting and materials re 21/01327/FULL Council RESOLVED to make no comment on the application.
2. Pre-Planning Information Garden House, Dinneford St. This application has now been received as number 23/00549/HOUSE. Council RESOLVED to make no comment on this application.

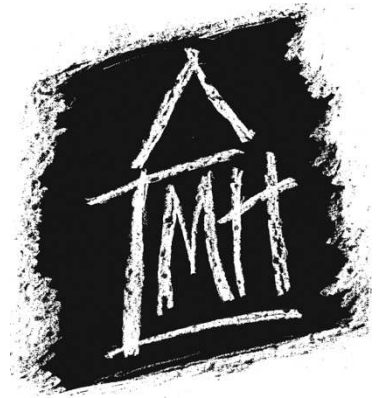
Finally, we are all looking forward to the Street Party on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May in the Bury, when we will be able to toast our new King! A great deal of effort is being put in by volunteers to make this an enjoyable event, and if you can help – especially with the clearing up – please step forward on the day.

God Save The King.

ANDREW FOSTER  
Thorverton Parish Council

# THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



The last 12 months have seen quite a change since the stop-start nature of the use of the hall experienced during the pandemic. The bedrock of regular events such as Big Breakfast and Film night are much appreciated fixtures in the calendar. There has been a good balance between on the one hand a regular programme of events throughout the year and on the other hand a series of one-off performances such as a Cygnet theatre production last summer of Twelfth Night. We were honoured to host the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra who performed a sell-out Christmas concert organised through Villages in Action. We've been fortunate too to enjoy performances from home-grown talent such as TADS, and Thorfest which returned in full throttle in September after a pandemic-enforced break of 3 years.

Conscious of the need to ensure we listen to what sorts of activities villagers would like to see take place in the hall, we held a consultation exercise at last July's Fun Day. In response to suggestions made we set up a yoga class last autumn – unfortunately the numbers were not sustainable from the teacher's perspective so the class had to fold. More recently however a new, informal self-directed group has begun to have yoga sessions in the hall and this appears to be much more successful. A lesson in how it's worth trying new things & accepting that some will work out, others not.

One-off hall bookings by villagers have been at a very buoyant level- at times it feels like a tsunami of bookings for children's parties – a recent example was 4 consecutive parties happening in the space of 24 hours: possibly a record!

It is very gratifying that the hall continues to be a well-used community resource, but a heavy volume of bookings does throw up challenges: on top of the usual activities which take time and energy to set up, many hirers request the public address system to be set up, & for the bar to be open. This poses demands on volunteer Committee members. I am conscious of the need to address this and to ensure what we are asking of Committee members does not become too much of a burden.

In terms of the ongoing improvement work to the hall, last summer we set up a Development Working Group to work up an Action Plan looking at a number of immediate & medium-term improvement projects for the hall. The Committee as a whole then agreed the priorities which were: firstly the terrace project, secondly updating the accessible WC for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility & thirdly improving the signage to make the hall rather more visible from the road. These priorities were in addition to other more minor improvements such as a new commercial dishwasher, which is now in place, and a hearing loop - we are awaiting an installation date for this.

Whether TMH can afford to undertake the various improvement projects is of course a key issue. Having considered the draft budget for 2023 & made due allowance for reserves & programmed maintenance the Committee decided just after Christmas that the work to the terrace could proceed, paid for out of TMH's own funds. This decision was based on our funds being in a healthy state mainly thanks to three sources of finance – firstly, grants received during lockdown, secondly a generous grant from Thorfest, & thirdly our own funds being bolstered from a high volume of bookings coupled with income from the bar.

We are absolutely thrilled with the completed terrace and gates made by a local blacksmith – feedback from villagers so far has been positive. As regards the accessible WC, Mike Baldwin has been tireless in chasing contractors for quotes. We are likely to seek some grant funding to help towards the cost so it may be a little while before we can crack on with this project. We are in the early stages of discussing the design of a new sign for the front of the hall, so that it looks a little less tucked away.

This past year has seen considerable change in terms of the Trustees. Russ Clarke stepped down as Chairman and Trustee at the end of 2022 – his hard work over several years is much appreciated and I am very thankful that Russ is willing to continue to help TMH by running Film Night, setting up the PA equipment for various bookings & keeping our website up to date. There are further changes on the Trustee front - we are sad to be saying goodbye to some very experienced ones. Mike Shelton, David Reygate, Jenny Reygate & Colin Marshall have decided to stand down after many dedicated years' service to TMH – they will be missed. Three relative newcomers, including myself, joined TMH as Trustees last summer. Having become Chair in January of this year I am still getting to grips with things – I should like to stress that every Trustee has been extremely helpful and welcoming to me personally during these past busy months. I'm really grateful for this.

Looking ahead, our aim is to continue to be alert to feedback from the community to ensure we provide a vibrant, high quality community hub that has something for everyone in the village.

Penny Wiles (Chair)  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Useful contact numbers:

Secretary: Mike Baldwin 01392 860853

Chair: Penny Wiles 07884 312627

## ***What's on at TMH...***

### ***FILM NIGHT FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MAY***

Matilda Wormwood (Alisha Weir) is a little girl with big curiosity, a sharp mind and a vivid imagination - and the worst parents in the world. While her parents content themselves with trashy TV and dodgy money-making schemes, she loves to lose herself in the pages of her beloved books. Where they are loud, selfish and unkind, she is a quiet observer. Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical is an inspirational musical tale of an extraordinary girl who discovers her superpower and summons the remarkable courage, against all odds, to help others change their stories, whilst also taking charge of her own destiny.



### ***BREAKFAST ON THE TERRACE?***



The TMH Big Breakfast and Saturday Market will be back with the opportunity to stroll outside with your bacon bap to enjoy the new TMH Terrace area. This paved open space has transformed the rear of the village hall and has made a tremendous improvement to the accessibility, enabling wheelchairs, buggies and those who use sticks easier access to the whole of this social area.

### ***SATURDAY MARKET SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY***



Thorverton Church  
Invites you to join us in our celebration

## Coronation and Conservation

Take a tour around imaginative displays of the wonderful variety of environments here in Devon

Think about how we look after them

Younger visitors can follow the trail and make a crown

The church will be open to see the displays

Saturday 6th May 10am to 4pm

Sunday 7th May 2pm to 6pm

Monday 8th May 10am to 4pm





“What does your local church mean to you and to your village? We would really love to know.

Would you please spend just a few minutes responding to our very brief survey, letting us know what your experience is of the church in your village?

The feedback will provide us with some understanding of what we can do to make the church more visible, more available to the whole community.

You can access the survey either by pointing your phone’s camera at the QR code, or by going to <https://form.typeform.com/to/Vu0LWt85>.

The more responses we receive the better our response can be.

Thank you for your time.

All blessings

Tim

*Revd Tim Collins*

*Priest-in-Charge,*

**WE WANT TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE NETHEREXE MISSION COMMUNITY**

How welcoming do you think this church is to children and young people?

1 2 3 4 5

SCAN ME

DIOCESE OF EXETER THE CHURCHES OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

**NEXT STEPS**

*Netherexe Mission Community*

**01392 860767**

**07449 111663**

### **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).

### **Bradninch Millers Morris return to Thorverton, 30<sup>th</sup> June**

We were lucky enough to have a visit from Bradninch Millers Morris last summer, and they have not been deterred, planning a return trip on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June**. They will be dancing outside the Thorverton Arms at 7.30pm and outside the Exeter Inn at 8pm. Do come and support them, and perhaps have a dance yourself.

**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

*There are still a few seats available for our*  
**COACH TRIP to Hartland Abbey & Gardens**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May £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

Monday May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30 in the Village Hall  
 A talk on *The Best of Friends - Companion Planting for Pest Control' With Becca Flintham*

\*\*\*\*\* *Something to look forward to...* \*\*\*\*\*

Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30 in Village Hall  
 A talk on *'The Flora & Fauna of the Island of Madeira' with Saul Walker Head Gardener at Stonelands*



## Royal British Legion Crediton Branch Branch Secretary Vacancy

Crediton has a vacancy for a **Branch Secretary**. We are looking for an enthusiastic person to work alongside the Branch President, Chairman and Committee officers. This position is a voluntary role.

A summary of duties is as follows:

- To liaise with the Branch Chairman in the preparation of the Agenda for all Branch Meetings and circulate.
- To attend and record Minutes of all General and Committee Meetings, type up and circulate these via email to the Branch Committee members.
- There are 6 scheduled meetings per year with the AGM in November.
- To keep the Committee and Branch members informed of events, and information from County RBL.
- To promote the Legion and, along with the Membership Secretary, to encourage Membership of the Branch.
- To act as point of contact for receipt of correspondence issued by the County.

The successful person must be efficient in Word and sending/receiving emails.

A handover from the previous secretary and training will be given.

**For more information and discussion about this role please contact:**

**Henry Parker (Branch President) [henryparker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:henryparker@hotmail.co.uk)**

## Silverton Link Up

Incorporated with Friends of Wyndham House Surgery (Charity 1048253)

### A Volunteering opportunity

Join our team of drivers helping Wyndham House Surgery patients attend medical appointments.

Patients helped are very grateful and our volunteer drivers find it most rewarding supporting people within the local community.

Drivers use their own vehicles and are reimbursed mileage at the current HMRC rate.

Without additional drivers some patients, living in our rural area with limited public transport, will miss important appointments.

If you are able to give some time, no matter how little, or require further information please contact :

Roger

Silverton Link Up coordinator

07821718672

Email: [silvertonlinkup@gmail.com](mailto:silvertonlinkup@gmail.com)



### PROGRAMME OF TALKS JUNE 2023

The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks for June 2023 is shown below. 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 and on the Exeter Forum website. 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](http://www.exeterforum.org)

<b>Wednesday 7 June</b>	<b>Peter Wingfield -Digby</b>	<b>Exeter Cathedral Memorials</b> Historian, author and Cathedral Guide Peter will give a fascinating insight into the different memorials that can be seen in Exeter Cathedral including their origins and the stories connected to them
<b>Wednesday 14 June</b>	<b>Derek Gore</b>	<b>The Vikings in the West Country</b> This talk is the follow up to Derek's story about the Kingdom of the Dumnonia. He will show how the Scandinavians, mostly Danes first came to Britain by sea in search of portable wealth. The long coastline with many estuaries was ideal for their highly manoeuvrable, shallow draught ships. As their raids increased, they sought land and power. This had important effects on the West Country and the Saxon city of Exeter. Derek Gore is a historian and archaeologist from the University of Exeter
<b>Wednesday 21 June</b>	<b>Alan Pewsey</b>	<b>Dartmoor Search and Rescue</b> Alan is a volunteer with Dartmoor Search and Rescue working with the Ashburton team. He will show the many different ways that they help people in difficulties on Dartmoor and the roles they perform. His talk will also cover how they work with search dogs. Alan will explain the importance of training, and how a rescue is organised and co-ordinated.
<b>Wednesday 28 June</b>	<b>Lisa Tame</b>	<b>Farms for City Children</b> Farms for City Children is a charity that enables children from disadvantaged communities to experience the adventure of working together on farms. It was co-founded by Sir Michael and Lady Morpurgo. Lisa's talk will look at the development of this important charity, and how its work has benefitted children from our major cities. The charity has its base near Exeter, and one of their main centres is Nethercott House near Iddesleigh. Lisa is Grants Development Manager for Farms for City Children.

## Heidi's Big Hair Chop

Post chop write up

*Thank you so much*

As you can see from the photos, the big chop went ahead on Wednesday 5th April and I am very proud to say that I was able to donate 16 inches of hair to the Little Princess Trust. This amazing charity makes wigs for little girls who have lost her own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions, such as alopecia. Each wig costs £550 to make and I have been asking for sponsorship money to fund the wig. Thank you to everyone who has donated already, I am humbled by your generosity and together we have currently raised an amazing **£645**.

The additional money will go to the charity to fund childhood cancer research seeking to find kinder and more effective treatments.

If you haven't already contributed, and wish to, the webpage will stay live until 24th May.

To donate go to the webpage

[www.justgiving.com/page/heidis-big-hair-chop](http://www.justgiving.com/page/heidis-big-hair-chop)

For offline donations, please send cash to:

1, The Close, Rewe, EX5 4EY

(off Green Lane by the war memorial).



# 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](mailto:elspeth.holmes@btinternet.com) Tel: 01392 860535**

# 20<sup>th</sup> SUNNYMEADE GAS UP

Sunnymeade, Thorverton, Nr Exeter EX5 5PJ

**Sunday 14th May 10.00am**

**Vintage & Classic Cars, Tractors, Motorcycles & Engines**

This year we are expecting a selection of  
military vehicles and a steam train

If you have an exhibit that you would like to display, just bring it along from 9am.  
Please ensure that during the whole of the rally your entry will be covered by public  
liability insurance and please bring along a copy of your insurance

Tombola, Draw, Refreshments, BAR,  
Bric-a-brac Stall and Car Boot by donation

Wanted: Bric-a-brac and Draw Prizes or anything you can think of to raise money

**CASH ONLY PLEASE, NO PAYMENTS BY CARD**

Entry is by donation, with all money raised going to  
**Devon Air Ambulance** Charity no. 1077998

**DONT MISS OUR BARN BINGO EVENING FRI 12th MAY 2023  
DOORS OPEN 7PM EYES DOWN 7.30PM**



#### How to find us:

We are on the Raddon Road to the west of Thorverton Village  
the first entrance on the right past the recreation field.

**Enquiries: Mike Lee – 07594648859**

# **MEAT BINGO**

**IN THE BARN**

**SUNNYMEADE, THORVERTON, EXETER EX5 5PJ**

**FRIDAY, 12th MAY**

**IN AID OF DEVON AIR AMBULANCE**

Light Refreshments

**DOORS OPEN 7.00pm - EYES DOWN 7.30pm**

**CASH ONLY PLEASE, NO PAYMENTS BY CARD**



**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE  
GAS UP ON SUNDAY 14th MAY**

TRACTORS, CLASSIC CARS, MOTORCYCLES,  
ENGINES, TOMBOLA, DRAW, BRIC-A-BRAC,  
REFRESHMENTS, VEYSEY'S BURGERS & BAR



## 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

### TCT SHOP

Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.30  
(Closed 1.00-2.00)

Saturday 8.00 - 12.00

Sunday 9.00 - 10.30

Bank Hols. 8.30 - 9.30 NEW HOURS

### POST OFFICE

Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.30  
(Closed 1.00-2.00)

Saturday 9.00 - 12.00

Sunday Closed

Bank Hols Closed

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#### BANK HOLIDAYS NEW OPENING HOURS

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Deliveries and pre-ordered papers as usual

Thorverton PO and TCT shop open as usual on **Sat May 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Welcome Café*

*Every Monday  
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**2.30pm in the WI Hut  
Thorverton**

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#### Thorverton Ladies Group

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on Thursday 11th May**  
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## CHURCH SERVICES & INFORMATION MAY 2023

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

### Sunday 7 May Easter 5

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Thorverton	JH
10:00 am	Morning Worship	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Cadbury	Lay Led
04:00 pm	Pimms & Praise	Rewe	Lay Led

### Sunday 14 May Easter 6

11:15 am	Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	TC
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### Thursday 18 May Ascension Day

06:00 pm	Holy Communion [followed by meal in Thorverton]	Cadbury	TC
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### Sunday 21 May Easter 7

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Bramford Speke	GC
10:00 am	Baptism Service	Thorverton	TC
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Cadbury	KR
05:00 pm	Holy Communion	Stoke Canon	TC

### Sunday 28 May Pentecost/Whit Sunday

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Rewe	JH
03:00 pm	Baptism Service [followed by picnic/tea]	Netherexe	TC

### Tuesday 30 May

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
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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](http://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](mailto:tim.collins@netherexe.org)

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

Mrs Juliette Lea [Administrator]

Mr Peter Shepherd [Administrator]

Tuesday & Thursday [09:00 – 15:00]

Monday & Wednesday [09:00 – 13:00]

Tel: 07594 714590

Tel: 07551 844321

Email: [administration@netherexe.org](mailto:administration@netherexe.org)

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

## The Coronation and all things Regal...

Well, another great opportunity for communities to come together and enjoy a time of celebration. Another chance to get the bunting out, party hats on and celebratory drink flowing. For so many of us, the Coronation of King Charles III will be the first coronation we will have witnessed – and certainly the first for us all to be provided with such a multiplicity of views and opinions, of analysis and camera angles, capturing every tiny detail, for better or for worse, with every mis-timed look or expression from royalty or person of renown commented on and meme created!

The Coronation will be a magnificent showcase of protocol, procedure and precision. A spectacle for us all in the United Kingdom and for many parts of the Commonwealth. Elements of it may jar with traditionalists or reformers, much of it may feel archaic, incomprehensible, out-of-date and out-of-touch. And yet, it will impact on us all. It brings home, once again, that this is a special country, with a unique heritage, intricately interweaving the Three Great Estates of Crown and Church and State. And perhaps at the moment of coronation, it is Crown and Church that are the central focus – as it will be the Archbishop of Canterbury who will place the St Edward's Crown on King Charles' head.

Indeed, even before that historic moment, the Church, through the Archbishop of Canterbury, will be front and centre in the Presentation of the King, the witnessing of the Oath, and the anointing with sacred oil of the King's hands, heart and head. As with his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles holds a deep faith and a real sense of service to the country and the Commonwealth, as expressed in last year's Christmas message: "In the much-loved carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" we sing of how "in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light." My mother's belief in the power of that light was an essential part of her faith in God, but also her faith in people – and it is one which I share with my whole heart. It is a belief in the extraordinary ability of each person to touch, with goodness and compassion, the lives of others, and to shine a light in the world around them. This is the essence of our community and the very foundation of our society."

As we experience the spectacle of the Coronation, as we think about what this new Carolingian reign might bring, I offer a prayer for our King:

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,  
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,  
and all who are in authority under him;  
that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and  
peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All blessings,

*Tim*

*Revd Tim Collins [Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community]*

PS: I would like to thank all those across the mission community, parishes and communities who contributed through their hard work, their time, their dedication – and their money! – to the Syria/Turkey Appeal. As a mission community, and as a Lenten discipline, we had pledged to raise enough money to fund at least one Shelterbox. We in fact raised enough for three boxes! This is a magnificent effort.

Thank you

We all know how much the cost of living is increasing. Lucy's Larder is there to help people in Thorverton to manage when it's hard to make ends meet. The Larder, which is free to use, is open to all who need it. It operates on a 2 tier system, these being the boxes and the slips, the funding for which is separate.

Sadly, recently, the contents of the Larder boxes (located in the church porch), have been less than we would all have liked. Money for the box goods is running out, whilst there is plenty for the slip system.

Please feel free to use the slip system, as a one-off request for goods, or on a regular basis. The slips are to be found in the church porch or are available from the Rectory (the Reverend Tim Collins deals with the slips) and enable requests for specific food and household goods to be made (the boxes are reliant on donations, and may not meet your particular needs - so please do ask).

However, if the boxes are to continue to provide food or household goods, more donations of items or money are desperately needed, please.

If you have any queries about Lucy's Larder, please contact The Reverend Tim Collins at The Rectory in Thorverton (01392 860767), or Sarah Acock (07811494940).

Thank you for your support.

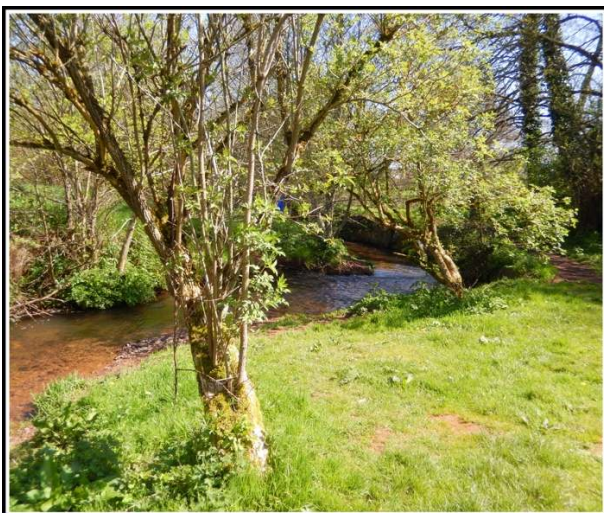


Photo: John Spivey

Thorverton Millennium Green

## 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:

**PCC Thorverton Sort Code: 30-93-14  
A/c no: 00436138 Ref: Lucy's Larder**

## 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.

## THORVERTON CHURCH : MUSIC 🎵 🎵

### Do you enjoy singing? Your village has a choir which could include you!

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

### Church Service on May 7<sup>th</sup> – all welcome on this weekend of celebration.

We are learning an 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? Yours would be most welcome in our band.

We also have instrumentalists accompanying some services, so please get in touch if you'd like to be part of the band. No audition required! The full list of upcoming services is elsewhere in this *Focus* edition,

but those at Thorverton Church with the choir singing, are listed here:

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** Communion service : **9.30am**  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>** Informal service including a Baptism: **10.00am**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup>** Communion service : **9.30am**

Heather Kershaw Music Director and Organist Thorverton Parish Church

[heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk) 01392 860419

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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.

### Recipe: Rhubarb Compote

1 lb (500g) rhubarb cut into small chunks

½ teaspoon vanilla extract,

3 tablespoons demerara sugar

1 orange

Put the rhubarb, vanilla and sugar in a saucepan and add the finely grated zest and juice of the orange.

Cook over a gentle heat until the rhubarb chunks are tender.

This is good with yogurt or ice-cream.

For a quickly prepared rhubarb fool, puree the compote and add it to Greek style yogurt or ¼ pint (150ml) lightly whipped double cream.

Paul Cleave



## Pudding Night a great success!!

Thank you to everyone who came to the pudding night in March, we raised over £500 to help fund my volunteering trip to Uganda and I couldn't be more grateful. I appreciate the effort everyone put in to bring along a pudding and I hope everyone who came enjoyed themselves and left with a full stomach!

Thank you  
*Chloe Fice*



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## Thorverton Cricket Club - May 2023 Update

Cricket is underway at The Station Ground - thank you to those who attended our 'Get Set Weekend,' and our Club Open Day on 29<sup>th</sup> April!

You can read the full 'welcome message' ahead of the season [here](#).

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May sees the first Devon Cricket League game on the newly laid pitch with the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI taking on Uptontery whilst the 1<sup>st</sup> XI are away to Plymouth.

The women's softball side have their first friendly fixture on 2<sup>nd</sup> May at home to the University ahead of the league starting later in May.

You can find all of our fixtures on the website here - <https://thorvertoncc.co.uk>

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/](http://www.thorvertoncc.co.uk/joining-the-club/)

### Training – we welcome new and returning players of all abilities

Open-age - Thursday evenings 6pm-8pm

Women's softball – Tuesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm

### Junior Cricket

Junior training has now started on

Friday evenings 6:45pm-8pm

All Stars and Dynamos Cricket set to start on 5<sup>th</sup> May – all info at

<https://thorvertoncc.co.uk/colts-cricket/>

Girls only cricket set to start on 16<sup>th</sup> May – contact

[womenssoftballthorvertoncc@gmail.com](mailto:womenssoftballthorvertoncc@gmail.com)



### 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!

You can find out more information about everything going on at the club, including all fixtures, on our website – [www.thorvertoncc.co.uk](http://www.thorvertoncc.co.uk). We also have a monthly newsletter you can subscribe to and a very active Facebook page!

We look forward to seeing you at The Station Ground soon!



## A GARDEN FULL OF THOUGHTS

April in the garden is an unpredictable month. At the beginning there is little to see and at the end, after a lot of hard work, there is not much to demonstrate the toil you have put in. We have been renovating a muddy section of our garden and whilst there is now a new patio, the surrounding beds are smarter but no fuller than they were 6 weeks ago. This is despite a lot of digging, forking, composting, wheelbarrowing and at the end some raking and turf laying. Although no flowers yet, metaphors have bloomed.

Hard work with little immediate evidence of outcome is common within many parts of our lives. Relationships take time and regular nurturing. Initially a lot of spade work might show nothing but underneath you start to create a rich, healthy base for friendships to form and companionship to blossom. In the last 6 weeks my father-in-law has painstakingly prepared a new asparagus bed and planted a crop. It will be three summers before he can reap any rewards but it will be worth it.

Physical exertion is beneficial on multiple levels. There is nothing better for our bodies than mobilising, stretching and bending. As we get older this becomes harder but the benefits greater. Mild muscular discomfort or aching joints are common and normal; resting and stretching after an energetic day is sensible but if aches are predictable then it makes more sense to take the tablets before the activity. It is the equivalent of oiling and regularly using a trusty pair of shears; it makes them last for a lot longer than if left in the back of the shed. Painkillers and stretching are the oil for our hips and knees.

What is very clear as I open the curtains each morning and look down on our efforts is that slowly with time flowers will bloom, fruit will ripen and vegetables will grow. Some things will be predictable, some will be controllable and others will simply take us by surprise. Some projects will fail but there is no point in dwelling on these because we can just do some more digging and start again. The patch of soil always has the potential to become something more enjoyable. Life can be described as a bed of roses and whether we see this as a comfortable soft pillow of petals or a thorny, uncomfortable, difficult to prune mesh is often due to our current state of mind. Life can seem like both of these at times and will vary unpredictably for all of us. However, we can control how we view it. One person's "intermittent showery day" is another's "quite a few sunny spells". Looking for the positive can be hard work, but just like April in the garden, it is well worth the effort.

Anthony O'Brien

Wyndham House Surgery

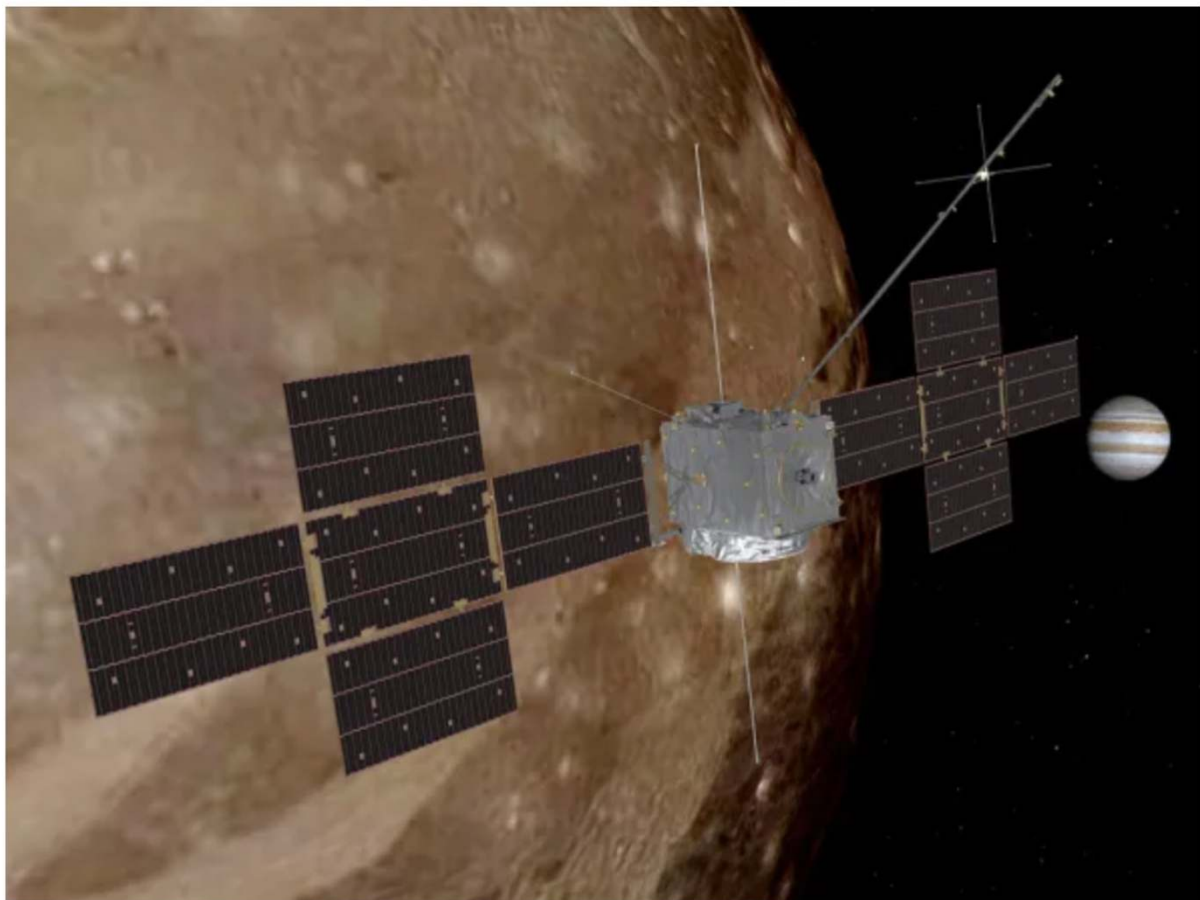
## SKY AT NIGHT

### May 2023

May sky. The ETA Aquariid meteor shower, spawned by the tail of Halley's Comet, is active nearly all of May, but peaking around 6 May and expecting to produce up to 50 meteors per hour. Full moon is 5 May, so it's best to observe the shower just above the Eastern horizon just before dawn! On the 13 May, notice how close the Moon gets to bright Saturn, followed by Jupiter, Venus and Mars on 17, 23 and 24 May.

ESA's Jupiter ICy moons Explorer, 'JUICE'. The successful recent launch marks the beginning of an ambitious (unmanned) voyage to uncover the secrets of the ocean worlds around gas giant Jupiter. It carries a plaque in honour of Galileo's own Jovian moon discoveries. It is a mission under European Space Agency (ESA) leadership with contributions from NASA, the Japanese JAXA and the Israel Space Agency.

JUICE, will make thorough observations of Jupiter and its three large ocean-bearing moons – Ganymede, Callisto and Europa (see illustration, courtesy of ESA). This ambitious mission will survey these destinations with a powerful set of sensing and geophysical instruments to discover more about these fascinating moons as potential habitats for life. JUICE will monitor



Jupiter's complex environment in depth including its interplay with the moons, studying the Jovian system as a model for gas giant systems across the Universe.

It launched on an Ariane 5 (workhorse) space-rocket from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. Why French Guiana? Well, the Eastward direction of launches, against the rotation of the Earth, don't need there to be pieces dropping over cities, etc, so their trajectories tend to be sited over the sea. It has an eight-year cruise with multiple flybys of Earth and Venus, and even Earth's own moon, to slingshot it to Jupiter. It will make 35 flybys of the three large moons while orbiting Jupiter, before changing orbits onto Ganymede.

We know that three of the planet's largest moons hold quantities of water in volumes far greater than in Earth's oceans. These planet-sized moons offer us tantalising hints that conditions for life could exist other than here on our 'pale blue dot'.

"The treasure trove of data that ESA JUICE will provide will enable the science community worldwide to dig in and uncover the mysteries of the Jovian system, explore the nature and habitability of oceans on other worlds and answer questions yet unasked by future generations of scientists." a project scientist animatedly observed.

Over the next 20 days, JUICE will unfold its major devices including the 16m long radar antenna, 10.6m long magnetometer boom, and other instruments, critically including its vast 27m long solar arrays, providing 85 square metres of active surface, to ensure that it can safely travel to the outer Solar System.

April next year will mark a space exploration first: JUICE will perform a lunar-Earth gravity-assist – a flyby of the Moon followed 1 1/2 days later past Earth. After Venus, two more flybys of Earth will accelerate our plucky craft towards the Jupiter system arriving in July 2031.

The whole journey is nothing if not hazardous. Protective shields will help guard the sensitive electronics from the extremely harmful radiation in this Jovian system. A unique insulation method will maintain internal systems as temperatures may reach more than 250°C near Venus and -230°C at Jupiter.

Hundreds of millions of kilometres from Earth and powered by just 4% of Earth's sunlight, JUICE will be guided over three years through 35 flybys of the three moons: "To fly such a complex path from such an enormous distance – and vitally, to get Juice's valuable data home to Earth – will require precise navigation techniques, reliant on ESA's deep space antennas in Spain, Argentina and Australia". This and "the immense challenge of switching orbits from massive Jupiter to orbiting Ganymede", will be unique feats of space mission control.

Ganymede, larger than the planet Mercury, is the primary target; JUICE will spend most of a year observing the moon closely from orbit. It possesses an intriguing feature in addition to a well-hidden ocean: it is the only moon in the Solar System to generate its own magnetic field. Only two other solid bodies generate a field like Ganymede's – Mercury and Earth. JUICE will reveal more about the interior structure of Ganymede and in doing so will be able to determine how its core is able to generate and maintain such a magnetic field. Life on Earth

requires the protection of a similar field, so this will be key to understanding how the moon evolved, and the consequences for alien life/habitability.


Ganymede also displays a wide range of surfaces and features, offering a geological record spanning several billion years, over half the lifetime of the Solar System. This complements its 'siblings' – ancient Callisto, which may hold clues to early conditions in the Jovian system, and young and active Europa, which spectacularly vents water into space.

Callisto is the third largest moon in the Solar System, after Ganymede and Saturn's moon Titan, and is thought by some to be the characterless member of the four Galilean moons. However, there is evidence that Callisto too hosts a subsurface ocean, from melted ice that was once warmed by the moon's rock.

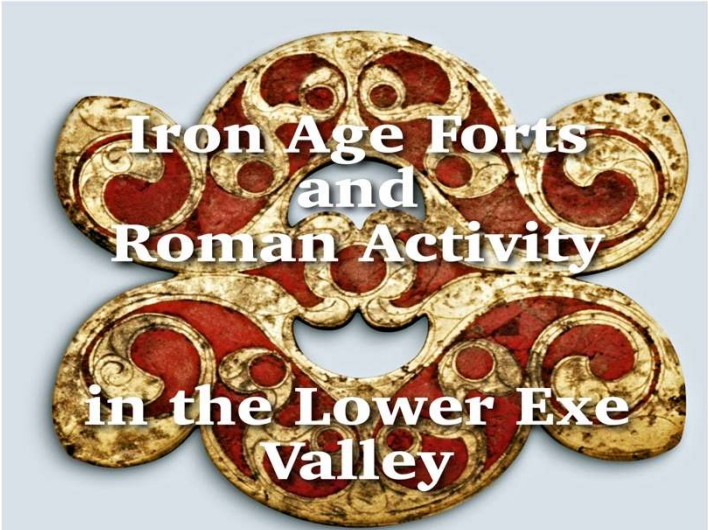
The smallest of the moons, Europa, is an icy world also known to have a liquid ocean beneath its 20km thick icy crust, which may contain twice as much as all of Earth's oceans combined. This makes these promising places on which to search for life, and that is exactly what JUICE will be doing. Thanks to ESA and BBC from whom this month's 'Sky' has been gleaned.

*Peter Hargood*


*Thorverton & District History Society*



PRESENTS



**Iron Age Forts  
and  
Roman Activity  
in the Lower Exe  
Valley**



**Henrietta Quinnell**  
Lecturer in Archaeology in the Department of Adult Education 1970-99 at Exeter University gaining wide experience of prehistoric sites in South West Britain. More recently she has developed her expertise in the Iron Age and Roman periods in the region, publishing widely in regional and national journals.

**Friday 26th. May 2023 at 7:30pm  
Thorverton WI Hut**

## Thorverton's daffodils in 2023

Over the past few years the displays of daffodils in Thorverton have been getting better and better. In the autumn of 2021 the Parish Council purchased some 500 bulbs from Allies Mid Devon, who were trying to brighten Devon's villages with the planting of some 100,000 daffodils, in memory of those who lost their lives to covid. Allies Mid Devon gave us a further 300 donated bulbs in the autumn of 2022. The photos below are not only of those daffodils, but also of other plantings over recent years





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SUNDAY

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MONDAY - SATURDAY

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SUNDAY

BREAKFAST 9.00AM - 11.30AM

LUNCH 12.00PM - 3.00PM



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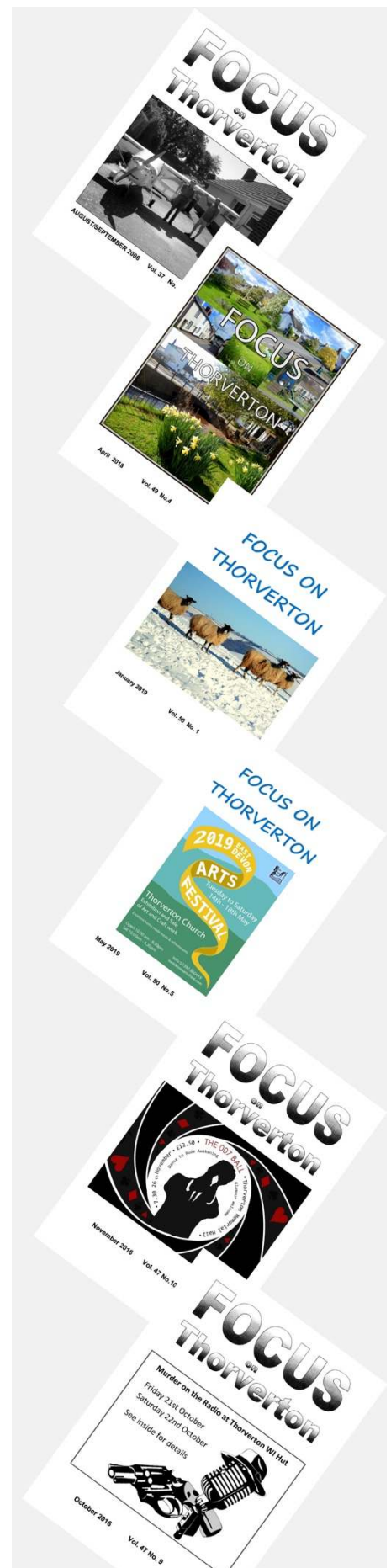
## The making of a village magazine

It has been a year since I became the editor of *Focus* and, during that time, I have reflected on how the magazine has evolved since it started fifty-three years ago in March 1970. From the outset and up to June 2017 the *Focus* was printed 'in house' and assembled by groups of volunteers. It was only in July 2017 that the printing of the magazine was outsourced to Sarum Graphics, a printing company in Wiltshire. The fact that the magazine was assembled manually by small groups of volunteers for so long is testament to their hard work and dedication in preserving this unique village publication.

As with any monthly magazine the first day of the month represents not only the first day of sales from the various outlets but also the first day of starting to prepare the next month's issue. Emails begin to arrive containing various information, text copy, photographs, posters and notices from both regular and new contributors. Over the following two to three weeks, and in the hands of our excellent assistant editors, the new items replace the previous month's and the template for the next month begins to morph into the structure of the next issue. As the copy deadline draws near the editor finalises the layout, appearance and content of the new magazine before passing a printed draft to an independent proof reader. Any spelling, grammar or other errors noted are rectified and a final copy of the magazine is then emailed to the printers in pdf format. The printers turn this around in about three to four days from receiving the email to delivering copies back to Thorverton, pretty impressive I always think!

So, what are the important ingredients that have enabled *Focus* to magically appear at the start of the month for fifty-three years and counting? I believe the first of these, that has been achieved over the years has been to keep the magazine local and relevant to Thorverton. When pretty well every other form of media we encounter is either south western, national or global, it is quite refreshing to be able to pick up and read a magazine that has articles about things which directly relate to your own village and the people and organisations you know within it.

The second ingredient is the platform the magazine offers to local trades and businesses to advertise their companies and services in the locality. The continued support over the years from local businesses who advertise in *Focus* is both helpful to them in generating custom and recognition locally and



demonstrates a genuine support for the survival of the *Focus* magazine as an asset of our local community. Something we are very grateful for.

The third ingredient is having a such dedicated and willing team of people working behind the scenes who continue to produce the magazine. Those on the committee overseeing the organisation, finance and administration of the magazine, the advertising administrator, the assistant editors, the proof reader and the editor who complement each other to put together the magazine and the printers who complete the final product.

The fourth ingredient is, of course, those who provide the sales outlets at the Post Office, Berry Dairy and Exe Valley Farm Shop. These are vital to the process and we are very grateful for every single copy sold from these local outlets.

And so, we come to our final ingredient and, yes, you are right if you are shouting 'the Reader'! Without you there would be little point in producing any village magazine, let alone the quality of one such as *Focus*. At this point, I could just say "So settle back and enjoy this month's copy..." but I would like to leave you with the following questions to consider with your families, your friends, neighbours or school mates.

How do you think *Focus* can become an even more interesting and useful publication for everyone? What can be done to encourage story writers, to encourage articles from artists, musicians and creatives of all ages, articles of family interest, about animals or of various practical and sporting interests? Let us know what you think. There is a space in your village magazine which could be used for your contribution.

You, too, could be part of **'the making of your village magazine'**.

*Russ Clarke*



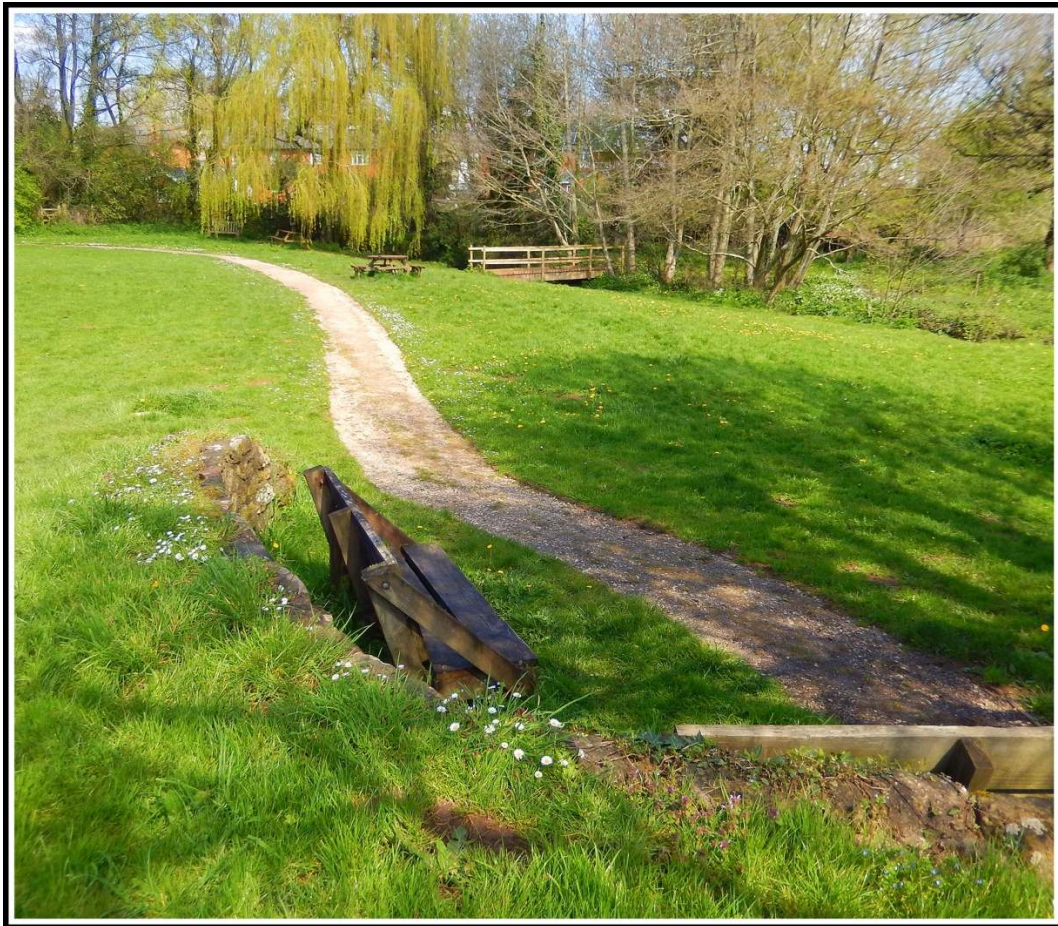


Photo: John Spivey Thorverton Millennium Green

## Legal Eagle

Auriol Grey was recently convicted of manslaughter in a case which has received much in the way of media attention. Auriol Grey was jailed for 3 years, an appeal has been lodged against the sentence.

In October 2020 Auriol Grey, who at the time was living in a home run by a charity which provided accommodation for the disabled, was walking on a pavement along Nursery Road, Huntington, Cambridgeshire. Celia Ward was cycling along the pavement towards Auriol Grey. Auriol Grey ordered Celia Ward to “get off the (expletive) pavement”. The judge told the jury that Auriol Grey then made a “lateral sweeping movement” with her left arm, causing Celia Ward to fall into the road, where she was run over and killed by a passing car.

The jury, following a retrial (the first was unable to reach a verdict), rejected the claim that the chain

of events constituted an accident or that Auriol Grey was entitled to rely on the defence of self-defence.

Auriol Grey is reported as being partially blind and has cerebral palsy and “cognitive difficulties”.

There are three types of involuntary manslaughter, namely:

- gross negligence manslaughter;
- unlawful and dangerous act manslaughter;
- subjectively reckless manslaughter.

Auriol Grey was charged with the second, unlawful and dangerous act manslaughter. The elements of the offence are that,

- D (Defendant) does an unlawful act;
- the act amounts to a crime;
- the act is a dangerous one;
- the act causes death.

The offence is sometimes referred to as constructive manslaughter because D's liability is constructed out of a lesser offence, sometimes referred to as the base offence. The base offence which Auriol Grey is alleged to have committed is an assault, which is a common law offence, where the accused intentionally or recklessly causes the victim to fear immediate unlawful personal violence.

There can be no doubt that the actus reus (the guilty conduct) elements of the offence were present. The "lateral sweeping movement" made by Auriol Grey with her left arm no doubt caused Celia Ward to fear immediate unlawful personal violence (a battery). The prosecution then needs to establish the *mens rea* (the mental state referred to in the definition of the offence) element of the offence namely that the accused, in this case Auriol Grey, intended or was reckless to causing the fear of a battery.

Intention comes in two forms, 'Direct' or 'Indirect'. Direct intention is established by proving that it was the accused's aim or purpose or desire, to do something or to cause a certain result. So, the jury had to be satisfied, if direct intention was alleged, that it was Auriol Grey's aim or purpose or desire to cause Celia Ward to fear immediate unlawful personal violence. In the alternative, indirect intention could be established by proving that the fear of immediate unlawful personal violence by Celia Ward was a virtually certain consequence of Auriol Grey's conduct, and that Auriol Grey was aware of this.

In the event that the prosecution were unable to establish the necessary intent, assault allows for a lesser form of *mens rea*, namely subjective recklessness which can be established by showing that the accused realised the risk that their conduct might cause someone to fear immediate unlawful personal violence. The issue here is whether Auriol Grey realised the risk that her

conduct might cause Celia Ward to fear immediate unlawful personal violence.

Once the base offence is established the remaining elements of unlawful and dangerous act manslaughter must be satisfied. In addition to being a crime, the base offence must also be a dangerous one. In **Church [1966]**, Edmund Davies J held that in order to be dangerous, "the unlawful act must be such as all sober and reasonable people would inevitably recognise must subject the other person to, at least the risk of some harm resulting therefrom, albeit not serious harm". Waving an arm indiscriminately as Auriol Grey did in the particular circumstances would satisfy this requirement.

Finally, the act must be shown to have been the cause of death, which in this instance it was.

I am not sure to what extent the *mens rea* issues of the base offence were argued at trial. Miranda Moore KC for Auriol Grey is reported as having said that "there was no intention to cause harm or an obvious risk of harm". Reports indicate that Judge Sean Enright said that Auriol Grey's actions were "not explained by disability" and expressed the view that Auriol Grey had no mental disorder or learning difficulties and that the pavement was 2.4 metres wide at the relevant point, describing it as a "shared path on the ring road." With regard to the last point, it is reported that a spokesperson for Cambridgeshire County Council said there were no legal records to show that it was a shared path, nor signage to suggest it was a cycle path.

A criticism of unlawful and dangerous act manslaughter is that the accused can be convicted when they have the *mens rea* of a very minor offence, such as assault, which happened in Auriol Grey's case. The judge and jury must have been satisfied that Auriol Grey acted with one of the *mens rea* requirements for the base offence, although I have been unable to identify which.

Clive Hamblin

## A Talk for Thorverton History Society

Devon Place Names

By Robert Hesketh

We were delighted to welcome Robert Hesketh a freelance writer and photographer with a strong interest in local history to speak to our History Society on Friday the 24th March. He has published over sixty Devon, Dorset and Somerset titles and written numerous illustrated articles for Dartmoor Magazine, The Countryman, Country Walking and other publications as well as contributing photographs of West Country landscape and people. His subject of choice this evening to a welcoming turnout, was the origin and meaning of Devon place names and their close relationship to the topography, history and evolution of our places, language and people.



Every Devon place name has a story to tell and usually a very old story going back over a thousand years. They reflect both our landscape and our heritage and can sometimes indicate successive layers of conquest and settlement. In Cornwall, Celtic names prevail, however, Old English and Saxon dominate as you travel East where we have a rich tapestry woven from Old English, Old Norse, Latin, Norman, French and British within the county.

The benchmark for place name studies relies on the Domesday Book, the great survey of the newly conquered kingdom commissioned by William I in 1086, but many other charters, Church documents and chronicles have helped too. Some names inevitably remain disputed and uncertain! An ongoing study is available <https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/> as well as Robert's own invaluable book.

Robert began by explaining the settlement of Saxons onto the British territory and how the use of British is largely confined to natural features - more than a quarter of Devon's rivers have British names such as the Axe, Exe and Yeo (meaning water), Torridge (rough stream), Teign (stream) and Taw (strong or silent stream).

Although Rome conquered most of Britain, including Devon, the administration rarely changed the existing place names and examples usually come from medieval scribes such as for Buckland Monachorum (book land - granted by charter, of the monks) and our own Exeter (Fortified Roman settlement on the Exe). Even the Vikings made little impression on us except for the raiding points on the coast such as Lundy (Puffin Island) and Oldstone (Ulf's farm).

The Norman Conquest began the last major phase of naming and most reflect powerful feudal families joined to earlier names such as Bovey Tracey (Bovey being river and the de Tracey family) and Stockleigh Pomeroy (tree stump clearing held by the de Pomerei family).

Only a few names are very modern: Devonport was renamed by royal permission in 1824 for example and Westward Ho! was named after Charles Kingsley's novel in 1855.

Robert gave us so many examples of the common constituent parts of many names...too many to record... and some which are left to us to remind us of the personal names of people now forgotten, such as Countess Wear (named after Countess Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Devon who constructed a wear across the Exe in 1286), Lypstone (Leofwine's farm), Topsham (Topp's hemmed in land), Bickleigh (possibly Bica's woodland clearing) and our own Thorverton (a farmstead by a ford, marked by a thorn tree or Thurferth's farmstead).

This was an evening full of information and yet another facet and perspective on the making of our landscape.

Recorded by Ann Marshall



## Report for March 2023

At the April WI meeting, Roz Crook was welcomed to share some of her travel photographs. Roz entertained us with stories from far and wide and said that she generally travelled as a single person or sometimes she joined a singles group. She said that she had only started travelling relatively recently. Her first adventure was a seven-week tour in Australia, followed soon after with a visit to New Zealand.



In 2011, Roz's travels took her to China. Here, she had joined a Holiday Company for her touring. She told us that one day her group had found themselves amongst a group of stocky men all dressed in dark suits – these were in fact protectors for a very important man close by, the important man being Putin!!

One of the most memorable visits of China for Roz was the Great Wall, although she was overwhelmed by the number of visitors walking on it. In 2013 Roz visited Iceland where she saw the hot springs, heard the noisy ice flows and was smitten by the Icelandic ponies.

Whilst touring Borneo, she saw miniature elephants and orangutans. Roz travelled to South Africa in 2017 where she experienced a variety of accommodation and transport during her action-packed visit when she saw many wild animals in their natural habitats – elephants, hippos, monkeys, giraffes, crocodiles, lions, leopards, wild dogs and zebra. She also visited Botswana and Zimbabwe. Roz had planned to go to Cuba, but Covid ruined those plans. Having had a few years break, Roz is now researching further adventures. Roz has had some wonderful experiences and gave us several more ideas for our Bucket Lists.

### Dates to Note

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – Annual Meeting in WI Hut

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> May** – Coffee Morning & Market from 10 o'clock until about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut

**Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June** – WI Meeting

**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> June** – Coffee Morning & Market from 10 o'clock until about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut

**Welcome Café** - Every Monday except Bank Holidays at 2.30 in the WI Hut

New Members and visitors are always welcome to WI Meetings.

*Judy Bright*



## The Joy of Living in Shropshire

Between the two teaching jobs in Kenya we spent 12 months in England. For a few weeks I taught a class of 8-year-olds at a primary school in the Colne Valley near Huddersfield and I soon realised that I preferred teaching in a secondary school. Primary teaching is extremely full-on and exhausting. I take my hat off to primary school teachers. I was accepted as physics teacher in Bridgnorth Grammar School for a two-term temporary post from January to July 1966.

We searched for a short-term accommodation in the area to the west of the River Severn. The photo shows the small, lonely, house (shack?) on the lower slopes of Brown Clee Hill, which we rented. Its chief asset was that it was cheap (*understandably so!*). The rent was £6 per month, which at the time was 10% of my take-home pay. The house had 2 very small bedrooms, a tiny kitchen-bathroom and a separate toilet. Services were electricity and telephone, BUT **no running water** !! We had to collect our water supply in a large (and heavy) milk churn from a farm 100 yards down the road. Our Morris minivan was used to collect the water every few days. Since we were only there for 6 months we thought we could manage; which we did ! The shack walls were very thin, with little, (if any), insulation; it was very cold in January. There was a large field behind the house with a very long barn we used for garaging the minivan. The barn was big enough to store another 20 cars. The owners had departed for a new life in Australia and our monthly payments were made to an agent in Bridgnorth.

Bridgnorth was a 20-minute drive along narrow lanes. A pleasant market town with lots of social activities. I joined a woodworking evening class and constructed a mahogany chest of drawers, which I am still using today (57 years later). The School was very traditional with a long history of doing things *this* way. Wednesday afternoons

were devoted to activities, one of which was rowing on the River Severn, of which I had no experience. But I quickly learned that it was a very pleasant afternoon's work to be rowed at speed by 8 students heaving on long oars while we sped between the picturesque banks of the river. I soon mastered the steering by pulling on the ropes connected to the rudder to keep us more or less river central. The most difficult part of the operation was entering and exiting the boat without losing a student in the water.

The Physics teaching was pleasantly straightforward and the pupils were mostly well behaved and eager to learn, and much easier to control than the 8-year-old primary school kids back in Yorkshire. The classrooms were quite old (almost historic) and the equipment well used. I much preferred the teaching in Kenya where I was my own boss and could organise things in my own way. By this time we had arranged to return to Kenya and had chosen the school on the slopes of Mt Elgon in the north west of Kenya close to the Uganda border. Fellow staff at the grammar school were interested in our plans and the Chemistry teacher and the Games teacher also applied to teach in Kenya and moved there at the end of the year with their families. The Chemistry teacher, David, had a rough start to their 2 years in Kenya as the shipping company sent all his heavy belongings to another client in Australia and David received their trunks instead. It took a couple of months before the delivery was sorted out. His Kenya school, in Kakamega, was an hour's drive from ours so we visited them several times over the next 2 years. I used his school as a control in comparing different teaching methods of the Physics curriculum.

Shropshire has lots of attractive small villages and some excellent walking along the hills. The views from the Long Mynd across into Wales were spectacular. Being close to Wales meant we could join the ex-Aberystwyth Mountaineering Club for a weekend's climbing and walking in the

Ogwen and Llanberis valleys in Snowdonia. The minivan could actually be used for sleeping in. The front seats could tilt forwards so my legs could actually stretch to full length and an inflatable mattress give some comfort. However the new VW Devon campervan which we bought in June was MUCH more comfortable and convenient. In 1966 I liked to listen to the music Top 20 which was on Radio 2 on Sunday afternoons. As we didn't have a radio in the house we used to sit in the van and listen on the car radio, Beatles and Rolling Stones, etc. in the Shropshire Hills. The house, accurately named Northview, was surrounded by open fields and there was a small pond with lilies over the road to the north which attracted a range of wildlife. I recently tried to find the house again on Google Earth and Street view. The shack has vanished, to be replaced by a large brick-built bungalow with tarmac drive and smart gates ..... a big improvement! The 20-car barn at the back was still there. I think the original corrugated roof of the shack was probably asbestos! After 6 months of fairly inconvenient living, we were not sorry to leave the shack behind in July 66 and drive off to Scotland to try out the new campervan and work out what extras we needed to install before driving through Yugoslavia, Greece and Italy en route to Kenya.

Coincidentally, driving out on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula in West Scotland we were stopped at roadworks when the oncoming car driver turned out to be an ex-Kenya friend we had last seen in Embu, when we took him to hospital with a badly cut forehead following an argument with his broken windscreen ..... small world. The six months living in rural Shropshire was a pleasant pastoral interlude between much more exciting adventures in East Africa.

*John Spivey*



The Shropshire Shack

## TARTS news

### Thorverton Amblers Ramblers and Trampers

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).*

## OUR WALK FROM DUNSTER

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April we had a rare break in the rain with a beautiful sunny day. This resulted in a good turnout for our walk from Dunster. We had a fairly late start because of a few difficulties with the journey there – the roads really are in a terrible state with potholes. But after the customary photo line-up we set off over the medieval packhorse Gallox Bridge and into the former deer park, with wonderful views of Dunster Castle and the sea. The mud in some places was especially slippery but it did improve as we gradually got higher. We passed some very frisky Exmoor ponies in one field, two in particular were having a bit of an argument with each other!

As we walked past the farm buildings at Aller Farm Jenny spotted a Holly Blue butterfly taking up minerals from the moist mud on the ground.

Due to the late start we didn't stop for coffee, but continued on to the pretty village of Withycombe where we stopped for lunch at the 13<sup>th</sup> century church of St Nicholas. An unusual church painted white, and containing medieval effigies, with beautiful stonework inside. We sat outside in the churchyard to eat our lunch and enjoy the sunshine. Jenny spotted a female oil beetle in the churchyard. Oil beetles are actually under threat because of their unusual life cycle. The larvae hitch a ride on a solitary mining bee that takes them into the bees' nest where the larvae eat the bees' eggs, pollen and nectar. In the Spring the beetle emerges.

We could have spent the rest of the afternoon there but instead a steady climb out of the village over Withycombe Hill to Withycombe plantation.

Stopping for a rest and to enjoy the view an Oak Eggar moth caterpillar was spotted sunning itself on a fence, as a buzzard circled overhead.

The views from Withycombe Hill were superb. We could see right across to the Quantocks and over the Bristol Channel on the one side, and on the other views of the Brendon Hills. The yellow gorse was out in full bloom which was delightful to see. We spotted a rather large furry Fox moth caterpillar on the ground moving at quite a speed – no doubt to evade our flurry of cameras!

We continued through a gate back into Dunster Park and over the iron age settlement of Bats Castle. Heading back down over the heathland we spotted three deer a short distance away eyeing us suspiciously. They soon turned and ran but it was an unexpected pleasure to see them at that time in the afternoon.

We reached Gallox Bridge in time to enjoy tea and cake in the National Trust Mill tea room – a very fitting end to a lovely walk.

*(Tarts nature notes by Jenny Garne)*

Future Walks:

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April led by Neville

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May led by Jenny

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May led by Caroline

## NATURE NOTES

A year has passed now with my comments of wildlife on a stretch of a local hedge and so this is the last monthly report below. What I didn't write last year was that on the other side of the lane a lot was going on. I had discovered Puss Moth caterpillars feeding on Pussy Willow (Sallow) *Salix caprea* and you can read all about it below.

### The Hedge.

Hawthorn and Spindle is showing its bright green leaves and tiny flower buds are visible. Blackthorn flowers are passing over and its leaves are unfurling. Leaves of Silverweed have grown through grass on the verge. On Good Friday a Seven-spot Ladybird was on the verge.

### Puss Moth Larvae *Cerura vinula* Part 1

On 30th June last year as I walked along I was chided by at least one male whitethroat, maybe up to three. I saw my first ringlets of the year and a painted lady nectaring on roadside verge flowers. The hedges here tend to be cut annually with a few trees, mainly oak allowed to continue to grow. I came to a section of hedge that has a bit of willow and noticed it had been nibbled and then I noticed a puss moth larva. I took a picture and from the picture discovered it had a bubble attached to its 'tails' from which I assume it had been extruded. On the leaf on which it was resting it had laid down silken threads.

I returned the next morning to the willow patch that receives the sun from first light. To my astonishment there were four puss moth larvae and I must have just missed them from the day before. They are not easy to spot. Looking from left to right, my first one from the day before was on the left and its bubble had gone. The next one on the right had a tiny bubble on its tails. The first three were all resting vertically, head facing the sky and all had silken thread on their leaf. The fourth larva on the right was much brighter than the other three and was feeding.

The following morning now 2nd July there was something wrong with the first larva with black liquid



Larva with a bubble on its 'tails'

surrounding it. The second larva had moulted, now looking very splendid with its blue tails with black stripes. No sign of the other two larvae. My daughter Rowena (Ro) and I made a second visit to the site in the afternoon. The larva with the black liquid around it had a fly settled on its head and by now I realised it had been attacked by something. I found a third larva feeding. The fourth larva had disappeared.

(Part 2 of the Puss Moth larvae will be continued next month).

### Oil Beetles

We have five remaining oil beetle species in this Country. Like lots of our wildlife they have suffered serious decline.

I have seen three oil beetles in my lifetime but that all changed in the space of three days when I came across another three. In addition, my sister also found one on her father in law's land. She had the good fortune of watching it feed on a leaf of lesser celandine and defecating bright green squidgy poo just like the glossy green leaf colour of the lesser celandine. My first of the recent sightings you should read in the Tarts Dunster walk report. The two other sightings were at Blackingstone Rock between Doccombe and Moretonhampstead on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. All four of the beetles were Black Oil beetles *Meloe proscarabaeus*. At Blackingstone Rock a cuckoo was also heard that morning.



Larva beside its moulted skin



Larva surrounded by black liquid

### A to Z *Xylaria hypoxylon* Candle-snuff or Stag's Horn Fungus

This powdery white fungus grows to 7cm high and resembles antlers. It is also known as Candle-snuff fungus as it is said to also resemble snuffed-out candle wicks. It can be found all year round on dead wood and is not edible. I have found it at the base of a hedge around Thorverton and in our garden.

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

## Bonjour la France (Episode 2)

### 31st December 1967 B.C. (Before Children)

If you missed the first instalment, last month's article related the journey by train, coach and taxi of a young couple from Birmingham to Orange, in the South of France, where Maurice was to take up a post-to-post exchange job teaching English at the local lycée. They had spent their first night in Orange in unsatisfactory accommodation arranged for them by the school.

It was Sunday and we felt we would like to attend a church service. The police directed us to the Temple Protestant but this was locked and the weekly service had taken place at 10 o'clock that morning. It was now midday. However, as we walked along, we saw a poster on a wall on which there was a Bible text and the address of a meeting-place the other side of town. Alas, when we found the place, it was only to discover a notice on the big double doors of the premises announcing meetings on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays, that is, again too late or - decidedly - too early. As we stood there in disappointment, with Fiona trying the door handles in the vain hope that they might open and reveal a human presence, we heard a voice behind us. A man in a car had seen us and stopped. 'I'm the pastor's brother-in-law,' he explained. 'I'll take you round to his place.'

Very shortly we found ourselves in the pastor's modest flat in a large apartment block, surrounded by his wife, six children plus visiting relatives, who all made us very welcome. Fiona had not gone beyond O level French at school but was nevertheless managing to follow the gist of the conversation, which, as usual in Provence, took place at machine gun speed and with an abundance of gestures. As we got to know each other better, the pastor told us there was a New Year celebration organised by the young people of the church.

Would we like to join them? What an offer! And, although we were a little older than their 'young people,' given our situation - no money left, bank

and shops shut until Tuesday, and hardly anything to eat at our miserable hovel of a flat - we jumped at the chance. To make our happiness complete, the pastor invited us for a meal on Monday evening before driving us to the home of the young couple who were the leaders of the young people's group.

When we got there, we found a dozen or so teenagers busily engaged in designing menus for the evening meal, while the delicious smell of chicken being prepared wafted round the room. We were again made extremely welcome and, when the young people went home to eat before the evening revels, our hosts, Louis and Annie, kept us on for a lovely meal during which we met their gorgeous children Isabelle and Olivier, aged four and three respectively.

At 9 pm we met up with the young people again at rented premises just down the road which were used for various church activities. There we joined in all sorts of games and enjoyed a programme of sketches, followed by a more serious interlude during which Louis led us all in a Bible study. Then - shades of things to come - at about midnight we all sat down to a meal at which one course followed another - six in all. By now, we oldsters were beginning to flag a little and so, at about 2 am, Louis kindly drove us home. The youngsters, we learned later, continued their festivities for another hour or so. As Louis dropped us off, he promised to make enquiries about finding more suitable accommodation for us. What an incredible day it had been!

The next morning, exhausted by our merry-making, we slept in until midday and then enjoyed, so to speak, a brunch of leftover bread from the morning before. During the afternoon we worked a little on Fiona's French. Then it was time to set out for the promised meal at the pastor's home, a most appreciated occasion during which Lois' brother turned up with the welcome news that they had three different properties for us to look at next day.

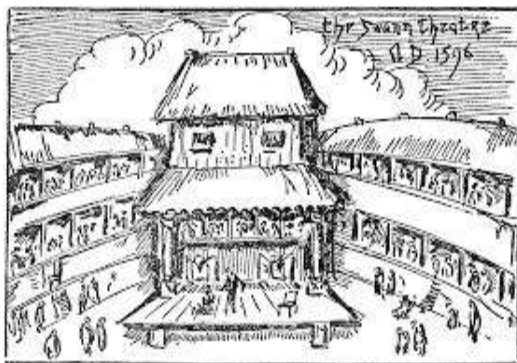
It turned out that somehow our new friends had found out a little man who for a modest fee was ready to take us round the town and show

us three premises which would at least be an improvement on our present situation. We soon made our choice, at the home of a very pleasant lady, Mademoiselle Danti. We were to have the completely self-contained upstairs accommodation, consisting of a kitchen-cum-dining room, bathroom with shower, bedroom, sunroof, garden with washing-line and an outhouse for doing the washing. In addition, it had an oven and three gas rings plus a coal burner for water and room heating. All this in an infinitely more pleasant part of town. Now why couldn't the lycée have found us something like that?

Anyway, there we were, after a bad start, with new friends and a new home. How well things had turned out for us in such a short space of time. We couldn't help reflecting on a Bible verse (Romans 8:28) which says: 'All things work together for good to those who love God.' Or, if you prefer, a secular reference, Hamlet's words to Horatio: 'There's a divinity that shapes our ends/ Rough-hew them how we will.'

The account of what happened next will continue in the June edition of *Focus*...

*Maurice Harrison*



## SHAKESPEARE FOR EVERYONE



Timon is a wealthy citizen of Athens. He is at the height of his prosperity and is lavishing gifts on all of his friends. A poet dedicates his work to him, a painter does his portrait, and a jeweller gifts him a precious stone. The senators of Athens flock to Timon in a "great flood of visitors", and as he enters to the sound of trumpets, his suitors press about him to ask special favours. Timon grants them all, for he has a loving and considerate nature and gets real pleasure from doing good.

The only Athenian who will accept nothing from him and eyes him with a kind of sardonic pity is a cynic named Apemantus. In his opinion the fawning Athenians are nothing but knaves:

The strain of man's bred out  
Into baboon and monkey.

When Timon asks him where he is going, Apemantus says that he plans "to knock out an honest Athenian's brains," and when Timon says that he will be executed for it, Apemantus disagrees, for the law will not execute a man for doing nothing!

Timon gives a great banquet and only Apemantus refuses to take part in it. "I scorn thy meat, 'twould choke me, for I should ne'er flatter thee. O ye gods, what a number of men eat Timon, and he sees 'em not! It grieves me to see so many dip their meat in one man's blood..."

Equally troubled is Timon's steward, who loves his master and knows that the fortune he is giving away so lavishly will not last much longer. The steward has warned Timon about his money just as Apemantus has warned him about his false friends, but Timon will listen to neither of them. He has a happy confident nature and refuses to look for evil anywhere.

The creditors begin to gather, demanding the money that Timon owes them, and Timon's steward is finally able to convince his master that he is deeply in debt. He tells Timon how worried he has been:

When all our offices have been oppressed  
 With riotous feeders, when our vaults have wept  
 With drunken spilt of wine, when every room  
 Hath blazed with lights and brayed with minstrelsy ....

The steward is convinced that Timon's friends are summer flies who will disappear with the first storm, but Timon is sure they do not love him for his wealth alone. But he decides to test them, sending messengers to all the Athenians to whom he has been kind, confidently asking them to lend him money.

One of his servants goes to his friend Lucullus, "nothing doubting his willingness", and Lucullus is highly amused. "La, la, la, 'nothing doubting' says he?" It seems to Lucullus that Timon has a fundamental flaw in his nature. "Every man has his fault, and honesty is his." Another friend is more tactful in his refusal but his answer is the same, and none of Timon's disturbed and sympathetic servants are able to find an Athenian who will grant his request.

Timon's creditors now press him more violently, ringing from him a cry: "Creditors? Devils!" He decides to give one final banquet for his false friends. "I'll once more feast the rascals." The Athenians come flocking. Having decided that Timon was only testing them and must be rich after all, they hungrily eye the covered dishes that are set out so lavishly before them.

Before the dinner starts, Timon gives a bitterly ironic prayer to the gods and then shouts to the assembled guests "uncover dogs, and lap." The covered dishes are filled with nothing but lukewarm water which Timon then hurls in their faces, following by the dishes themselves and a flood of superb invective:

Live loathed, and long,  
 Most smiling, smooth, detested parasites,  
 Courteous destroyers, affable wolves, meek bears,  
 You fools of fortune, trencher-friends, time's flies,  
 Cap-and-knee slaves, vapours and minute-jacks!  
 Burn house! sink, Athens! Henceforth hated be  
 Of Timon, man and all humanity!

The guests scramble for the hats and gowns that their host has torn from them in his fury, and hasten as fast as they can out of the house of that once happy man; "Lord Timon's mad."

Timon is indeed mad, with a rage that eats into his heart and dissolves the loving kindness he once possessed into the bitter acid of hatred. He hates not only his false friends but the whole of Athens, and through it the whole world. He curses the city savagely and leaves it forever to live in the woods amongst



the beasts of prey. But his servants love him still, that “poor honest lord, brought low by his own heart,” and his steward in particular resolves to care for him.

Timon, digging for roots by his cave near the sea, finds gold instead and in savage glee offers it to a captain who is marching to conquer Athens. The captain refuses it. He is himself an Athenian, thrown out of the city by the ingratitude of the senators, and he is as eager to destroy the city as Timon is to have him do it.

Sick with rage and seeing the whole world as diseased as his own fortune, Timon tries to ease his heart of its weight of loathing in a flood of tortured rhetoric:

Why shouldst thou hate men?

They never flattered thee.....

The news spreads that Timon has found gold and is giving it away, and two thieves come to steal it from him. Timon welcomes them, for now he sees all men as thieves. For a brief moment he is touched by the faithfulness of his old steward -

You perpetual sober gods! I do proclaim

One honest man.....

But his final advice to his anxious servant is still on the bitter theme he has learned so well. “Hate all, curse all, show charity to none.”

Now that Timon has gold again, his former suitors rush out to the cave to do him honour and the senators of Athens ask his help against the captain who is besieging them. Timon says he will do his countrymen one last kindness: there is a tree near his cave which he is planning to cut down, but before it is felled anyone who wishes may come from Athens and hang himself on it!

The senators abase themselves before the besieging captain. They appeal to his sense of justice, and he promises to destroy only the guilty. Then the news comes that Timon has died in his cave and written a final epitaph, carrying with him his unrelenting contempt for the human race. Shakespeare found the text of the epitaph in his source (“Here lye I, Timon, who alive, all living men did hate”) but he characteristically ends the play with Timon’s “faults forgiven” and peace descending on the city of Athens.

*Andrew Hoellering*

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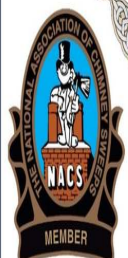

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<b>Parish Clerk</b>	Jim Roberts 01392 202692 or 07768457590, <a href="mailto:thorvertonpc@gmail.com">thorvertonpc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Parish Council Meetings</b>	2nd Tuesday of the month (except August), at 7pm in the Memorial Hall <i>(See Notice of Agenda on the Parish Council Notice Board in School Lane.)</i>
<b>Parish Allotments</b>	<i>Contact the Parish Clerk, 01392 202692</i>
<b>Pension Service</b>	PO Box 93, Plymouth, PL6 5WJ, 0845 60 60 265
<b>Police</b>	Non-emergency number 101
<b>Post Office Portacabin (TCT Ltd)</b>	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) Business Management Team 01392 860419</i> Royston Kershaw, Heather Kershaw, Helen Ratcliffe Chair and Company Secretary: Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
<b>Public Telephone Kiosk</b>	<i>Opposite the Church, outside the former Bell Inn, Dinneford Street, Thorverton</i>
<b>Thorverton C of E Primary School (Part of the Exe Valley Federation)</b>	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 <a href="mailto:hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk">hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk</a>
<b>School PTFA</b>	Chair: Wendy Coles Vice chair: Elaine Green Secretary: Amy Crebo Treasurer: Peter Stevens <a href="mailto:thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk">thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk</a> <i>Please contact any members of the PTFA via the school office 01392 860374</i>
<b>South West Water</b>	24 hour emergency 0800 169 1144, helpline 0800 169 1133
<b>Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust</b>	Chair: Di Foxford Secretary: Maggie Dunlop 01392 861185
<b>Thorverton Millennium Green Trust</b>	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](mailto: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 *New members always welcome, no partner needed. Contact Graeme for*

### Cricket Club

Chair: Charles Kislingbury 07971 880421

Andy Pitt 07980 789813, [andy-91-pitt@outlook.com](mailto:andy-91-pitt@outlook.com)

Fixture Secretary: James Meredith, 07972 547609, [j.meredith51@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:penny@apwiles.co.uk)

Secretary: Mike Baldwin, 01392 860853, [sijml@hotmail.com](mailto:sijml@hotmail.com)

Bookings: [thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.co.uk](mailto:thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.co.uk)

Website: [thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk](http://thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk)

### Toddler Group

Liz Armstrong [emcarmstrong@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto: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
<b>Monday</b>	08.30 – 18.00	Drs. Harris, Saunders, Ziegler, Dunn, Vidoni.	08.30 - 13:00 15:00 - 17.30	Dr Bronte Vidoni
<b>Tuesday</b>	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Brighton, Vidoni, Cook, Saunders, Harris, Dunn (pm)	08.30 - 13:00	Dr Natasha Dunn
<b>Wednesday</b>	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Nichols, Griffiths, Ziegler, Kirwan.	08.30 - 13:00	Dr Michael Kirwan
<b>Thursday</b>	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Harris, Saunders, Kirwan, Dunn, Vidoni.	08.30 - 13:00 15:00 - 17.30	Dr Emma Ziegler
<b>Friday</b>	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](http://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](http://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: May 2 (Tues) & 30 (Tues)**

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

**Recycling boxes** fortnightly on Mondays: May 8 & 22, June 5 & 19

**Chargeable garden waste** fortnightly on Mondays: 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: 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 May

None

# Libraries Unlimited

## MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS 2023



### Your Mobile Library visits Thorverton – Quarry Car Park every 4 weeks on Thursdays 15:45 – 16:30

Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 13, May 11, Jun 8,  
Jul 6, Aug 3 & 31, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 23.

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092.  
To donate, please visit [librariesunlimited.org.uk](https://librariesunlimited.org.uk)



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by



**TORBAY COUNCIL**



# CORONATION STREET PARTY

The Bury, Thorverton

*Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2.00pm*

BBQ + Paellas

Live Music + Children's Entertainment

Group Photo

***Plus a Toast to His Majesty The King!***

(Don't forget to hand in your invitation forms for your drinks tokens - see Exeter Inn, Thorverton Arms, Berry Dairy or PO for details)

