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

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

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

Items for publication, adverts, changes to adverts, Diary entries, changes to Thorverton Information lists should be sent to the Editor at thorvertonfocus@gmail.com

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

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

PHOTOS should be sent separately in JPEG or PDF FORMAT.

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

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

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

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

Front Cover & Page 19 Photos: Elizabeth Lane

Welcome to the June edition of Focus.

By the time you begin reading this month's magazine, I hope you will have spotted the arrival of the Swifts, helped on their way by the warmer winds from the south west. For me it's a sure sign of spring turning into summer once again and a time of year I really enjoy. If you haven't taken a walk around the Millennium Green recently, I would recommend that you do. It is an excellent example of how an open space can be created and developed over a number of years into a safe and relaxing community asset for all ages.

May certainly gave us plenty to keep us occupied with three bank holidays, a Coronation, a village street party and a wonderful conservation exhibition in the Church. (Report and photos include in this issue). There was also the Gas Up and Bingo at Sunnymead pulling in the crowds. Thanks must go to all those involved who helped Thorverton put on yet another great show.

June will give you the opportunity to take a leisurely Sunday walk to Bramford Speke for a walk around Woodrow Barton Farm, follow the Jumble Trail and help raise funds for the Thorverton Defibrillator Trust, order a Cream Tea from the Royal British Legion and help raise funds for the RBL Poppy Appeal, Lucy's Larder and also the Thorverton Defibrillator Trust or sit outside the Thorverton Arms and watch the Bradninch Millers Morris in action.

Alternatively, you could take a comfortable chair out to the garden, sit back and read the Focus from cover to cover where you will find full details, dates and times of all these events and some very interesting and well written articles and poetry,

.....well, I would say that , wouldn't I?

Editor

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DIARY OF EVENTS 2023

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

June

- Sunday 4th Lego Club, Newton St Cyres Church at 4.00pm
 Mon 5th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Thurs 8th Mobile Library in Thorverton Quarry Park 15.45-16.30pm
 Sat 10th TMH Big Breakfast & Saturday Market 9.30am – 11.30am
 Sunday 11th Open Farm Sunday, Woodrow Barton, Brampford Speke, 10.30am
 Mon 12th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Thurs 15th Thorverton Ladies Group, 6.30pm at Schiehallion, School Lane – see notice
 Friday 16th TMH Film Night – The Fabelmans, 7.30pm
 Sat 17th Jumble Trail around Thorverton, 10.30 – 2.00pm – see notice.
 Mon 19th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Mon 19th Upton Pyne & District Garden Club, Upton Pyne Village Hall, 7.30pm (see notice)
 Friday 23rd History Society, Visit to Killerton – see notice. **No meetings in July & August.**
 Sat 24th WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut.
 Mon 26th Welcome Café WI Hut 2.30pm
 Friday 30th Bradninch Millers Morris, from 7.30pm (see notices)

July

- Sat 8th Fun Day, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 11.00am – 5.00pm
 Thurs 20th Auction of Promises, in aid of Thorverton Primary School PTFA, Thorverton Arms, 7.30pm
 Sat 22nd CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT: A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM, TMH 7.00PM

August

- Sat 12th Royal British Legion 11th Annual Cream Tea Delivery Service (see notice)



CYGNET COMPANY PRESENTS A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Please join us for an evening of magic, love and laughter...
 With a company of 6 actors, Cygnet Theatre will recreate Shakespeare's enchanting and mischievous comedy...
 Watch mayhem unfold in fairyland ... with Oberon and Puck ..
 Titania and Bottom ... a host of fairies and several bewildered young lovers ..

Directed by Amanda Knott, A Midsummer Night's Dream will perform in Cygnet Theatre before visiting gardens and parks where you are invited to watch the performance whilst relaxing in a deck chair - plus picnic - as the sun goes down (chair and picnic not provided I am sorry to say)

Thorverton Memorial Hall Saturday 22nd JULY

BOOK NOW via: thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Letters

From Annette Mawson

Returning to the village after 3 weeks absence, I was very touched by the welcome I received. I also would like to give a heart-felt "thank you" for the cards, phone calls and beautiful flowers I received. These were a real tonic and gave me hope for a good recovery.

"Thank you" are two very everyday words, but in my case they are from the heart.

From Rhys Roberts, Thorverton House

Dear Editor,

I wonder if I may, through the *Focus*, thank those that supported me in the recent local district election. I was thrilled to receive such support and now resolve to work hard to represent all the constituents of my ward at district council level and push forward those issues that are important to Thorverton and its neighbouring villages.

To assist with that process, I will work closely with all the Parish Councils in my area and I look forward to begin to develop those relationships as soon as possible.

At time of writing, I am undertaking an induction process with MDDC and will at the end of this programme, be given new contact details including email etc and will release these details as soon as I can. I will also look to develop new social media accounts to give residents the opportunity to keep in touch with me on a regular basis and again I will publish details when available.

Finally, although the new district political landscape may mean that the opportunity to influence future policy is limited, I am very much up for the challenge and will not hesitate to promote our local interests where appropriate.

Kind regards.

From Nick and Judy Bright

FAIR OAK PLANT SALE

Nick and Judy are pleased to say that due to your generosity in buying our plants we have raised **£360 for Thorverton Church funds.**

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 Higman, Silverton Link Up coordinator

07821718672

Email: silvertonlinkup@gmail.com

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Update

I have heard it said that the British like any excuse for a Party, and what better than a Coronation. The rain held off and the sun tried to shine as we celebrated; I understand that there is some of the kitty left over, and that the Coronation Group (NB not the PC) will be looking at ways of using this on other projects around the village as this may be the last street party for a while.

The Affordable Housing project is still moving along, but we have now reached a stage where we need to discuss the various options with those experienced in this area; if we appear quieter for a few weeks please don't think nothing's happening!

The Barliabins rejuvenation project is also making progress and at the last PC meeting many of the same group took on the responsibility for also tackling the refurbishment of the Rec Ground play area. We have grant funds available for this and are looking for volunteers to join this group, so if you are a regular user of the play area (or even supervising a regular user!) please make contact via Jim Roberts, our Clerk, by email at thorvertonpc@gmail.com.

As I mentioned in the last issue, the PC lost two Cllrs who didn't stand for re-election this time; we are gathering names of those interested in

joining us and, once again, your first contact should be Jim Roberts – but I am always available for a chat on the subject.

Parking was discussed again at the last meeting. Although the PC are responsible for the Quarry Car Park, which is owned by the Parish, we have extremely limited powers to do anything much more as DCC are in charge of all highways. It may not be much of a consolation to you but the number of parked cars in the village may help keep the speed of traffic down, which is another issue we are often asked about!

We also discussed spraying of the cobbles, which can also be a contentious issue. We are satisfied that the product being used is safe and it is only applied by licensed operators; if we do nothing then moss and lichen will become very slippery when wet and a potentially bigger hazard. We are, as a 'new' PC, looking again at our Risk Assessment documents and if there are any changes to the current spraying regime, we will let you know.

Finally, the planning application details from the last meeting:

23/00693/FULL Bowden Hill Barn (NGR 292126 106310) New agricultural workshop.

Council RESOLVED not to comment on this application.

ANDREW FOSTER
Thorverton Parish Council



THE LEONARD TRUST: financial assistance for Thorvertonians

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

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

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

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL



May was a very busy month for the hall with several events including Skittles Night, Film Night and private events such as weddings and parties.

Thanks to everyone that helped make them a success.

The new Terrace area at the back of the hall is a great improvement especially with the lovely weather that we are/have been enjoying (depending on when you're reading this). The hall is a wonderful venue for weddings and parties so if you are planning such an event do come and see what the hall can offer. Just contact one of the members of the Committee (listed below) and they will put you in touch with the right person.

JUNE Events include the **Saturday Market and Big Breakfast on Saturday 10th** and then for our regular monthly film night, **THE FABELMANS, is on Friday 16th June.** This is a fictional story about the early life and aspirations of Steven Spielberg, who has brought us so many amazing films.

JULY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Don't miss the ever-popular **FAMILY FUN DAY on Saturday 8th July** and a for special treat later in the month the Cygnet Theatre's Annual Production Tour comes to Thorverton on 22nd July with the **outdoor performance of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.** Anyone that went to the last outdoor performance at the hall will remember what a special event it was, so do come and support them and your hall.

We hope you're enjoying summer, make every second count.

TMH CINEMA

FRIDAY 16th JUNE

Doors open 6.45pm
Programme Starts 7.30pm

BAR - ICE CREAMS - DRINKS
Adults £5.00 U18 £4.00

Thorverton Memorial Hall

Book tickets @ thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Thorverton Memorial Hall

Fun Day!

Sat. 8 July

11.00am till 5pm

Crafts, Dog Show, Stalls,
Duck races, Wizz Bang, Food
and lots more!

thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

TMH Committee Members: Penny Wiles (Chair), Mike Baldwin, Jan Wills, Peter Marshall, Sarah Addicott, Steph GShannon, Andrew Saunders, Claire Heaven-Roberts, Emmie Payne-Cook

**CYGNET COMPANY PRESENTS
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

William Shakespeare's

Thorverton Memorial Hall
Saturday 22nd JULY

Full details and bookings at
thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Auction of promises

In aid of Thorverton Primary School PTFA

Thursday July 20th 7.30pm
The Thorverton Arms



Come and join us for an evening of fun and bidding for over 50 lots to help raise money for new IT and play equipment for the school.

There is something for everyone, including:

- Sailing experience for 4 at Queen Anne's Battery, Plymouth, includes champagne.
- Chauffeur-driven ride in 2002 Lotus Elise or 1974 Jensen Healey.
- 'Make your child headteacher for the day' at Thorverton Primary School.
- Fishing day on the River Exe.
- Signed Exeter Chiefs Rugby shirt.
- Vouchers for many local pubs and play experiences.
- Promises of cooking, baking, gardening, ironing, eggs delivered to your door and so much more!

If you have any time, experience or skill that you would like to promise to Thorverton PTFA, please contact Nic Fice at nicfice@hotmail.co.uk

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)

Bradinch Millers Morris

return to Thorverton, 30th June

We were lucky enough to have a visit from Bradinch Millers Morris last summer, and they are planning a return trip on **Friday 30th 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.

Lego Club – A Great Royal Build

At the recent Lego Club in Newton St Cyres Church, those of all ages there worked together to build something to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.

After some discussion and deliberation, all helped to construct what was dubbed 'Brickingham Palace'!!

It was a wonderful Royal Celebration, complete with balcony scene and celebratory banquet.

Our next session is **on Sunday 4th June at 4pm, at Newton St Cyres Church.**

The theme for this time will be 'Films'.
Come along and release your inner creativity.
We would love to see you there.

*All blessings,
Revd Tim Collins, Priest-in-Charge,
Netherexe Mission Community.
01392 860767 07449 111663*





The Royal British Legion **Thorverton Branch**

**11th Annual Cream Tea Delivery Service.
Saturday 12th August.**

A Cream Tea delivered to your front door. 300 delivered last year. This year we are supporting the RBL Poppy Appeal, Lucy's Larder, Thorverton Village Defibrillator Trust and Branch/Community funds. Freshly cooked and prepared in the morning ready for delivery £4 each. To order please contact Alex/Penny Fice Tel. 861136 or srbf@hotmail.co.uk

RBL Quiz nights on Wednesday 1st November at the Thorverton Arms and the following Wednesday on the 8th at the Exeter Inn, both start at 7.30pm. £2 per player maximum of six per team plus a raffle on both nights.

Thorverton Primary School



Gardening Club at School

This week we have taken delivery of a splendid new shed for the school garden. The school would like to give the Thorfest committee a huge thank you for donating this to the school. We would also like to thank the Fice family for kindly giving their time to clear out and demolish the old shed and erect the new one. It really is a great improvement. I would also like to thank the local branch of the Royal British Legion for donating new gloves for the children and other items for the garden. Here are some of the members of Gardening Club by the new shed.

Thorverton & District History Society



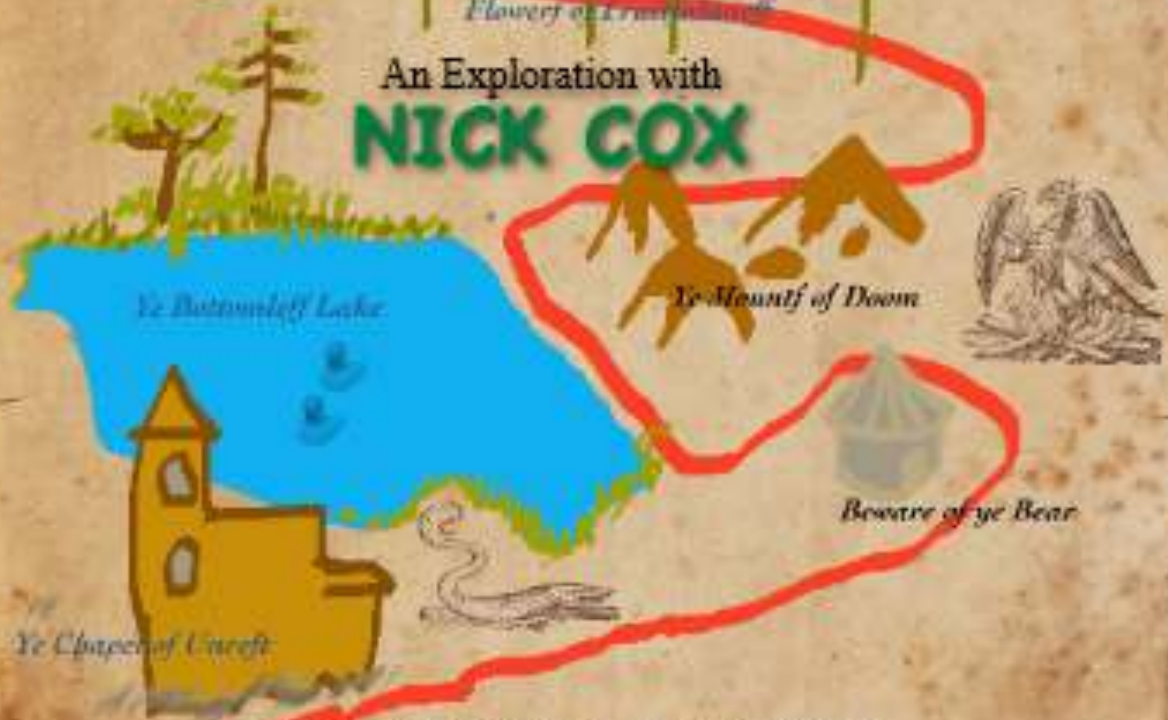
MEMBERS are PARTAKING of a
VISIT to KILLERTON
TO DISCOVER

The Living Legacy of the Plant Hunters



Flowers of the...

An Exploration with
NICK COX



On Friday 23rd June 2023
Meet at Killerton Car Park at 2:30pm

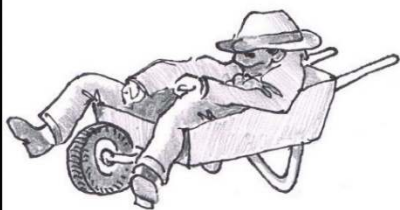
PLACES ARE LIMITED MEMBERS WISHING TO ATTEND MUST BOOK WITH
GRAEME CULSHAW graemeculshaw@yahoo.com



PROGRAMME OF TALKS JUNE 2023

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. Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk. Any programme changes will be shown on the website at: www.exeterforum.org

Wed 7 June	Peter Wingfield- Digby	Exeter Cathedral Memorials - 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.
Wed 14 June	Derek Gore	The Vikings in the West Country - 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.
Wed 21 June	Alan Pewsey	Dartmoor Search and Rescue - 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.
Wed 28 June	Lisa Tame	Farms for City Children - This 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.



Rewe and District Gardening Club

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

This coming month the Club are visiting a wild life garden and meadow, followed by a tea. We welcome anyone interested in gardening Visitors welcome at a fee of £1

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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

POST OFFICE

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

Saturday 9.00 - 12.00

Sunday Closed

Bank Hols Closed

**THORVERTON COMMUNITY POST OFFICE +
THORVERTON CO-OPERATIVE TRUST LTD**

I'm sure just about everyone around here would say that having a post office, paper shop, village shop, pubs, doctors' surgery, school, church, village hall, visiting library and reasonable bus service here in our village, mean that we are very fortunate indeed. And we all know how important it is to support these facilities and amenities as much as possible. Many of them are run by volunteers for the benefit of everyone. Thorverton PO is well-used by all age groups for which we are grateful. The community-run TCT newsagent and stationery shop is run to support our post office and it is also supported by the membership subscriptions of local people who contribute £10 pp per annum to help keep the business afloat. TCT Ltd's financial year begins on June 1st so it's now time to pay another subscription please. Last year just under 200 people did this. This sounds good but actually there are probably nearer to 900 adults living locally so it would be great to have even more support this year please.

Membership forms are available at Thorverton PO or I can e-mail one to you.

If you want to pay online, TCT bank details are :

Thorverton Cooperative Trust Ltd., The Cooperative Bank, sort code 08 92 99 account no. 65176665

We aim to have a TCT AGM sometime in June or July so please watch this space, local social media platforms and posters on noticeboards for notification of that. Current members will receive an e-mail or written invitation. At that meeting you can see the financial reports, hear more about our post office and TCT businesses and also about Post Office Ltd generally.

With thanks on behalf of the TCT Council, TCT's volunteer helpers, our PO staff and Sub postmaster.

Heather Kershaw Chair and Membership Secretary TCT Ltd 01392 860419

heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk or heatherpkershaw@gmail.com Thorverton PO : 01392 860455

Thorverton Ladies Group

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to our summer barbecue, which is being held on

Thursday 15th June

6.30 pm at Schiehallion, School Lane.

Margaret Swaffield has kindly offered to host this meeting. Meat and liquid refreshment will have been organised but we should be grateful if all attendees could bring either a salad or a dessert to share.

Please give Margaret a call on **01392 860309**

by Monday 12th June to let her know whether you are attending and what sharing dish you would like to bring.

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 841777

Monday June 19th @ 7.30 in Village Hall

'The Flora & Fauna of the Island of Madeira'
with Saul Walker

Head Gardener at Stonelands, Nr Dawlish

Saul Walker fell in love with horticulture through his Grandparents passion for visiting historic houses and gardens, and after a brief spell as an Archaeologist, he went to train and work as a Gardener for the National Trust at Antony House in Cornwall.

He is now the Head Gardener of Stonelands House- a privately owned 10-acre garden. Saul's speciality interests include Woodland Gardens, Orchids, and Exotic plants

Welcome Café

Every Monday
(except Bank Holidays)

2.30pm in the WI Hut
Thorverton

Tea, coffee, cake and company.
Everyone welcome



The coach trip to
HARTLAND ABBEY
& GARDENS
on May 9th was enjoyed by all despite light rain & mist. Woodland walks, views, beautiful plants, and the history and film exhibitions were amazing, especially with the links to Poltimore



Thorverton Memorial Hall

Fun Day!

Sat. 8 July
11.00am till 5pm
Crafts, Dog Show, Stalls,
Duck races, Wizz Bang, Food
and lots more!

thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

THURSDAY 22ND JUNE

'STRICTLY HALLROOM' PARISH HALL	JAZZ DECO PERFORMANCE PARISH HALL	WATCH THIS SPACE BEER ENGINE
---	---	--

FRIDAY 23RD JUNE

'HONKY TONKS' LINE DANCING PARISH HALL	'SWUNK' EXETERSCHOOL JAZZ GROUP NSC SCHOOL	'SWUNK' EXETER SCHOOL JAZZ GROUP BELLUNO'S
EXETER CHAMBER CHOIR 'SING JOYFULLY' NSC CHURCH	RED DIRT BAND BEER ENGINE	'SWUNK' EXETER SCHOOL JAZZ GROUP BEER ENGINE

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE

UKELELE BAND CONCERT AND HAVE A GO? BEER ENGINE	LA LA CHOIR WORKSHOP NSC CHURCH	LA LA CHOIR CONCERT NSC CHURCH
---	---	--

SUNDAY 25TH JUNE

BELL-RINGING TASTER SESSION NSC CHURCH	EXETER COMMUNITY FOLK ORCHESTRA CONCERT PARISH HALL
EXETER COMMUNITY FOLK ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP PARISH HALL	TAIKO DRUMMING RECREATION GROUND

MUSIC ALL THE WAY
Music Festival

2023

22nd to 25th June



***FREE EVENTS IN BLACK BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

Supported by The Viscount Amory's Charitable Trust and Devon Community Foundation



NEWTON ST CYRES CHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

For more information on every event go to

www.newtonwonder.net and click on the Music Festival link on the first page or in the menu

You will find all the information you need including the posters and how to book your space on each event

Events in the Church can be over 2 hours sitting down on wooden church pews.

It might be advisable to bring a cushion!

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shop



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www.themortgage-shop.co.uk

Berry Dairy

**THORVERTON
GENERAL STORES**

Re-established 2016

Welcome and pop in for...

Award winning cheese, ham, bacon and deli produce.
 Locally sourced produce, fresh fruit and vegetables, Creedy Carver chicken and duck
 Locally made cakes, delicious brownies and flapjacks
 Freshly ground coffee, hot drinks and tea to take away
 Local artisan bread, Hot pasties, sausage rolls and freshly made sandwiches
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CHURCH SERVICES & INFORMATION JUNE 2023

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

Sunday 4 June Trinity 1

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Thorverton	TC
10:00 am	Informal Gathering	Stoke Canon	LF
10:30 am	Coffee & Chat	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Worship	Rewe	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Cadbury	Lay Led

Sunday 11 June Trinity 2

10:30am	Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	TC
04:00 pm	Pet Service	Huxham	TC

Sunday 18 June Trinity 3

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Brampford Speke	TC
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Cadbury	KR
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Rewe	TC
05:00 pm	Holy Communion	Stoke Canon	MSS

Sunday 25 June Trinity 4 [St Peter's Week]

10:00 am	Baptism Service	Thorverton	JD/KR
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:00 am	Patronal Festival & Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC

Tuesday 27 June

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 see "Please Note" section of the homepage.

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

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

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

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

Mrs Juliette Lea [Administrator]
 Tuesday & Thursday [09:00 – 15:00]
 Tel: 07594 714590
 Email: administration@netherexe.org

Mr Peter Shepherd [Administrator]
 Monday & Wednesday [09:00 – 13:00]
 Tel: 07551 844321
 Email: administration@netherexe.org

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

Parish Letter

The Church Goes Green

Welcome to your local church in June! You are welcome all year round, but now it's June and we look forward to seeing you now. June 11th begins what the church calls 'Ordinary Time'. Is there any other kind of time? Well, yes, there are special times, obviously. Beginning with December we anticipate Jesus' coming and travel from Christmas to Easter telling the story of Jesus' birth and death and rebirth to new life. We do this through different celebrations and disciplines. We finish the narrative by celebrating the Holy Spirit bursting onto the scene and into our lives, which we call Pentecost. For that half of the year there are lots of 'special times'. The past month of May has seen three long weekends and a half term holiday. Now, I think we can all look forward to some ordinary time.

The Church, in its wisdom, has assigned a colour to the various seasons of the church year. Ordinary time (from now until December) is green. Why? I really couldn't tell you. Some say it's green to represent growth. During ordinary time we mull over the things Jesus said and did in between being born and dying. We try to grow into better followers of Jesus; to grow in maturity just like all the plants around us are doing. It's a time of gathering to talk and listen to each other, share our stories, encourage one another, appreciate the creation around us, and learn new things. In May we offered an online questionnaire for everyone in the villages to fill in with their opinions on how we were doing as a church. Now we are awaiting the results but if you missed your chance to have your say, please feel free to let us know how we can help, what you think we should be doing, or any questions you have that we may be able to share some thoughts on.

Others think that the green is for 'go.' This is a good time to lift our eyes from where we are and consider the rest of the world where things are different from our ordinary. We can do this by heading out on holiday for example. But we can participate in the wider world in many ways. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone in the villages of the Netherexe Mission Community for your amazing effort in raising money for the earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria. We have donated £2,675.24 to ShelterBox! Please look at their website and see what your generous donations are doing for our neighbours far away who have lost their ordinary.

From all of us at your parish church, we pray God's blessing upon you as you enjoy your ordinary time.

Revd Julia Hocking

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

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!

We recently had fun learning an anthem commissioned by the Royal School of Church Music for the coronation and sang it on May 7th.

If you've never experienced a proper Choral Evensong service then do come on July 9th.

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:

June 4th Communion service : **9.30am**
June 25th Informal service including a Baptism: **10.00am**
July 2nd Communion service : **9.30am**
July 9th Choral Evensong BCP : **6.30pm**

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



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Thorverton Millennium Green Trust Chairman's Report April 2023

The Green looks much better this year now that the new mower can cope with the longer grass. The fruit trees planted in 2020 are growing well and we should get some edible fruit next year. We still have space for more tree planting, and it is now possible to plant a tree as a memorial. Please contact one of the Trustees (or phone John Spivey on 861324) for further information regarding this.

As usual, this winter the paths became extremely muddy. Many people have walked on the long grass, as requested, which has led to the paths becoming wider than normal, and following heavy rain we still have problems with mud in the Narrows. The concrete slabs, originally the outer wall of Angie Hartnell-Todd's bungalow in Dinneford Street, are being moved to bridge the mud on the Adventure Trail between the Peninsular and the concrete bridge. The paved area to the south of the Container will be extended. We have a new 4-wheel mini trolley to help with this job.

We hope the School and other groups will continue to use the Green for organised activities.

We are planning to continue seeding a few areas with wild flowers, and are hoping for volunteers to assist with turf removal.

The Green continues to be a much-enjoyed resource. Unfortunately, dog poo is a continuing problem, particularly in the longer grass, which is now shorter than last year so the evidence is more visible. Please pick up after **your own dog but also** any other dogs' deposits you happen to discover and be a real hero. Dog walkers should be aware that the neighbouring fields and gardens often have livestock and the boundary is not dog-proof.

However, happily, the daffodils around the newly planted Platinum oak were more easily seen this Spring. We planted 100 daffodil bulbs along the edge of the hardcore path alongside the Memorial Hall land. We have received a new

seat in the Narrows as a memorial to Geoff Grace. The old seat has been relocated to the corner by the Memorial Hall shed.

The Thorverton Millennium Green Trust is a charity dependent on donations for its future financial security; so please think of us when making charitable donations or drawing up a will. We are very grateful for the generous contributions received this year. We receive visits, donations and appreciative comments from people who live in Thorverton, the local area, and far beyond.

Donations are used for...

- General Maintenance, including replacement of fencing and gates.
- Tractor fuel and servicing and eventually tractor replacement.
- Purchase of tools and equipment such as wheelbarrow, strimmer and chain saw.
- Employing outside contractors for big jobs like bramble removal and hedge trimming.
- Bridge, seat and picnic table repair and replacement
- Tree planting and replacement plus bulbs and seeds for wild flower planting.
- And hopefully the purchase of more land on the east side of the stream when it becomes available.

We thank Nick Bright and Ed Wardle for their help as Trustees. We welcome Peter Hargood, Andrew Saunders and Clare O'Connor as new Trustees. Rob Turner is now looking after the website www.thorverton.org.uk.

The Green continues to be maintained by our Trustees and volunteers. We would welcome any offer of help with maintenance tasks - please contact any of the Trustees. Could you give an hour of your time to join a working party or at a time convenient to you? Look out for the notice at the Green entrance which lists the jobs that need attention.

We welcome the continuing support and help from everyone who visits this much-valued village amenity.

John Spivey, Chairman TMGT
www.thorverton.org.uk

The Joy of Listening...

Do you, or someone you know, have difficulty in reading and making sense of printed material? Some people, perhaps with Parkinson's Disease, arthritis, or stroke, have physical problems in holding a newspaper or book. For others, with dyslexia or mild dementia, simply making sense of written words can be challenging. In either situation reading is difficult and doesn't bring the hours of pleasure enjoyed by many.



The Mid Devon Messenger produces weekly audio recordings of local news and entertainment, available via streaming, for people with a medical condition that makes reading difficult.

"The content is wide-ranging, offering something for everyone", says Helen McIntosh, current Chair of the Mid Devon Messenger. "As well as local news gathered from various sources, there are quizzes, book reviews, interviews, poems, podcasts, and much more besides."

Helen continued, "We are also able to arrange for people to receive talking books via Calibre Audio. There are hundreds to choose from and all free of charge! And we are here to help people connect to these services."

For further information, take a look at our website middevonmessenger.org.uk, and click on "Listen to a Taster", "Listen to Latest Recording", or contact Helen on 07834 688838



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Thorverton Cricket Club - June 2023 Update

The weather has finally turned and we have been able to get plenty of cricket on at the Station Ground, which is looking a picture thanks to the hard work of the grounds team!

Open Day – rearranged to 4th June

We have now rearranged the postponed club open day to Sunday 4th June, where there will be a junior game in the morning followed by an adult T20. BBQ, bar and complimentary cream teas all available – please come down!

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

Friday evenings from 5:30pm - <https://thorvertoncc.co.uk/colts-cricket/>

Girls only cricket schools' festival on 26th May with regular session starting from 6th June – contact womenssoftballthorvertoncc@gmail.com

Results

1st XI – Thorverton 136/5 beat Tavistock 135 ao

2nd XI – Budleigh Salterton 221 tie with Thorverton 221

Women's – Thorverton 125/5 lose to University of Exeter 127/7

U15s – Thorverton 134/4 beat Sandford 98/8

U13s – Thorverton 101/6 tie with Sandford 101 ao

Find all the match reports here - <https://thorvertoncc.co.uk/blog/>

Dans 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 and to donate, please visit the challenge's GoFundMe page - <https://gofund.me/a1ad16c1>

Please support Dan in any way you can!

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 4th June – Club Open Day from 10am

Saturday 1st July – Ipod Shuffle Fundraiser

Saturday 8th July – Sponsors' Day



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

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

Alex Jopling

Powerful Weapons Need to be Used Wisely

Penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1929, it has saved an immeasurable number of lives and its discovery led on to the manufacture of the multiple different antibiotics we have today. These work in a variety of ways to kill bacteria. However, not all bacteria are harmful; our skin and guts are full of very helpful protective organisms. So, although we have a powerful armoury of drugs they do need to be used carefully.

Viral infections (colds, flu, covid) will not be affected by antibiotics. Common minor infections of the chest, throat, ears and sinuses are almost always viral but when they are bacterial our own body's natural defence systems can normally deal with them, so again no antibiotics required. It is only infections that are more serious, could spread to others, or conditions that will not clear up without them (e.g. acne) that require antibiotic treatment. We also use them to prevent infection e.g. before surgery, in immune-suppressed patients, specific recurrent infections.

It is a common myth that we have antibiotics of different strengths; we have different types. Choosing the right antibiotic requires a mix of clinical knowledge and microbiology testing. Initially we will choose the most likely antibiotic and in the majority of cases this will work. If it does not, we then need to send a sample (e.g. urine, sputum) off to the laboratory to try and grow the bacteria on a petri dish and test a selection of antibiotics against it. We need to find the antibiotics the bacteria are sensitive to.

The aim is to prescribe the right antibiotic, at sufficient dose, for the amount of time required to kill all the bacteria involved. There are large differences between diseases: 3 days is sufficient for a urinary tract infection in women, 7 days in men, skin infections will often settle after 5 days; however, bacterial tonsillitis requires a full 10 days to ensure the infective bacteria are no longer in the throat.

There are two reasons for being cautious about prescribing antibiotics. They have side effects and patients will not thank their GP for treating them unnecessarily; few of us would wish to exchange a mild self-resolving sinus infection for 7 days of antibiotic-induced diarrhoea. However, overuse of antibiotics will cause more serious harm. Exposing bacteria to antibiotics unnecessarily leads to the breeding out of resistant strains, producing multi-resistant bacteria that are very difficult to kill. The more 'superbugs' we create, the less powerful our antibiotics become. When he received his Nobel Prize in 1945, Alexander Fleming cautioned that "the thoughtless person playing with penicillin is morally responsible for the death of the man who finally succumbs to infection with the penicillin-resistant organism". Although we now have many more antibiotics, this is a truth that applies to them all.

Arguably, antibiotics were the most important health innovation of the 20th century but, to ensure we still benefit from them throughout the whole of the 21st century, we need to be continually vigilant as to how we use them.

*Anthony O'Brien
Wyndham House Surgery*

NEWTON ST CYRES TENNIS CLUB

May Update:

The summer is around the corner and so is Wimbledon! Just the time to get into tennis again.



RUSTY RACKETS!!

There will be a session for rusty rackets on **Saturday, June 3rd at 9.30** and we hope to make that into a regular club session. It is organised by Frederiek Maddock. Do email her if you intend to come: frederiekmaddock@gmail.com. Even if you cannot come but would like to join sometime, do email Frederiek as well.

Come and join the other club sessions: they are well-attended and apart from exercise provide lots of fun, banter and cakes. The sessions cover a wide range of abilities and ages so there is something for everybody. So, try the club for a couple of sessions and then you can decide to join. Just contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259.

The summer league has started again and you can play matches if you wish. There are three mixed teams and one men's team.

Junior coaching, run by our club coach Jon Wills, takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time, and started 3 weeks ago. There are currently a few places available in some of the groups. Please email

juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information and to check availability.

Jon also offers adult coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills just get in touch via our website.

www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

The Tennis Club now has a super-duper ball machine which means you can brush up your skills all by yourself. There are demonstrations on several weekends. Times and dates will be advertised on the website

www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

Frederiek Maddock

UPTON PYNE AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Held at Upton Pyne Village Hall Sat 22nd April

Despite the variable weather so far this year, we all enjoyed a good show and had excellent examples of daffodils and tulips, and a good choice of spring flowers and shrubs. The floral displays were gorgeous, and the variety of plants people are able to show is encouraging.

Many thanks to Dr Paul Cleave who so kindly came to judge the food entries. He was very complimentary about the cheese scones and chocolate muffins. He has been kind enough to come to our show for many years now and people may be interested in the following information.

The Exeter Community Garden, on the Streatham campus of the university and with which he is involved, is open in aid of Hospice Care on 10th June. It looks very interesting and there will be information about their aims and projects and no doubt advice on growing vegetables in raised beds which will be useful.

As usual, the teas and cakes were very tempting and popular and everyone was able to enjoy chocolate cake, carrot cake, strawberry gateau or Joan's lovely cheese scones and biscuits with a cup of tea. Thank you, Tea Ladies!

We are grateful to the children of Brampford Speke school for a lovely display of pictures. Congratulations to everyone who exercised their artistic skills, especially Ruby, Cal and Leo. It was very hard to pick out only three pictures, as they were all excellent, and visitors commented on how imaginative they were.

Finally thanks to all the gardeners, cooks, judges, artists, visitors, servers and helpers and everyone else involved in setting up the show and who were involved in making it such a nice, colourful, sociable occasion.

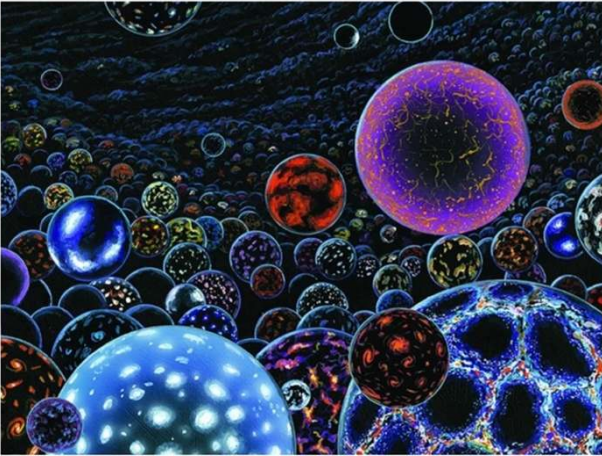
Time to start planning for next year!

Chris Grundy, Show Secretary

Sky At Night The Universe - "Is that all there is?"

When you stop to consider space, everything you can imagine is merely a scaled-up version of objects we already know, like an arrangement of balls, a cloud or even ripples in calm water. These serve as simple but brilliant models for many of the items we can observe above our heads.

In many ways however, we have to suspend our disbelief, hold our nerve, then hold on for a bumpy, white knuckle ride. Religion, faith, even philosophy, are a strong part of many people's lives and they are rooted in experience, thoughts, ideas, hopes and expectations. The human condition. We are trapped inside it. Aren't we?



When considering our small world (that 'pale blue dot'), within the cosmos, we need to start to extend our imaginations beyond everything we've ever known or tried to understand. Some things to chew on: time might only be created at the Big Bang; matter may not really exist; enter a black hole and time and space change places! One curious possibility is that there are even universes made of different forces and particles which 'conceivably' pass right through us, beside us, around us - yet we'll never know: overlapping bubbles of non-interacting space-time (see figure 1). Science

and religion confront each other here, in a powerful, profound, unexpected, yet necessary way that, once realised, can never be unrealised. Science tries to answer the 'how?' whilst religion seeks to answer the 'why?'. And philosophy is continually asking 'why is there something rather than nothing?'

The essential numbers which define our universe are just right and allow our constituent particles to be stable for long enough for our world to exist. As it is, the heavy radioactive uranium under our feet is degrading into radon gas as we speak, before then turning into lead and all the while warming our feet! Other elements take less time to disappear. The world we know couldn't exist for even a minute if the numbers, or underlying equations, were slightly changed. It was Stephen Hawking who captured one perspective on these existential matters: "If we do discover a theory of everything...it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason—for then we would truly know the mind of God."

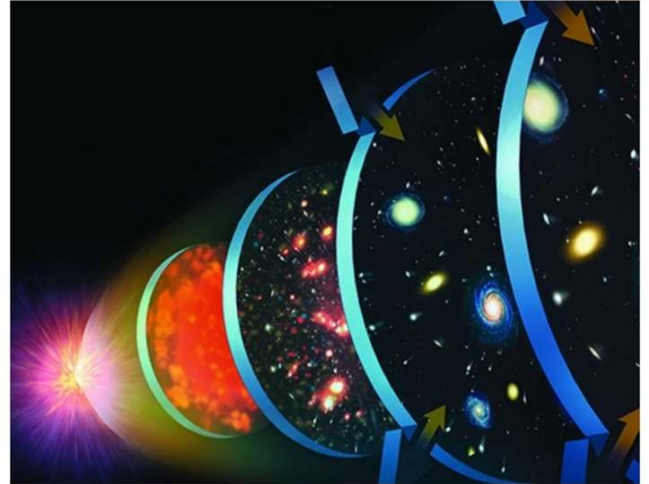
Astrophysicists apply mathematics, in all its simplicity and intricacy, to produce predictions, models, of events. Theoretical workers never leave the office. They take others' evidence, from images and processed data, and attempt to find laws and equations that fit the facts. From these they can extrapolate out to imagine our universe in the past or future (ask Einstein why there isn't really such a thing as a present!).

There's nothing normal about our wonderful universe. Take the beginning. It is generally assumed to have started out at a point, much like the Singularity point of Black holes (see figure 2). Forces yet to be determined caused an incredibly rapid expansion of space and time. Particles didn't exist in this primordial soup, it was far too hot. The actual dimensions of space also changed.

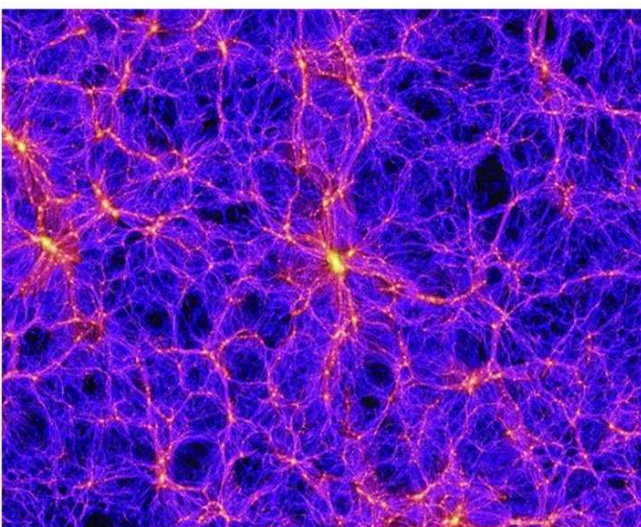


The expansion of space, called ‘inflation’, happened in an instant, well within the duration of a second. This mega-expansion relates to a more subtle and profound change which is frankly impossible to imagine. Consider two of the smallest specks under a microscope suddenly becoming separated by a distance equivalent to a large galaxy! I can more easily conceive of the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party.

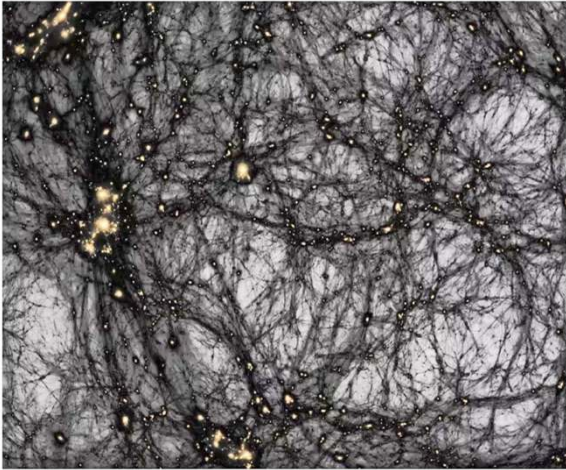
A few minutes after the Big Bang protons (hydrogen ions) became cool enough to become stable and a mere 300 million years later they formed hydrogen atoms which could then coalesce into stars. And stars into galaxies 500 million years after that, give or take 100 million (see figure 3). The James Webb Telescope has just begun to visualise some of these earliest galaxies! They’re red, blobby and frankly look out of focus. But we’re lucky to see them as they’re so far away. By rights the furthest should be around 14,000 million light years away. However, the inflation has taken the (observable) universe from 14 out to 31 billion light years away. Any galaxies beyond that are permanently out of reach - we’ll never feel their effects, they might as well not be there, much like that proverbial butterfly over in China or the tree that keeps falling down in a far-away forest. We gaze into the abyss and, however long we wait, the light from these furthest galaxies will never reach us. A universe only 14 billion years old is now already 62 billion light years across.



Eventually expansion did slow down, after about 9 billion years. Then, irritatingly if you ask me, the expansion accelerated again! The cause of this has been attributed to an unknown (dark) force or energy (see figure 4) - different models and equations put forward by various theoreticians manage to provide accurate estimates of its effect. Sadly, this acceleration is increasing, acting like a reverse of the force of gravity, separating galaxies away from each other. But we won’t be alone. Our local galaxies’ gravitational pull will resist the expansion.



Exasperatingly, most of the universe is in a form currently unknown to physicists. Around 68% is composed of dark energy, a hypothetical form that appears to hide in plain sight in the vacuum of space-time itself. However, our plucky physicists do not know where this energy originates or why it is so strong. A clue might be the anti-gravity thought to reside within some black holes, but who knows? About 27% of the universe is composed of dark matter, which is believed to be an invisible form of matter that (unsurprisingly) does not interact with light. While the vast majority of physicists think dark matter is some new kind of fundamental



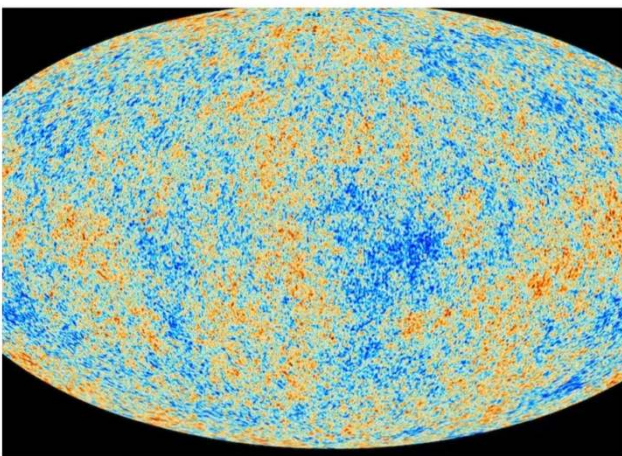
particle/s, they have not yet directly detected it. The remaining, paltry 5% of the universe consists of families, normal matter, like stars, planets, you and me and vast gas clouds of ancient hydrogen or the spume of more recent supernovae. I don't know about you but surely astrophysicists can't sleep at night.

Galaxies continue to combine in long, languorous threads to form clusters and even superclusters whose warp and weft is a cosmic web of unimaginable proportions (see figure 5). Black holes, freezing themselves into super-slow video-frames of benign

evolution will, one day, explode out their unstable, spinning contents from whence they came. Others might grudgingly allow the passage through wormholes into, then out of, white holes into a brand-new universe, the cocktail of exotic particles thus formed could one day be sufficiently durable and reactive to permit the starting up, yet again, of wonderful life.

Because all structures (like brick walls) eventually fall down into gross disorder, we can track backwards, to the very start of things where there was an extraordinarily highly structured configuration (of energy, not really 'matter') in some sort of perfect, super brick wall (albeit in an infinitesimally small space). Physicists don't know how this structure came to be in existence and few images, let alone reasons, are yet proposed- I'm thinking of an upside down pyramid of gleaming silver mirror tiles, nested within it, like wafer-thin Russian dolls, a million more pyramids, perfectly stacked together like the ultimate Vienetta. The whole construction is intensely hot, shining brighter than the Sun, oh, and no larger than the smallest grain of salt!

Now, here's the rub. What if it wasn't a singularity, like a point. A point has coordinates, as on a map. The expansion was spontaneous and basically came out of nowhere, in fact many more such events might have occurred then, and now. Multiple universes! Who knows? Why not?. It is known that particles can arise spontaneously out of the vacuum of space, like electron-positron pairs. They are mirror images of each other and their total energy is zero.



cosmic microwave background radiation. ESA and the Planck Collaboration

A universe popping into existence out of nothing is so bonkers that scientists had to be dragged kicking and screaming to the idea. But the evidence is there and it's compelling. The galaxies are flying apart like pieces of cosmic shrapnel and the heat of the Big Bang is still around us. Greatly cooled by the expansion, this 'afterglow' appears not as visible light but principally as microwave radiation – the 'cosmic microwave background' which was discovered by radio astronomers and tv viewers, with their sets detuned, in 1965

(see figure 6).

I'm guessing, you'll have switched off by now....?

Peter Hargood



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PHOTO: John Spivey CORONATION STREET PARTY

NATURE NOTES

Puss Moth *Cerura vinula* Part 2

Last month I wrote about the discovery of Puss Moth larvae feeding on willow along a local lane in July last year. We had got to the point where three out of the original four larvae were seen but one was not well and we had surmised it had been attacked by something. We now pick up on the rest of the story.

Rowena (my daughter) and I continued our walk and then turned around to come back the same way. We were only yards from the willow patch when what I thought was a moth fluttered weakly by. Rowena saw it land on bramble and we were able to identify it as a hairstreak butterfly. Its right hind wing was crumpled so I wonder if it had yet to expand. Photos we took clearly identify it as a Purple Hairstreak *Neozephyrus quercus* and this is the first purple hairstreak I have seen in Thorverton.



Early afternoon on 3rd July I checked the willow patch and the first larva was definitely dead with a bug on it seemingly sucking out juices. The two other larvae were visible, one feeding and the other resting underneath a leaf. While I was photographing the dead larva a movement caught my eye. There was a young Poplar Hawk-moth larva *Lathoe populi* briskly crawling around on the willow patch! I never saw the Poplar Hawk-moth larva again.

Between 4th and 12th July two Puss Moth larvae were seen feeding, one larger than the other. On the morning of 14th July I could only find the large one and by the afternoon that one had disappeared. The large one was still quite green so was not ready for pupation.

It is possible they had moved to the willow

shoots further into the hedge out of sight.

A week or so later much to my surprise a Purple Hairstreak butterfly appeared in our garden.

News

Friends and family as well as me and Lin Balkwill have been out and about searching for Mermaid's Purses on the beaches of Lynmouth, Combe Martin, Beer, Dawlish and Instow. The highlight of this activity was finding two Nursehound Shark purses in the strandline that appeared to have an egg or embryo still inside. The purse was still sealed and felt heavy. These were put into rockpools in the hope that if still viable, the baby shark may survive.

Yet another oil beetle was spotted on the Tarts walk around Sampford Courtenay and Honeychurch on 29th April taking my personal tally of sightings to four for this year which is quite remarkable.



On 3rd May I walked a small section of the South West coast footpath to Widemouth Bay and saw a baby Slow Worm, Glow-worm larva, Sand Martins at their nest holes in the sandy cliff with Kestrel hovering close by, Linnets, an unusual metallic coloured millipede (Striped Millipede I think) and a Bloody-nosed Beetle. I did another walk along the same path on 5th and spotted a smaller Glow-worm larva, a Common Lizard that had lost its tail, a male Stonechat and a surprise of a Curlew alighted in the scrub along the path.

During the Tarts walk on 13th May (see TARTS News) we were very fortunate to find a bird's nest with four mottled brown eggs. I have concluded this is the nest of a Meadow Pipit. The cupped shaped nest was on the ground in a small patch of gorse. It is built of grass and lined with finer material. Also on the walk a Two-banded Longhorn Beetle landed on John's hand. This is a beetle of coniferous woodland whose larvae feed on decaying wood.



A to Z Yellowhammer

The Yellowhammer is a farmland bird whose song sounds like 'a little bit of bread and no cheese'. The male is predominantly a mustard yellow colour and the female a dowdier version of the male. You can find them this time of year perched on hedges around the lanes of Thorverton. In wintertime they can be seen foraging for seed in fields. They will also eat grain, berries and shoots and in summer insects as well. The nest is a cup made of grass, moss and plant stems lined with fine grass and hair and found on or low to the ground in a hedgerow, roadside bank, bushy area or young trees. Their eggs are white with a tint of blue, grey or purple with blotches and squiggles.

All photos in this article by Jenny Garne

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**Thorverton
Parish Church
6th-8th May 2023**

We enjoyed welcoming lots of you to our festival in the church and the churchyard. Thank you so much everyone for coming and taking part; creating or enjoying the beautiful displays, the interesting facts about past coronation festivities in the village, the churchyard wildlife trail and the refreshments. The children at the primary school each contributed to making the wonderful banner or butterflies, birds and dragonflies. On Saturday it was good to watch and listen to the service in company in the church acoustic. Afterwards everyone shared a lunch of coronation chicken sandwiches, the coronation quiche and a traditional handmade pork pie accompanied by Coronation Ale specially brewed in Thorverton, and then cake of course. The bell ringers did us proud on Saturday and again on Sunday morning before the choral service. The choir had worked hard on the specially-composed anthem and received appreciative comments. It was lovely to have so many children joining in with the eco-crafts during the Street Party, and also on Monday when we explored the wildlife in the churchyard. It would be great if volunteers from the wider community and school could join us to work on encouraging even greater diversity. Watch this space!



Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust

JUMBLE TRAIL



Saturday 17th June 2023

10.30am - 2pm

- * Starting at Cleaves Close , where you can collect a map of all the stalls.
- * If you would like a place on the trail, it costs £5, then anything you make from sales you keep.
- * If you have anything saleable but don't want a table, we will have a table purely to raise money for TCDT so will happily take donations too.
- * If you are not right in the village or live elsewhere, you can still have a place on the trail. We will have an area in the village so everyone can get involved.
- * All funds go to TCDT - Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust.
- * We will also have tea and cakes available - if anyone would like to make a cake for us to sell it would be very much appreciated if these could be dropped off at Cleaves Close on the Saturday morning.

Please contact:

- Wendy Coles if you require a table **07771 865 912**

- Sharon Tooze if you want to donate, cakes, your time etc. **07990 037 456**

Legal Eagle

The **Consumer Rights Act 2015 (CRA)** was introduced to consolidate and update consumer-related contract legislation. The Act applies to contracts made between a “trader” i.e., a person acting for purposes relating to that person’s trade, business, craft or profession, and a “consumer” i.e., an individual acting for purposes that are wholly or mainly outside that individual’s trade, business, craft, or profession.

The Act implies a number of terms into contracts between a “trader” and a “consumer” and for the purpose of this article we shall be looking at the term implied by **s9** namely the requirement that goods supplied under the contract shall be of “satisfactory quality”. Goods will meet the “satisfactory quality” standard if a “reasonable person” would regard them as satisfactory taking into account any description of the goods, price, or any other relevant circumstances. The checklist goes on providing a non-exhaustive list of factors for the court to consider when called upon to decide whether the “satisfactory quality” standard has been met, namely, the state and condition of the goods; their fitness for all common purposes; appearance and finish; freedom from minor defects; safety and durability.

The Sunday Times, April 30th 2023, contained an advice piece by Jill Insley. A reader had written to say that he and his wife had bought a set of four dining chairs from Furniture 123 in January 2022. The chairs were rarely used but on one occasion when a guest sat on one of the chairs the metal frame buckled. Fortunately, the guest suffered no injury. The reader wrote to Furniture 123 but was advised that Furniture 123 could not help as the chairs were out of warranty.

This is a device sometimes used by retailers either because of lack of understanding or deliberately, relying on the fact that the consumer may not be aware of their legal rights. A warranty or guarantee is often given by a manufacturer to a consumer and usually takes the form of a promise by the manufacturer that

if fault develops within a specified period, e.g., twelve months, three years, sometimes longer, the manufacturer will repair the product free of charge. This is in addition to the consumer’s rights under the **CRA**. If the consumer buys from a retailer, they have the rights conferred by the **CRA** in addition to the warranty/guarantee. The consumer has a contract with the retailer and the **CRA** imposes strict liability for breach of any one or more of the implied terms. If goods fail within the period of the warranty/guarantee the consumer has a choice whether to rely on the warranty/guarantee or claim against the retailer under the provisions of the **CRA**.

So, the claim by Furniture 123 that it could do nothing as the chairs were out of warranty was incorrect. The reader had the right to pursue a claim against Furniture 123 for breach of the implied term under **s9 CRA** requiring the chairs to be of satisfactory quality. The position would be the same if Furniture 123 was both the manufacturer and retailer. The remedies available under the Act are:

- A “short-term” right to reject within 30 days of ownership (Not applicable in this case as the fault developed after the expiry of the 30-day period).
- A right to a repair or replacement of the goods within a reasonable time; and
- A right to a price reduction, or a final rejection of the goods.

In the event, and after being reminded by Jill Insley of the reader’s rights under the **CRA** and being unable to repair or replace the broken chair, Furniture 123 agreed to a full refund.

Cases like this are important as a reminder to consumers of the extent of their rights both in terms of warranties/guarantees and the **CRA**.

Clive Hamblin



Report for May 2023

Our May meeting was the Annual Meeting concerning reports, etc. We were very fortunate to have Angie Bache, who is the Federation Advisor for Thorverton WI, to attend the meeting. After all the business items, Angie gave a brief talk on the current National WI Resolution – ‘Clean Rivers for People and Animals’. The proposer of the resolution wants the WI to work with local and national authorities to make parts of any river into officially designated Bathing Waters. This would be as instrumental to the clean-up of rivers as it has been for water quality at coastal beaches.

Angie had researched a lot of surprising information on the state of our rivers and the extent to which they are being polluted. She explained how DEFRA has been working with farmers to prevent rivers being polluted with animal waste or chemicals and also that local water authorities are being made aware of sewage pollution problems as a result of storms.

The meeting ended with members enjoying tea and cake whilst puzzling over a series of Dingbat clues.

Dates to note.

Tuesday, 6th June – WI Meeting

Saturday, 24th June – Coffee Morning and 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

Recipe

Elderflower syrup

This versatile syrup is good in drinks and cakes, and is good with gooseberries, too. 1pint (500ml) water

The zest and juice of one lemon

8 oz (200g) granulated sugar

Twelve large elderflower heads

Bring water and sugar to boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar, add lemon zest and juice, and finally the twelve elderflower heads. Remove from stove and strain the fragrant syrup into a bowl or jug.

It is good for cooking gooseberries, for mixing into summer drinks, or to moisten a lemon drizzle cake. Store the syrup in a bottle in the fridge for a few days or freeze as ice cubes.

Paul Cleave, Sustainable Crediton

Poetry

Cuckoos

Where are the cuckoos that we used to hear,
Whose song, that sound of springtime, when we heard

Would tell us that some unsuspecting bird
Would lose the fledglings that it longed to rear?

Oh, nature's con-man, why do you eschew
The pale green nesting sites where once you hid
Surveying likely nests until you kid

Some dunnock into raising chicks for you?

Well, trickster, are they wiser to your fraud

Than street-wise sparrows of our parents' days?

Once carefree, do they now think vigilance pays,
And guard against the danger once ignored?

Or, seeing frauds of men, she sheds a tear,

And blushes, whispering 'let me out of here'?

Stephen Toogood

The Joy of Dimensional Travel

John Spivey



The Romans started it by constructing paved unidirectional roads (with occasional deviations around unscalable chunks of geography). This one-dimensional (1D) travel continues today when driving your car on tarmac roads. If you want an extra dimension you need to drive onto an empty supermarket car park (or a salt-pan or a desert) where you can move forward-back and left-right with complete freedom. This is 2D travel - on a surface, and you are less likely to hit something (if the carpark is large). Walking on Dartmoor, where there are few marked paths, you need a map and compass to find your way across the 2D surface. Occasional wrinkles, capped by granite tors, produce small excursions into the 3rd up-down dimension. Ships on the sea also are travelling in 2D, except in narrow straits where local rules apply restricting your 2D travel (to 1.5D ?)

For true 3D travel you need an air-plane, hang-glider, drone or rocket. Now, you can also move up-down in addition to the original 2D. However, modern passenger air-planes tend to be not travelling in true 3D due to imposed directional constraints to prevent collisions with other planes. So there are 'highways' in the sky arranged at different altitudes depending on direction of travel. Flying a small powerful (aerobatic) plane gives you the chance to travel in any dimension you like with only one constraint (the Earth below). Space travel

puts even this danger well behind you, although energy constraints mean you have to travel particular orbits governed by gravitational attraction to planets and moons. Apollo 13 could not just return straight home after their loss of oxygen etc, but had to continue to loop around the back of the Moon, continuing to use their expensively acquired kinetic energy which was directed towards the Moon. Stopping, turning round and accelerating to high speed again was far beyond the energy available from the fuel for their small rocket engines. A geostationary satellite uses mini rockets (up-down, left-right, forward-back) to keep in their required position.

Birds have this 3D freedom which must be a delight; just watch a seagull flying over a beach - surely they often do it just for enjoyment. (Did you ever read the book "*Jonathon Livingston Seagull*" by Richard Bach?) Modern gliders, hang-gliders, parasails, kitesurfers, skydivers in flysuits, etc give athletic humans the ability to at least get close to the freedom of bird flight in almost 3D, (maybe 2.6D ?). Without an engine it's difficult to prevent the inevitable descent to Earth, although skilled glider pilots can circle round a column of warm rising air (a thermal) and gain significant altitude, then glide along to the next thermal, covering perhaps hundreds of kilometres.

I was once a passenger on a piloted hang-glider flight in the French Pyrenees. Once air-borne, I was delighted to look down between my feet to see the black top-side of an Egyptian Vulture gliding along a similar path about 10 metres below us. He was turning his head left and right and may not have been aware of the giant creatures above him. I felt I was flying like a bird, before we had to land by running to a stop after touching down on a grassy field in the valley.

Underwater swimming is also 3D, but limited by the equipment required for breathing and lack of light if you go really deep. You can take artificial light with you and, using submersibles, even reach the bottom of the ocean. Snorkelling on the surface gives the best full-colour experience to view the wildlife in the sea, and you are able to dive (in 3D) to a small depth before returning to the surface for another breath.

We can achieve travel within our three dimensions, but with restrictions - drive, swim and fly ... carefully!

TARTS news

Thorverton Amblers Ramblers and Trampers

Walk from Postbridge, Dartmoor



On Saturday 13th May we were blessed with another sunny and warm day for a walk across the moor. We set off from Forest England car park and then down the road to cross the clapper bridge, having our photo taken while on the bridge. A short walk up the road, then a turn right to pass the Lydgate Country House Hotel and we were into the moorland. The gorse and bluebells were at their best here and we stopped for coffee in this idyllic spot.

At the end of the path we went through a field to a farm track taking us to a ford where little stone bridges enabled us to cross and continue on the farm track. We then turned into a very muddy lane and having got through it realised we had gone the wrong way. There was no way we were returning through the mud and luckily Neville directed us towards Dury Farm and then Bellever village for an alternative walk and to head to Bellever Tor to make up the length of the walk we missed by going the wrong way.

Neville was ahead of us leading us through the gorse on a barely visible path, when a little bird shot up beside him and flew off and immediately the thought of a nest nearby came to mind. Neville looked into the patch of gorse and discovered the nest on the ground with four brown eggs. After quickly taking photos of the nest we carried on our way and the bird was seen to fly back in the direction of the nest. Fate was on our side this day. If we had taken the original route we would not have spotted the nest. We also heard a cuckoo as we walked to and from Bellever Tor.



From Bellever village we took the steady climb to the tor following a signed route that took a roundabout way to the tor, and to cut it short we went through the forest to save time. On reaching Bellever Tor we climbed onto the tor to have lunch and admire the fantastic view.

After lunch we took the direct path back to the car park. There were only six of us on the walk as a lot of folk were doing other activities this day so this walk will be done again at some point to take in the original route.

Future Walks:

Saturday 27th May led by Caroline

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

There will be a planning meeting for the summer and autumn walks on Wednesday 24th May, 7.30pm at the Exeter Inn.

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).

Caroline Prince

Walk from Sampford Courtenay, 29th April



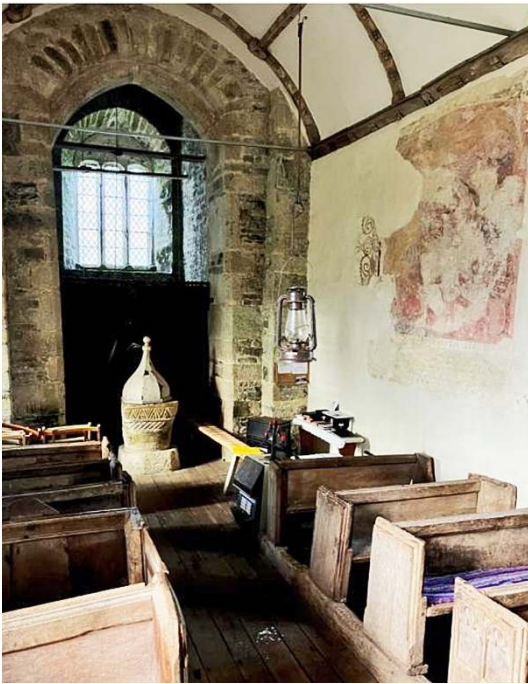
Thorverton Amblers Ramblers and Trampers (TARTS) had a good walk from the delightful village of Sampford Courtenay, along tracks and minor roads to Honeychurch, which was effectively the mid-point of a figure of eight walk.

The village of Sampford Courtenay looks sleepy now, but in 1549 it was the starting point of the Western Rising (about which Mark Stoye has written an excellent book entitled: “A Murderous Midsummer – The Western Rising of 1549”, describing the rebellion) when a number of locals rebelled against the imposition of the prayer book being in English.

There are exhibition boards about the Western Rising in Sampford Courtenay Church. The first photo shows the group outside the church at Sampford Courtenay.

The tracks along the way to Honeychurch were bedecked with flowers showing their lovely spring colours. TARTS were fortunate to have had the benefit of the company of Jenny Garne and Ann Parkinson to help with identification.

The church at Honeychurch is a delight, described by WG Hoskins as having “...one of the simplest and most unsophisticated country interiors in the whole of England.” It is still beautifully unspoilt – I think that Hoskins would still very much approve as the church can have changed little since his day. It also provided a good place to stop for coffee in the porch and churchyard.



From Honeychurch we headed out on a loop along a minor road - not a car to be seen though, so quiet is it in these parts - and then across paths through fields (a little more damp underfoot in places than the walk leader had promised!), eventually coming back to Honeychurch, where we stopped for our packed lunch. From there it was a simple enough walk back along a minor road to our starting point. A dog had attached itself to the group at Honeychurch, and, despite our discouragement, stayed with us until Sampford Courtenay, where we were able to find a villager to take it back home.

All in all, a lovely walk, and one that I would recommend for anyone to do themselves to see this beautifully peaceful part of Devon.

Neville Lane



Sampford Courtenay Dartmoor

Worldwide Elevation Map Finder

Puzzles

I am sorry that there was no space for the puzzle page last month. Just one solution to give you to April's puzzle:

The Race Between Rick and Matt

Rick and Matt race each other at the Rec over 100 metres. Matt wins by 10 metres. They decide to race again, but this time, to even things up Matt begins 10 metres behind the start line. Assuming that both run with the same constant speed as before, who wins?

Matt wins again. In the first race he ran 100 metres in the time that it took Rick to run 90 metres. Therefore, in the second race, after Rick has gone 90 metres, Matt will have gone 100 metres, and he will be alongside Rick. Both will have 10 metres to go. As Matt is the faster runner, he will finish before Rick.

And so to this month's curious mixture of puzzles. Please don't be shy about sending in your answers.

a) Futoshiki

Fill in the blank boxes so that each row and column contains the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The symbols tell you whether the number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number in the box next to it.

□	□	□	1	□		
∧						
□	□	<	□	<	□	□
∧	∨					
□	□	□	□	□	□	□
□	□	□	□	<	□	□
	∧				∧	
□	□	□	□	□	□	□

b) Egg Laying

If a hen and a half lays an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many and a half who lay better by half will lay half a score and a half in a week and a half?

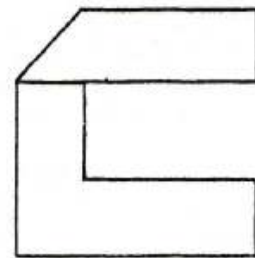
c) Read the Hieroglyphics

The seven symbols below may look like some kind of ancient writing, but there is a meaning for each symbol. Can you puzzle them out and draw the next symbol in the sequence?



d) Funny Fold

Fawcett Minor cut out a large capital letter from a sheet of paper and gave it a single fold. It is easy to see that the letter could be an L, however, that is not the letter that Fawcett Minor cut out. What letter was it?



e) Su Doku

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

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

Happy puzzling.

Neville Lane

Bonjour la France

(Episode 3)

January 1968 BC (Before Children)

Orange, France.

You may remember that we were in the South of France so that Maurice could take up a post teaching English for a term at the Lycée de l'Arc, Orange. Fiona, meanwhile was busily writing letters to her parents describing how different we were finding life in Provence. After an awkward beginning, things were now working out well for us...

Our new flat was everything we could have wished for. Our landlady, Mademoiselle Danti, was most pleasant too. An elderly (or so she seemed to us) single lady, she was energetic, chatty and very welcoming. There was at first a problem in that she spoke at machine gun speed and in addition jumped from one subject to another so that poor Fiona could only smile, say thank you and hope for the best. The issue was resolved when after a few days Fiona managed to get her on her own and, armed with a well-rehearsed sentence, requested her to kindly slow down. She was immediately understanding: the rate of delivery reduced and the hand gestures increased! She was really very sweet towards Fiona, bringing her flowers from the garden, or a piece of the cake she had made, or accompanying her to the market and, for example, pointing out where the laundry was. She gave us a standing invitation to come downstairs and watch the television evening news with her, so promptly at 8 pm we would troop down to find out what was going on in the outside world.

Meanwhile, I was experiencing life at the lycée. With 2,000 or so pupils, it seemed inhumanely large and impersonal to me. In addition, I found 55-minute-long lessons something of a strain, especially since one or two of my classes had some 35 pupils, larger than I was accustomed to at my Birmingham grammar-school. Perhaps the biggest shock of all was starting at 8 am on a cold, dark January morning. Yes, I know we usually associate the South of France with sunshine and blue skies, but believe me it can get pretty cold there in the depths of winter. And as luck would have it, Monday was the only day I began at 8 o'clock - a great start to the week, shepherding the waiting lines of shivering pupils into the classroom, some of them, as the Bard has it, 'creeping like snail(s) unwillingly to school.'

Another shock to the system hit me only a few weeks into our stay when I went down with a nasty case of French flu (*la grippe*). It all started when I came home from school one Monday feeling rather off-colour and went straight to bed. I had never had flu before and it had to hit me in the sunny South of France while missing out on an apparently freak winter at home. Next morning I felt awful so Fiona persuaded me to stay in bed. We were not sure of procedure in case of illness so off she went to the lycée to report my absence in person. By now it was pretty obvious what it was as so many people in the area were affected, but that was little consolation. I had a serious dose indeed and even fainted on Fiona during one meal. She alleges that I quipped at the time 'This French flu has me in its *grippe*' and that may be true. I certainly needed a doctor and a medical certificate. Fiona appealed to a knowledgeable colleague she had got to know who kindly sent her GP around to see me. He was very jovial and handed out the required certificate more or less automatically, telling us that nine out of ten of his patients at the moment were flu

cases. When the patient saw the bill for the visit, plus the cost of the three items on the prescription, he almost had a severe relapse! Fortunately, we had had the foresight to take out a Medical Expenses Insurance policy.

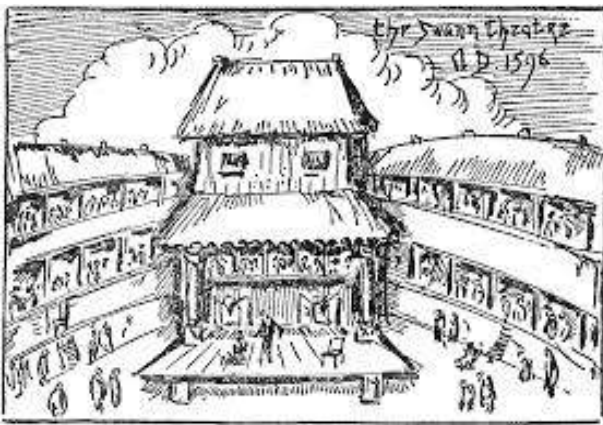
My pupils were not of the brightest, though some of them were willing enough. Monsieur le Principal explained it to me thus: 'If I could have been sure of the quality of your French, I would have given you some of the top classes.' Alas, he couldn't have been, so he didn't. I have to say that the motivation for learning English that you would find now just wasn't there in 1968. One of my colleagues explained to me that in his opinion the slowness of some of the pupils was because their brains were addled by the Mistral wind! A more convincing explanation for the lack of motivation is that Orange is a long way from England and in those distant days relatively few people were likely to travel and need English. And besides, wasn't French *la langue universelle*, understood and spoken everywhere, even though you might have to raise your voice a little - in fact, the same attitude taken by so many English-speaking tourists today?

Besides the psychology of my pupils, I was finding differences in the role of a British teacher and a French *professeur*. The main one is that the latter assumes his/her teaching responsibilities - usually no more than 20 hours a week, plus of course preparation and marking - and nothing else. My French counterparts were not required for playground duty, collecting dinner money, standing in without pay for absent colleagues, and a host of other duties that teachers in this country are routinely called upon to perform. There were specific categories of staff - administrative, technical, and so on - to carry out all these activities, so that teachers could concentrate exclusively on their teaching responsibilities. I remember one French colleague saying to me: 'if a pupil breaks a leg in the corridor, it's none of my concern'(!). Many teachers in this country would rejoice at such conditions, but the other side of the coin is that French pupils miss out on so many of the extracurricular activities - sports, choir, theatricals, clubs and voluntary activities of every kind that most British teachers put on for their pupils in addition to their teaching duties.

Perhaps you are wondering about our relationships with our French friends, colleagues and neighbours. These were very warm and evolved mostly during time spent at meal table. A very early invitation (after little more than a week) came from a church family who spontaneously asked us back to lunch after the service one Sunday. This was our first encounter with a dilemma that was to continue to plague us, i.e. how many courses to expect. That particular meal began with cold meat and olives, then roast potatoes as a separate dish, followed by a stew (we rather suspected it might have been horse meat but didn't like to ask) with carrots, then the inevitable cheese board and finally fresh fruit - all accompanied by crisp white bread *baguettes*, which were available on the table throughout for everyone to tear pieces from. The problem is of course that since you don't know what else is coming you don't know how much to serve yourself of each course and risk leaving the table either bloated or peckish. And it was easy to eat too much of that lovely French bread!

Well, there remain many culinary delights to share with you, as well as other stories of what we got up to, but I'd better leave some of these for next time...

Maurice Harrison



SHAKESPEARE FOR EVERYONE

Antony and Cleopatra

The Story opens in a room in Cleopatra's palace in the city of Alexandria. The great Roman general, Mark Antony, is in Alexandria, helplessly in love with the queen, and ignoring all messages from Rome to come home. He is the most experienced of the three men who rule the Roman Empire and he is married, but the enchanting and outrageous Cleopatra is in Egypt, and so he stays put.

Cleopatra has been teasing Antony, suggesting that he does not really love her, and when messengers from Rome are announced she redoubles the attack. No doubt Antony's wife has sent him some message of reproof, or perhaps young Octavius Caesar, his fellow ruler in Rome, has sent him strict orders that must be obeyed. Her teasing works. Antony refuses to hear the messengers from Rome and bends his energies to placate the ruffled Queen of Egypt.

Later Cleopatra's attendants are listening to a fortuneteller when the Queen enters, looking for Antony.

*He was disposed to mirth; but on the sudden
A Roman thought has struck him....*

It is the Roman side of Antony – vigorous, warlike, and driven by duty – that Cleopatra dreads even more than she dreads his wife. When she sees him coming, deep in conversation with one of the messengers from

Rome, she retreats, since she prefers to choose her own ground, and Antony and the messenger are free to talk together at last.

Antony hears bad news, of armies gathering on the march against the Roman power, and of the death of his wife. He thought he wished her dead until he heard the news, but now he deeply regrets it. "She is good, being gone." As for the enchanting Queen who holds him fast in Egypt, Antony knows that the time has come when he must break from her. He calls his friend Enobarbus to tell him they are leaving at once.

Enobarbus is an amused realist and it entertains him to consider the effect Antony's departure will have on the Queen. "Cleopatra, catching but the least noise of this, dies instantly. I have seen her die twenty times upon far poorer moment."

Antony knows only too well what Cleopatra's behaviour will be and he remarks bitterly, "Would I had never seen her," but Enobarbus feels that she is something no tourist should miss. "O sir! You had then left unseen a wonderful piece of work, which should not to have been blessed withal would have discredited your travel."

Cleopatra is planning a campaign against Antony and his "Roman thought" and she sends her attendant, Charmian, to find out what his current mood is.

*If you find him sad,
Say I am dancing; if in mirth, report
That I am sudden sick...*

Charmian suggests that the best way to keep a man is to fall in with his moods, but the highly experienced Cleopatra dismisses this suggestion. "Thou teachest like a fool; the way to lose him." At least, whatever else may be said for Cleopatra's lovers, they will never be bored.

Antony comes in briskly, his face alight, and Cleopatra promptly decides that she is gravely ill. She is sure the message he has just received came from his wife.

*What says the married woman, you may go?
Would she had never given you leave to come!
Let her not say 'tis I that kept you here;
I have no power upon you; hers you are.*

The heartbroken and betrayed Queen repudiates the false traitor, and it is extremely difficult for Antony to get a word in edgewise through the brilliant drama she is staging for his benefit. He finally succeeds in explaining that political matters call him back to Rome, where civil war is brewing, and then he adds that his wife is dead. Even so, Cleopatra does not forgive him easily, and when she finally does so and is at her most charming, Antony's heart is at her feet. In these circumstances, and with his wife safely dead, Cleopatra is content to let him go.

Back in Rome, the two other rulers of the Empire, Lepidus and young Octavius Caesar, are discussing plans for defence against the invading Pompey.

Caesar is youthful and unforgiving and he talks in deep disapproval of the absent Antony, who turns back all the Roman messengers and loses himself in riots in Egypt. He does not know that Antony has already left Alexandria, where Cleopatra is restlessly trying to fill in vacant time by writing him floods of letters. The invading Pompey is in Sicily, and there he receives the unpleasant news that Antony is on his way to Rome.

The meeting between Caesar and Antony is a difficult one. Caesar has a long list of all the offences Antony has committed, and Antony has no real answer to any of them. With the casual dignity of a great man, he is willing to apologise within reason but has no intention of humbling himself. Caesar is aware how dangerous it is for the two of them to quarrel, and he offers his sister to Antony as a wife.

Antony is equally aware of the political danger of such a quarrel, and as he is far from Egypt, he accepts the offer.

The three rulers leave the room, and Enobarbus is welcomed back to Rome by friends who missed him while he was in Egypt. They especially want to hear about Cleopatra, and Enobarbus, in poetry worthy of its subject, describes the way she looked when she met Antony in her barge for the first time.

*The barge she sat in, like a burnished throne,
Burned on the water; the poop was beaten
gold,
Purple the sails, and so perfumed that
The winds were lovesick with them; the oars
were silver,
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and
made
The water which they beat to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes*

He goes on to describe the meeting in full, and many other things about Cleopatra, and one of his friends remarks that Antony must leave her now that he is marrying Caesar's sister. But Enobarbus knows better;

*Never; he will not.
Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale
Her infinite variety; other women cloy
The appetite they feed, but she makes hungry
Where most she satisfies...*

Back in Alexandria, Cleopatra is able to think of nothing but Antony. A messenger arrives from Rome and she flies at him. When he does finally manage to deliver his message, it is the worst news she could have: Antony's marriage to Caesar's sister. Cleopatra is a demon when she is angry, and the unfortunate messenger flees from the room.

Andrew Hoellering



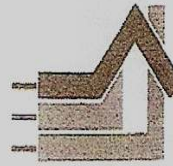
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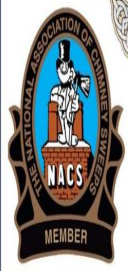








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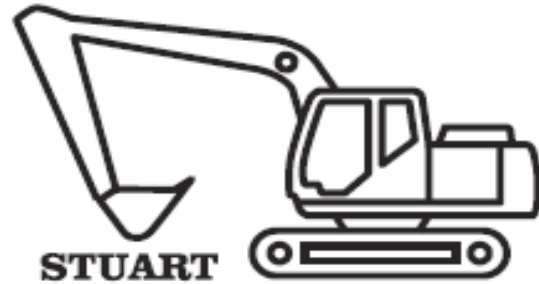


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For details of meetings please contact sheena@marhaus.co.uk or by phone.

Association Football Club

Chairman: James Vanstone 07985 662384

Secretary and Treasurer: Paul Webb 07944 533372

Bridge Club

Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203 *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

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

Focus Magazine

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

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

Secretary: Geoff Bulley, 17 Broadlands, Thorverton

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

History Society

Chair: Richard Pocock 01884 855450

Secretary: Karen Marshall 01392 860831

Ladies' Group

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

Saturday Market

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

Thorverton Pre-School

01392 861707, thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com

Mondays to Fridays during term-time at Thorverton Primary School site

8:45–11:45am, 12:45–3:30pm, Lunch Club 11:45–12:45pm

Thorverton Ambling, Rambling and Tramping Society (TARTS)

Caroline Prince 07749 775304 or Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203

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

TMH Committee

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

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

Bookings: thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.co.uk

Website: thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Toddler Group

Liz Armstrong emcarmstrong@outlook.com

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

Royal British Legion

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

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Felicity Cashmore

Women's Institute

Bookings: Sue Maguire 860631

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

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



(formerly New Valley Practice)

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

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

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

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

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

Please ask at reception for details.

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

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

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

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

Repeat prescriptions (Monday-Friday) – You can request your repeat prescriptions by using our online
repeat prescription request at www.redlandsprimarycare.nhs.uk

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

Wyndham House Surgery

Wyndham Road, Silverton, EX5 4HZ
Telephone: 01392 860034

www.wyndhamhousesurgery.co.uk

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

Day/Dr	Dr Anthony O'Brien	Dr Catherine Burkill	Dr Jeff Solman	Dr Griff Thomas
Monday	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30		09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30	
Tuesday		09:00 – 11:30 14:00 – 17:30	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30	
Wednesday	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30		
Thursday	09:00 – 11:30 14:00 – 16:00		09:00 – 11:30	09:00 – 11:30 15:00 – 17:30
Friday		09:00 – 11:30	09:00 – 11:30 14:30 – 16:00	

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

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

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

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

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

Bus Services

Dartline 675 and Country Bus 678

Tuesday - Dartline 675 (from Cheriton Fitzpaine)

10:09 at the Berry only, Thorverton.

Scheduled to arrive Exeter (via Latchmoor Green and Poltimore) at 10.48 in Sidwell Street, stop 40 outside Cancer Research.

Returning at 13.35pm from the same stop.

Wednesday and Friday – Country Bus 678 (from Witheridge)

10:09 at The Berry and Broadlands

Scheduled to arrive Exeter (via Brampford Speke and Upton Pyne) at 10:48 in Sidwell St. stop 40 outside Cancer Research.

Returning at 13:35 from the same stop.

(Neither of these bus routes use the Exeter Bus Station.)

Stagecoach (and some Dartline) service 355

Monday-Saturday (except Bank Holidays)

To Tiverton and Silverton (from Exeter)

at 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 after Bank Holidays.

General refuse in black wheelie bins every three weeks on Mondays: June 5 & 26, July 17

Recycling boxes fortnightly on Mondays: June 5 & 19, July 3, 17 & 31

Chargeable garden waste fortnightly on Mondays: June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24

Mobile Library

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

2023: 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 June

17th - Official Birthday of His Majesty The King

21st - June: Birthday of The Prince of Wales

Bradninch Millers Morris Return to Thorverton, 30th June



We were lucky enough to have a visit from Bradninch Millers Morris last summer (see photos below), and they have not been deterred, planning a return trip on **Friday 30th 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.



THORVERTON AMBLERS & RAMBLERS WALK FROM DUNSTER 15-04-2023



Withycombe Church



Dunster Castle



Withycombe Hill



Medieval Gallox Bridge