

focus
on thorverton



Cygnets Company Presents

**A Midsummer
Night's Dream**
William Shakespeare



THORVERTON Memorial Hall

JULY 22nd

7.00pm

Tickets £12 (£6, Family £34)

www.thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

www.cygnets theatre.co.uk

JULY 2023

£1.00

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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. (Quarter & Eighth page minimum 3 months).

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: Courtesy Cygnet Company

Welcome to the July edition of Focus.

I'm not sure about you but, for many of us, June has been an emotional roller coaster of a month. Whatever your interests may be, I think many of us will have been kept poised on the edge of our seats in various ways throughout this month. It started with the football. Would Manchester City become the second only club to (ironically with Manchester United) to win the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup titles treble. Well, they succeeded (good on them) beating inter Milan 1-0 in the 68th minute. The great thing about watching sport highlights on television nowadays is that it only takes a few minutes out of your day!

Then it was tennis at Queens and we soon got down to one Brit left. I always like it when we are so supportive of our rising stars! "Cameron Norrie dumped out of Queen's in straight sets by Sebastian Korda" (Guardian 23-06-23)!

We had the hot weather to contend with and this can only be summed up with the immortal words from the Sun "Wow, what a scorcher!" when temperatures reached, the almost high mid twenties!!!

To top it all, and to keep us from falling asleep in our garden chairs, a group of very well-off people decided to take an untested submersible the size of a Transit van for a day trip to see the Titanic. To be fair, and with all due respect to them and their families, that was always going to end in tears.

However, despite all these things going on around us, we are so very fortunate to be living in the village of Thorverton and having the opportunity to take part in a number of village events in July.

A Fun Day, a Tug of War, an Auction of Promises, the Theatre in the park, a very fine Film Night and a Quiz fundraiser.

Have a very very enjoyable July and remember, your local events need you...

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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*.

July

- Tues 7th WI Garden Party at Fair Oak. 2.30pm Competition – Garden on a plate
- Sat 8th Fun Day, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 11.00am – 5.00pm
- Fri 14th Film Night Thorverton Memorial Hall – Empire Of Light - 7.30pm
- Wed 19th Seated Yoga 10am, WI Hut
- Thurs 20th Auction of Promises, in aid of the Primary School PTFA, Thorverton Arms, 7.30pm
- Sat, 22nd WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut
- Sat 22nd Cygnet Theatre Company present: A Midsummer Nights Dream, TMH 7.00pm
- Wed 26th Seated Yoga 10am, WI Hut

August

- Tues, 1st WI Meeting, WI Hut 2.30pm Interesting stories from members.
Competition – Who is in the photo? Spot the member
- Wed 2nd Seated Yoga 10am, WI Hut
- Wed 9th Seated Yoga 10am, WI Hut
- Sat 12th Royal British Legion 11th Annual Cream Tea Delivery Service (see notice)
- Fri 18th Film Night Thorverton Memorial Hall – A Man Called Otto – 7.30pm
- Sun 13th Pudding Party, The Rectory Garden School Lane, 3-5pm
- Sat, 26th WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut



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 PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Update

We welcomed two new recruits to the Parish Council in June. Claire Heaven-Roberts and Shirley Nightingale were co-opted at the start of the meeting and immediately joined the Council. We look forward to them being part of the team over the next four years. We will update the contact info on the website soon and also put these details on the notice boards.

Arguably the most important item on our Agenda is the Affordable Housing project; this is making steady progress and we are now forming the CLT that was discussed at the recent meeting. During the next month we will be meeting experienced managers that have delivered Affordable Housing projects in Devon and will be taking advice and guidance from them.

You may have noticed the new equipment shed in the Quarry Car Park. TPC need somewhere to store our gardening gear and other items and currently rent a garage; the rent we save will pay for the new shed by the end of this Council term. We have to say a big 'thank you' to Paul Uglow and Colin Marshall for assembling this. Another group of volunteers also deserve a thank you from TPC; the RBL group mow and maintain the Jubilee Green throughout the year and we are very grateful to Alex Fice and the rest of his team for their work.

We talked again about the pro's and con's of spraying the cobbles with weed killer at the meeting. Doing nothing is not an option as they are a real slip hazard when wet, but we need to find an acceptable way of managing them. We looked into the possibility of burning them with a thermal lance but there are so many practical issues; weed killer can be sprayed under parked cars and right up to adjoining properties and we wouldn't be able to do this with a thermal lance. A reminder that the weed killer can only be used by personnel that have been trained to use it and are licensed to spray, so we are confident that it is being used responsibly.

On a similar theme we also discussed grass cutting in the village; now here's a subject that can always guarantee a passionate debate! We seem to get as

many messages asking us to 'mow the grass' as we do asking us to 'let the grass grow'. The situation is confused by the fact that no less than THREE different organisations are currently involved. DCC manage the visibility splays at road junctions as it's a highways matter; MDCC mow verges that are part of their land. TPC look after the rest, with help from some parishioners that tend to grass outside their homes.

TPC realise that there is a growing movement to leave some areas un-mowed and are sympathetic to this idea. If we are going to encourage this we need to be able to manage all of the grass in the village, so we are currently trying to confirm exactly who cuts what as the first stage. You'd think this would be easy, but some of the 'mowing ownership' info seems to have been lost in the mists of time. This may be a good time to take on this responsibility as we know that DCC and MDCC are both looking for cost savings. It may be possible for TPC to take on the job and then we would be able to manage the grass cutting as we would like. Watch this space for more info.

You may have seen, or heard about, the occurrence of graffiti at the Rec Ground. The changing rooms and the green equipment shed were affected; the shed is owned by TPC (ie you, dear reader!) and we didn't want to leave it for very long as we think graffiti attracts more graffiti. A group of Councillors, Graham Sims, John Hodge and I spent two hours doing our best to clean off the paint and while we were able to get the writing off the original green powder coating on the shed has been affected irreparably and will look patchy forever. I'm sorry, but this was the best we could do to get rid of the mindless vandalism that had occurred.

The two young people concerned did come to meet the Football Club and TPC to apologise, and they deserve credit for that; let's hope it's a lesson learnt. However, it would have saved a lot of elbow grease and meant the shed still looked good if they hadn't done what they did!

ANDREW FOSTER
Thorverton Parish Council

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL

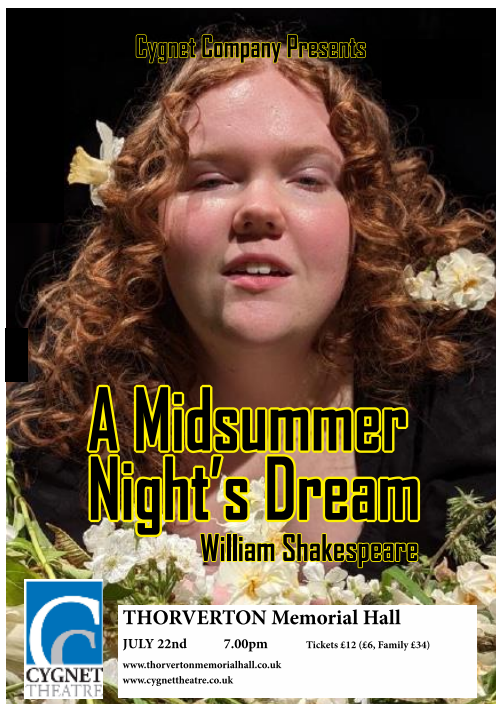
June was another busy month for the hall and July promises to be even busier. The terrace has certainly come into its own in the fine weather we've been enjoying in the last few weeks – a space for wedding guests to mingle in the sunshine and a space for the toddlers from Parents & Toddlers Group to scoot around on trikes & play outside.



JULY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday Market and Big Breakfast to be followed by the **FUN DAY on Saturday 8th July**. This year the Fun Day will include a Tug of War mini Tournament, which will take place straight after the ever-popular Dog Show. Look out for the notice elsewhere in this month's Focus giving more information about the Tug of War.

Our regular monthly film night, **Empire of Light**, is on **Friday 14th July**. This film stars Olivia Colman, & is written & directed by Sam Mendes. It's been described as a wonderfully acted drama about love, life and films.



The next weekend, on **Saturday 22nd July**, the Cygnet Theatre's Annual Production Tour comes to Thorverton with the **outdoor performance of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**. The hall grounds and bar open at 6.00pm, with the performance starting at 7.00pm & lasting about two hours including a short interval. Cross your fingers it doesn't rain, bring a picnic & something comfortable to sit on, and enjoy this rather magical play.

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

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!

There will be a 'Marcus' BBQ available, in the garden from 6pm and

The Thorverton Arms will end the night with a disco!!

If you are unable to join us on the night, would like a full Auction Lot List or make an email bid please contact us via the email below

NB, all emailed bids will need to be received by 8pm on Tuesday 18th July

thorvertonaop@gmail.com



Programme of Talks for July 2023

The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks for July 2023 is shown below. Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings.

The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Full descriptions of talks and speakers appear on the Exeter Forum website www.exeterforum.org and in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members and to visitors who wish to be so notified. Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk. Any programme changes will be shown on the Exeter Forum website.

Wednesday 5 July	Angela White	<p>Chinese Festivals</p> <p>Angela will draw on her experience of living in Hong Kong for 14 years to provide an insight into a 12-month run through of festivals in the Chinese Zodiac. She will explain some of the symbolism and customs of celebrating showing many of the colourful banners and ornaments used.</p>
Wednesday 12 July	Julie Owen	<p>Devon Loves Dogs</p> <p>Devon Loves Dogs is a local organisation for those who own dogs or go on walks with friends and family who have dogs. It sets out to inform dog owners and walkers about how they may impact on wildlife. It also provides a way to represent the needs of dog owners to landowners and managers. Julie is the co-ordinator for Devon Loves Dogs. She is often seen at work with her Cocker Spaniel x Labrador Maisie and on Waggy walks locally.</p>
Wednesday 19 July	David Brandreth	<p>Jane Austen's Purse - History in Coins from the Restoration to the Great Recoinage of 1817.</p> <p>What coins would have been in your purse in the time of Jane Austen? Why were coins needed? Why was a recoinage necessary after the Napoleonic wars? David's talk will give a general overview of aspects of our coins, with some interesting anecdotes from this historical period.</p>
Wednesday 26 July	Graham Forshaw	<p>The work and challenges of the Exeter Port Authority</p> <p>Exeter Port Authority Harbour Master Graham Forshaw will look at his day-to-day work that covers Exeter, the Canal and the Estuary, and describe some of its many challenges.</p>



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.

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

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

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

Monday 18th September our speaker is

PAUL RENDELL (popularly known as Dartmoor Paul)

'THE SECRET WILDLIFE OF DARTMOOR'

Monday 16th October our speaker is

BEN CANDLIN 'PLANTS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS'

The Canary Islands are packed full of wonderful and unusual plants, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Saturday 25th November ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

A VERY ENJOYABLE & RELAXED EVENING WITH FESTIVE FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

(everyone welcome to join us)

Monday 4th Dec 10am at the LOCAL COFFEE MORNING

MAKE YOUR OWN XMAS WREATH

Monday 15th January 2024

@ 3pm our A G M

Followed by refreshments and a talk by

TIM ELLIS on CRETE

Bring & Share Pudding Party

Where? The Rectory garden

School Lane

Thorverton

When? Sunday 13th August

Time? 3pm – 5pm

Do come and enjoy sharing food, chat, fun and games. All welcome. Refreshments available

RSVP: tim.collins@netherexe.org

01392 860767

TUG OF WAR TOURNAMENT



THORVERTON FUN DAY - SATURDAY 8th JULY

Join a team on the day for this mini-tournament!

Men's, ladies' and children's (aged 10-15 years) teams, 8 per team

The tug of war will take place after the Dog Show,
at around 3.30pm, in the hall field.

Thorverton residents only! No shoes with spikes or studs!

No entry fee – no prizes – just the glory!!

Recipe

Summer fruit coulis

Enjoy those freshly gathered raspberries and strawberries for summer puddings.

However, over-ripe or bruised fruit can make a melba sauce or fruit coulis which you can freeze for a taste of summer later in the year.

Puree the fruit in a food processor or rub through a wire sieve to remove seeds and pips, sweeten to taste with icing sugar, add a squeeze of lemon juice and freeze. This makes a delicious addition to trifle or it can be served with ice cream or yogurt.

Paul Cleave

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)

Welcome Café

*Every Monday
 (except Bank Holidays)*

**2.30pm in the WI Hut
 Thorverton**

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

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



Rewe and District Gardening Club

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

We had a stunning visit to Backwood Wildlife Garden and
 Meadow, and next time we are visiting another remarkable garden.

We welcome anyone interested in gardening Visitors fee of £1

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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

Local milk refill station, Eco refill station

Wines, spirits, local beers and ciders

Everyday essentials, Artisan and classic ice creams and treats, Cards and gifts

Card payments accepted and cashback

Open 8.00am - 6.00pm Monday - Saturday

01392 861060

CHURCH SERVICES & INFORMATION JULY 2023

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

Sunday 2 July Trinity 5

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Thorverton	JH
10:00 am	Informal Gathering	Stoke Canon	LF
11:15 am	Café Church	Rewe	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Cadbury	Lay Led

Sunday 9 July Trinity 6

10:30am	Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	GC
6:30 pm	Choral Evensong	Thorverton	Lay Led

Sunday 16 July Trinity 7

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Brampford Speke	GC
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Cadbury	TC
05:00 pm	Communion by Extension	Stoke Canon	LF

Sunday 23 July Trinity 8

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
09:30 am	'In Celebration of Water'	Thorverton	Lay Led
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Rewe	TC

Tuesday 25 July

09:00 am	Chattertots [Teddy Bears' Picnic]	Thorverton	Lay Led
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Sunday 30 July Trinity 9

10:30 am	Mission Community Service [followed by picnic in orchard]	Huxham	TC
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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 "Services" section

Please check out our new website!

We also have a calendar for services & latest events are under "news"

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]	Mr Peter Shepherd [Administrator]
Tuesday & Thursday [09:00 – 15:00]	Monday & Wednesday [09:00 – 13:00]
Tel: 07594 714590	Tel: 07551 844321
Email: administration@netherexe.org	Email: administration@netherexe.org

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

Parish Letter

Are you ready?

As I sit writing this, we have enjoyed nearly three weeks of sunshine and it was even dry and sunny for the whole of the half term holiday – a rare occurrence.

What will the weather be like when you are reading this in July? I just don't know. It might be good or it might be raining. You never know with the British weather which is why it gives us so much to talk about.

It also means that making plans can be tricky. We may find that trips planned for the summertime like picnics, visits to the coast and outdoor concerts or even just enjoying the sunshine in our gardens or in the local countryside is rained off or dampened by a covering of cloud. As our climate changes we can find that even the weather we might have expected for each season is changing. We need to be prepared!

Jesus talks to his disciples on more than one occasion about being ready. In one story he told them he gave the example of slaves waiting for their master to return from a wedding feast. If the master finds them alert, then he will reward them by serving them food whether he arrives in the middle of the night or near dawn. Jesus explains further that the manager of the household will be rewarded if the master comes home and finds everything in order. However, if the manager has sat back and let things slide because the master is delayed in returning, he will be punished.

It's not just about being prepared: we can take everything with us to face any weather packing a bag with suncream and a hat, or a jumper if it gets windy and an umbrella or raincoat in case it rains. The important thing is to anticipate and to be alert. The lazy manager had all that he needed to make his master welcome but he made no effort to be alert to his return.

When we go out, we are prepared for most things that might come our way: we have the clothes to

fit the weather, our mobile phone and some cash or a bank card. How alert are we to what is going on?

Have we noticed the signs for which our preparedness might be needed? Have we thought whether a neighbour might like a lift if we are taking our car or need some help with their shopping? Did we see the person in the street who looked a little lost and might be in need of directions? Is there someone for whom we could buy a cup of coffee, who might appreciate a chat? Could we lend some change to someone who doesn't have the right amount for the car park or the bus home?

It is good to be prepared but it is important to consider what we are preparing for? Being prepared but not acting when needed or not paying attention to when action is required puts all our preparedness to waste. We don't know what we might come across when we step outside our door. If we feel prepared and ready for the day, how about sharing that with someone who is not in such a fortunate position?

Laura Ford

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**

Netherexe Church

As I travel from one church to another across the parishes, I recognise that we are blessed with so many wonderful and interesting buildings; buildings that have welcomed people through their doors for many hundreds of years. Welcomed them from Sunday to Sunday, and for all those important moments of life – baptisms, weddings and funerals. Welcomed them throughout the seasons – Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Rogation, each moment of the year marked by prayer and worship. People have been welcomed and surrounded them with prayers and blessings.



We have large churches which can hold 200 hundred people with ease; and rather smaller ones that we can just about squeeze 30 or so people into. Churches with all the facilities needed to ensure a warm and comfortable time of worship; and at least one that has no water, electricity, or gas – so definitely no heating and only candlelight for those evening services. Churches for all tastes and experiences. And it is always good for to be appreciated and loved by others.

So, I was delighted when our smallest church – the one at Netherexe, the one in the middle of a field, surrounded by nature – was appreciated so much that it inspired both an article in a national magazine, *This England*, and a poem written by someone many thousands of miles away. Here is a snippet of that article, and a short stanza of that poem:

“I stroll along a network of old green lanes that thread their way through the Devon farmland of the Exe Valley, leading me to a gate into a field corner. Across the field the tiny church of St John the Baptist beckons, sitting above an oxbow lake...”

With no road access, it is a spot beloved by walkers who visit the tranquil churchyard....

A timeless place of pilgrimage for walkers and worshippers, a place of peace.”

They walk a trail that many have trod

These pilgrims

Through the fields

Across the bog

These pilgrims

By the stream

The washing, cleansing flow

These pilgrims

With thanks to *This England* [Summer 2023 article] and Nick Falcke from Australia for his poem.

The whole article and the whole poem can be found on our website netherexe.org under our ‘news’ tab.

Revd Tim Collins

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community

Sunday July 9th 2023 6.30pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

at Thorverton Parish Church

A reflective, traditional-style, Book of Common Prayer service,
with readings, prayers, uplifting choral music and hymns
sung by Thorverton Church Choir.

Please join us for a cuppa from 6.00pm

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Life is pleasant.

Death is peaceful.

It's the transition that's troublesome (Isaac Asimov)

Palliative Care is one of the most difficult but one of the most rewarding parts of being a GP. Medical students start their training with the aspiration of curing their future patients. However, the reality of life is that it ends in death and the vast majority of medical work is supporting patients through illnesses. Although GPs rarely accompany our patients cradle to grave, it is very common to look after grandchildren as they come into the world, at the same time as caring for their grandparents as they leave it.

The inevitability of us all arriving at a point in our lives when our bodies succumb to age and/or illness is one we accept but rarely address until we have to face it. During those last stages of life our role as GPs is to guide, inform and accompany. Often there is a gap between a patient receiving a terminal diagnosis in hospital and entering the last stages of illness at home. This can be a difficult and unpredictable stage, filled with questions and uncertainties. To help patients during this period Jan Hebditch has returned to work for us as a special Palliative Care liaison nurse. Lots of our patients will know Jan from her many years leading our superb District Nursing team. Her clinical skills, knowledge, experience and contacts within the local healthcare system are second to none. Jan's role is unique to Wyndham House; we have specifically designed it to fill a gap that exists in the current NHS service. We are incredibly lucky to have Jan re-join us and we owe an enormous thank you to the Friends of Wyndham House for funding this very bespoke role.

Expectation and understanding of what happens as a disease progresses is essential to helping patients and their families. It is important to remember that there are no 'musts' in terminal care apart from a patient passing away pain free and peacefully. Choices about this are very personal. Passing away at home is not everyone's wish; for some it might be very important, for others it is something they may strongly want to avoid. It is absolutely fine to change your mind mid-journey. Patients and their families need time and space to talk about what they feel most comfortable with. We can adapt to all needs and one of Jan's roles will be to facilitate this when the time is right.

Whilst death is always accompanied by sadness of the loss, the process should be as smooth and supportive as possible. Good communication between everyone involved is key and as a surgery we continually strive to maximise this as much as we can. As individuals we have little power over the nature and speed of our last illness but as carers we can ensure our patients and their relatives have as much control as possible to fulfil their end of life choices with dignity.

Dr Anthony O'Brien
Wyndham House Surgery

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

Royal British Legion

The RBL team of Rob Flatt, Dom Carbines, Sam Fice and myself have just started the 4th year of voluntary maintaining the village green and looking after the brook area as a community project.

Each year we plant out the four stone troughs by the brook railings with bedding plants. The flowers this year has been generously sponsored by "Paddy O'Keeffe". They are well maintained and watered by Penny Fice.

We would like to say thank-you to the Parish Council for their donation as a good will gesture to the Thorverton branch of the RBL in appreciation of what we do at the jubilee green. We have also donated the bedding plants and compost for fifteen different containers for the Thorverton primary school garden club, which they have planted up and located around the school.



A.Fice.

Grants for Rehab Cycling

At a recent meeting of the Friends of Wyndham House Surgery approval was given to provide a once off grant to recently disabled people to have early access to introductory rehab cycling sessions with Freetrike of Silverton, which provides trained supervised cycling for disabled people on purpose made cycles. Their major groups of clients have Strokes, Parkinson`s Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Head Injury and Cancer.

The grants are obtained by getting a voucher issued by your GP and presenting this to Freetrike who will use this to get payment from the Friends. The initial assessment session is free anyway and the voucher will then entitle the person two subsequent outreach sessions paid for by the Friends.

It is widely known that being out in nature and taking exercise has a positive contribution to health, whatever ones` ability and that the sooner any activity starts after a stroke or other incident the better the chance of an improved outcome. As this voucher scheme is independent of the NHS it can be initiated immediately after diagnosis, whereas physiotherapy, which this complements, may take some time to get started.

Also, the immediate availability of grant aid could be helpful at a time when finances may be turned upside down and things like Attendance Allowance can take some time to come through.

The grants are intended for the newly diagnosed and are to help introduce them to one of the possibilities brought about by their new situation and to help them back into a fulfilled life. I recognise that people who have been diagnosed in the last year may feel disappointed at missing this opportunity and I intend being flexible in interpreting "recently diagnosed" while the scheme is in its early stages. Application for consideration may be made to The Treasurer via the surgery.

Freetrike`s website is at www.freetrike.co.uk which has some interesting descriptions and photos with more details of its programmes. It has been helping disabled people to enjoy life outdoors since 2010 and since then has covered over 25,000 miles of rehab cycling - enough to circumnavigate the world.

Cliff Jones

Treasurer

Friends of Wyndham House Surgery





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Charles and Camilla duly Coronated

(This article was written just after the Coronation, but did not get sent in to the Focus editor in time for June's edition. I hope that it will nonetheless be worth reading a month later.)

'Coronated'? Must be an American expression as distinct from British English. I have come across it a few times online recently. I prefer to think that our monarch and his consort were duly crowned on 6th May in a dazzling ceremony that won the hearts of the vast majority of our nation, not to speak of the admiration of millions of others worldwide watching on television. Charles became King at once following the death of his mother, but it was the ceremony of the Coronation that officially proclaimed him as King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with Queen Camilla at his side.

Ever since I first heard 'Zadok the Priest' at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, I have wanted to hear it again, especially its opening words, which present such a challenge to the highest vocal range of the choristers. I just never thought I would have to wait 70 years for this wish to be realised. It was beyond the capacity of thought of those of us gazing intently at those grainy black and white ten-inch television screens that this beautiful young woman being anointed and crowned before our very eyes would in fact reign over us longer than any other sovereign, so that the majority of our people have never known any other.

It began to look as if Charles Prince of Wales would wait for ever to be crowned. As it is, he accedes to the throne as the best-prepared monarch in our history. Those of us who are of riper years do not begrudge the effort we have to make after so many decades in order to substitute our 'gracious king' for our 'gracious queen' and to remember to sing 'send him victorious' instead of 'send her.' It is an effort worth making.

If you are like me, you probably looked forward to the celebration of coronation weekend with great anticipation but tinged with a tiny apprehension. What if anything should go

wrong? Despite the incredibly high level of security, what if there were a terrorist attack?

Or, although we have all followed with appreciation the remarkable degree of rehearsal involved for this particular event, both in and outside the abbey, what if someone forgot their lines, or fainted with hunger given the recommendations of the day, or some elderly earl keeled over with a heart attack in front of millions? In the event, despite some of the King's exasperation over aspects of timing, the whole performance was such that we might reasonably describe it as the best coronation ever. On the one hand, it avoided the blunders and frankly farcical aspects of some of the ceremonies of yesteryear, and on the other hand it provided a veritable feast for both eye and ear.

Show business performers are regularly warned against the dangers of working with children and animals. As far as I am aware, the children behaved decorously enough on this occasion, but at times the animals gave cause for concern. The horses and their riders were beyond magnificent, but a few were a real challenge to control and I'm sure that many of us were willing on their masters as they did their best to correct the sideway struggle of some of their mounts. I didn't see this while watching live, but apparently one horse did actually career into the crowd, mercifully with no harm done. One can only admire the general skill and discipline, one might almost say the genius, of those who trained these equine giants for their day of display.

Inside the Abbey, the blend of old and new was striking. This was illustrated in the first instance by the guest list. Of course, many of the old guard were present, but many more failed to receive the longed-for invitation and were replaced by representatives of charities, sport, the arts and showbiz; Lloyd-Webber took his place alongside Handel.

There was a ghost at the feast but his presence did nothing to diminish the solemnity of the occasion and he did not linger once the ceremony was over. The heart of the service remained

unchanged, and the mystique of the anointing was preserved, its intimacy shielded by the remarkable and tastefully-conceived screens serving as a canopy. Although the ceremony was resolutely a Christian one, the King being recognised as the head of the Church of England, other faiths were represented. A centuries-old tradition was preserved by the use of the language of the Book of Common Prayer, whose archaisms and solemn grandeur enhanced the whole service. Its rendering of the Aaronic Blessing is particularly beautiful:

'The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace.'

Another tradition faithfully preserved was when the Moderator of the Church of Scotland advanced to present to the monarch a copy of the Bible with these inspiring words: 'We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively oracles of God.' Verses from those 'lively oracles of God' were read to an attentive congregation by the Prime Minister, a practising Hindu, whose rendering of the text, from the Epistle to the Colossians, made an already impressive passage even more so.

A final thought from an unforgettable ceremony: from the beginning, the theme of service was prominent, the King echoing the words of an even greater king who declared, 'I came not to be served but to serve.' This remarkable declaration was taken up again later on in the service and echoed subsequently by the Prince of Wales. It is an attitude of humility that bodes well for this generation of the monarchy and the next.

Maurice Harrison

THORVERTON COMMUNITY POST OFFICE + THORVERTON CO-OPERATIVE TRUST LTD

July 2023

Over 100 local residents have paid their annual subscription or made a donation to TCT Ltd in the past month. Thank you to them. If you haven't already done this then please do so soon and encourage your neighbours and friends to do the same as well as using the PO and TCT shop as much as possible.

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We aim to have a TCT AGM sometime in 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 will be able to view 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 Subpostmaster. More volunteers to help in our shop from time to time or deliver newspapers would be very welcome. Do get in touch.

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Thorverton History Society

A talk on Admiral Sir William Batten by Robin Blythe-Lord

The story of a Venal, Corrupt, Brave, Privateer, Turncoat... plus a Mystery ...concerning the said Batten not Robin, obviously!!



*Admiral S^r. William Batten.
From an Original picture at Hengrave.*

On Friday the 26th May we were fortunate to have the swashbuckling RBL to step once more into the breach (dear friends) to replace a last minute cancellation due to illness.

Robin provided a tour de force to a well attended audience on a glorious evening upon the relatively unknown Somerset man, William Batten (1601 to 1667) who rose to prominence, and wealth, and for whom the Plymouth Sound promontory is now named...cast your mind back to The History

of Mount Batten a previous talk given by our very same interlocutor.

Robin's presentation was supported by a wealth of detailed research and background information of the life and times of this seventeenth century character as well as a supporting selection of millinery - just to give us the full flavour of the man and his tricky road to prominence and his remarkable accumulation of wealth and naval offices.

William was the second son of Andrew Batten, mariner, born in Easton in Gordano, Somerset. Originally apprenticed into the Merchant Taylors' Company in London, by the age of twenty three, he was a freeman and married Margaret Browne the next year, with whom he was to have four children (two boys and two girls). He quickly returned to his father's profession as a captain and his own ship, the *Salutation*, and took out Letters of Marque which authorised him as a privateer for the king, thus allowing him to capture enemy merchant ships and to profit from their sale. By 1638 he had, through patronage, acquired the surveyorship of the navy a 'jolly good earner'.

With the coming of the civil war, his patron Algernon Percy, sided with the Parliamentarians and with Batten's connections he secured his nomination as the second in command to the Earl of Warwick, leading to his promotion to Vice Admiral and Treasurer of the navy, later

becoming acting Commander in Chief maintaining supplies and communications for the parliamentary forces.

He was involved in pursuit of the Queen and later The Prince of Wales and gave support at the siege of Lyme Regis. Most importantly for our story, Plymouth, which had declared for Parliament, was supported by William Batten. The author Philip Photiou writes in 'Plymouth's Forgotten War': '[Around August 1644] Captain William Batten further depleted his squadron by drafting seamen for shore defence. Recently many of his sailors had been working on How Stert, (originally from the Celtic: hawe stert) throwing up an earthwork across the lower part of the peninsula. Now with the King before the town the work ceased and the men were transferred to the outworks'... 'This narrow peninsula, now known as Mount Batten in honour of Captain William Batten, had since August [1645] been turned into a strong fortification by gangs of sailors taken from ships anchored at Plymouth. Batten himself poured £500 of his own money into the project. This new fort would allow the Parliamentarians to use the peninsula as a base for raids against the enemy at Plymstock.'

During the later part of the civil war Batten was suspected of collusion with the Scots and was made to resign his vice admiralty. He defected to the Royalist cause for and was knighted and made a rear admiral! He does appear to have been distrusted by many. He later resigned his commission and returned to England and remarried a

wealthy widow with a fine house called Rectory Manor in Walthamstow, where he later died and is buried inside St Mary's Church.

In the interim he had been reinstated as Surveyor of the Navy and worked alongside Samuel Pepys (the diarist) at the Navy Board who also provides an insight into his character. "...specially Sir W. Batten, whose cheats I do daily oppose to his great trouble, though he appears mighty kind and willing to keep friendship with me."

In 1661 Batten was elected MP for Rochester and as surveyor he was also a JP for the counties in which the naval dockyards stood. In 1663–4 he was master of Trinity House and, in that capacity, built alms houses for the corporation and later two lighthouses at Harwich, the dues of which secured him an excellent income.

His black slave Mingo was left the custody and keeping of these lighthouses while his wife was left his debts!

So leaving this account in the words of Robin... we reach the end of our story. Batten was certainly brave, corrupt, a turncoat, a slave owner, a spendthrift and a personally unpleasant man but he was a product of his time and operated well within his society which brought us to our society. We should not judge the past by today's standards.

Thanks go from us all for such an entertaining glimpse into yet another local character.

Recorded by Ann Marshall



WI Report for June 2023

We welcomed Holly Sutton, who talked to us about the work of CHAT – Mid Devon, at our June meeting. She told us that CHAT stood for Churches Housing Action Team, and although the charity had links with Churches, it was not ‘all Churchy’. Holly explained the need for CHAT, she said that it is difficult for those who have not experienced homelessness, or been at risk of losing their home, to appreciate the impact that such events have on people.

The charity supports those people escaping domestic violence, ex-offenders, those who are drug and/or alcohol dependent, as well as people with mental health issues, family breakdowns or being on very low incomes. Some of the people coming to CHAT for help may be sleeping rough in the open air, in a tent, a car, or ‘sofa surfing’. When children are also involved, the practical and emotional effects are multiplied, along with serious impact on family relationships.

People who find themselves in difficult situations can come to CHAT for housing support, tenancy support service, debt and money advice service. Holly said that they also house the local foodbank and run a fuel poverty scheme to help those who are in need of some short-term assistance. There is also a small laundry service as well as showers for people in need, and CHAT will help with providing basic essentials, bedding, cooking utensils, etc. for people with nothing.

At the present time, the food bank is the biggest service. Holly said that CHAT needed £400,000 a year to run – a small proportion of this sum is given from MDDC, the remainder comes from donations and fund raising. CHAT believes that everyone is entitled to decent, secure and affordable accommodation – somewhere to call ‘home’

Welcome Café

*Every Monday
(except Bank Holidays)*

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

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

Dates to Note:

Tuesday 7th July, 2.30pm – Garden Party at Fair Oak. Competition – Garden on a plate.

Saturday, 22nd July – WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o’clock to about 11 o’clock in the WI Hut.

Tuesday, 1st August, 2.30pm – Interesting stories from members. Competition – Who is in the photo? Spot the member.

Saturday, 26th August, – WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o’clock to about 11 o’clock in the WI Hut.

Every Monday, except Bank Holidays, Welcome Café from 2.30pm until about 4pm in the hut. Tea, coffee and cake. Open to everyone.

All monthly meetings are in Thorverton WI Hut starting at 2.30pm. New members are always welcome, visitors can also join meetings

Judy Bright

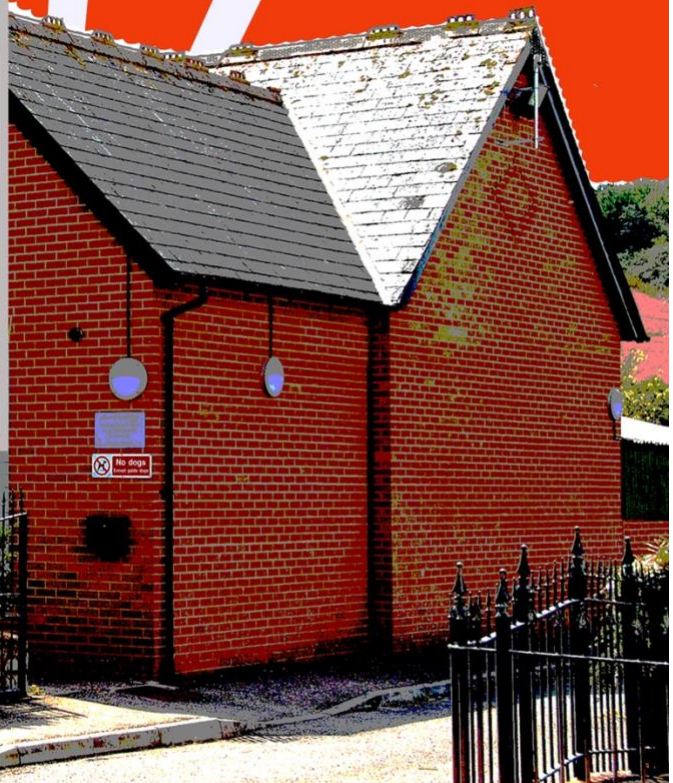
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NEWTON ST CYRES TENNIS CLUB



The summer has arrived and Wimbledon is around the corner! Just the time to get the tennis rackets out again.

RUSTY RACKETS:

We had two very successful Rusty Rackets mornings on June 3rd and June 10th.



They were very well attended and everybody loved it. We did some warm up exercises and tennis drills to get the eye in and then there was time for a few games as well. It was lovely meeting so many new people all keen on tennis.

Here is a picture with some of the participants. The weather was perfect and most of them have joined a WhatsApp group to arrange their own tennis mornings.

Do get in touch with Frederiek Maddock (frederiekmaddock@gmail.com) if you want to know more.

The Club Tournament is very popular, there are many participants and members are playing with different partners so the matches are very even and exciting.

If you are ready for some tennis 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 is well on its way and it is great playing with and against different people all over Devon.

Junior coaching, run by our club coach Jon Wills, is well attended and takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time. If you would like to enrol for next term please email

juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information.

Jon also offers adult coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills and learn more about the doubles' game, just get in touch with Jon Wills via our website

The Tennis Club now has a super duper ball machine which means you can practise all by yourself. A number of members are now trained in using the machine so if you would like to have a go, please contact the Club.

Frederiek Maddock

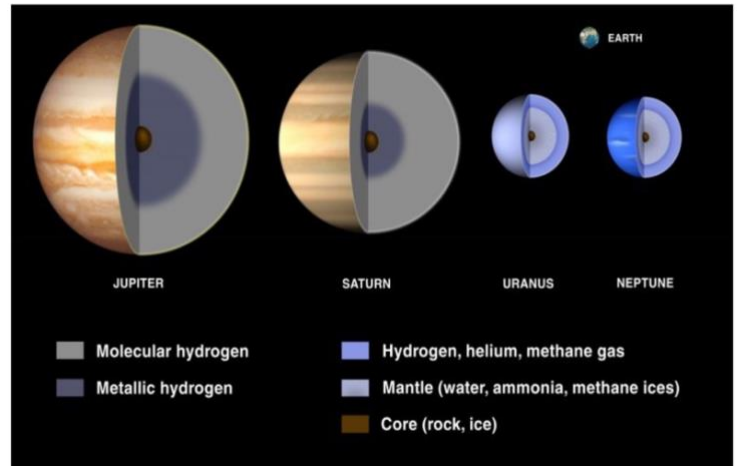
www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

SKY AT NIGHT

July Sky

Late in the nights of July 1&2, look out to the Southwest for how close together Mars and Venus become just three hours behind the setting sun. On 3rd of July look out for the first, large Super-moon of the year!

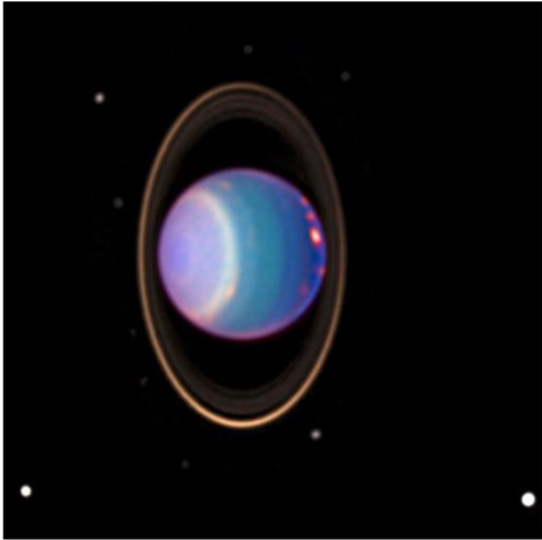
Sisters, sisters! Neptune and Uranus. The Solar System of planets, endlessly revolving their way around our Sun, is both enormous and archaic. Billions of miles across, its outer limit is marked by Neptune's orbit, a stupendous 3 thousand million (billion) miles from the Sun. Its closest neighbour, Uranus, is only 2 billion miles away whose orbit is also subject to the pull from this sister planet 17 times the mass and 4 times the dimensions of our Earth.



Neptune and its largest moon, Triton.
NASA

The irregularity inherent in the orbit permitted Neptune to be discovered 60 years after Uranus' random 1781 discovery by the famous anglophile William Herschel (see his remarkable home made mirrors and lenses in his Bath museum-home). In many ways these planets really are siblings (see figure 1). They are large, cold, bluish, with gassy atmospheres. Uranus' haze makes it paler. They formed around the same time as other planets yet no satisfactory model explains why they didn't get as big as the gas giant Saturn or colossal Jupiter. In those early days, some four and a half billion years ago, the solar disc of gas, dust, rock and ice was maybe half today's size. The small rocky planets formed into ever-accumulating balls and the gas giants swelled up like there was no tomorrow. How and why these sisters stopped growing is unknown. This was all happening around 4.6 billion years ago

and, however it started, they began to move out to their current positions, Neptune (see figure 2) probably overtaking Uranus (see figure 3) after half a billion years.

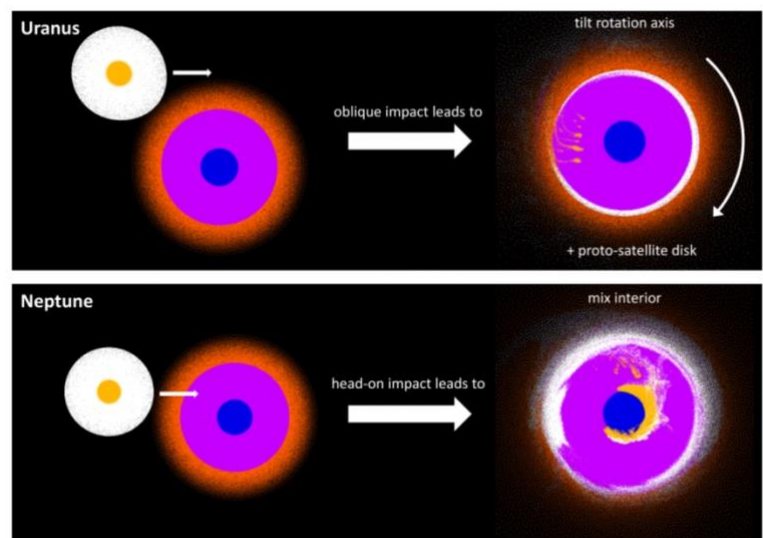


Uranus, captured through the Hubble Space Telescope Photo: NASA

In more respects they are still twins. Surface gravity (like Earth's) and temperature (incredibly cold), magnetic field, size and composition are all similar. Labelled 'Ice giants' they indeed began life as smaller balls of slushy rock, absorbing nearby unwitting lumps of ice/gas mixture (like frozen Coca Cola, other slush is available) from the solar disc. Now the ice, under tremendous pressure, has morphed back into a hyper cooled fluid. Other gases from space were also absorbed in the ice - methane and ammonia - a sort of sorbet surprise. At present their outer atmospheres are composed of hydrogen, helium and blue methane, the centre is a slushy rocky core like a huge pressurised comet.

However, whilst one of these two cold siblings possessed a residual disc of materials flying around its equator, the whole resembling a mad gyroscope, the other, Neptune, didn't. It had to capture small rocky worlds to create its own coterie of 14 moons, the crazy planes of their weird orbits reflecting the facts of their awkward and random histories. Also, blessed with even more moons all in one tidy plane, Uranus exhibits the strangest departure from sibling similarity.

Some earlier time in its history, as the Solar System began to mature, an object, larger than Earth, careered into the embryonic Uranus (see figure 4). Such was the oblique nature of the titanic smash that the unsuspecting planet was more than up-ended. Imagine 7 rotating balls on the floor gently circling the central sphere, spinning in the plane of the floor. Then introduce an extra ball, only this one literally rolls its way around the centre.



And likewise, its 27 servile moons revolve around it in the same plane as its 13 rings and its equator - simply extraordinary! Neptune's fate was different. A similar object probably crashed head-on and this dislodged the stable central core, creating a new and different Neptune. These two planets are nothing if not extraordinary....and then there's their moons!

Peter Hargood



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Seated Yoga on The Rec
Jane Flaxington

Nature Notes

This month I am looking forward to the issue by Royal Mail on 13th July of a set of stamps depicting river wildlife. Below is what I have been up to and seen since the last Focus.

I joined Graeme Culshaw and some of his friends for a walk on Dartmoor on Saturday 20th May. Bluebells were at their peak on the moorland, flowering much later than in the lowlands. During the walk I spotted a female Orange-tip butterfly laying eggs on Garlic Mustard or Jack-by-the-hedge. A few yards on and a Bloody-nosed Beetle larva was clinging to Goosegrass or Cleavers, one of the bedstraw family and its foodplant. As we neared the top of hound Tor someone shouted Cuckoo. The bird landed on a rock not far from us and directly in sight. It remained there for a few minutes. Hereabouts we also saw a pair of stonechat. We passed the deserted medieval village to come to the river in the valley where a nearby stream contained tadpoles.

On the Tarts weekday walk around Brampford Speke on 22nd May we saw many Sand Martins and a few Mute Swans along the Exe. Near Netherexe Church, across the river was a pair of Egyptian Geese, two Grey Herons and two Little Egrets.

On Bank Holiday Monday 29th May (Oak Apple Day) Lin Balkwill and I walked from Jericho Street and up Colaton Lane to look for Glow-worm larvae and found one crawling along the side of the road. We found three more all squashed and three squashed caterpillars.

Other News

In our garden a noisy Nuthatch landed in a tree. This bird is rarely seen in our garden; likewise a Linnet and an offspring appeared a

few minutes later. The parent fed its offspring and away they flew.

I disturbed a Roe Deer from our garden on 18th May. It's been a few years since we've had a Roe Deer here but I'm not surprised as their population appears to have increased hereabouts. Last time I reported a Roe Deer visit I received some reports of Roe Deer turning up in gardens in the village centre.

A to Z *Zygaena filipendulae* Six-spot Burnet Moth

This day flying moth is a rare visitor to our garden. It is normally found with many other of its species beside the sea and in meadows where its larval foodplant Bird's foot trefoil and Horseshoe Vetch grows and where knapweed and thistle flowers are found for the moth to nectar on. There must be somewhere around here where others are found. I would not have thought this moth would fly many miles. This red and black moth is on the wing in July and August and not to be confused with another red and black day flyer the Cinnabar moth. It is well known that insects with a colouring of red/black/orange are potentially poisonous and birds will avoid eating them. The naturalist Dame Miriam Rothschild cut herself and squeezed adult fluid from Six-spot Burnet into her wound and she became very ill. Cyanide is found within its yellow and black caterpillar.

Common Lizard

Here is a picture I took on 10th May. The lizard has climbed onto one of farmer Michael's field gates. One of my neighbours calls this the gateway with a view. Can you work out where this is? We are lucky to have a good population of Common Lizard all around the village.



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

Legal Eagle

We start this month with an update. Readers may recall the case of Auriol Grey (Focus May 2023). Auriol Grey was convicted of unlawful and dangerous act manslaughter and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment. In the absence of grounds for an appeal against the conviction, Auriol Grey's legal team sought leave from the Court of Appeal to appeal against the sentence. The application was refused, the Court of Appeal indicated that a 3-year sentence for unlawful and dangerous act manslaughter was not excessive.

The recent incident at Blundell's School, Tiverton, has led to three charges being brought against a 16-year-old. Two of the charges are of attempted murder under **s1(1) Criminal Attempts Act 1981 (CAA 81)**, the third charge, wounding and causing grievous bodily harm

with intent under **s18 Offences Against the Person Act 1861**.

S1(1) CAA 81 provides, *"If with intent to commit an offence..., a person does an act which is more than merely preparatory to the commission of the offence, he is guilty of attempting to commit the offence."*

The elements of the offence are, therefore:

- Defendant (D) does an act;
- Which is more than merely preparatory to the commission of the offence;
- D intends to commit the offence.

The 'offence' in question here is murder, a common law offence, which requires proof that the D unlawfully killed a reasonable person who is in being and under the King's peace, with malice aforethought. The term 'malice aforethought' requires that the D had the intention to kill or the intention to cause grievous bodily harm. The full offence differs in one important regard from the attempted offence, nothing short of an intention to kill will suffice for the attempted offence. The prosecution will need to prove that the D had the direct intention to kill, in the sense that it was the D's aim, purpose, or desire to kill or in the absence of proof of direct intention the prosecution may adduce evidence to show that the D had an indirect intention. This will require the jury to be satisfied that death was virtually certain to result from the D's acts and that the D was aware of this. If the jury are satisfied as to this then, as a result of the decisions in the cases of **Woollin [1998]** and **Matthews and Alleyne [2003]**, the jury are entitled to find that the D had the necessary intent.

For an act to be "more than merely preparatory" this would appear to require evidence that the D is engaged in the commission of the offence they are attempting. This is, of course, a matter of degree and **s4(3)** requires the judge to find some evidence that meets the standard, and then the matter becomes one for the jury to decide as a matter of fact.

The requirement that the D "does an act" means that it is not possible to attempt to commit a crime by way of an omission.

With regard to the wounding and causing grievous bodily harm charge, the **s18** charge is the more serious of the two wounding and causing grievous bodily harm offences, found in the **OAPA 1861**. The **s18** offence requires proof that the D “...unlawfully and maliciously by any means whatsoever wounds or causes grievous bodily harm to any person with intent to do some grievous bodily harm to any person or with intent to resist or prevent the lawful apprehension or detainer of any person”. I have dealt with the issue of intent above. The term “grievous bodily harm” means “really serious bodily harm”. In order to constitute a “wound”, the continuity of the skin must be broken, this means that both layers of the skin have to be pierced or broken.

The use of the word “maliciously” in the definition creates some uncertainty as to precisely what the requirement is. The word “maliciously” means either intentionally or subjective recklessly i.e., the D appreciates the risk that their conduct will lead to the prohibited consequence. The case of **Mowatt [1968]** held that where the charge is causing grievous bodily harm with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, the word “maliciously” adds nothing and is best

ignored, as only intention to cause grievous bodily harm will suffice. The case of **Taylor [2009]** applied this line of reasoning to the “wounding” element of the offence. The D must have intended to cause grievous bodily harm.

With regard to the other way in which the offence may be committed, i.e., “...or with intent to resist or prevent the lawful apprehension or detainer of any person...”, whilst the D must still cause grievous bodily harm and/or a wound, they will not need to have an intention to cause grievous bodily harm. In such circumstances the word “maliciously” can mean either ‘intentionally’ or ‘subjectively recklessly’ as to the wounding and/or causing grievous bodily harm. The issue here is whether the requirement is for the D to be subjectively reckless as to the causing of grievous bodily harm, or whether it is sufficient for the D to be subjectively reckless as to causing some harm. The latter view is in line with earlier case law and the mens rea for the **s20** offence of wounding and inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent, and in consequence would appear to be the better view.

Clive Hamblin

Thorverton Cricket Club

July 2023 Update

It has been a great start to the season for our open-age sides and at the time of writing both the 1st XI and 2nd XI sit 4th in their respective Devon League tables.

The womens softball team also recently recorded their first league win and our junior and Sunday sides continue to play well matched and meaningful fixtures. The T20 side also got off to a winning start in their local league. Find all the match reports here - <https://thorvertoncc.co.uk/blog/>

100 Ball Tournament – Sunday 16th July

We are delighted to announce a triangular tournament between teams from **Thorverton CC**, **Thorverton Village** and a team assembled by Exeter Chiefs legend **Jack Yeandle**. Jack will again be bringing a side with connections to Exeter Chiefs to play in the tournament which will take place on Sunday 16th July.

The teams will this year be competing for the ‘Denise Lesniak Trophy’, a dedicated supporter of both Thorverton Cricket Club & Exeter Chiefs who sadly passed away last year.

The three teams will play a round-robin of 100 ball matches against each other, meaning each team will play two matches. There will be a BBQ & the bar will be open for what promises to be a great day at the club. Entry is free but we will be having a collection to raise money for the Exeter Chiefs Foundation.

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

Open-age - Thursday evenings 6pm-8pm

Womens softball – Tuesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm

Junior Cricket

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

Girls only cricket starting soon, contact womenssoftballthorvertoncc@gmail.com

Dan's Coast-2-Coast Challenge

Dan's training is ramping up for his epic 60 mile walk at the start of August. He will be walking from North Devon Cricket Club to Exmouth Cricket Club within a twenty-four-hour period whilst fully padded-up in batting equipment to raise money for Thorverton Cricket Club.

For full details on the challenge & to donate, please visit the challenge's GoFundMe page - <https://gofund.me/a1ad16c1> Please support Dan in any way you can!

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 1st July – Ipod Shuffle Fundraiser

Saturday 8th July – Sponsors Day

Sunday 16th July – Triangular Tournament

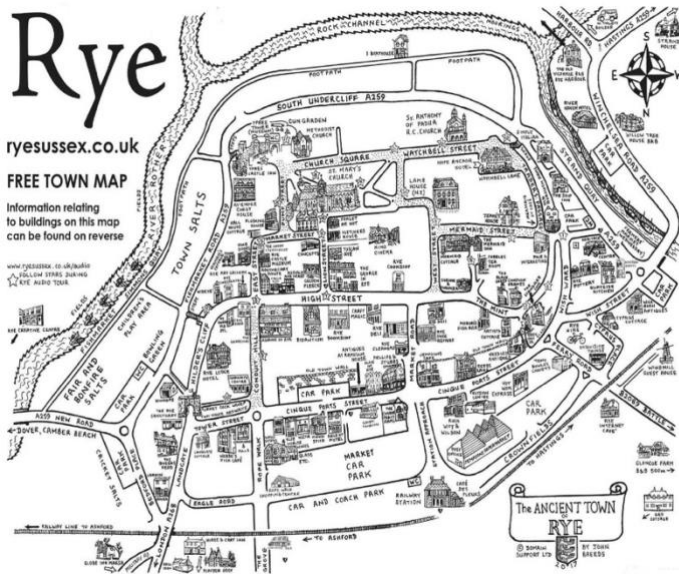
You can find out more information about everything going on at the club, including all fixtures, on our website –

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!



The Joy of Knowing North



I have always had an innate knowledge of which direction is north. Although occasionally I get disorientated when walking a winding path among trees in a forest, or indoors in a house with several staircases.

I then feel most uncomfortable until I find a new clue to which way is north. During our time in Australia I had to keep reminding myself that the sun was in the north. In equatorial regions where the sun is overhead close to noon, direction finding can be more difficult.

During a visit to Rye in Sussex we acquired this free map to the town when we parked in the car-park at the bottom the town.

We then explored the town by ascending 'north' up the hill to the big church at the top. We returned by a different set of cobbled streets and then needed to leave Rye by heading west towards Brighton; so I turned right at the bottom of the town. BUT after a few hundred metres I found a signpost to Dungeness, which is east of Rye. I couldn't understand how I had made the mistake, so we then followed the satnav towards Brighton. However my head was telling me that we were still heading east and the sea should have been on the right side of the car, even though occasional glimpses of the beach and the sea were in view to the left. A few miles later, Ros was looking at the Rye map and told me that on the free Rye map north was DOWN the map, and the map was upside down according conventional maps. Just look at the top right where the little compass shows this. So I was happy to realise that it was not my sense of direction that had gone wrong, but my having been fed the wrong information in first place. However, my mental picture of Rye is **still** with the town facing south out to sea rather than inland towards the north, and I can't seem to correctly orientate that image.

I think that, usually, my knowing the direction of north is continually reinforced by external clues; direction of the sun, signposts, etc, and maybe some inborn *head direction neurons* in my body? These have proved to exist in research on fruit flies. Migrating birds also have this ability and seldom get lost, although they prefer to avoid long sea crossings. Many people have no idea of which way is north, and in addition confuse east and west. If you confuse left and right then hold your left hand in front of your face with the thumb horizontal and the first finger vertical – it forms a letter L (for left). Obviously this doesn't work with the wrong (ie right) hand. Note: there is a much discussed problem, namely, how you would explain left and right (or East West) to an alien by radio communication.

Historically, European maps have been drawn with north to the top with occasional south to the top examples. Ptolomy's original map (CE 150) of the known world was north to the top and this convention has mostly been followed ever since. Some Muslim maps put Mecca (east from Spain) at the top. In 1494 the Venetian cartographer, Fra Mauro, created a huge (2.4 m square) map with over 3000 notifications and had S to the *north*. (it was hugely expensive to produce and cost at least £20,000 in today's money). You can buy S to the top maps, especially in Australia and New Zealand to try to correct the common view

that *down under* is considered to have negative connotations and inferior. For example, we bought this tea towel in Auckland...*Note that UK is relegated to an inferior lower corner*



You can investigate the accuracy **your** sense of direction to see if you can identify North during your daily travels. Without a compass you can check geographic direction using an analog watch and the sun. with the watch horizontal, point the hour-hand at the sun, then south is halfway between the hour-hand and the 12 on the watch. (This instruction is for the Northern hemisphere).

In most US States and Canada the towns are built on a grid system with roads orientated NS and EW, so its relatively easy to retain your sense of direction. Also the major highways have odd number names going EW and even numbers NS. In Britain roads can go in any direction due to roads having been built over many centuries and following ancient footpaths.

While the Romans generally aimed to build their roads in a straight line between two points, they did take into account the terrain and other factors that could affect the construction of the road. They were skilled at adapting their road-building techniques to suit the local conditions, and they used a variety of different strategies to overcome obstacles and build their roads in difficult terrain.

For example, when building roads through mountainous regions, the Romans would often use a technique called cut-and-fill construction. This involved cutting into the rock on one side of a mountain and using the material to fill in a valley on the other side, creating a level road surface. They also built bridges and viaducts to cross rivers and valleys, and they used retaining walls and other structures to stabilize steep slopes.

In areas where the terrain was particularly difficult, the Romans would sometimes deviate from a straight line in order to find a more manageable route. They also built roads with different alignments, depending on the purpose of the road. For example, military roads were often built in a straight line to allow for rapid troop movement, while roads built for commercial or civilian purposes might follow a more circuitous route to connect different towns and cities.

Overall, while the Romans generally aimed to build their roads in a straight line, they were willing to adapt their techniques and strategies to suit the local conditions and terrain. This allowed them to build an extensive network of roads that connected their vast empire and facilitated the movement of troops, goods, and people. *(Note: this paragraph was written by ChatGPT, an AI robot)*

Continue to enjoy your travels... and don't get lost, or be misled by your AI powered SatNav!

John Spivey



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Bonjour La France (Episode 4) Coffee, Tea and a Locust

(If you have not been able to follow previous episodes, this series is about the (then) young Maurice and Fiona Harrison's stay in 1968 in the South of France where Maurice had taken up an exchange post teaching English at a lycée in Orange. The articles are based on letters Fiona wrote back to her parents describing our life there, so different from the situation we had come from in Birmingham.)

I ended last month's instalment with an account of one of our earliest meals in a French home, and how awkward it was knowing how much food to take at any given moment since we were never sure of how many courses were due to be served. Anyway, the warm invitations continued to flow in, both for us as a couple and for Fiona to take tea with some of my female colleagues or the wives of my male colleagues while I was at school. In addition, our landlady (Mlle Danti – you can imagine, we nicknamed her 'Auntie') introduced us to an English lady living locally with her French husband and two bilingual children. Little did we know in that BC era that one day we would have five bilingual children of our own!

Among these hospitable people was Madame Carrière, a fellow teacher of English at the lycée, and her doctor husband, who kindly invited us for a meal only three weeks or so into our stay. We felt a little intimidated as we stood in front of their VERY luxurious flat, quite a contrast with where we were lodging, but they soon put us at our ease. As we settled ourselves at table, the conversation flowed and as they considerately spoke at a reasonable rate, Fiona was able to follow. This meal served to be an introduction to French coffee, which appeared at the end, in tiny cups – black coffee, and of such a

strength that Fiona timidly enquired if she could have some milk. Madame C. brought a little jug and hesitatingly tipped a teaspoonful into Fiona's cup encouraged by Fiona's raised eyebrow, she gingerly poured more and by the time Fiona was too embarrassed to ask for more, the cup was overflowing with cold, still bitterly strong, coffee!

Our hosts were amused and somewhat uncomprehending.

Then there was Madame Reybaud, another colleague of mine. She had a husband who was a lecturer at the University of Aix and four handsome children, the eldest of whom was nineteen. They had spent a year lecturing at Harvard. She taught Fiona to make a pear-pudding and in return Fiona took round a bread pudding she had made and in addition demonstrated how to make one. Cecile, however, had a French reaction and insisted on using milk instead of water. But she was most impressed with how well Fiona's 'gâteau' satisfied the appetite of her children!

Do 'Froggies' really eat frogs? Only their legs, is the correct answer and I think it is true to say that a large proportion of the French population have never tasted 'cuisses de grenouille,' (or, frogs' thighs, literally translated), because of their relatively high cost. We were initiated into this dish by a young couple in the church who were determined that we should taste this most emblematic example of French cuisine.

We found frogs' legs delicious; their texture and colour resemble chicken and the taste is a blend of chicken and fish, which, I suppose, is what you would expect. So we hopped home round about midnight replete and happy.

For the life of me, I cannot remember the names of this couple, but I do remember the cultural blunder we made the first time they asked us to visit them. We turned up at about 7 pm, as instructed, thinking we were invited

to a meal, but were served only beer and biscuits. 'Next time you must come for a

meal,' they said as we made our exit feeling somewhat hungry. It was not the first time we had difficulty in working out exactly what we were being invited to and being too embarrassed to ask. But then, that can happen in one's own culture with people you don't know very well, let alone in a foreign one. In fact, it HAS happened to us here on more than one occasion.

The traffic was not all one way, and as the days got warmer, we were able to invite people for meals when we could accommodate them on the sun-roof of our flat.

Fiona's cooking was always kindly praised (despite the UK's bad culinary reputation) although our guests were invariably surprised at seeing so many items of food (e.g. for Sunday lunch) being served at the same time to all go on the same plate. And we learned that they were not accustomed to HOT puddings – and we had to learn to remember to warn people before they tucked in heartily and burnt their mouths in astonishment.

On one occasion, when church members were due to take tea together, we were put in charge, given our English tea-drinking heritage. Tea was very expensive to buy in France, and tea bags produced an extremely weak concoction, so we proudly (and sacrificially) took along some of the Typhoo we had brought with us from England. Alas, the occasion was not a great success. We turned up on the Sunday afternoon, which attracted a couple of dozen people, but were disappointed, as most of those present wanted tea without milk (rather like they took their coffee), and we felt they just hadn't experienced English tea as we enjoyed it. One dear man, who had often visited England,

said, 'Your tea is wasted on us. We're not connoisseurs like you English.' At least, on that occasion, no one expected the milk to be heated - an aberration of some that we were to come across in later incursions to French society.

Enough of culinary experiences. We didn't spend our whole time at table. In fact, we got out and about quite a lot. Here's one anecdote to whet your interest until fuller details of our outings in next month's edition. And it couldn't have happened in England.

One Sunday afternoon, we visited the Palace of the Popes in Avignon and then strolled in the glorious winter sun in the gardens above. We noticed that a cat was interested in something in the undergrowth and when we investigated, we came across what looked like a grasshopper about THREE INCHES long! Seeing our interest, a helpful passer-by came over and picked it up for us. Fiona moved to take a closer look at it... and what did the thing do but jump straight at her. With a scream she leapt away and, in the process, bashed her nose violently with her handbag and then found, to her horror, that the insect had lodged on the front of her coat. She was frozen to the spot while the faintly amused man who had picked it up now picked it off, assuring us that it wasn't '*méchant*.' Fiona didn't care about its '*méchanceté*,' she just didn't want it near her!

And so, with Fiona's eyes streaming as a result of the contact between nose and handbag, that particular scene came to a close...

À la prochaine!

Maurice Harrison

Puzzles

Thank you Ian Stoye (again) for sending in the solutions to the Futoshiki and Su Doku puzzles which appeared in June’s Focus. It would be good to know whether there is anyone else out there trying these – or the other – puzzles.

The answer to last month’s “Read the Hieroglyphics” puzzle:



is that the symbols are the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 shown alongside their mirror reflections. The next symbol, therefore, is the double 8.

The answer to the “Funny Fold” puzzle is that the letter was an “F”. One of the limbs of the letter (which is upside down and turned over!) would have been directly behind the folded part.

Now on to this month’s puzzles:

a) Tennis Dice

This may be timely, given that the Wimbledon tournament will be on during the first part of July.

My brother-in-law picked up a game from a charity shop, which he has given to me because he knows that I like playing tennis (as well as doing puzzles). Unfortunately, the game did not come with any rules.

It consists of five dice:

- two of the dice are used for scoring, having 0, 15, 30, 40, D (for deuce) and A (for advantage) on each face;
- one die must be used by the server because it has on it “Ace – Winner” on two faces; “Double Fault” on one face; and “Service Good” on the other three faces;
- one die, which is the same colour as the service die so is presumably for subsequent shots by the server, has four faces giving various shots (forehand, backhand and volley), one face saying “winning volley” and one face saying “half-volley into net”;
- one die, which must be for the receiver, has similar shot descriptions, but with one face saying “winner” and another saying “out”.

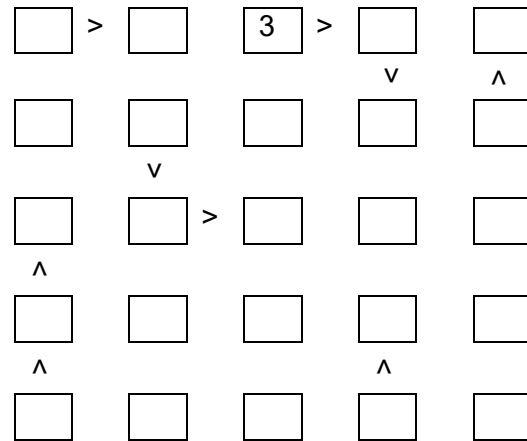
Are you following this?

It is clear that the person serving must throw the first die to get the ball in play, and then players

throw their die until a point is won or lost. My question for you is: can you work out the chances of the server holding their service?

b) 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.



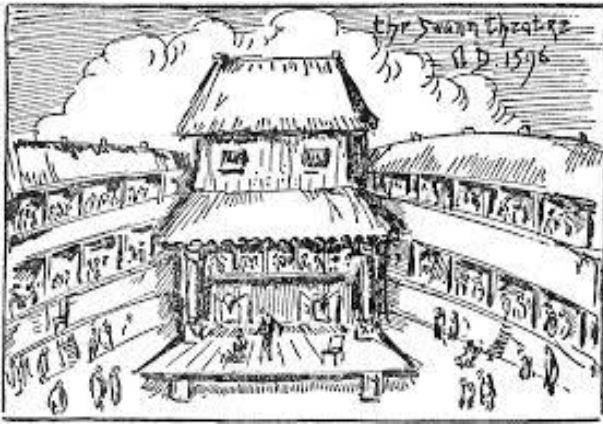
c) Su Doku

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

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

Happy puzzling.

Neville Lane



SHAKESPEARE FOR EVERYONE

Antony and Cleopatra (Part 2)

with apologies that Part 1 was not labelled
"to be continued".

Cleopatra calms down and tells her attendant to call the messenger back, adding reassuringly "I will not bite him." But as soon as he returns, she behaves as badly as ever. The frightened messenger escapes a second time and she sends after him, but this time she just wants to know the colour of her rival's hair. She is indeed a woman of infinite variety, and it is easy to understand the hold she has on Antony.

The three men who govern Rome meet with the rebel, Pompey, and agree to a settlement. All believe there will now be peace except for Enobarbus, who is sure that Antony's marriage will never last. For his new wife is "of a holy, cold and still conversation," and Antony has found someone stranger and more magnificent in Egypt. The marriage that was intended to bind Antony and Caesar together will in the end separate them, and Antony will return "to his Egyptian dish again."

Pompey gives a great feast on his galley to celebrate the peace settlement, and a vast amount of wine is drunk by all the guests. Lepidus has a difficult time keeping up with the others – "I am not so well as I should be" – and Antony launches into a long and valuable description of the crocodile. "It is shaped, sir, like itself, and it is as broad as it has breadth." Finally, Caesar, his tongue blurred by wine, concludes the party and the rulers of the world stagger ashore.

Cleopatra tries to discover what Antony's new wife looks like, and she questions the Roman messenger closely. At first, he answers, honestly enough, that the lady is not as tall as Cleopatra and that she has a low voice. Cleopatra promptly translates this as "dull of tongue and dwarfish," and enquires about her posture. The messenger by now has learnt to play along, and he assures her that Octavia has a very poor posture indeed. Moreover, she has an unattractively round face, dull hair and a low forehead, and Cleopatra is delighted with him.

"There's gold for thee: Thou must not take my former sharpness ill." Cleopatra can see that the messenger is a good and intelligent man. "I repent me much that so I harried him," and as for Antony's marriage, it will surely be a failure in the end. "All may be well."

The marriage has already begun to fail. In Athens, Antony informs his wife that her brother has displeased him in many ways, and he offers to act as an intermediary between them. For warfare between the two men would mean disaster.

*"What is 'twixt you twain would be
 As if the world should cleave, and that
 slain men.
 Should soldier up the rift."*

But Octavia cannot heal the breach. Caesar does not really wish to share power or obey instructions, and he has deposed Lepidus, made war on Pompey and refused to divide his conquest with Antony. Antony for his part has returned to Egypt and from there he declares war on his brother-in-law.

Cleopatra has triumphed, for she has Antony back again. She interferes disastrously with his strategy of the war, for Egypt is a sea power and Cleopatra persuades her lover to fight not by land but by sea.

Enobarbus points out to Antony that his soldiers are landsmen, veterans of the only kind of war they understand, but Antony will not listen. One of the soldiers pleads with him also, but an officer tells him he pleads in vain; "Our leader's led, and we are women's men."

The sea fight is even more disastrous than the soldiers feared. Cleopatra suddenly loses her enthusiasm for the war and orders her ships to flee; and Antony, incapable now of doing anything without her, turns and follows. Since the battle is lost, the kings of the East who have followed Antony yield to Caesar, and so do most of his men. One of the few who refuses to leave him is Enobarbus, although his reason tells him that there is no longer anything left worth following.

Even in defeat and disgrace, Antony is a hero still. He knows he is ruined – “I have lost my way forever” – but his chief concern is for the safety of the men who have been faithful to him. There is a ship laden with gold in the harbour, and he asks them to take it and make peace with Caesar. Then Cleopatra enters to try and make her peace with him.

*“Oh, my lord, my lord,
Forgive my faithful sails!
I little thought
You would have followed.”*

The old magic works and Antony takes her to his heart again. As long as the two of them are together, nothing can conquer them.

Caesar sends word to Cleopatra that she will be permitted to live in peace if she will drive Antony from her dominions, and Antony is infuriated. But Cleopatra knows how to shift Antony’s rage, and she manages to turn it into plans for rebuilding his shattered army and fighting at its head.

Before he goes into battle, the two of them will have one last “gaudy night” together, and Cleopatra rises joyfully to the occasion. “It is my birthday: I had sought to have held it poor; but, since my lord is Antony again, I will be Cleopatra.”

Enobarbus has been watching with horror their complete inability to face the facts, and he knows that the time is coming when he must leave Antony. It is no longer safe to be in the service of a man whose valour is stronger than his reason.

The night before the battle Antony takes a last farewell of the men who have followed him and the practical Enobarbus is shaken to tears. In the

morning Antony arms himself, with Cleopatra helping. He is in the happy mood of a man who is doing what he understands, and he looks forward to the coming battle with a boy’s joyfulness. Even when he finds that Enobarbus has betrayed him and gone over to Caesar, he generously concludes that the fault is his own. He sends all his friend’s possessions after him, with a gentle and loving letter wishing him good fortune.

Enobarbus is in a state for what he has done, and when a mule train arrives at his tent with the treasures that Antony has sent after him, it serves as a mortal blow. “I will go seek some ditch wherein to die. “

Enobarbus cannot bear to go on living with himself, and he dies in the night, crying out his last words to the man he betrayed.

Antony’s soldiers fight for him with the fury that nothing can withstand, but the next day he tries to fight Caesar by sea, and again finds that the Egyptian fleet cannot be trusted. It yields to the enemy and Antony is convinced that Cleopatra has betrayed him into the hands of Caesar.

*“The witch shall die:
To the young Roman boy she hath sold me ..”*

His fury is as colossal as the man himself, and Cleopatra once again treads the measures of the dance she has performed so long and so skilfully. She sends words by one of her attendants that she has killed herself, and then goes to hide in the huge funeral monument that would have held her body.

The news is brought to Antony while he is still threatening to kill her, and a kind of stillness comes over him. “The long day’s task is done, And we must sleep”

Everything is forgotten except his love for Cleopatra; the glory that outweighed empires and made everything else in the world worthless. He asks Eros, his friend, to run him through with his sword, and Eros, pretending to obey, kills himself instead, for it is easier to die than to kill his master.

Antony falls on his own sword, but even his death is a failure. For he still breathes, and he cannot

find anyone to kill him. He pleads with the guards:

*"I have done my work ill, friends. O, make
an end
Of what I have begun."*

But all refuse. Then Antony learns that Cleopatra is still alive and has only pretended death. He asked his men for one final service: to carry him to the monument where she is hiding.

*"Take me up;
I have led you oft; carry me now, good friends,
And have my thanks for all."*

The men carry him to the monument and lay his limp body before it while Cleopatra cries out, "O Antony, Antony, Antony!" He refuses to die until he has held Cleopatra in his arms again.

*"I am dying, Egypt, dying; only
I here importune death awhile, until
Of many thousand kisses the poor last
I lay upon thy lips."*

Cleopatra dares not leave the monument for fear she may be captured by Caesar, but she and her maids manage to draw the dying man up into it. Antony's mind is chiefly on her safety and he tells her the one man she can trust of all those about Caesar. Then, in her arms, he dies and leaves *desolation behind him*.

*"O withered is the garland of the war,
The soldier's pole is fallen;
young boys and girls
Are level now with men; the odds is gone,
And there is nothing left remarkable
Beneath the visiting moon."*

What Antony has done, Cleopatra can also do. It is no sin to "rush into the secret house of death," and if he has killed himself, so can she.

*We'll bury him, and then, what's brave,
what's noble,
Let's do it after the high Roman fashion,
And make death proud to take us.*

But Cleopatra is not a Roman, and she procrastinates and sends Cesar a message asking what he intends to do with her. He himself

enters, and Cleopatra kneels to the young emperor in a sudden shift of mood. He is the "sole sir o' the world" and she is his obedient servant.

As a token of her submission, she presents him with an itemised account of all her money and jewels, calling upon her treasurer to witness that it is a full list. The treasurer states, quite honestly, that she has kept most of it back, and Cleopatra attacks him in fury. "Slave, soulless villain, dog!" She then admits to Caesar that she may have kept back the mention of a few things, but they are "lady trifles" and "toys." Caesar assures her that she may keep them all. "Caesar's no merchant."

But Cleopatra knows well enough in her heart what Caesar intends for her. She is a notable prize and she will be exhibited throughout Rome, a plan which is in her eyes "most absurd" and "most painful." She has no intention of letting it happen and she has already been parted too long from Antony. She knows very well the full truth of what her maid has told her.

*"Finish, good lady; the bright day is done,
And we are for the dark."*

But if Cleopatra must go down into the dark, she will do it like a queen, and she calls for her crown and her robes of state. Then she gives audience to an old countryman who has with him a basket of figs. Hidden within is a snake, the serpent of the Nile. Cleopatra has found out from her doctor the most painless way to die. It is through the bite of the asp, and the snake waits beside her as her maids robe her for the last time, giving her her sceptre and diadem. One of the women falls dead of grieving, and in a flash of jealousy, Cleopatra pictures her reaching Antony first.

*"He'll make demands of her, and spend
that kiss
Which is my heaven to have."*..

She cradles the snake in her arms, utters a final word of contempt for that "ass" Cesar, and in her own strange and magnificent fashion, she dies.

Her attendant Charmian says goodbye to her dead mistress.

"Fare thee well."

*Now boast thee, death, in thy possession lies
A lass unparalleled..."*

Then she goes to her own death, living only long enough to answer the guard's reproachful question, "Is this well done?"

*"It is well done, and fitting for a princess
Descended of so many royal kings..."*

Caesar enters to find that his captive has escaped him, and he stands gazing at her. "She looks like

sleep." He gives orders that she and Antony are to be buried together, for never will any grave on earth hold another such pair of lovers, and so the story of Antony and Cleopatra draws to its close.

Andrew Hoellering

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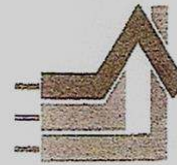
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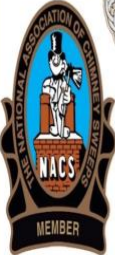





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Carers Support Group Lunch, Exe Valley Farm Café, 4th Tuesday of the month, 12:30
Contact Trish Jones for details 07484 377298
- Church (C of E)** Administrators: Juliette Lea, Peter Shepherd
Netherexe Parishes Administration, administration@netherexe.org
- Church Wardens** Edwin Greed, Fortescue, Netherexe, 01392 841231
Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- Church Choir** Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- PCC Treasurer** Jean Brown, Rydal Cottage, Bullen Street, Thorverton, 01392 861176
- Friends of Thorverton Parish Church Trust**
Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- County Councillor** Margaret Squires, 01363 84337, margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk
- District Councillor** Cllr Rhys Roberts, 07515 437373, Rroberts@middevon.gov.uk
- Doctors** Redlands Primary Care 01363 727111, Wyndham House Surgery 01392 860034
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- (Western Power)** EDF bill enquiries 0800 365 000, street lights 0800 197 6763
- Gas Emergency** 0800 111999
- Leonard Trust** *Supporting local people's needs with small grants, elspeth.holmes@btinternet.com*
Secretary: Elspeth Holmes, Drill House, Lynch Road, Thorverton, 01392 860535
- Library (Exeter Mobile)** *Every 4 weeks 3:45–4:20pm Thursdays, Quarry Car Park (See page 61 for dates.)*
- Member of Parliament** Mel Stride MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 02072 197037
mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk
- Parish Council Chairman** Cllr Andrew Foster 01392 759560
- Parish Clerk** Jim Roberts 01392 202692 or 07768457590, thorvertonpc@gmail.com
- Parish Council Meetings** 2nd Tuesday of the month (except August), at 7pm in the Memorial Hall
(See Notice of Agenda on the Parish Council Notice Board in School Lane.)
- Parish Allotments** *Contact the Parish Clerk, 01392 202692*
- Pension Service** PO Box 93, Plymouth, PL6 5WJ, 0845 60 60 265
- Police** Non-emergency number 101
- Post Office Portacabin (TCT Ltd)** Quarry Car Park, Thorverton, EX5 5NG, 01392 860455
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Head of School (Thorverton): Mr Chris Holding 01392 860374
School Office (Thorverton) 01392 860374
Chair of Governors (Exe Valley Federation): Jackie Enright 01392 851859
Clerk to the Governors: Mrs Heidi Last hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
- School PTFA** Chair: Wendy Coles Vice chair: Elaine Green Secretary: Amy Crebo
Treasurer: Peter Stevens thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
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Treasurer: Simon Hedges

Minutes Secretary: Mary Ette

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Association Football Club

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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

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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

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Ladies' Group

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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 SystmOnline.

Please ask at reception for details.

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

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

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

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

Repeat prescriptions (Monday-Friday) – You can request your repeat prescriptions by using our online
repeat prescription request at www.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: July 17, August 7th and 29th (Tuesday)

Recycling boxes fortnightly on Mondays: July 3, 17 & 31, August 14 and 29th (Tuesday)

Chargeable garden waste fortnightly on Mondays: July 10 & 24, August 7th and 21st

Mobile Library

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

2023: 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 July

17th: Birthday of The Queen Consort

POEM OF THE WEEK

THE DOGS HOME.

Large ones, small ones, fat ones, thin ones,
Leaping-howling-barking-yapping.
Dogs of 'gentry', dogs of 'poor folk',
Panting-licking-fawning-snapping.
With so many boisterous creatures
Tugging at my tender heart
How could I choose a companion
How could I even start.

The man in charge, he saw my plight,
And beckoned me withdraw
To a room where we could quietly talk.
Suggest, and think before
I plunged into the midst again
Of that noisy mixed up crowd,
And all at once I saw him
And shouted firm and loud.

That's the one, yes! Over there
The one with floppy ears
And eyes of brown, so soft and big
They draw me close to tears.
Oh look, he's coming over, he's warm and smooth to touch
What fun we'll have together
With love that means so much.

JOAN CLARKE



TAVISTOCK
Wharf
01822 611166 • www.tavistockwharf.com

A poem by Joan Clarke, previously unseen and found in a scrap-book.
Especially for the many dog lovers of Thorverton



Roses in Thorverton – Photos by Elizabeth Lane