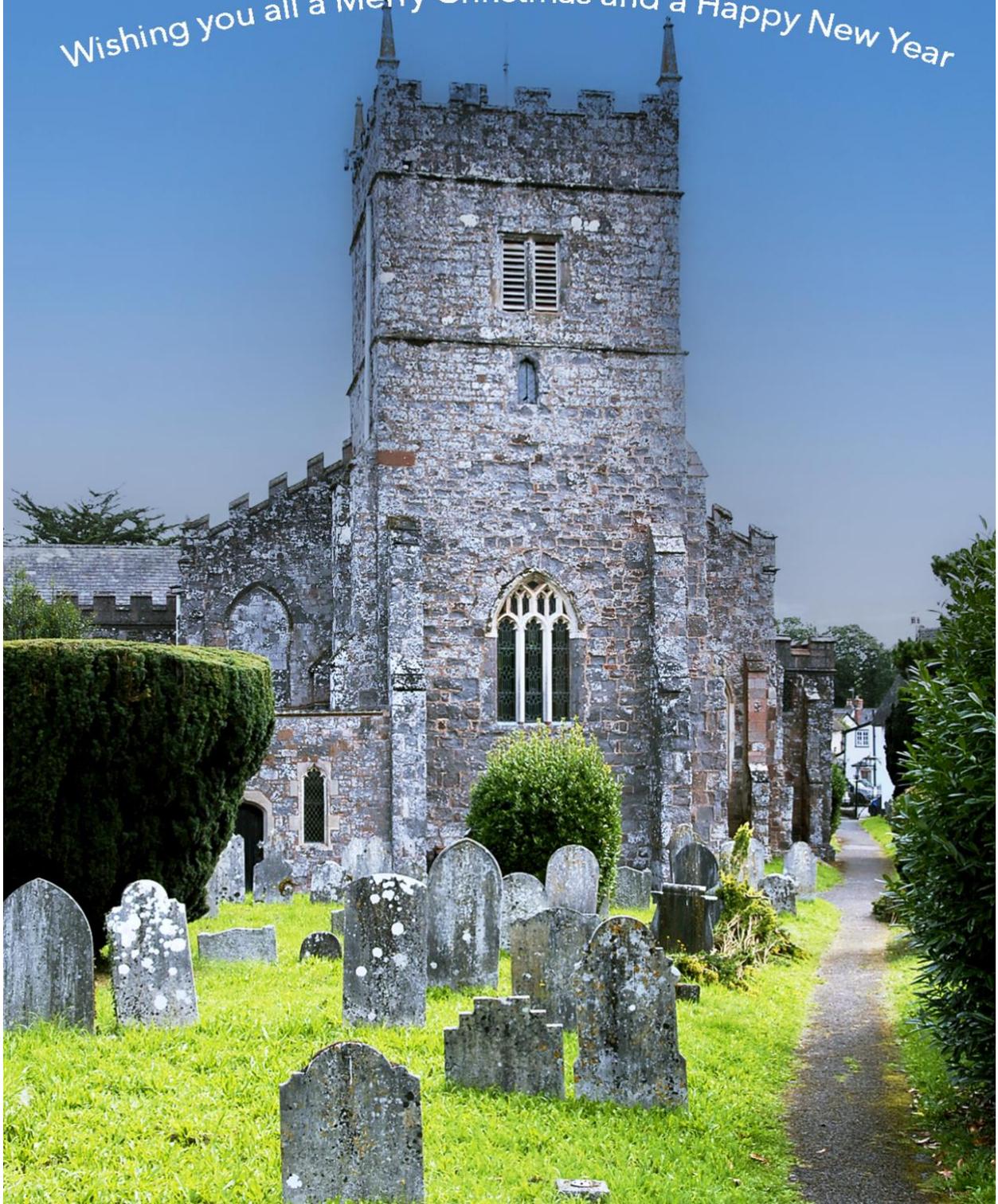


focus
on thorverton



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



December 2023 / January 2024

£1.00

Chairman	Michael Ayre, Ratcliffe Farm, Raddon (01392) 860434
Secretary	Geoff Bulley, 17 Broadlands, Thorverton
Invoicing	Lynda Crossley, 8 Silver Street, Thorverton (01392) 860690
Treasurer	Lynda Crossley, 8 Silver Street, Thorverton (01392) 860690
Editor	Russ Clarke, Wagon Works, Jericho St., Thorverton (01392) 860279 Email: thorvertonfocus@gmail.com
Digital version	(courtesy of Rob Purvis): thorvertonfocus.wordpress.com
Assistant editors	Eileen Mason, Fiona Harrison and Jules Jeffreys
	Printed by Sarum Graphics
	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 and preferably in JPEG or otherwise 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.

Welcome to the December/January Focus.

When it gets to December, I don't know about you but I am always looking forward to the shortest day. Not because I like the dark mornings and early evenings which lead up to it but simply because it marks the change into longer days. I do enjoy the cosiness of a December evening with the wood burner warming up the house, of course, but once we pass the Winter Solstice I feel we are on the way to the longer, brighter and sunnier days of Spring and Summer. Despite this Solstice being the start of Winter and when we should expect some colder days and weeks, for me, having a noticeable amount of extra light each day from the New Year is key to the way I feel and the energy I have...

Moving on, before I sound too much like a New Age traveller, I do find it impressive to see so many things going on in the village throughout the 'Festive Season'. There really is a wonderful range of events for everyone in the village this year not to be missed. Take a good look through Focus and fill up your festive diary!

We would like to wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Your support for the magazine throughout the year is very much valued so thank you from all of the Focus team.

INDEX

Obituary, Colin Manley.....	5
Letters Page.....	7
Thorverton Parish Council.....	8
Thorverton Memorial Hall	10
Events, Notices & Adverts.....	11-19
Church Services.....	20-23
Parish Letter – Advent.....	24
Ruler of the World.....	25-26
WI Report / RBL Quiz Nights.....	27
Thorverton Carnival 1912.....	28
Thorverton Cricket Club Report.....	29
Football Memories.....	30
The Sky At Night	31-33
Primary School Armistice.....	34
RBL Remembrance Service.....	35
Local Company Adverts.....	36-42
Nature Notes.....	42
TARTS News.....	43-44
Thorverton History Society.....	45
Census 1921.....	46-47
The Joy Of Beachcombing.....	48-49
It The Taking Part That Counts.....	50
Local Events & Notices.....	52-54
Shakespeare For Everyone.....	55-57
Puzzles.....	58
Local Company Adverts.....	59-66
Thorverton Parish Information.....	67
Thorverton Organisations.....	68
Doctor's Surgery Redlands Care.....	69
Doctor's Surgery Wyndham House.....	70
Waste Collections	71
Bubble Church.....	72

DIARY OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Sun 3 rd	Tree lighting Ceremony, 6:00pm on The Jubilee Green and 6.15pm at the Memorial Hall
Mon 4 th	Upton Pyne Garden Club Coffee Morning 10:00am Make your own Christmas Wreath
Mon 4 th	Welcome Café, WI Hut, 2:30pm, tea, coffee and cake. Open to everyone
Tues 5 th	WI Christmas Tea Party with magician Jude Coram
Wed 6 th	Winter Warmth, Thorverton Arms, 2:30pm-4:30pm
Fri 8 th	Christmas Bingo, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 7pm
Sat 9 th	Market and Big Breakfast, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 9:30-11am
Mon 11 th	Welcome Café, WI Hut, 2:30pm, tea, coffee and cake. Open to everyone
Wed 13 th	Winter Warmth, Exeter Inn, 2:30pm-4:30
Thurs 14 th	Local choir singing at The Thorverton Arms and Christmas sing-along, 9:00pm.
Fri 15 th	Film Night, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 7:30pm. 'What's love got to do with it?'
Sat 16 th	WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut
Sun 17 th	Bubble Church for young families, Thorverton Church, 9:30am
Mon 18 th	Welcome Café Christmas Lunch, WI Hut, 12:30pm
Wed 20 th	Winter Warmth, Thorverton Arms, 2:30pm-4:30pm
Thurs 21 st	Carol Service, Thorverton Church, 6:30pm
Fri 22 nd	The Twelve Days of Christmas, a TADS production Thorverton Church, 7pm
Sat 23 rd	Crib Service, Thorverton Church, 4pm
Wed 27 th	Winter Warmth, Exeter Inn, 2:30pm-4:30pm

JANUARY

Mon 8 th	Welcome Café, WI Hut, 2:30pm, tea, coffee and cake. Open to everyone
Sat 14 th	Market and Big Breakfast, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 9:30-11am
Mon 15 th	Welcome Café, WI Hut, 2:30pm, tea, coffee and cake. Open to everyone
Fri 19 th	Film Night, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 7:30pm
Sat 20 th	Disco Evening at TMH, Children's and Adult sessions, 5pm-11pm
Mon 22 th	Welcome Café, WI Hut, 2:30pm, tea, coffee and cake. Open to everyone
Fri 26 th	History Soc. AGM. 7:30pm WI Hut. 'Thorverton Walking Trail Guide' and 'Metal Detection'
Sat 27 th	WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut
Mon 29 th	Welcome Café, WI Hut, 2:30pm, tea, coffee and cake. Open to everyone



Colin Manley

24 April 1938 – 8 October 2023

Colin was born in Exeter on 24th April 1938. The son of Alfred and Ivy Manley, he grew up in Ellerhayes, with other family members close by. As a young lad growing up in the countryside, Colin enjoyed getting up to mischief with his mates, fishing at the back of the mill and generally making the most of his surroundings. He also enjoyed playing football from about the age of 11.

Having attended Silverton Junior and Tiverton Secondary schools, Colin then embarked on an apprenticeship in motor mechanics at Read and Lee Garage. Having successfully completed this, he worked as a qualified mechanic during the day and would also spend time in the evenings and at weekends helping out his neighbours and friends with their vehicles.



Colin moved away from working as a mechanic for a short while, when he worked delivering eggs in and around Bradninch. It was about this time that he and Janet first met - at a dance in Thorverton Village Hall. Colin was an accomplished ballroom dancer who passed his amateur examinations and achieved awards up to Blue Ribbons. Apparently, Colin offered Janet a lift home after that first evening, but explained that he had had to park his car in the brook, as he had no road tax! She chose to walk.

Love obviously blossomed after that first meeting, and Colin and Janet married in 1966 in Thorverton Church – it was a marriage that was to last for over 57 years. By this time, Colin had returned to working as a motor mechanic.

Married life together for Colin and Janet initially started off with them living with Colin's mum in Ellerhayes, and then in Cullompton. Then, in 1968, they moved into their own home: 2 Stonebridge Cottage, Thorverton, into the house that Colin was to call home for the rest of his life. Colin and Janet's only son, Michael, was born in 1977, and he quickly followed in his dad's footsteps by playing football from the age of 11.

Over the years Colin had a number of hobbies and interests. He won many cups and trophies at football, playing for Tiverton Town, Exmouth Amateurs, Exmouth Town, Cullompton and Thorverton. As a teenager he had had to make the decision to carry on playing football or proceed with ballroom dancing at a high level – he chose football. He also played darts for the Ruffwell. Unfortunately, the Ruffwell was just too far to walk home after a pint, so Colin chose to enjoy a drink in either the Dolphin, the Exeter Inn or the Bell Inn in Thorverton. He and six or seven of his mates would generally meet up on a Monday evening for a beer and a catch-up and they become known as the "Monday Club".

Colin was a well-known and well-recognised member of Thorverton village, especially for his most-used opening expression when meeting people when he would say, "I'm looking for a young bit of stuff, 18 years old, long blond hair, with plenty of money."

Colin tried his hand at shooting for a short while, but this was when Michael was growing up, so not particularly practical. He did, however, enjoy being on the water: for some time, he kept a boat on Budleigh Salterton beach, from where he enjoyed mackerel fishing. Colin also tried water-skiing with his then brother-in-law, eventually managing to stand up on his own and ski a little. For a number of years, Colin took great pleasure from his allotment; he grew a range of vegetables, especially potatoes and runner beans – he liked growing so many that he gave away lots to family and friends.

Colin was very fond of dogs and when he first retired he looked after 'Bella' who was the dog that Michael had at that time. He used to walk across the field, and took her out twice a day. This was on a Tuesday and Thursday. Unfortunately, he was not well enough to look after Michael's present dog 'Indy' as his dementia was getting worse, but if Indy's name was mentioned he would look up and show some interest.

Colin progressed from mechanic to garage manager, before moving to Nationwide where he worked as a delivery driver, delivering cars all around Devon. When, at 65, he had to retire from Nationwide, he took a similar job with

another company and worked right up until he was in his early 70s. Over the years, Colin had seen his family grow, with the addition of his two beloved granddaughters - Bethany and Charlotte. Colin had lots of time for and with the girls and they will both have their own special memories of times spent with him.

Retirement gave Colin even more time to spend on his allotment, but a stroke in 2016 really slowed him down. Within a couple of years, he started to experience memory problems. With superb care from Janet, he was able to remain in his own home until July of this year, when he had to be admitted into the R D & E.

After three weeks in hospital, Colin was discharged into the care of Heanton Court Nursing Home, in Braunton. He was comfortable there but as his health deteriorated he was admitted into North Devon District Hospital, which is where he passed away on 8th October. Colin lived a long, full and eventful life. He was very special to all his family, plus the many friends that he made along the way. Colin will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Janet, Michael and family would like to say 'thank you' for all the cards and messages of sympathy which they received on the passing of Colin. Thank you also to all those who attended the funeral. Colin would have been "Well chuffed!"

Thank you and Farewell

After four years with the Netherexe Mission Community, where she served her curacy, we said a very fond farewell to **Revd Julia Hocking** at the end of September.

Julia brought a huge amount of joy, energy and dedication to the parishes - supporting and encouraging us through a vacancy and all the challenges of Covid.

Her sense of humour and deep love for all was such a wonderful outpouring of God's presence, and she touched the lives of so many people!

Julia has taken up the post of Assistant Priest in Kenton, where I know she will be a joyful blessing to all there.

Thank you, Julia, and we offer our love and blessings for your future ministry.

From Revd Tim Collins,

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community

Thank you to Maggie Dunlop

From the Focus on Thorverton Team

Maggie Dunlop has quietly and efficiently taken care of all the administration in connection with the large section of advertisements in the magazine.

Chairman, Mike Ayre, and Committee member, Nick Bright are seen here giving Maggie a small token by way of thanks for all her hard work over the years.

Lynda Crossley, who took on the mantle of Treasurer last March from Bob Swaffield, is taking on the responsibility another volunteer comes forward!!



until



The Village Shop (A Sonnet)

To shop or not to shop, that is the quest'n?
 Is it nobler to jump into the car,
 which spits out fumes and adds to road
 congest'n,
 then drive to buy your shopping from afar?

The lure of deals will oft lead us astray
 and make us bite the bait that's on the line.
 By hook or crook it's made us easy prey.
 Those patient fishermen tell us it's fine.

But oh, alas, whilst we are softly wooed
 our shop is floundering upon the rocks.
 Without support it can't supply our food.
 It needs our help to bring it to the docks.

I say to you we must pull altogether
 to help our shop survive this stormy
 weather!

By Lorraine Colebrook

We received these letters and the Sonnet in response to last month's letter from Berry Dairy.

Let us support the village shop and ensure it remains for the future.

I read with some concern the 'Letter from our Village Shop' in the November issue of Focus. It would be a great sadness if Berry Dairy was forced to close as a result of lack of support from those who live in and near Thorverton.

Having practised as an estate agent in Exeter for over 30 years and now acting as a property search agent, I know how important a village shop is on the list of criteria property buyers seek when looking to move to the South West.

A number of our neighbouring villages such as Bickleigh, Upton Pyne, Brampford Speke and Newton St. Cyres no longer have village shops. We are fortunate in Thorverton to have the excellent and well-stocked family-run Berry Dairy.

Retaining a shop in the centre of our village not only provides a very important local amenity but its closure will affect the desirability of Thorverton as a place to live and could well affect the value of village properties.

I would certainly miss the excellent pasties, cakes and other items Berry Dairy provides for us all to purchase on a daily basis.

From Robin Thomas

SOS – Save our Shop!

Recently a small number of us delivered leaflets to nearly everyone in the village (about 460 houses) asking if Thorverton would support the village shop to prevent it closing by Xmas. The good news is that this is working so far and business has picked up - so a big thank you if you've been in and bought something, but we need to keep going to make it sustainable. If every household spent just £5 a week, we could save the shop for all the families, school children and everyone else who has to rely on it for whatever reason. It would be unthinkable not to have our shop!

Lastly, a big thankyou to Sharn and Ollie who are working long hours and we hope Mandy will be able to return soon. Order forms are available for all the goodies they'll be selling for Xmas so now is the time to start going in regularly.

All the best and many thanks.

From Carolyn Johnson, Bullen St

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Update Dec 2023

Last month I noted that we had some important developments on the Thorverton Affordable Housing Group (TAHG) project and I am pleased to tell you that we have been making further positive progress. However, everything here needs to be read with the caveat 'many a slip between cup and lip' very much in mind; we have a very long way to go and I would urge you to be patient!

In the last month TAHG met the Church Commission by Zoom call and also held an Public Meeting. This was open for all to attend, with a personal invitation also sent to those that had already expressed an interest in joining an expanded TAHG. To the Church Commission (CC) meeting first. We had made contact with them through a charity called Housing Justice; this is a charity that helps homeless people and, as an example, was very active in placing Ukrainian refugees recently. They also work with the CC and it was this connection that lead to our meeting.

The Commission told us that the Archbishop of Canterbury had tasked them to produce a report on how their land could be used to provide Affordable Housing around the country; the report was called 'Coming Home' and you can read all 126 pages yourself at www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/coming-home

As a result the CC had identified about 70 sites in the UK, one of which was here in Thorverton; the land between the Court Barton new development and the older ex-council houses on Silver Street. This was one of the pockets of land TAHG had showed to the Mid Devon Planning Officer the month before, so TAHG were obviously very pleased to hear that the CC were considering this option.

They, in turn, were also pleased to hear of the existence of TAHG as they would prefer to deal with a local group if possible. The CC told us that they had already carried out an initial site appraisal (a desktop affair it seems) and the parcel of land they were considering is less than an acre; we said that our Housing Needs Survey in Jan this year had identified a need for 19 homes, which would need a bigger plot. They told us that they would be able to increase the amount of land available, which was very welcome news, and furthermore they were suggesting a price per plot that was considerably below the market rate.

This Zoom call was then followed by the Open Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 9th November. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold; as TAHG has made progress it has now reached several forks in the road and the existing group felt that more villagers should be involved in making important decisions. We had more than 12 volunteers to join a new larger TAHG that night. The second purpose of the meeting was to show what has been involved in the process so far, from sites, to governance, to design, to local needs and more besides.

This new larger TAHG will meet again on Tuesday 28th November, which is unfortunately after the deadline for this Focus article so I cannot tell you what has happened, however, we will be setting up a Community Land Trust for Thorverton at this meeting and expect the larger TAHG to be referred to as The Steering Group from now. A new website at www.thorvertonclt.co.uk will be up and running by the time you see this and we expect that this will be the main channel of news and information for the village as the project develops. Please take a look at this.

I'm going to repeat that we still have a long way to go, so the encouraging news from the Church Commission doesn't mean the project is completed; it's just the opposite, it's just starting!

To other news: The Barliabins regeneration project was discussed at TPC and it was agreed to go ahead with the plans; this will be funded through a mix of S106 open spaces grants and PC reserves.

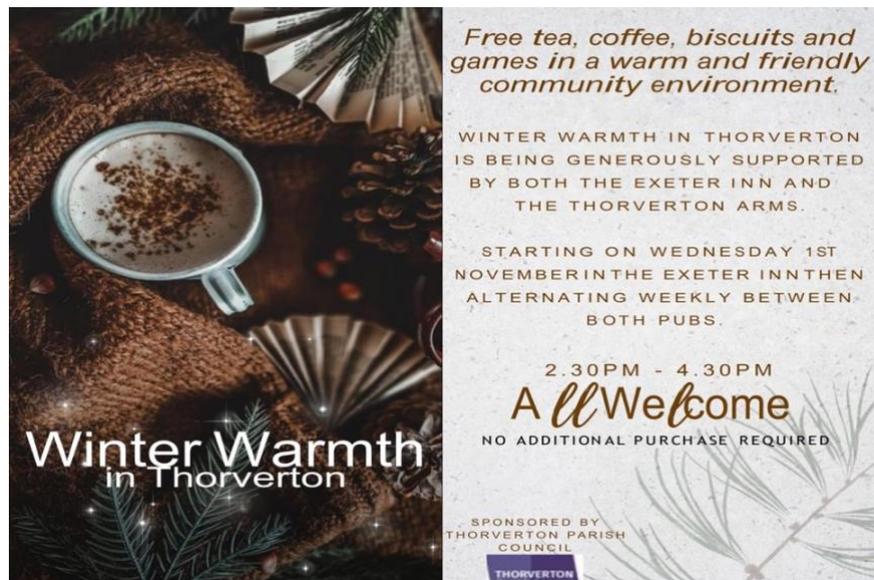
The Wednesday Winter Warmer campaign is back and our sincere thanks to the Thorverton Arms and Exeter Inn for putting on free cups of tea and coffee, as well as some biscuits, every Weds afternoon over the winter. Please look out for the weekly venues as they will be alternating between the pubs.

On a similar theme if you, or anyone you know, are struggling to pay for fuel the Citizens Advice Bureau can offer support; please contact them on 01392 879233 or email fuelvouchers@ruraldevoncab.org.uk

We have a new Road Warden! Rob Flatt has kindly volunteered for this position and will be assisted by Paul Uglow and Ern Wardle. They have to undergo training through DCC soon, so you won't see them out filling in potholes just yet. Please note that they are not replacing the work done by DCC Highways; they won't be working on any of the main roads and are there to help with the more minor parts of the network. Nevertheless we are extremely grateful to them for stepping forward. I hope to have more on this in a future edition of Focus, including how to report issues to them. In the meantime please continue reporting any potholes and other defects on the DCC website at www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem

Finally Ann Parkinson has been joined by another volunteer, Felicity Cashmore, to help tend the flower beds in Leigh Gardens; they may be looking for more volunteers in the spring and more will follow on their progress in coming Focus editions. The PC also heard from another volunteer, Harriet Lampard, who will establish a verge of wild flowers near to The Glebe entrance in the spring. This will be a trial to see if we can increase the bio-diversity of the grassed areas around the village and we look forward to enjoying the results next year.

ANDREW FOSTER
Thorverton Parish Council



Free tea, coffee, biscuits and games in a warm and friendly community environment.

WINTER WARMTH IN THORVERTON IS BEING GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY BOTH THE EXETER INN AND THE THORVERTON ARMS.

STARTING ON WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER IN THE EXETER INN THEN ALTERNATING WEEKLY BETWEEN BOTH PUBS.

2.30PM - 4.30PM

A ll Welcome
NO ADDITIONAL PURCHASE REQUIRED

SPONSORED BY THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

THORVERTON

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL

The November Big Breakfast was so busy that the breakfasts nearly ran out! Our amazing kitchen team made it work and then magically produced delicious soup and cheese scones, so nobody went hungry, but we're sorry if anyone was disappointed.



Join us for a Big Breakfast
and TMH Saturday Market



Saturday 9th December

We'll make sure there's plenty for everyone at the next **Big Breakfast on 9 December from 9.30 to 11 am** when you can buy those special presents from our talented stallholders at the **Craft Fair** on at the same time. The winners of the draw at the last Big Breakfast were Maggie Harrison, Tim Collins and Sue Bonner.

Father Christmas has been in touch and says he's going to be at the **Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on Sunday 3rd December, 6.00pm at the Jubilee Green**, and then he'll come to the **Memorial Hall for more tree lighting and carols**. Father Christmas is particularly looking forward to the sweets, mince pies and mulled wine, which he'll share with everyone.

There's exciting news for Bingo fans! You won't want to miss the **Christmas Bingo on Friday 8th December in the hall at 7.00 pm**. Thanks to a very generous sponsor it will be our best ever, with **top cash prizes, including flyers at £50 and £100!!**

Xmas
BINGO!

Thorverton Memorial Hall
Friday 8 December Bar
Door opens 7pm Eyes Down 7.30pm

Then at **Film Night on Friday 15th December** we'll be showing **'What's love got to do with it'**. It stars Lily James and Shazad Latif and is an enjoyable heart-warming rom-com – just right for the time of year!

And finally, as if all that wasn't enough, we're hosting a very special event on **Saturday 20th January**. Ace disc-spinner DJ **A Bigger Hammer** of Timepiece and Exeter University will be doing a **children's disco from 5 – 7pm and one for adults from 8 – 11pm**. This top-of-the-range DJ (aka Jim) has recently moved to Thorverton and says "come and tell me what you want to dance to – I have everything from quickstep to dubstep!"

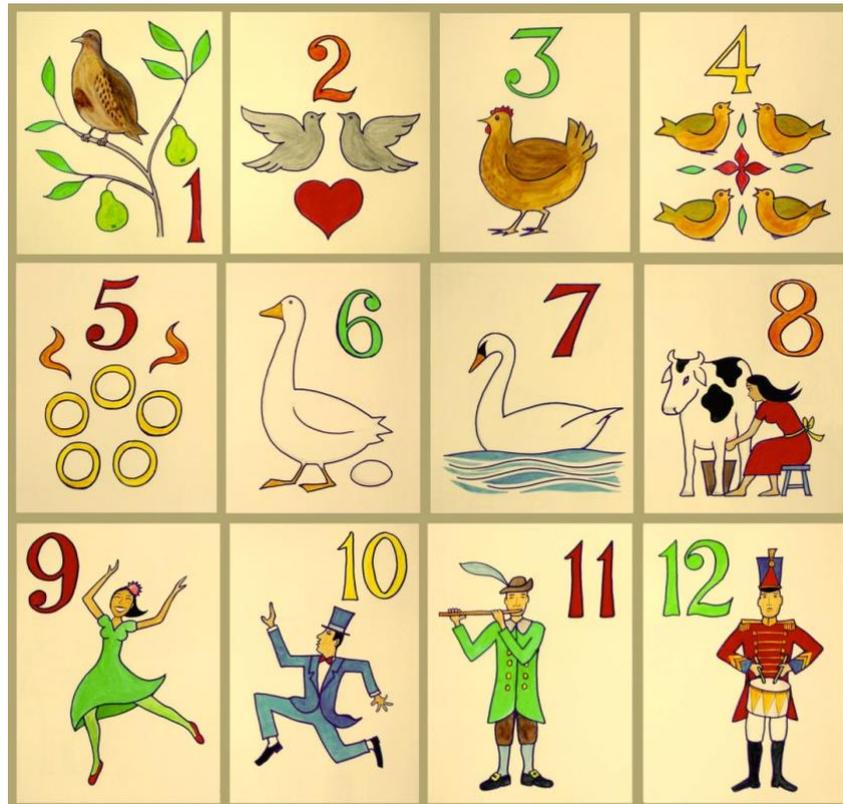
A very Happy Christmas everyone! From all at TMH.



For enquiries about booking the hall, just drop us an email
thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com



TADS presents
twelve days of
CHRISTMAS



An evening of festive poetry, prose and music,
 including a Nativity play for grown-ups written by
 Revd. Tim Collins, plus a little surprise...

Thorverton Church
7 pm Friday 22nd Dec

Entrance on the door with proceeds to
 Thorverton Parish Church and TADS

Suggested donation £10 to include interval refreshments

LEt's GO

Build the Christmas Story!

LEGO CLUB

**Sunday 10th December
at 4 o'clock**



in Newton St. Cyres Church

followed by the Christmas story, carols and Christmassy refreshments at 5pm

All ages very much welcome. Do please join for one or both of these festive events.

For more information, please contact:
Revd Tim Collins 01392 860767 tim.collins@netherexe.org

MILLENNIUM GREEN

We have several jobs in the Green which require some active help. Our present Trustees, although willing, are short of the required strength. Are YOU able to help with lifting concrete slabs onto our trolley to relocate them on the Green?

Please contact John Spivey 861324 if you can help.

LUCY'S LARDER

For those in the local community
with difficulty accessing food and other items.

BRING SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER!

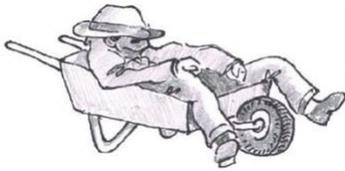
**CHRISTMAS DONATIONS WELCOMED
FOR THE FOOD AND NON-FOOD BOXES
DURING THIS TIME**

Please leave in the boxes or pass to Peter Colebrook
Tel: 0751 4561406

Payments and 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



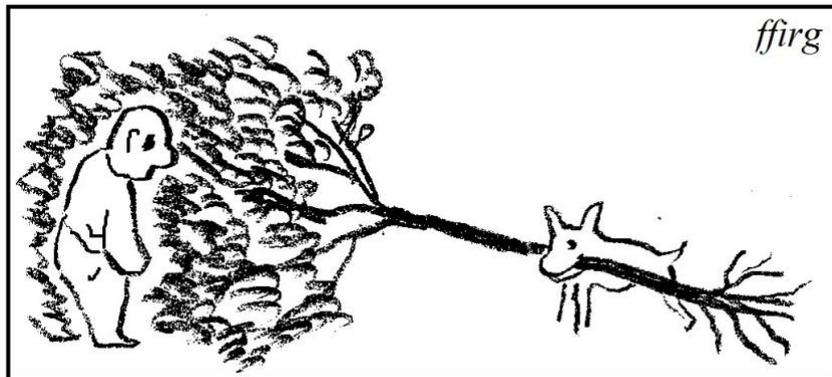
Rewe and District Gardening Club

at Rewe Village Hall opposite the Church
Free car park by the Church

The Club looks forward to a delicious Christmas dinner at the Stoke Canon Inn. Normal activities will re-commence in February and we look forward to welcoming any interested gardeners to join our club.

Visitors fee £1

Information: mandsgriffin4@gmail.com





PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR DEC 23 / JAN 24

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.

Wed 6 Dec	Dr Pereira Grey and Dr Kate Sidaway-Lee PhD	Seeing the same doctor: does it make a difference? Continuity of doctor care can be defined as repeated consultations, over time, between a patient and a particular doctor. This talk, postponed from 2020, will cover the potential benefits of continuity of care, to patients, doctors and the NHS as a whole. Potential adverse effects and whether continuity is possible in modern general practice will also be discussed.
Wed 13 Dec	TBC	Musical Christmas-related event - details to follow.
Wed 20 Dec	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Christmas break</i>
Wed 27 Dec	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Christmas break</i>
Wednesday 3 January 2024	<i>Dr Todd Gray</i>	<i>Exeter's Lost Buildings: Destruction from 1800 to 1899</i> <i>Dr Todd Gray will make a welcome return to the Forum to talk about the loss of the city's historic buildings in the 1800s, and the main reasons for this loss.</i>
Wednesday 10 January 2024	<i>John Walters</i>	<i>Wildlife of Devon from Shore to Moor</i> <i>Renowned wildlife photographer John will show the rich variety of wildlife in Devon through his photos.</i>
Wednesday 17 January 2024	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Exeter Forum Annual Lunch.</i>
Wednesday 24 January 2024	<i>Joanne Yarwood</i>	<i>Vaccinations – their history, value and current provisions</i> <i>Joanne will draw on her experience as National Immunisation Manager, Public Health England, to give an overview of the history and significance of vaccinations.</i>
Wednesday 31 January 2024	<i>Lucilla Phelps</i>	<i>Fine Art photography</i> <i>Lucilla was principal photographer of Sotheby's auctioneer. She will talk about the photography for the huge and amazing castle auctions in Germany and France and about photographing the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's possessions in Paris for auction in New York. She will bring some example catalogues.</i>



Financial assistance for Thorvertonians

Can the Leonard Trust assist you or your organisation with a small grant?

Since it was set up 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 for educational travel, Lucy's Larder and to Clubs and the Primary School for various purposes.

If you could benefit in this way, please contact the

Trust Secretary, Elspeth Holmes, Drill House, Lynch Road, Thorverton.

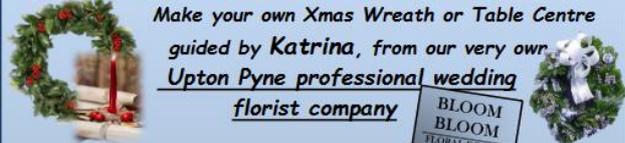
Email: Elspeth.holmes@btinternet.com

Tel: 01392 860535

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

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

Monday 4th Dec 10am at the VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



Make your own Xmas Wreath or Table Centre guided by *Katrina*, from our very own Upton Pyne professional wedding florist company

BLOOM
BLOOM
FLORAL DESIGN

A ready mossed 12 inch ring & wire for fixing foliage, plus ribbon for bows will be provided. These rings can be made into either a wreath or a table centre, and you will be asked to bring your own foliage or decorations. I feel sure that some of us with larger gardens will be happy to help out with fir or holly if needed.

The tutorial will last for an hour & half at a cost of £10 pp. We would ask for you to reserve and pay for your place by Saturday 25th November

You are welcome to join us for these events, further details and bookings to be made with June on 01392 841272.

Mon 15th Jan 2024 @ 3pm

GARDEN CLUB A G M

Please join us, we welcome guests

The meeting is followed by refreshments then a talk on **THE ISLAND OF CRETE** by **TIM ELLIS**



DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS!!

**SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 2024 at
7.30pm**

**NEWTON ST CYRES PARISH HALL
EX5 5BW**

TICKETS £28 (Doors 7pm) Unreserved seating

Available from Nicola 01392 851985 or Pete exeterfolkclub@outlook.com and 01392 210983

Cash Bar & Raffle

Organised by Newton St Cyres Parish Hall and Exeter Folk Club

THORVERTON CO-OPERATIVE TRUST LTD
supporting
THORVERTON COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

December 2023

We look forward to providing you with many of your Christmas essentials and, on the Post Office side, continuing to serve your postal and banking needs. We now have in stock charity card packs, lots of wrapping paper, gift bags, labels etc. plus posting and packaging materials.

Our business relies on your custom throughout the year though. We sell newspapers and magazines every day and lots of other useful things. Please support us whenever you can. Maybe subscribe to a new newspaper and/or magazine in the New Year?

Our TCT shop is mostly run and managed by volunteers and is supported by annual subscriptions from local residents, so, if you haven't signed up and paid your £10 per person per annum yet, then please contact me or ask in the post office for a form or more info.

If you'd like to become one of our volunteer helpers, either regularly or occasionally, you would be most welcome. Just get in touch.

We'd like to say a **big thank-you** to our Sunday helper Amelie Isaac who has been with us for over 3 years. She is leaving us at Christmas and will be much missed. I'm sure our regular Sunday customers in particular will wish to say their goodbyes during the next couple of weeks.

That leaves us with a **vacancy for two hours on Sunday mornings**. It's not an arduous job but needs a responsible, reliable person who is always able to get up early on Sundays! If you know someone who would appreciate two hours' worth of pocket money, then please let us know. We're looking for someone 15 years old or over. It's a good way to get to know some of the local customers and be useful to the village, helping to keep our shop open and maintaining the post office here. We have quite a few Sunday newspaper customers so need to keep serving them reliably.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to you all.

Heather Kershaw Chair and Membership Secretary TCT Ltd 01392 860419

heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk or heatherpkershaw@gmail.com

Thorverton PO 01392 860455

Thorverton & District History Society



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

There is no meeting in December, we start the New Year on Jan 26th. at 7:30pm in Thorverton WI Hut with the AGM and two talks: 'Thorverton Walking Trail Guide' and 'Metal Detection.'

the
mortgage
shop



EQUITY RELEASE

UNLOCK TAX FREE CASH!

- * CONSOLIDATE OUTSTANDING DEBT
- * REPAY YOUR MORTGAGE
- * HOME IMPROVEMENTS
- * HELP YOUR FAMILY
- * OPTIONS OF VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS
- * FRIENDLY, LOCAL, EXPERT ADVICE
- * NO OBLIGATION CONSULTATION
- * MEMBER OF EQUITY RELEASE COUNCIL

Call Us For An Informal Chat On... 01392 666 270

We offer a comprehensive range of Equity Release products from across the market. Think carefully before securing other debts against your home. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or any other debt secured against it. All loans are subject to status. Ask for a personalised illustration. You may be required to pay a broker fee depending upon the type of mortgage recommended. Registered in England and Wales 3110231 – Registered Office: Sommerville House, 30 Southernhay East, Exeter, Devon EX1 1NS. The Mortgage Shop is a trading name of The Mortgage Shop (Exeter) Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FRN 302305 Check that this mortgage will meet your needs if you want to move or sell your home or want your family to inherit it. If you are in any doubt, seek independent advice.

www.themortgage-shop.co.uk

Berry Dairy

**THORVERTON
GENERAL STORES**

Re-established 2016

Welcome and pop in for...

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

THORVERTON POST OFFICE & TCT LTD NEWSAGENT/STATIONERS

your local bank

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

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

Charity Christmas cards + other Christmas stock available NOW.

TCT Shop

Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.30
(closed 1.00 - 2.00)
Sat 8.00 - 12.00
Sun 8.30 - 10.30
Bank Hols 8.30 - 9.30

Post Office

Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.30
(closed 1.00 - 2.00)
Sat 9.00 - **12.00**
Sun & Bank Hols closed



Free tea, coffee, biscuits and games in a warm and friendly community environment.

WINTER WARMTH IN THORVERTON IS BEING GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY BOTH THE EXETER INN AND THE THORVERTON ARMS.

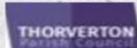
STARTING ON WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER IN THE EXETER INN THEN ALTERNATING WEEKLY BETWEEN BOTH PUBS.

2.30PM - 4.30PM

All Welcome

NO ADDITIONAL PURCHASE REQUIRED

SPONSORED BY
THORVERTON PARISH
COUNCIL



SERVICES & INFORMATION DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

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

Please see our website at www.netherexe.org under "Services" section.

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

Sunday 3 December Advent 1

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Thorverton	JD
10:00 am	Advent/Toy Service	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
10:30 am	Coffee & Chat	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Cadbury	TC
06:30 pm	Prayer Service	Brampford Speke	TC

Tuesday 5 December

09:00 am	Chattertots Nativity	Thorverton	Lay Led
----------	----------------------	------------	---------

Sunday 10 December Advent 2

09:30 am	Morning Prayer	Thorverton	Lay Led
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	GC
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Rewe	TC
04:00 pm	Lego Club Carols & Nativity	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led

Saturday 16 December

03:00 pm	Christingle Service	Rewe	Lay Led
----------	---------------------	------	---------

Sunday 17 December Advent 3

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Brampford Speke	GC
09:00 am	Bubble Church breakfast*	Thorverton	Lay Fed
09:30 am	Bubble Church*	Thorverton	TC/Lay Led
11:00 am	Baptism Service	Thorverton	TC
03:00 pm	Nativity Pageant	Upton Pyne	Lay Led
05:00 pm	Carol Service	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
05:30 pm	Carol Service	Huxham	Lay Led
06:30 pm	Carol Service	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
06:30 pm	Carol Service	Cadbury	Lay Led/TC

Monday 18 December

07:00 pm	Candlelight Carol Service	Netherexe	Lay Led
----------	---------------------------	-----------	---------

Tuesday 19 December

06:30 pm	Carol Service	Brampford Speke	TC
----------	---------------	-----------------	----

Thursday 21 December

06:30 pm	Service of Readings & Carols	Thorverton	Lay Led
----------	------------------------------	------------	---------

Saturday 23 December

04:00 pm	Crib Service	Thorverton	Lay Led
----------	--------------	------------	---------

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve Advent 4

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
09:30 am	Morning Prayer	Thorverton	Lay Led
04:00 pm	Crib Service	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
06:00 pm	Carol Service	Rewe	Lay Led/TC
11:00 pm	Holy Communion	Stoke Canon	TC

Monday 25 December Christmas Day

09:30 am	Family Service & Holy Communion	Thorverton	TC
10:00 am	Christmas Service	Brampford Speke	GC
10:00 am	Christmas Service	Cadbury	Lay Led
11:00 am	Christmas Service	Huxham	LF

Sunday 31 December Christmas 1

10:30 am	Mission Community Service with Holy Communion	Rewe	TC
----------	---	------	----

Sunday 7 January Christmas 2

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Thorverton	JD
10:00 am	Informal Gathering	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Cadbury	Lay Led

Sunday 14 January Epiphany & Plough Sunday

10:30 am	Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	GC
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Rewe	TC

Sunday 21 January Epiphany 2

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

Sunday 28 January Epiphany 3

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
----------	----------------	-----------------	----

Evening Prayer: Every Tuesday 6:00 pm in Rewe Church

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

TC	Revd Tim Collins	JD	Revd Julia Dallen
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 [Emeritus Lay Minister]	TBC	To be confirmed.

Revd Tim Collins [Priest in charge] Tel: 01392 860767 tim.collins@netherexe.org

*For more information about the new Bubble Church service and any of our other services in the Netherexe Parishes please see www.netherexe.org or contact:

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

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

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

THORVERTON CHURCH: MUSIC

The choir usually sings at services twice a month. We have weekly Thursday evening practices in Thorverton Church from 7.45 – 9.00pm. We sing a wide range of music.

We have instrumentalists accompanying some services and often need a few more. The music is usually hymns and worship songs, not too challenging!

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

Dec 3rd Communion service : **9.30am**

Dec 21st Carol service : **6.30pm**

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

We will also be singing CAROLS at

- the tree lightings on **Dec 3rd : 6.00pm** on The Jubilee Green and **6.15pm** by the Memorial Hall AND
- on **Thu Dec 14th : 9.00pm** at The Thorverton Arms

Do come to join us.

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



Thursday Dec 21st 6.30pm

Everyone is very welcome to join us for our

***SERVICE of READINGS
and CAROLS***

at Thorverton Parish Church

*candlelight, Bible readings, prayer, carols for all
and music sung by*

Thorverton Church Christmas Choir



Warming refreshments will be served after the service.

Please bring your family, friends and neighbours.

THORVERTON CHURCH

*An invitation for everyone
to join Mary & Joseph,
the angels, shepherds, wise
men and animals in
welcoming Jesus at our*

CRIB SERVICE

Saturday 23rd December 4pm

*Come dressed as one of the characters
or dress up when you arrive...*

Refreshments will be served.



Looking Back to Christmas

Advent.

A time of quiet anticipation and excitement. Of waiting. Of counting down the days. Little children (and not so little adults!) asking those perennial questions:

How many sleeps left?

When can we put the tree up?

When can we decorate the house?

Have I been naughty or nice?

What will Father Christmas bring?

And as the days of December flash by, the excitement just builds and builds. Advent windows opened; decorations made. It is such an amazing time of the year – even if the anticipation and the waiting seem interminable.

Once upon a time, many years ago, I was that little child, waiting in eager anticipation – not always patiently, and definitely not aware of all the work that Christmas entailed for mum and dad, as they tried to contain the ‘pop bottles’ that were five very excited and excitable boys. We’d be set the task of writing and re-writing out our lists for Father Christmas; and eventually each and every one of us diligently and carefully sending them up the chimney, as the fire crackled in the hearth.

The smells of Christmas wafting through the house, as mum made the Christmas cake and the Christmas pudding. Five little boys pushing and shoving and wanting to be the one who gets to lick the spoon! And all those little family rituals and customs that develop over time – they all seem perfectly normal within the family, but probably just a little weird to those outside!

Now I am sitting back a bit and watching our three young grandchildren gradually getting more and more excited as their understanding and awareness of Christmas grows; as their families settle on their own customs and rituals – some old, some new...

And I also sit and wonder whether Mary and Joseph had their own annual customs and rituals around the anniversary of the birth of their first-born. Perhaps they told each other the story of their own encounter with the angel, of their journey together from Nazareth to Bethlehem; told of the deep anxiety of finding a place to stay just as the baby was due. And celebrated the joy and wonder of a little boy asleep in the crib. And more and more as Jesus grows, he re-lives it with them, encouraging, urging his parents to tell him again and again about the joy-filled shepherds crammed into the cattle stall; of angels and wise men and their gifts – and still trying to work out what it all meant! But knowing that at the heart of it all – of Christmases past and present, and of those to come - that the anticipation, the waiting is definitely worth it!

And so, I pray that your Advent and Christmas be filled with all the anticipation, excitement, joy and love of Christ.

All blessings, Tim

Revd Tim Collins,

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community

Ruler of the World

We are now in December, only a few weeks from Christmas, and it is entirely appropriate that Christian believers all over the world should take the time to reflect on the birth of their Saviour. That birth took place in a well-defined historical period, that of the Roman Empire, in the first century AD. The gospel writer Luke informs his readers that: 'In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.' (Luke 2:1).

'Caesar Augustus.' Every Roman emperor took the name 'Caesar' as a homage to the great Julius Caesar. The title has survived to the present day in the Russian form of Tsar and the German Kaiser. As for 'Augustus,' it was an honorific title bestowed upon him by the Roman Senate and means something like 'Revered One.' The man we now know as Caesar Augustus bore neither of these names in his childhood and youth. In fact, nothing predestined him to become the most powerful man in the Mediterranean world, nor to wield that power for over 40 years. Nothing, that is, except that he was the grandson of the sister of Julius Caesar, who in 44 BC had been proclaimed by the Senate dictator for life.

This accession of Julius Caesar to supreme authority was the last straw for several dozens of his former friends and colleagues, who had grown increasingly nervous and resentful as he had taken upon himself more and more power. They formed a plot and assassinated the dictator during a session of the Senate on the Ides of March 44BC.

The conspiracy can reasonably be described as one of the worst organised in world history. The plotters had only one aim in mind - to get rid of the tyrant. They seemed to have given hardly any thought to what would happen afterwards, other than a vague hope that Cicero, who was present when the assassination took place but not part of the plot, would somehow spearhead a movement to restore the glory days of the Republic. In fact, panic and chaos broke out. Then it was revealed that in his will Julius Caesar had not only adopted his eighteen-year-old great-nephew Octavian as his son, but appointed him as his heir. With breathtaking chutzpah - he had no wealth, backing or political influence other than membership of Caesar's family - the young man proceeded to make his way to Rome and claim his inheritance.

Not surprisingly, Octavian received a frosty reception from various of Caesar's battle-hardened veterans, notably Mark Antony, 20 years older than the young pretender and now in charge of Rome as consul. In

addition to his intimacy with Caesar, built up during their many years of campaigning together in Gaul, the aristocratic background of which Antony was so proud, gave him a huge sense of entitlement. Antony's attitude towards Caesar's putative heir was condescending; he sneeringly referred to him as 'the boy.'

But in the power-struggle which followed, 'the boy' proved more than a match for his rival and in time revealed the single-minded ruthlessness that enabled him to triumph over his rivals. Years of bloody struggles culminated in the Battle of Actium (31 AD), in which Antony abjectly fled in the wake of Cleopatra's fleet before the forces of Agrippa, Octavian's trusted friend and lieutenant, infinitely more experienced in seamanship than Antony. With his rival now in thrall to Cleopatra and far from Rome in the Alexandrian court of the Egyptian Queen, the way was at last open for Octavian to claim his rights as Julius Caesar's heir and accede to supreme power.

However, Octavian was careful not to adopt a title such as 'dictator' which his great-uncle had aspired to. Nor was 'Emperor' a fitting description of the impression he wished to give. Instead, Octavian chose the innocuous-sounding *princeps*, or 'first citizen,' as his title. It was the beginning of a long-standing conjuring trick that Augustus was to play on the people of Rome, the Senate and the Empire.

The populace was little troubled by the change of regime. They had loved Julius Caesar and were prepared to give an affectionate allegiance to his great-nephew and heir provided that Juvenal's dictum of 'bread and circuses,' or, more meaningfully, 'the dole and public games,' was duly followed. They had little political power, could not by their vote bring about meaningful change as modern democracies can, and as long as their basic needs were met, they could be relied upon not to trouble public order.

As for the Senate, they went along with the new ruler and the new order. The more Augustus claimed to be restoring the Republic and maintaining ancestral institutions, the more they pretended to believe him and go along with his claims. So the elaborate charade continued for decades until gradually any hope of going back to republican times faded away and was replaced by (fairly) benevolent one-man rule. Because of what lived on in the collective memory concerning experiences under the kings hundreds of years previously, the term *rex* continued to be anathema, but the concept of kingly rule was there in veiled form. It was just that the various parties preferred to close their eyes to it.

In the wider Roman world also, the new regime won general favour. This was mainly because of the peaceful conditions it brought with it. After almost a hundred years of intermittent war and civil strife, Rome's peoples were at peace, thanks to Augustus. Men and women who all their lives had known nothing but conflicts and violence could now enjoy calm and tranquillity. No wonder they were grateful, and that gratitude was focused on the man who was the author of the *Pax Romana*: Augustus. Many inhabitants of the Empire acclaimed Augustus as Saviour of the World, and indeed the inscription *Salvator Mundi* was widespread at the time. Poets such as Virgil and Horace sang the Saviour's praises and celebrated the dawn of a new age.

However, these new decades of the Roman Peace brought in by the policies of Augustus had been preceded by many Roman Wars. The Romans did indeed bring peace, but it was at a cost. However, in time Augustus proved to be the archetypal young man of violence transformed into latter elder statesman, rejoicing at being awarded the title Father of the Nation. When Jesus was born in an obscure village in the most turbulent province of the Empire, Augustus had been in power for some 30 years. In a text which still exists today inscribed in bronze on a temple in Ankara, giving a list of his achievements, Augustus refers to various censuses he organised in his lifetime. One of these brought Joseph and Mary to the latter's ancestral home in Bethlehem of Judea where he was required by the terms of the census to register.

Unusually for such a man and such an epoch, Augustus lived to be almost 77 and died peacefully in his bed. With a last farewell to Livia, his wife of over 50 years, at his bedside, and an invitation to the friends summoned to his presence that they should applaud him if they esteemed he had played his role well in the comedy of life, he slipped away. 'Thus,' wrote Suetonius, 'he had the good fortune to die easily and as he had always wished.'

Augustus was a towering figure in Roman history, to be regarded by future generations as the first in the long

line of emperors, a king in all but name. Indeed, his choice of first citizen' to describe himself, studiously avoided every connotation of regal vocabulary. But in fact, he was very much like a Tudor monarch of an age yet to come, one who could be at times vindictive, ruthless and autocratic. He was truly a giant among men, and his successor Tiberius did not relish the task of assuming his step-father's mantle.

After this potted biography of the Emperor Augustus we return to Luke's narrative simply to make two points : firstly, Luke does not refer to the ruler of the Roman world in order to vaunt his authority or to praise him in any way. The great Augustus is used simply as a reference point in order to introduce the coming into the world of a royal personage who was to prove infinitely greater than Augustus and whose subjects were to relate to him in an entirely different way. This is Luke's manner of procedure throughout his work. He mentions two other emperors, Tiberius and Claudius, by name, and refers to a third, Nero, the ruler to whom Paul makes his celebrated appeal as a Roman citizen. Other Roman luminaries are mentioned, but only insofar as they become part of the sweep of his narrative or their roles impinge upon it, and never for themselves or their achievements.

Secondly, Luke's narrative is a grand illustration of Paul's statement in Galatians 4:4 : 'When the time had fully come, God sent his son...'. Bible scholars and ancient historians are united in their confirmation that when the Christ-child was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the time had indeed 'fully come' and never was there a more auspicious occasion or period of peace for that birth to take place than at that Roman census-time presided over by the elder statesman who had brought peace to the world. This occasion had a divine providence hovering over it. And so...

'Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the day of this mortal life, in which thy son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility...'

Maurice Harrison (Revd)

WI Report for November 2023

The gathering this month began with a short business meeting followed by a games afternoon. It was decided to have a group activity although a variety of other games were available. Beetle was the chosen game, which most members had played previously. The afternoon proved quite noisy, with much frustration being experienced when a six on the dice seemed to elude a player to hilarity when sixes would follow one another when not needed!

The artistic talents were second to none!! A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Dates to Note:

Tuesday, 5th December – Christmas Tea Party with Magician Jude Coram

Saturday, 16th December – WI Coffee Morning and Market, note this is the third Saturday not the usual 4th Saturday in the month, 10 o'clock to about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut.

Tuesday, 2nd January – Late Christmas Lunch.

Saturday, 27th January – WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock till about 11 o'clock in the WI Market

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



The Royal British Legion Quiz nights

The RBL Quiz nights held at the Thorverton Arms on Wednesday 1st November and the Exeter Inn a week later on the 8th, were very well supported with a really good friendly and relaxed atmosphere. At both venues there were 4 rounds of 12 questions. The subjects were General Knowledge, Films, Sport and Music, and also a prepared quiz paper about Thorverton and Devon worth 20 points for the teams to answer during the duration of the night.

The quiz at the Thorverton Arms was sponsored by Sam & Nic Fice of Energy Systems. Twelve teams competed for a maximum of 68 points - the winning team with a total of 48 points were the "INTRAVENOUS DRIPS", second place with 47 points were the "SCRAMBLED EGGHEADS" and third place with 46 points were "JAMBSCI". The first prize for the draw was a two-course Sunday roast dinner for two people at the Thorverton Arms which was kindly donated by Mandy & Steve of the Arms. This was won by Matt Cox the landlord of the Exeter Inn, which produced a very loud cheer and lots of laughter. During the evening, Mandy & Steve laid on food for all the teams and the Thorverton RBL branch held a port toast for His Majesty King Charles III.

On the 8th, a packed-out Exeter Inn enjoyed the second quiz night sponsored by the "Old Boys" of the Thorverton Wheelers And Touring Society - Ken Holmes, Colin Wardle, Jeff Garne, Neville Matthews, Paul Uglow, Rob Flatt, Martin Rogers and Alex Fice. Again, twelve teams competed for the 68 points on offer. The winning team with 56 points were "SMARTY PINTS", in second place for the second week running just one point behind with 55 points were the "SCRAMBLED EGGHEADS" and third place with 54 points were "WHEELERS & TOURERS". The first prize for the draw was a two-course Sunday roast dinner for two at the Exeter Inn kindly sponsored by Matt & Rick Cox of the Exeter. This was won unbelievably and with a lot of laughter by Mandy the landlady of the Arms - a reverse of last week's draw. Food was served during the evening by Matt & Rick and a Thorverton RBL port toast was made to His Majesty King Charles III. A fabulous, combined total of £550 was raised from both quizzes for the Poppy Appeal and Branch funds. The Thorverton branch would like to thank Lewis Jones our wonderful quiz master, all the sponsors and both Mandy & Steve and Matt & Rick and all the staff for their help in making it so successful and enjoyable and of course a big thank you to everyone who supported the quizzes.

A. Fice Thorverton RBL.

Thorverton Carnival - 1912

111 years ago, Thorverton Carnival took place on Wednesday the 6th of November 1912, in aid of the RD&E Hospital Eye Infirmary and Exeter Dispensary. A Grand Torchlight Procession started from the Recreation ground at 7pm and proceeded along the main streets of the village. Large crowds had flocked in from neighbouring villages and by train from Exeter and Tiverton. Music was provided by the Thorverton Brass Band and two Bands from Silverton.

There were around fifteen 'Tableaux', with lots of mounted riders and walkers in costume. The best Tableau was won by the "Water Nymphs" comprising of Misses A. Rickard, E. Edworthy, F. Marshall, C. Uglow, K. Cummings and Lora and Lily Ash. Many people will know K. Cummings (she is sat in the centre of the picture) as Mrs Kathleen Hill. She became the third generation of Postmasters (Cummings) in the Old Post Office. She retired in 1994 aged 90. Mrs Hill died in 2001 aged 97 years old and had lived all her life in the Old Post Office house. *A. Fice*



Christmas Recipe

Pickled Red Cabbage

This is quick to prepare and makes a tasty addition to Christmas meals.

You need:

A red cabbage, salt, vinegar [malt and balsamic], brown sugar, bay leaf, peppercorns, and juniper berries, if liked.

Remove any blemished leaves from the cabbage, cut into quarters and cut out the tough white core. Shred the cabbage as finely as you can, place in a bowl layering with salt. Cover the bowl and leave overnight. Next day drain the salted cabbage and rinse thoroughly under cold running water. Pack the drained cabbage into sterilised storage jars and cover with a mixture of balsamic and malt vinegar, a teaspoon of brown sugar to each jar, a bay leaf, peppercorns, and juniper berries. Seal the jars.

The cabbage will be ready to eat in about two weeks.

Paul Cleave

Thorverton Cricket Club

December 2023 Update



The club were honoured to have been invited to lay a wreath at the village memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Annual General Meeting

The club's annual general meeting took place on Monday 27th November at Rewe Social Club.

The officers of the club were elected and a successful year rounded off. Initial plans were also shared for a proposed new pavilion - there will be more to come on this in the New Year!

New 3rd Team for 2024

We are pleased to announce that we have entered a 3rd XI for the 2024 season. The team will play their home Saturday fixtures at Clyst Hydon CC with the hope of some Sunday fixtures at The Station Ground.

If you are interested in playing, whether you are new or returning to the game we would love to hear from you, all abilities welcome!

Get in touch by emailing seniors@thorvertoncricketclub.co.uk

We need your help! – Volunteer and be part of TCC

We are on the look-out for more volunteers at the club in a range of roles, including:

Grounds Maintenance – jobs around the club such as painting and strimming – be part of the grounds team that make the Station Ground look so good!

Junior Coaching – support our thriving junior section - we can put you through an accredited coaching course over the winter.

Bar/Catering – we are always in need of more volunteers to be behind the bar or helping with food on busy match days and junior nights.

We have some big plans for 2024...

- Launching a new 3rd XI – interested in getting back into cricket or giving it a go? Our new 3rd XI would be the perfect place.
- Planning for a new pavilion – we will be looking for public consultation ahead of submitting for planning permission.
- Starting a girls' cricket section alongside our thriving women's section.
- Fundraisers – we hope to run a number of fundraisers open to the whole village.

If you can help with any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing seniors@thorvertoncricketclub.co.uk

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!

Alex Jopling

FOOTBALL MEMORIES



they are, from left to right, Barry Park, Brian Langabeer, Pete Colman, Geoff Bulley and Colin Manley.

Alex Fice's delightful piece, 'Thorverton Schoolchildren on the Exe Valley Railway', in the October 2023 issue of Focus prompted me to search out this image taken in 1970 during a football match at Tiverton between Heathcoat and Thorverton. Specifically, the prompt was the inclusion of Alex, Barry Park and Brian Langabeer in the photograph of the 18 'railway children'.

The match venue was Heathcoat's temporary pitch behind Tiverton Town's Ladysmead ground, adjacent to the River Exe. During this period the two clubs had a number of former Tivvy Town players such as Vic Andrews, Colin Manley and Charlie Andrews for Thorverton, and Stuart Southcott, Mike Cridge and Sammy Kingdom for Heathcoat. Oh, and if you're curious as to the identities of the five players shown,



Brian Langabeer (Thorverton, dark shirts) brushes off a tackle from Heathcoat's Stuart Southcott in Saturday's match which Thorverton won 5-2. Dave Perrem and Alex Fice each scored two and Dave Pointing got the other for Thorverton.

Heathcoat off on the wrong foot

HEATHCOAT 2, THORVERTON 5

BROKEN L MATCH O

The Thorverton B-1 ton affair was abandoned 79 minutes after the 1 ton centre-forward was hospital with a broken result of a collision Thorverton 'keeper Coombe

Thorverton were 3-0 half-time, Mike Treble, Evans, and Hollister having scored. But Puc who only had ten m

The story of this particular match is shown by the two images taken from an album compiled by Alex Fice from reports in the Tiverton Gazette. Clearly, the scoreline followed the usual pattern of results between the two clubs but they were always keenly contested. The

HEATHCOAT 2, THORVERTON 5

HEATHCOAT started on the wrong foot against Thorverton on Saturday and were a goal down before all their players had taken the field. Thorverton went on to an easy 5-2 victory.

Even without four of their regular first-teamers, Thorverton were much the better side for an hour, and then, when at last Heathcoat found some rhythm, Thorverton were too far in front to be caught. Lethargic Heathcoat were four behind at half-time Alex Fice hit two and the others came from Dave Perrem and Dave Pointing, and Thorverton made it a nap hand through a Dave Perrem penalty

HITTING BACK

A more determined Heathcoat hit back with a Sammy Kingdom goal and started to give the Thorverton defence a hectic time. But Larry Legg had a goal disallowed and they could only pull back to 5-2 with Geoff Bulley converting a Legg pass near time.

Thorverton players are kitted out in the lighter coloured shirts (ignore the caption below) while, for those with colour vision, Heathcoat's kit was all navy blue with the numbers not on their shirts but on the left leg of their shorts. Perhaps not the best idea but there was no VAR then either.

Geoff Bulley

SKY AT NIGHT

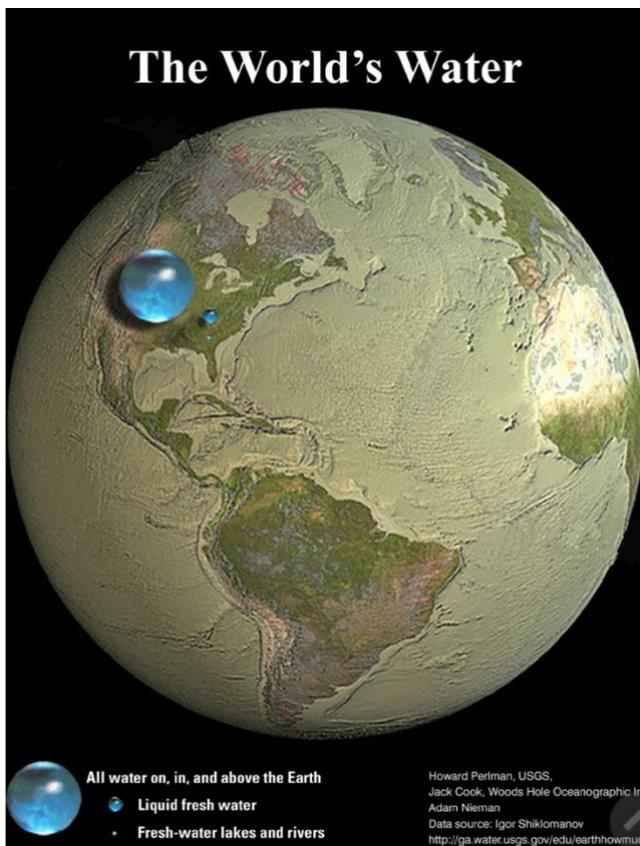
December 2023

Watch out for the meteor showers

The Geminids are usually the strongest meteor shower of the year and enthusiasts are certain to circle December 13 and 14 on their calendars. This is the one major shower that provides good activity after 10pm and meteors are often bright and intensely coloured.

...and not a drop to drink?

We've all been told how important water is as the basis for life. Most of it is out there in Space and aside from Hydrogen, it's likely to be the most significant molecule in the Universe. But of course, there's some here doing its job. Helping to form clouds that recycle pure water. It supports our fishes and their ecosystems. It buffers the heat arising from global warming. It even absorbs excess CO₂. There's a debate about how it came to be here. Clearly, the asteroids and comets, bearers of ice, did plenty of skinny-dipping into our growing oceans aeons ago. But some think that more water was actually bound up within the earliest rocks that formed our primordial Earth. Like meteorites, rocks in the mantle also contain a lot of oxygen bound up with minerals, which can be liberated under certain circumstances, and combine with similarly freed-up hydrogen to form water - H₂O. This happens in magma; molten rock containing dissolved water rises from the mantle to the surface in volcanoes. As the pressure drops, the water vaporises and explodes into the atmosphere as steam, which later condenses, falling back to Earth to fill our rivers and oceans.



A cursory look at a diagram (fig.1 Credit: USGS/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) of our Earth alongside the water of our oceans (large droplet) and land water (small droplet) shows how little water is there compared to the rocky mantle underneath.

The icy continents of our North and South poles contain about 75% of Earth's freshwater. Melting ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica have the potential to raise global sea levels by 23 and 187 feet respectively!

Apart from rain, rivers and seas, where else are familiar sources of water? Clouds are a useful model. Filled by millions of minute water droplets they also contain tiny ice crystals as well as growing snowflakes. Finally, they contain water vapour, the gaseous form of water.

These three forms, solid, liquid and gas are held in delicate balance. Any perturbations will result in rain or snow, otherwise the cloud might 'melt away'! The gas, water vapour, we don't really appreciate as it's invisible. (Steam is a casual name for mixtures of dense water vapour and tiny aerosol droplets of suspended water). Small amounts of water vapour help to warm Earth, making it more habitable.

The processes that formed our solar system a little over 4.5 billion years ago helped to distribute ices. Beyond the gas giants, the distant Kuiper belt and much further away Oort cloud play host to the leftovers of solar system formation, bearing small icy rocky bodies and icy comets. The Kuiper belt is home to most of the objects that astronomers generally accept as dwarf planets: Orcus, Pluto, Haumea, Quaoar and Makemake. Some of the Solar System's moons, such as Neptune's Triton and Saturn's Phoebe, may have originated in this region.

The Universe. Hydrogen and oxygen are very present in space. Since the ground-breaking work of Cecilia Payne in 1925 (she was never awarded her due Nobel prize) Hydrogen is known to comprise 75% of the stars and the cloudy nebulae of the Universe whilst oxygen is to be found in the remnants of exploded, old stars. Over the past 30 years, water has been discovered almost everywhere in Space. But from where does the water emanate you ask? It might come as a surprise, but water in space is formed with the help of comets and volcanoes. The tail of a comet is nothing but the result of the evaporation of ice from the nucleus' surface due to the influence of the solar wind. On large moons like those of Saturn, there are a lot of active volcanoes, and the geyser-like spume from them rises very high. At those altitudes, the vapour freezes into ice and is simply carried away.

There is a mind-boggling, giant cloud, suspended in space as water vapour, located nearly 12 billion light years away from Earth, surrounding a black hole quasar, a massive cosmic body. It weighs more than 40 billion times the weight of Earth! And we don't like cloudy days?!

Exoplanets. This is not the first time space water has been discovered. For starters, there is plenty of water in the Milky Way galaxy, but there is a catch. The water of the Milky Way is frozen. Wait, where is this water located? Water is present on exoplanets i.e. planets beyond our solar system. Exoplanets were found in the year 1992. Ever since their discovery, scientists have been keen on finding whether life could be sustained on these planets. A recent analysis by NASA's Kepler Space Telescope and ESA's Gaia satellite shows that these exoplanets are 50% water. This observation was made by an astronomer from Harvard University called Li Zeng. He observed that water is the major component, earning them the name 'water worlds'.

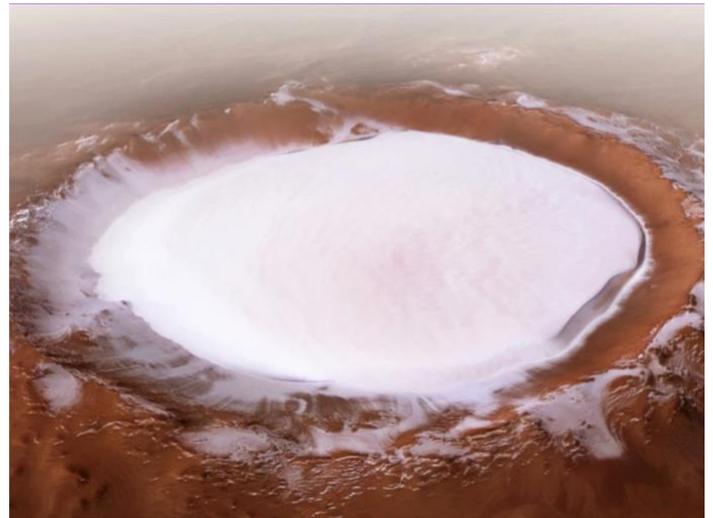


Our Solar System. Water exists on most planets in the Solar System: Mars, Venus, Neptune, Uranus, in the rings of Saturn and Jupiter, on many satellite moons, including the Moon. Significantly, ice deposits have been discovered on the Moon and Mars, meaning rocket fuel can be obtained from this ice. The main components of the chemical propellants modern rockets are powered by are oxygen and hydrogen. These constitute water and can be extracted from it by electrolysis, powered by energy from the Sun. Early Mars had a climate that was warmer and wetter than today; its atmosphere was thicker and water flowed across the surface. Mars may even have had oceans, frankly, much like Earth. As the interior of Mars cooled, volcanism declined and the atmosphere of Mars began to thin. Today's atmosphere is made mainly of carbon dioxide, even so it's incredibly thin. This and its distance from the sun, mean that Mars is very cold.

Its temperatures range between -125 to -5 degrees C, well under the freezing point of water and also cold enough to freeze carbon dioxide.

Because of the low atmospheric pressure and temperature, liquid water at the surface of Mars would evaporate into water vapour. So what happened to all that water that used to be on the surface of Mars? Some did evaporate into space. But much remains, frozen under the surface and also in the polar ice caps (see fig.2, ESA). Mars has water ice! In 2018, at the South pole of Mars, under a layer of ice, scientists discovered a huge underground lake of liquid water. See also the Korolev crater filled with water-ice (fig.3, ESA). Mars also has another type of ice - carbon dioxide ice, which is familiar to us as the theatrical "dry ice" and literally snows on the icy poles each winter.

Martian ice can be an excellent building material. The Mars Ice Home project is an inflatable dome surrounded by a shell of water ice. The ice will protect Martian pioneers from radiation, and the walls of the house will be translucent, which will allow part of the light to create natural lighting. Also, the water stored inside the shell will be used later to produce rocket fuel.



Other local planets and some of their moons have variously contained ices of water, ammonia, even methane and carbon dioxide. Vital as stepping stones through the Solar System, each water-yielding planet or moon, can serve as a service station for rockets, manned and unmanned, replenishing fuel and drinking supplies. The developments in use of energy and production of pure water will reap monumental benefits much closer to home than these exotic orbs.

Peter Hargood

THORVERTON VILLAGE ADVENT WINDOW TRAIL



last year's Amazing windows from trail...

The first window will be revealed in the centre of the village on 1st December.

To take part: Make sure you have a trail passport from the Post Office.

Find a new window each day until 24th Dec and stamp your passport.

Collect a small Christmas gift by bringing your completed passport to our

Christmas Day Family Service in the church at 9.30am

or Thorverton Post Office by 7th January.

Have fun!

Suggested donation of £2 towards the upkeep of Thorverton Parish Church

Thorverton Primary School Armistice

Friday 10th 2pm at the War Memorial

On Friday the 10th of November at 1.45pm the Thorverton Primary School children & teachers assembled in the playground and marched to the War Memorial for the School Armistice Service, headed by Florence carrying the Union flag. The Revd Tim Collins conducted the service which started at 2pm with a welcome and a poem for the fallen. Two school pupils, Charlie & Bonnie, read the Thorverton Roll of Honour, and afterwards the "Last Post" was sounded, followed by a two-minute silence and then Reveille. The school laid four class wreaths - the wreath layers were class 1 Marliyah and Henry, class 2 Jackson, class 3 Phillipa and class 4 Tarla. The year six pupils then laid 22 small wooden crosses for the number of fallen, and Isaac read the Kohima Epitaph. Revd Collins finished the service with a prayer for peace, the National Anthem and the Grace and dismissal. The RBL Standard was carried by Alex Fice. A shower of rain had started at the beginning of the service but didn't dampen the proceedings. The school children were again just brilliant. Thank you to Mr. Holding the head master and of course Revd Collins. Afterwards several people enjoyed coffee, tea and biscuits at the Thorverton Arms, generously sponsored by Mandy and Steve of the Arms.



RBL Armistice 11am 11th November 2023

The Royal British Legion commemorated Armistice at 11am at the War Memorial. The short service was taken by Laura Ford who started with a poem for the fallen. The Roll of Honour for Thorverton was then read by Matt Cox. James Meredith sounded the last post, followed by the National two-minute silence and then Reveille. The Royal British Legion Standard was lowered and raised by Alex Fice. The minister finished the service with the Kohima Epitaph, a prayer for peace, the Grace and dismissal. The event was very well attended and several people enjoyed refreshments again at the Thorverton Arms kindly sponsored by Mandy and Steve.

The Thorverton Royal British Legion team of Robb Flatt, Dom Carbines, Sam & Alex Fice have continued to voluntarily cut the grass and maintain the upkeep of the Jubilee green and to keep the brook area clean and tidy. The four stone troughs has had new compost and been replanted with winter pansies and spring tulips, maintained by Penny Fice.

Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday Service

A Combined Remembrance Service with Cadbury took place at 10am on the 12th of November at Thorverton Church. The service was officiated by Laura Ford, the choirs of both Thorverton and Cadbury were in attendance. During the service bible readings were read by Mike Shelton and Rhys Roberts and a poem called "One Thousand men are Walking" was read by Stephanie Shelton. A Church collection was taken by John Hodge, Rob Flatt, Rick Cox and Felicity Cashmore for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The Anthem "We Will Remember Them" was superbly sung by the Choirs. At the end of the service while the Processional Hymn was being sung everyone started to proceed outside to the War Memorial. At the War Memorial the Minister started proceedings at four minutes to 11am.

The Thorverton Roll of Honour was read by Ivor Banks and Cadbury by Gail Walley. Afterwards the Last Post was sounded by James Meredith followed by the National two-minute silence and then Reveille, the RBL Standard and the Union Flag were lowered and raised by Alex Fice and Matt Cox. Six wreaths were laid - the Football club by Paul Webb, Cricket Club Nic Fice & Charlie Andrews, Parish Council Andrew Foster, The WI Sue Maguire, Cadbury Dave Walley and the Royal British Legion Felicity Cashmore. The National Anthem and the Blessing finished the proceedings. A big thankyou to the Thorverton and Cadbury choirs, Heather Kershaw, the flower ladies and to Laura Ford for officiating. It was good to see so many people supporting the Church service and the act of remembrance at the War Memorial, your support is very much appreciated. Our special thanks to Matt and Rick Cox for generously sponsoring and providing a ploughman's buffet for everyone to enjoy at the Exeter Inn afterwards.



The small Remembrance Garden located just inside the Church entrance gates was created for people to remember their loved ones with the small wooden legion crosses - this has again proved to be very popular. Around the Churchyard a few war graves and family grave stones where the fallen have been remembered are identified with large poppies secured on the head stones.



"The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal" collection tins were distributed to all the local businesses in our area. Jan & Alan Birmingham of Brampford Speke made door to door collections in Brampford and Upton Pyne. Robin Thomas made collections around Raddon, and a special mention should go to Gabriel Flatt who, with the help of his mother Cindy, made and decorated cakes and sold them at the Thorverton November Market. He raised £31 for the Poppy Appeal - well done! The collections totalled £2,245.92p. Add the Thorverton Church collection of £500, plus £400 from the summer cream teas and £400 from the recent quizzes, a combined total of £3,545.92p has been donated to the Poppy Appeal so far this year. Thank you to all the collectors and businesses and of course to everyone who generously contributed during these difficult financial times. A special big thank you to Penny Fice who, after fifteen years of being our local organizer, is giving up - thank you for all your hard work. Jan Birmingham from Brampford has volunteered to take over - well done Jan!

For the Legion to maintain an active village branch we need people just like you to join. You do not have to have served in the Armed Forces to be a member. If you would like to join the Thorverton branch, please contact a member or you can easily join on-line.

A.Fice, Thorverton RBL. Tel. 861136 - srbf@hotmail.co.uk



The Thorverton Arms in the heart of the village!

We are open 7 days a week for food & drink

Opening hours: 12 noon - 11pm every day (late license for events)

We are open on Fridays for breakfasts from 8am - 10.30am

Kitchen hours: Mon - Sat 12 - 3pm & 6 - 9pm

Sunday roasts 12 noon - 3.30pm (booking advised)

Regular weekly / fortnightly / monthly events

- *Mondays: Landlords' Kitchen - homecooked favourites!*
- *Tuesday – Friday: Lunchtimes - smaller appetite menu available.*
- *Tuesdays: Kids eat FREE from the kids' menu with every paying adult.*
- *Open Mic night: Every last Thursday of each month from 8pm.*
- *Fry-up Friday: Breakfasts available from 8am.*

What's happening in December!

Sunday 10th	Christmas bingo 5:30pm (wear something festive)
Thursday 14th	Local choir singers plus Christmas sing-along.
Saturday 16th	Charity band 'Grey on Trays' from 9pm.
Monday 18th	Kids' Christmas meal & visit from Santa!
Thursday 21st	Hospice Care Christmas draw.
Christmas Eve	Sunday lunch roasts / Yorkie wraps/specials TBC.
Christmas Day	Open from 11am -1pm-ish. Free glass of Bucks Fizz.
Boxing Day	Open for breakfast baps & refreshments from 9am. Bar food & snacks available all day/night!
Sunday 31st	Roast dinners as usual. Evening entertainment till late with Local band 'Stay Lucky'! See in the New Year with a Countdown in The Bury!
New Year's Day January 2024	New Year's Day menu - Cold meat platter, mash potato, pigs in blankets, pickled onion, coleslaw & salad (kids' menu also available).



Email: sathorvertonarmsltd@outlook.com

Call: 01392 860205

Website: thorvertonarmsexeter.co.uk

Visit our Thorverton Arms Facebook page






At Twenty Twenty Property, we have a vision to provide genuine service, with an attention to detail, to help with your property needs.

26 FORE STREET
SILVERTON
EX5 4HP

01392 549900
info@twentytwentyproperty.co.uk

 **gilbertstephens**^{LLP}
SOLICITORS

Solicitors
Legal advice for every
chapter in life



Visit our Crediton Office @
1 Westward Business Centre, Mill St, EX17 1HB

 01363 77 55 66  law@gilbertstephens.co.uk
gilbertstephens.co.uk

EXE VALLEY FARM SHOP & RUBY RED CAFÉ



Set in the heart of the Exe Valley,
Supplying fresh, local, traditional and natural products.

Fresh fruit, vegetables, bread, milk and eggs.
The shop has a butchery selling
home reared Red Ruby Devon Beef, Lamb & Pork,
alongside a deli counter
selling a range of wonderful meats, cheeses,
homemade pies and scotch eggs.

Everyday necessities and
an array of gifts and treats for everyone.
The shop also has a variety of country store,
pet and garden essentials.

The Ruby Red Cafe offers a large, seasonally changing menu,
Showing off the farms home reared meats and potatoes,
freshly prepared by our chefs.

Function Room available to hire for meetings or private parties.



www.exevalleyfarmshop.co.uk

Find us...

Just off the A396 between Tiverton and Exeter
Thorverton, Exeter, EX5 5LZ



SHOP OPENING

MONDAY - SATURDAY

8.00AM - 6.00PM

SUNDAY

9.00AM - 4.00PM

CAFÉ OPENING

MONDAY - SATURDAY

BREAKFAST 9.00AM - 11.30AM

LUNCH 12.00PM - 3.30PM

DRINKS & CAKES UNTIL 5.30PM

SUNDAY

BREAKFAST 9.00AM - 11.30AM

LUNCH 12.00PM - 3.00PM

info@exevalleyfarmshop.co.uk

Shop 01392 861239

cafe@exevalleyfarmshop.co.uk

Cafe 01392 861403



ENERGY SYSTEMS

Est. 1984
(SW LTD)

OIL & GAS FIRED HEATING SPECIALISTS



info@energysystems-sw.co.uk www.energysystems-sw.co.uk

OIL & GAS FIRED HEATING SPECIALISTS
BOILER AND SYSTEM MAINTENANCE
AGA & RAYBURN SERVICE ENGINEERS
OIL STORAGE TANKS & HEATING CONTROLS



TEL: (01392) 860558



The West Country is Stags Country

All the knowledge of a local agent with the added benefit of a regional network

- Network of 21 West Country offices and supporting London Office
- Dedicated specialist departments covering all property sectors
- Professional and enthusiastic staff providing a quality service
- Experienced teams with extensive knowledge of their local areas
- Support at every step of the way, from valuation through to completion



Nick Smith
Associate Partner and Branch Manager
01392 255202
n.smith@stags.co.uk



Emily Gibbons
Associate Partner and Property Sales Valuer
01392 255202
e.gibbons@stags.co.uk



Tess Wigram
Residential Lettings Manager
01392 671598
t.wigram@stags.co.uk



CORNWALL | DEVON | SOMERSET | DORSET | LONDON



Jonathan Wood Veterinary Surgeons.

Mixed animal veterinary practice, with our heart in the community.

We treat your animals as we would our own.

RCVS practice standards accredited

Cat Friendly accredited clinic

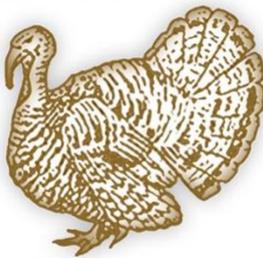
www.jwoodvet.co.uk
hospital@jwoodvet.co.uk

01363 772319

24hr emergency service



Welcome to



EXETER TURKEY FARM

EST. 1940 - HOME OF THE TASTY BIRD!

TRADITIONALLY REARED FREE-RANGE BRONZE TURKEYS AND FREE-RANGE GEESE

Now taking orders for Christmas 2023



Family Run. Free Range.
High Welfare Poultry. Slow Grown.
Dry aged for a fuller flavour and
succulent texture. Oven Ready.

Glebelands Farm, Upton Pyne, Exeter EX5 5JA. Call 07889 825796

Order online at
www.exeterturkeyfarm.co.uk



SEASONED LOGS

September 2022

From sustainable woodland management

Suitable for

OPEN FIRES - WOODBURNERS
CHIMENEAS - FIREPITS

Typical moisture content range 10-25%
Can be tested on delivery.
Supplied loose tipped or in a ventilated bulk bag.

PRICES

FULL LOAD loose tipped approx 2.5m³
ALL HARDWOOD - £180
75% HARDWOOD 25% SOFTWOOD - £180
ALL SOFTWOOD - £170

HALF LOAD loose tipped approx 1.25m³
ALL HARDWOOD - £100
75% HARDWOOD 25% SOFTWOOD - £100
ALL SOFTWOOD - £95

VENTILATED BULK BAG approx 0.625m³
ALL HARDWOOD - £60
75% HARDWOOD 25% SOFTWOOD - £60
ALL SOFTWOOD - £57.50

KINDLING £4 per net when ordered with logs
All prices include delivery and vat @ 5%

Martin Newbery Tel: 07967 219559



WG
IN OUR
COMMUNITY
25 YEARS
1997-2022

THERE'S A LOCAL EXE VALLEY PROPERTY EXPERT WHO CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND ADVICE FOR ALL YOUR PROPERTY NEEDS...

MEET GILES HANN

Living just a couple of miles from Thorverton, Giles Hann has extensive knowledge of the Exe Valley. Giles joined WG in 2006 and has been building long lasting relationships with his clients ever since. He brings an enthusiastic and knowledgeable approach which has helped people sell their homes for over 20 years.

If you are looking for a property expert to help guide you through your next move, call Giles on 01392 427500

WG Wilkinson Grant & Co
www.wilkinsongrant.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL LADY CHIMNEY SWEEP

CHIMNEY SWEEP



JO LEIGH
DEVONWIDE.COM
07827 447342

WOODBURNING STOVES ♦ OPEN FIRES
♦

OIL AND SOLID FUEL AGAS / RAYBURNS

FULLY INSURED PROFESSIONAL SWEEPING AND
WOODBURNER SERVICING

   @DEVONLADYSWEEP




Ed Rogers
ed-rogers.co.uk | 07717 845 184

Services include:
All types of Landscaping, Ground Works, Driveways,
Plant Hire, Paving, Fencing & Decking

Experienced professional landscaping and ground work services for residential and commercial properties across Exeter, Mid and East Devon.

Landscape Construction and Ground Works

Nature Notes

I find November to be a dull month even though we have the spectacle of leaf colour change before leaf drop. That being said, read on to see what's been spotted in November.

On 22nd October I decided for a change to walk to Raddon Top to get a heart and lung work-out and also the pounds are piling on due to the slow-down in physical activity. Along the way Red Admiral and Speckled Wood butterflies were about. Along the ridge I looked at the underside of leaves of Foxglove plants and found several of the tiny rove beetle *Tachyporus hypnorum*. This tapered beetle is black with a red-orange band over its wing cases. I was curious to know what it was doing there and found out that it can be found under leaf rosettes, also in leaf litter, on soil, moss and fungi.

I spent 1st to 4th November visiting my daughter in Aberystwyth. From her 3rd Floor flat windows she pointed out around 7.45 in the mornings Starling murmuring as they left their roost beneath the pier to travel inland for breakfast lunch and dinner! On the 2nd there was the full force of Storm Ciaran and, when I walked to the seafront and turned a corner leaving the buildings behind, I was hit with a wind so strong I could barely stand. There was no point in going any further. The following morning I had an excellent view of a Red Kite as it flew past the bedroom window, an urban bird! I set off for the beach to see what the storm waves had deposited and was delighted to find ten Mermaid's purses, six of which were attached to one piece of seaweed.

I also found a dogfish minus its head. My husband said it is a Lesser Spotted Dogfish that goes by a variety of names including Small-spotted catshark *Scyliorhinus canicula*. The Wildlife Trust website states it is often found washed up on a beach after a storm, so there we are.

The wind was still blowing very strong and, as I walked back along the promenade, I got slapped in the face by a wave breaking over the very high sea wall. That afternoon I walked to the top of Constitution Hill and back, returning along the prom. This was around 4pm and then I spotted murmuring Starlings swirling above the pier. An awful lot of Starlings migrate from the Continent back to England at this time of year and I wonder if some travel as far as Aberystwyth to join the pier roost site?

On 7th November I did a reccy for a forthcoming TARTS walk from Moretonhampstead, taking a path through woodland near Coombe Court, and came across what I thought was an orange-coloured fungus. My sister informed me it is a slime mould called Wolf's Milk or groening's slime. I also saw two dor (dung) beetles at Cranbrook Castle.

I joined a local walk on 11th November and one of the walkers told me he'd seen a Stag Beetle recently in Abbeyford woods near Okehampton - to which I was sceptical - and then he showed me the picture of his wife holding it and I thought it may be a Minotaur beetle not that I'd seen one before. On returning home I looked it up and sure enough it was a male Minotaur beetle - what a splendid find!

Further along the local walk a walker spotted a spider on the road with a bright yellow abdomen. This was a Marbled-orb weaver. Later that evening a local resident said she had also found this species in her greenhouse.

There are two varieties of Marbled-orb weaver, one is marbled all over and the other has a cream or yellow patch and is named *Araneus marmoreus var pyramidatus* and is the more commonly seen.

Weather:

November usually brings frost near the end of the month. I've trawled through a couple of my journals to find what happened in December past and here is a little flavour of what we may or may not get. In 2014 in the night of 28th the temperature plummeted to give a sparkly frost in the morning that lingered



Minotaur beetle - Abbeyford Woods. Photo Chris

and produced ice in the night. The morning of 30th and 31st were also frosty. In Scotland, over the night of 3rd December 2020 snow fell and on 4th people woke to what they thought were explosions but was a phenomenon called thunder snow where thunder sounds different during a snow storm. It set off many car alarms. It snowed in other places including some of Dartmoor. We just had rain here in Thorverton. You may also recall the last day of lockdown was 2nd December 2020 in England but restrictions continued. On that note I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

TARTS news

Thorverton Amblers Ramblers and Trampers
 Saturday 28th October

Eleven TARTS assembled at Lydeard Hill Car Park on the edge of the Quantocks for a circular walk of just under 6 miles. The weather forecast was a little daunting but we were blessed with sunshine and clear views for the first half of the walk.

We were not prepared for the number of cars that had descended on the car park that Saturday. Fortunately a game of 'musical cars' and double



parking solved the problem and after the starters' photo we were off over the heathland of Lydeard Hill with superb views over the Somerset Levels and to the west across to the Brendons and Exmoor, and to the south – to the Blackdown Hills.

After climbing gently to a high point we descended to the woodlands of Bagborough Plantation. We then climbed gently up across the heather and gorse to the triangulation pillar at Wills Neck – the highest point on the Quantocks. We took this opportunity for a coffee stop with such amazing panoramic views.

We carried on past a beautiful avenue of ancient and gnarled beeches which is listed by the National Trust as a 'Drovers Road'.

After a short while we turned left to descend Triscombe Combe, with the terrain getting slightly more muddy the lower we got. The weather started to close in so when we came to a flat grassy area we took the opportunity to stop for lunch. A good call as just as we finished lunch the rain started to fall.

We reached the hamlet of Triscombe where the OS map says there is a pub. Sadly the pub at Triscombe has fallen into a state of disrepair with holes in the thatch. There was a notice on the door to say there is a planning application to turn it into holiday accommodation with a bar.

We continued along the lane for a short time before taking a track leading through woodland and then through a succession of fields to the church of St Pancras at West Bagborough. We couldn't resist the opportunity to have a look around the church which dates from the late middle ages with a fine 15th century tower. The rood screen pays homage to those who fell in the first world war.



Leaving the church behind we walked along to the village of West Bagborough. Reaching the Rising Sun pub with several people standing outside drinking

convivially it was a wrench for some to turn off the road and start the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile climb up an enclosed and very muddy track to reach the height of the Quantock Ridge. Taking some time at the top to regain our breath and strength, we turned right along the ridge for a stroll back to the cars.

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

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



Thorverton History Society

A talk for the Thorverton History Society.

Tombs, Headstones and Graves. How to Read a Cemetery by Charlotte Coles Msc Bsc MCIFA



On Friday the 27th October, despite England playing their final game in the Rugby World Cup, and forthcoming Halloween, we had a splendid attendance to listen to Charlotte's professional and fascinating guide on how to appreciate the resources of our graveyards.

Among her other interests, Charlotte has been working in commercial archaeology for a number of years and has a master's degree in osteoarchaeology, carrying out animal and human bone analysis as well as archiving and reporting other finds. This has provided a treasure trove of information which she was able to share. Tomb markers indicate custom, ritual and practice of internment with all the implications of societal change, village hierarchy and provide a wealth of historical evidence literally under our noses and available to all. Just have a wander through the precincts of our fascinating church of St Thomas of Canterbury.

Charlotte illustrated her talk with a range of visual examples, many local, and walked us through the changing fashions in grave markers, as well as drawing our attention to interesting social changes, legislation and folklore that have influenced the memorialisation of our dead, even reflecting on where the future may lie (see <https://futurism.com/futuristic-funeral-death-die>).

Charlotte concentrated on Christian tradition, where the first known grave markers start to

appear in Roman times. Unfortunately, early wooden structures, as we so often see, rarely

survive but south of Exeter at St Andrew's Church at Kenn (a Saxon Cemetery) illustrated an early prototype where burials respected each other and were aligned east to west. From the eleventh century, stones were used to mark graves and Christian symbols used, although the Reformation swept away many in situ, perceived to be 'Catholic'.

The status of a burial can also be gauged from location. Most highly prized was within the church and especially the chancel. However, being near a path or in the south side away from Satan's influences in the darker north side was definitely to be recommended! Suicides and unbaptised children who could not be interred in consecrated ground resulted in the practice of crossroad burials until midwives were allowed to baptise the unborn and public health considerations changed in the mid-19th century.

Monuments also changed in style and (with the advent of the railways) material, while technological innovation such as heating required family vaults to be rethought and Burial Acts (in the 1950s) prescribed the depth of burials and location (specifically away from water sources). The prohibitive cost of burial in the case of Exeter Catacombs and the danger of exploding lead-lined coffins also changed common practice!

In addition to Charlotte's comprehensive guide to headstones, she also touched on associated folklore such as the presence of a church grim or revenant which could appear as a black dog, as well as the significance of graveyard earth, body-snatchers and the presence of ancient Yew trees. A fascinating talk which allowed many questions from the audience... as well as possibly reassurance!

Our next talk in November will be our last this year before our very social AGM, which I hope will entice you to join us in January 2024. With best wishes from TDHM.

Recorded by Ann Marshall

Thorverton Census 1921 – Final Episode

Some months ago I published in Focus the results of recreating as many details as possible of the recently released 1921 census of Thorverton without spending over £600 on downloading the complete entry for each household from the Find My Past online site.

What could be seen without payment were an alphabetical list by surname with year and place of birth of the 733 people in the parish on the night in question and a numbered list of the 193 houses visited by the census enumerators. Also you could look up any individual on the alphabetical list and see the Christian names of two or three people – but no more than that – in the same house, who might or might not be members of the same family.

Eventually, with concentrated effort, it was possible to work out the separate routes taken by the two enumerators and to attach all but 15 of the 733 residents to the correct household. Ages were already known, and marital status was also available (though I forget how). And all for an outlay of less than £10.

What was missing from this lite-version of the census was the information about people's jobs, their occupations, though in the latter case intelligent guesses could be made about the Heads of the Vicarage, the Schoolhouse, the Station and the several farms. Nor were there clues to who worked in the parish or further afield.

The situation changed about a year later when Find My Past made access to all the original census returns throughout the country available to its subscribers for an additional £29 a year. Now these could all be viewed and even downloaded at will.

At last were revealed the sections where details of employment and its location were recorded. Of some 200 men who provided job titles, more than half were engaged in agriculture: farmers, labourers and (many) horsemen. About 10 worked at E. J. Coombe's Thorverton Mill and another 10 were retired servicemen or active

servicemen on leave. That left only 70 or so, who included a good many local tradesmen and several occupational singletons (e.g., "Clerk in Holy Orders", "Baptist Minister", "traction engine driver", "gardener & rabbit catcher", "gentleman").

Amongst the women in the parish the range of occupations can scarcely have been narrower. "Home Duties" was the description entered for over 160 of them – nothing else. About 20 were domestic servants, some living in their employers' houses and some living at home. There was an initially surprising number of 8 women teachers, who turned out to be three connected with the School here and the four elementary schoolmistresses of Bickleigh, Cadbury, Morebath and Cadeleigh, and the assistant at Upton Pyne, all at home with their parents. Could there have been a half-term holiday that week-end?

Only about a dozen other women worked independently, the most distinctive of whom were the Nurse appointed by the Thorverton District Nursing Association, a private secretary at Gandy St, Exeter, and Mrs Tree, the local newsagent.

Quite the largest "occupational" group in the parish were those in Whole Time Education, almost all, presumably, at school in the village or in Tiverton (names of schools weren't specified in the returns). I counted 177 of these, only two of whom were aged over fourteen, and there were 50 more not yet old enough to be at school. There must have been much more youthful sound and movement about the place than there is nowadays.

Given the existence of the well-established Exe Valley Railway, perhaps the most unexpected finding was that so few adults worked in Exeter or Tiverton. Apart from the private secretary mentioned above, only three were employed in Exeter, an insurance clerk, a GPO telegraphist and somebody who had just lost his job at an iron foundry there. As for Tiverton, a local girl and a visiting friend were apprentices in a shop there and there was a lace-maker at Heathcoat's.

A few other employment locations were mentioned, all but two by visitors or by boarders probably here on business. Two brothers were from a tennis-court firm in Leicester, perhaps building the court at Raddon Court, and there were a painter contractor from Dartmouth, a Ministry of Labour typist from Bristol, and an engineer from Birmingham. The two exceptions were a Milford with his parents and siblings, so not quite a visitor, who was a miner in South Wales, and a commercial traveller living with his family at "Brookside", who maybe did use the train to Exeter or Tiverton in the course of his travelling.

Above all, the sight of the original census returns, completed by the Head of each household, enabled the obvious errors of transcription of names to be examined and (probably) corrected. The great weakness of the Find My Past project was that all the information initially put online, essentially people's names, was based on transcriptions of the content made by hired transcribers, some proportion of whom could not have been native English-speakers and some who were clearly not too bright.

I was impatient to check on some dubious names that I had previously highlighted. As expected, William James Morrish's third forename wasn't Henrietta, it was Henry; and his brother was not Sidney Gladys but Sidney George. Ardulilia Roberts's name had been unfamiliar but made her sound a rather attractive young woman; however, she turned out to be Archibald, a general farm labourer at Yellowford, an Archie who is still remembered by some today. Rosina Jane Bamenfield had had me baffled, since that surname did not exist; it was actually a not uncommon Bampfield.

It was ironic that eight members of the Milford family had been hidden away as Winifreds since the Head, postman James Milford, had entered their name eight times in confident superior handwriting and the enumerator had addressed the back of the form to be filled in to a Mr James Milford whose name could not have been read as anything else. The same enumerator delivered more than twenty forms to houses in Jericho Street, on all of which he wrote that

address quite clearly. Yet these were interpreted as "Gerrick St", "Gericho St" and "Jerrick St", never as "Jericho St".

More than twenty misnamed and misindexed individuals have now been rescued from obscurity. These included Maude Matilda Russell, disguised as Maude Matilda; Winifred May Pinhay, disguised as Winifred May; and P. C. Tancock's family, all disguised as Sancocks. Moreover, there were not 733 individuals here in Thorverton at the time of the census, as listed by Find My Past, but 747. The extra fourteen, too, have been retrieved.

The moral of all this, if any, is that not finding an ancestor in this Census does not mean that he or she is not there. In fact, nearly everybody who is there can be found easily. The collection and presentation of the materials by Find My Past was a considerable achievement. If any reader would like to check whether their own 1921 ancestor, wherever, survived the transcribers, let me know.

Ian Stoye

Inhabit

Architect/Builder

Design proposals	Extensions
Planning applications	Re-modelling
Building Control Applications	Refurbishments
Construction details	New bathrooms
Pricing Documents	New Kitchens

Contact James on 07491 678956

pearsearch@yahoo.co.uk

The Joy of Beachcombing



We have all done it ... there is a certain fascination in looking down when walking along the beach. You never know what you are going to find. Pebble beaches are preferable to just sand. The rounded eroded pebbles are beautiful objects. Especially the pebbles on the North Devon coast where there are thin **white** striations in the smooth grey pebbles. When these are straight lines, you can place the pebbles next to each other to make a continuous extended white line. Or you can arrange the pebbles to make an artwork or installation. Stacking balanced pebbles can be a competition, especially for children.

However the removal of pebbles from beaches has become so common that many councils are imposing fines. **In fact it is illegal to remove any natural item from UK beaches according to the Coast Protection Act 1949.** Also do not remove items which are above the high tide line; these may belong to someone.

Most beachcombers look for shells. You probably have a few (or many) on your bathroom windowsill. I like the following quote from Steven Wright (comedian)...

"I have a large collection of sea shells ... and I keep them on beaches all over the world."

One of the best collections of shells I have seen is inside A La Ronde on the outskirts of Exmouth; here an entire room is covered in shells. Particularly rare shells can be sold for serious money. Cowrie shells **were** money in some societies.

There are arguments about what makes the best beach. Some prefer just golden or white sand which is best for sand castles and digging holes, and easy to walk on unless the sand is really soft when it's good for exercise. And the sand gets everywhere – you know what I mean. Yellow sand is ground rock and white sand is usually fine ground sea-shells. Black sand is found in volcanic areas.

Pebbles are a very different proposition. Large pebbles are very difficult to negotiate. Small pebbles are better. I prefer a mixed beach with fine sand near the water, an area of pebbles of assorted sizes, an area of smooth rocks at suitable height for sitting on and at least one (very clean) stream trickling across the beach. Cliffs with caves add further interest. In addition, to be perfect, there should be no crowds; deserted is best. Beaches like this do exist, even in the UK, notably on the west coast and islands of Scotland. Further south in tropical latitudes, there is the added bonus of warm water. Sand under the water is preferred so you don't stub your toe while swimming.

But, back to beachcombing. Flotsam and jetsam end up close to the high tide line. Seaweed of many different varieties is mixed with fishing equipment; nets, floats, lines and even lobster-



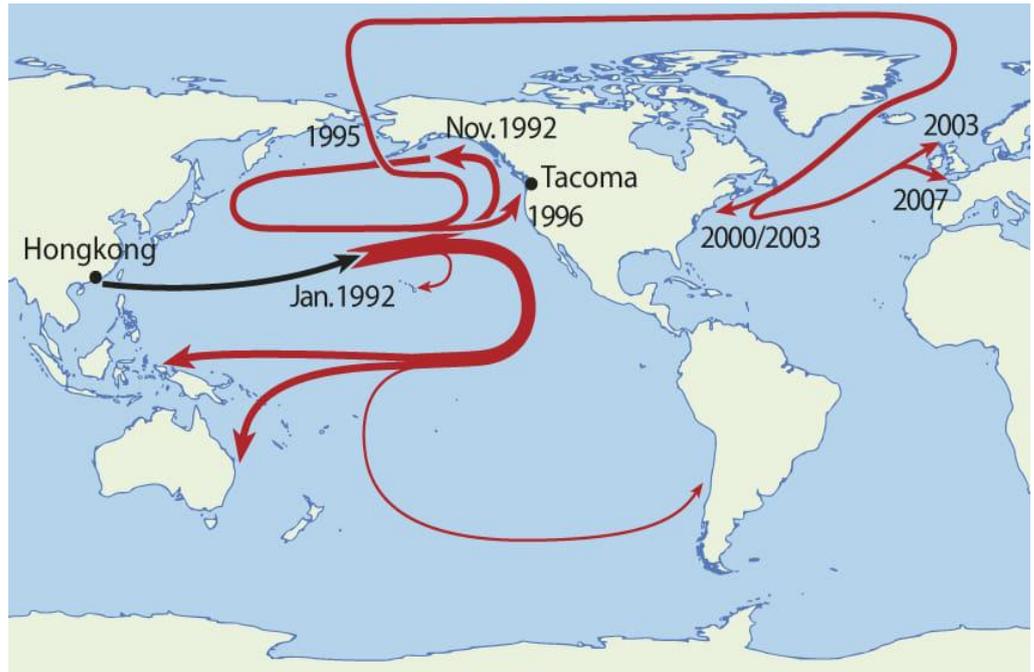
pots. One of the best times for successful collecting is after a big storm as the tide goes down leaving the maximum amount of things to look for.

Following the loss of a shipping container from a cargo ship in 1992, 28,800 yellow rubber ducks, intended for children's bath-time, can still be found on many beaches from Australia to Norway

and Alaska. This map shows where and when they ended up. This data was of great interest to oceanographers plotting ocean currents. We can all probably remember the container washed up on Branscombe beach. Some even managed to acquire motorbikes, etc.

The downside of beach finds is the detritus left by visitors who have neglected to take it with them. Only occasionally do they leave anything worth collecting. Many beaches now have social groups who clean-up the beaches and do a wonderful job. On a recent visit to the beaches in Bude and further south along the Cornish coast towards Tintagel, we found the beaches super-clean. Dogs love the beach, chasing up and down the sand and meeting other dogs. Some dogs delight in fetching sticks out of the breaking waves; some don't and prefer to leave the water where it belongs - in the sea.

There are dangers to be found on the beach. In the UK most jellyfish are fairly harmless but the Portuguese-Man-o'-War can give a nasty sting but not lethal, unlike the Box Jellyfish and Stonefish found in Australia. There is also a pretty cone shell (*conus geographus*) - uninformed collectors have been known to put this in their pocket with disastrous consequences when the occupant injects venom from its tooth. The brown and white striped



lionfish, although not a native, occasionally are found on the UK south coast (notably Chesil Beach) and can give a lethal sting from its dorsal spines.

You may find a message in a bottle. There are lots of stories involving messages being received and sent this way. In 2012, Andrew Leaper, skipper of the Scottish fishing vessel **Copious**, hauled in his net to find a bottle snagged in the rope. When he retrieved it, he discovered it was a 98-year old message in a bottle, sent in 1914. At the time of its discovery, Andrew Leaper's message in a bottle was the oldest ever found.

Sealife leaves interesting evidence on beaches. Mermaid's purses (Shark egg cases) are fairly common. Occasionally we find dead fish and hopefully not dolphin or porpoise strandings (which have to be reported). I have not mentioned rock-pooling which is a topic for another day.

Good luck with your beachcombing. You may be lucky, like me, and find something useful like the Swiss Army knife (covered in sand and barnacles), which I eventually restored to full working order using WD40.

John Spivey

It's The Taking Part that Counts

4 Words, a Film, often watched at Christmas – first word sounds like ...

There are a lot of things we associate with Christmas. Family traditions and childhood memories are strongly embedded in our memories. This is why it is often a mix of a happy celebration that comes paired with thoughts for those we have lost and good times that, for multiple reasons, we can no longer re-enact. Hopefully for everyone the spirit of the holiday season being about giving and sharing will be present somewhere. Looking out for family, friends and neighbours who might be finding it harder this year is an important role for all of us.

One of the common themes shared between all of our Christmases, past and present, will be playing games. As long as the competition does not get too intense (always a risk in our household) then the fun, the sharing, the pure simplicity can be a strong linking and uplifting force. When I was a child there was the perception that games were for children and not adults. However, I suspect there are not many who still believe this. Board games, card games, charades, are all easily accessible as family groups and work across generations.

Playing is now recognised as being extremely important for us as humans. The mental agility and concentration required varies enormously, but the same challenges exist whether completing a simple jigsaw, playing Snakes & Ladders or tackling Mahjong. We are challenging ourselves with problems that require our brains to opt out of automatic function. This is often more enjoyable when shared with others and there is a sense of satisfaction when the puzzle is solved or the competition finishes. It should not matter whether you win or lose, it is the taking part that counts and this is never truer than over the festive period.

Games and community participation are very important in keeping our minds cognitively agile and protecting ourselves against deteriorating memory in later life. An athlete who does not exercise, a musician who does not practise will lose their skills. We need to keep our brains active and challenged; games of any sort are an excellent way of doing this.

Whilst Christmas is an opportunity for playing face to face there is also a multitude of opportunities available on-line. Joan Povey, our Digital Social Prescriber, is now running regular sessions at the Room4U in Silverton to help those who would like help with anything digital. The surgery is going to acquire an iPad that Joan will loan out to those who wish to experiment. So, if you are you 'internet shy' or have a mobile phone, laptop/tablet or iPad that you don't quite know how to use and you would like help to do things online such as shopping, order prescriptions, play games, facetime family, then drop in to Room4U on a Thursday morning. Upcoming dates are December 7th and 14th & January 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. All sessions from 10am - 11am. Please call Joan 07958 190554, or just pop in on a Thursday.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and hope it contains some games that you enjoy playing no matter what age you are.

Dr Anthony O'Brian, Wyndham House Surgery

Exploring Our Local History

A small group of local friendly metal detectorists are looking for Mid Exe Valley farmers or land owners who are happy to discover the rich heritage hidden beneath their land.

Ideally in the areas of Thorverton, Silverton, Nether Exe, Up Exe and Raddon.

Insured and code of conduct through the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD)



O'keefes Cleaning Services

Professional . Friendly . Reliable

Window Cleaning In & Out
Gutters & Fascias
Conservatories & Roofs
Domestic & Commercial
Fully Insured

CALL US TODAY
01392 953017

www.okeefescleaning.co.uk
Est. 1998 Devon & Somerset

P G Plumbing & Heating

www.pgplumbingandheating.co.uk
Little Dunsaller, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5PJ



- Bathrooms
- Central Heating
- OIL Boiler servicing & repairs
- Oil tank replacements
- All types of plumbing work undertaken
- Water leak detection
- Repair/maintenance

Telephone: Peter Goss
01392 860210 or
Mobile: 07701098210



OFTEC
Registered
Technician





St. Boniface Veterinary Clinic



We are a friendly mixed practice with dedicated
Farm, Equine and Small Animal teams.

We aim to offer you a professional and highly skilled service from our
branches in CREDITON and Tedburn St Mary.



For latest news and updates find us on



01363 772860



Visit us online: www.stbonifacevets.co.uk
EXETER ROAD, CREDITON, DEVON, EX17 3BN

Miele

Hotpoint

Lewis's

Electrical appliance sales and repairs.



Ample parking- competitive prices

MON - FRI 8.30AM - 5.30PM SAT 8.30AM - 4PM

HAWKINS WAY LORDS MEADOW CREDITON EX17 1HY

TELEPHONE: 01363 773246

OR VISIT www.euronics.co.uk



THE FRESHEST AND FINEST CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

www.palefarm.com
 (01392) 860364 or 07917824261
 DELIVERY AVAILABLE



Funding from *Focus*

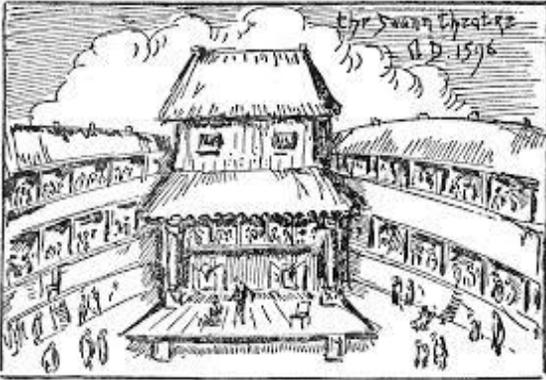
Do you need some assistance with funding?

Focus is in the fortunate position of having some money available, which the *Focus* Committee would like to make available to help village organisations and for the benefit of residents of Thorverton.

The Committee will take into consideration the benefit to the village and what other sources of funding the requester may have.

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

Email: thorvertonfocus@gmail.com



SHAKESPEARE FOR EVERYONE

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

Shakespeare's story opens in the King of Navarre's park, where he and his lords are discussing a highly idealistic project. They wish to retire from the world for three years and dedicate themselves to contemplation and the pursuit of knowledge, instead of enjoyment and the pursuit of young ladies. As the king puts it:

Therefore brave conquerors – for so you are,
That war against your own affections
And the huge army of the world's desires
Our late edict shall strongly stand in force:
Navarre shall be the wonder of the world;
Our court shall be a little academe,
Still and contemplative in living art.

The king and two of his lords are content with the idea, but the liveliest of them all, Berowne, has strenuous objections. He finally agrees to sign a pledge along with the rest and then begins to study some of the special statutes that are designed to keep the court of Navarre pure, virtuous and womanless. He is especially interested in the law that forbids anyone talking to a woman, since, as he points out helpfully, the Princess of France is arriving in Navarre on a diplomatic mission and it will be rather difficult to avoid talking to her. The king relents and Berowne signs with pleasure.

The rule against women is intended to apply to everyone in the court, but word comes that the new law has already been broken. A country boy named

Costard has been seen walking out in the park with a maid named Jacquetta, and he is brought before the king by the local constable. The constable also brings a letter from a Spanish knight named Armado, who saw this sight and was deeply shocked.

Costard's letter is a parody of a certain kind of highly decorative writing that was popular in the days when *Love's Labours Lost* was written. Instead of saying that he went for a walk because he felt sad, Armado writes: "Besieged with cyber-coloured melancholy, I did command the black-oppressing humour to the most wholesome physic of thy health-giving air."

It takes a long time for Armado to explain, in this most elegant and decorative letter, that he lurked in the park at supper time and saw Costard and Jacquetta together. What he does not tell is the real reason for his indignation: he himself is in love with Jacquetta.

Armado is convinced that he is too mighty a soldier to fall in love with a mere country girl, and he has a long chat with his page on the subject. He finally decides that, if Hercules and other men of valour can be overcome by Cupid, the god of love, then it is no disgrace for the great Armado to be overcome also. "Adieu, valour, rust, rapier, be still, drum, for your messenger is in love. Yes, he loveth. Assist me, some extempore god of rhyme, for I am sure I shall turn sonnet."

The conquest of Armado by the God of love is followed by the even more sudden defeat of the king of Navarre and his three lords, for they succumb to the power of Cupid as soon as they meet the Princess of France and her three ladies.

The princess has been obliged to pitch her tent in the King's Park, since the king's oath does not permit him to lodge her in his palace, but he cannot avoid going to pay her a formal diplomatic call. At least, he does his best to keep it formal, but it is only too clear that the king has fallen in love. Berowne for his part attaches himself to a lovely dark-eyed French lady named Rosaline, who teases him while he is with her and calls him a "merry madcap lord" after he departs.

The two other ladies of France look with equal favour on the two remaining lords of Navarre, and it is evident that Armado is not the only one who will be writing love sonnets.

Berowne has never been in love before and he is extremely indignant at his unexpected plight. He has always mocked lovers, and in his opinion wives are like German clocks, never behaving correctly. Moreover, Rosaline is dark and were she an ideal beauty, she would be fair. The whole thing is extremely unjust in Berowne's eyes, and evidently a penance that Cupid has imposed -

For my neglect
Of his mighty dreadful little night.

The whole austere and womanless community of Navarre is now in love, in spite of all the laws that have been made on the subject, and the only person who gains any real advantage from this is Costard.

He is given three farthings by Armado to carry a love letter and a poem to Jaquetta and a shilling by Berowne to carry a similar one to Rosaline. Costard does his best to be helpful but he is not very bright, and when he finds the princess out hunting deer in the park, he gives her the letter that was meant for the country maid.

The local school master also tries his hand at writing poetry and composes a poem on the death of a deer killed by the princess, while the curate and the constable listen in reverential respect.

The schoolmaster, whose name is Holofernes, is extremely proud of his writing ability but tries to be casual about it. "This is a gift that I have, simple, simple; a foolish extravagant spirit, full of forms, figures, shapes, objects, ideas, apprehensions, motions, revolutions... The gift is good in those in whom it is acute and I am thankful for it." This exchange on the art of writing is interrupted by Jaquetta, who has received the letter that was only meant for Rosaline and asks the curate to read it to her.

Berowne has written a sonnet and Holofernes is quite severe about it, since in his opinion it lacks the "elegance, facility and golden cadence" of the best poetry. In any case, the sonnet was clearly not

intended for Jaquetta and he sends her off to give it to the king, then settles down to tell the curate exactly what is wrong with the poem that he so mistakenly admires.

Berowne is now incurably addicted to writing sonnets, and he is carrying a piece of paper around with him in the park when he sees the king approaching. Berowne hastily conceals himself and the love-stricken king betrays his emotions immediately with a melancholy "Ah me." The king, like everyone else, has just composed a sonnet and plans to leave it where the princess will be sure to pick it up.

One of his lords approaches, and with a tact to equal Berowne's the king steps aside and hides himself in a bush. Again a sonnet has been composed for the fair eyes of a lady, and then the fourth lord turns up with an ode. The king rises out of his bush and informs the two false lords that they have broken their oath, and then Berowne comes out of hiding to reveal the king has been writing sonnets too.

Berowne is deeply disappointed in his three friends for falling from grace. "Are you not ashamed?" He is just remarking no-one would ever get him to "write a thing in rhyme" when Jaquetta appears, bearing in her hand the sonnet that he wrote to Rosalind. Berowne tries to tear up the paper but one of the lords alertly finds his name on it, and Berowne has to confess that he is a fellow sinner.

He endures a good deal of teasing on the subject but takes the position that in reality they are all still faithful to their vow. They made an oath to spend three years in study, and the best thing for any young man to study is a woman. So the four of them decide that they will openly woo the young ladies of France, and plan to present revels and entertainments for their delight.

Armado, the Spanish knight, is assigned to work out the show, which, as Armado puts it, is to be presented to the princess in her pavilion "in the posteriors of this day, which the rude multitude call the afternoon."

The lovesick lords have been sending gifts to their ladies – gloves and pearls and poetry – and the ladies

have decided to tease them. They learn that the young gentlemen intend to call on them disguised as Russians, and they decide to put on masks and change their gifts about so that each young man will woo the wrong lady.

The king and his three lords reappear without their disguises, and the king tries to persuade his royal guest to enter the palace. The princess says demurely that she could not possibly agree, since she would be assisting him in breaking his solemn oath. The king suggests that she may be lonely, and the ladies explain no, they have just been visited by some very foolish Russians.

Finally they admit that they know who the Russians are. The lords turn pale, and Rosaline enquires sweetly if they feel seasick, coming so far from Russia. The lords then make the further discovery that each of them has been wooing the wrong lady. They can see now that they are completely forsworn, since all day they have been making promises that none of them have kept.

They also discover that it is better to court a lady in prose and do it honestly than to “woo in rhyme” in the high-flown way they have all been doing. Berowne resolves to give up from that time on all “taffeta phrases, silken terms precise” and he promises Rosaline that he will use only plain, homespun words in making love to her.

Henceforth my wooing mind shall be expressed
 In russet yeas and honest kersey noes:
 And to begin, wench, – so God help me la! –
 My love to thee is sound, sans crack or flaw.

Rosaline points out that “sans” is not a word he should be using under these circumstances, and Berowne sees the love of fantastical phrases is a sickness from which a man can recover only by degrees.

Meanwhile the amateur actors have been anxiously waiting to put on their show, and they finally send Costard to see if the lords and ladies are ready for them. The king does not want them to perform, since he feels that Navarre has already disgraced itself sufficiently without offering the ladies some bad amateur theatricals. Berowne, however, says he would enjoy seeing “one show

worse” than the one he and his three friends have already supplied.

Costard however is convinced that it will be an excellent show, since he has all the witless enthusiasm of a really bad amateur actor. He starts off the proceedings by playing Pompey, an achievement of great difficulty because the audience keeps interrupting him. When he announces that he is Pompey the Big they inform him that he is supposed to be Pompey the Great, and he acknowledges the correction generously and manages to get through these lines with great aplomb. The princess, who is a courteous lady, is very kind to him: “Great thanks, great Pompey,” and he receives her gratitude with a mixture of modesty and pride. “Tis not so much worth, but I hope I was perfect. I made a little fault in ‘Great’.”

The next Worthy is Alexander, who turns out to be the curate. He starts his speech in a mad rush and is interrupted by his unhelpful audience. He starts over again, forgets his lines and stands paralysed until Costard has to push him off the stage. Costard, secure in the magnificence of his own performance, is inclined to be forgiving.

“He is a marvellous good neighbour, faith, and a very good bowler; but for Alexander – alas, you see how ‘tis.”

The next Worthies are Judas Maccabeus and Hercules, played by the schoolmaster and the page. The page is rather small for Hercules, but the amateur actors have solved the problem by presenting Hercules when he was “a babe, a child, a shrimp.” Judas Maccabeus manages to finish only one line of his speech because he descends into an argument with the audience, and when Armado comes on as Hector he has no better luck. Armado argues that the audience should be more gentle with Hector. “The sweet war-man is dead and rotten; sweet chucks, beat not the bones of the buried; when he breathed, he was a man.”

The amateur theatricals break up when Costard and Armando forget the Worthies and get into a fight over Jacquetta, and the audience is hoping for a duel between them when a messenger arrives from the

French court. The news he brings sobers them all up abruptly, for the King of France is dead.

The princess is so heavy-hearted that she cannot imagine why she ever spent her time in laughter and in teasing, and she prepares to go home to France. The four men who will be left behind are really in love, and they make one final promise. During the year in which the princess is in mourning for her father they will retire from the world, and Berowne, the lively mocker, has an extra penance laid upon him. For a year the man who has laughed at so many people will go around to the hospitals and see if he can encourage laughter there, and Berowne is sober enough to accept the challenge.

It is winter now in their spirits, after a short, gay spring, and the amateur actors have a final offering in the shape of a dialogue between the cuckoo and the owl. They present two of the loveliest songs in Shakespeare, the ones he uses to describe a country winter and a country spring.

When daisies pied, and violets blue,
And lady smocks of silver white
And cuckoo buds of yellow hue
Do paint the meadows with delight...

But winter has the final word, with the owl in the snow, and so Shakespeare's little story ends.

Andrew Hoellering



**TMH
CINEMA**

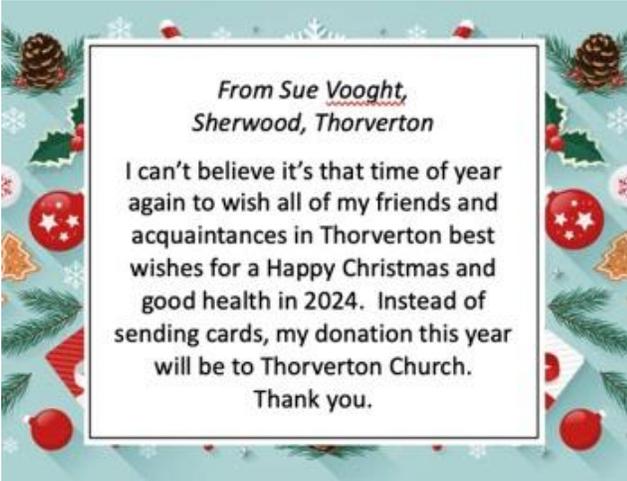
FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER

Doors open 6.45pm
Programme Starts 7.30pm

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

Thorverton Memorial Hall

Book tickets @ thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk



*From Sue Vooght,
Sherwood, Thorverton*

I can't believe it's that time of year again to wish all of my friends and acquaintances in Thorverton best wishes for a Happy Christmas and good health in 2024. Instead of sending cards, my donation this year will be to Thorverton Church.
Thank you.



*From Marjorie Maynard,
3 Bullen Street, Thorverton*

May I wish all my friends and neighbours best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

This year, I am making my donation to Thorverton Church instead of sending cards.
Thank you

Puzzles

I was pleased to hear that my “Connections” puzzle in November’s *Focus* had some of you scratching your heads. I asked you to pair the three-letter words with the appropriate numbers. The secret is to see that the three-letter words are actually all numbers – comprising the first two letters of the first digit and the first letter of the second digit. So, THE is thirty-eight (38), SIN is sixty-nine (69), FOE is forty-eight (48), FIT is fifty-two (52), FIN is fifty-nine (59), TWO is twenty-one (21) and SIT is sixty-two (62).

In the map colouring question, I asked you what was the least number of colours needed to colour a map of counties so that no adjoining counties have the same colour. I am assured that the answer is four although I am sorry that I cannot produce a map to demonstrate why this is the case. If anyone were able to show why four is the maximum number of colours for any such map, I would be very interested in seeing that.

On to this month’s puzzles:

a) Su Doku

I hope that this month’s puzzle is a bit more difficult than some that I have had in *Focus* in recent months, but it can still be solved through logic without recourse to making any wild guesses.

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

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

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.

		>					
			v		v		
	>				>		
		v		^			
	<		4				
	^						
	>				<	3	
	<		<		<		

c) the Birth of Boadicea

Boadicea (commonly “Boudica” or “Boudicca” nowadays, but this old puzzle uses the older spelling) died 129 years after Cleopatra was born. Their combined age (i.e. the combined years of their complete lives) was 100 years. Cleopatra died in 30 BC. When was Boadicea born?

Can you solve this puzzle without using Wikipedia etc?

I wish you a Merry Happy Christmas and, if you come across any good puzzles over the Christmas/New Year period, do send them in to me for inclusion in a future *Focus* puzzle page. In the meantime, happy puzzling.

Neville Lane



BLACKMORE UPHOLSTERY

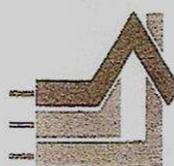
Specialist in Traditional
And Modern Upholstery

We offer a complete restoration and upholstery service for customer's own upholstered furniture with a collection and delivery service

Antiques. 3-piece suites. Dining chairs.
Re-springing. Repairs. City and Guilds Qualified
Over 25 Years experience

Unit B13 Mercury Business Park
Exeter Road
Cullompton
EX5 4BL

Tel: 07747 064326
blackmorem@sky.com
www.upholsteryiverton.co.uk



Holmes Building Contractor
New Build, Extensions and Renovations

Mobile: 07729530876 or Tel: 01392 860535

Email: holmesbuilding@hotmail.com

Website: holmesbuildingcontractor.co.uk

Also
Specialists in Brick & Stonework
Garden Walls and Hard Landscaping
Plastering & Rendering



Blacksmithing & Welding

Repairs and alterations
to gates, furniture and fittings,
railings and any other exterior
or interior metal work.
Quotes and enquiries welcomed.

Telephone: 01392 860241
Mobile: 07892700558
Email: info@grartisticblacksmith.com

BEST CHIMNEY CLEAN Limited

Quillets, Little Johns Cross Hill,
Exeter, Devon,
EX2 9PL
Registered No: 8092617



Jonathan Miles

Office: 01392 254 120 (24hr Answering Service)
m 07500 008 414
e: hello@bestchimneyclean.co.uk
www.bestchimneyclean.co.uk



£25 Gift Voucher

Present this voucher when you book your first MOT with C&R Repairs to receive £25 off your MOT (usual price £54.85, promotional price only £29.85!)

T&C's: New customers only. Voucher is non transferable. One voucher per household. The management reserve the right to amend or remove this promotion at any time. CODE: V12150



MOT TYRES BRAKES WASH SERVICES A/C RECOVERY COURTESY CARS +



WE HAVE EXPANDED!

Our capacity and services have now increased to meet the varying needs of our customers. We now have a NEW Body Workshop & Ultra Powerful Jet Car-Wash



Call us TODAY
01392 860004

C&R REPAIRS LTD, THORVERTON MILL,
EXETER EX5 5LX



BUYING A CAR?

NEED STORAGE?



C&R SALES SW LTD

View our current selection at C&R or online

www.candrsalesw.com

Tel: 01392 860808

We do more than just repairs!



CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS

Tel: 01392 860808

FOR A LOCAL PERSONAL INSURANCE SERVICE

Call our office in **Crediton**
on **01363 775511**



NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

J N Atkins & R K Pym is an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982).



William Withers & Co

Your local business and tax specialist

Some of the services we offer:

- ANNUAL AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS
- PERSONAL TAX RETURNS
- BOOKKEEPING, VAT AND PAYROLL
- TAX PLANNING AND ADVICE
- BUSINESS VALUATIONS AND SALES
- CLOUD ACCOUNTING SPECIALISTS



Quayside House, 5 Highland Terrace, Barrington Street,
Tiverton, EX16 6PT
01884 25 30 30
peterlb@williamwithers.co.uk

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SAPPHIRE

Home Improvements

Carpentry, Kitchen Refurbishments.
All Aspects of building work undertaken.
Double Glazed Windows and Doors.

For Advice and Free Quotation.

Tel Noel Duffy on

01392 861594

Mob 07852979798

Email: noelduffy9@gmail.com

Friendly, honest and careful
Chimney Sweeping Service
 by husband-and-wife team, Ewan & Amy.



Offering:

Powering Sweeping
 Manual Sweeping
 Birds Nest Removal
 Minor Repairs of Wood Burning Stoves

NACS registered and fully insured; they will leave your home spic and span! For a quotation, call, text or WhatsApp [07393536396](tel:07393536396) or email sweep@aandechimney.co.uk

www.aandechimney.co.uk



LUXTON

Digging & Drainage Contractor

Domestic & Commercial
 Groundworks & Driveways
 Septic Tank Installation
 Landscaping & Pond Excavation

07889 879596

stuart@stuartluxton.co.uk

www.stuartluxton.co.uk

Brampford Speke, Exeter

Chris Vicary Dip PFS
Independent Financial Adviser
 CarterDawes IFA Solutions Ltd

Carter Dawes
 IFA Solutions Ltd



Tel: 01404 46943
Mobile: 07823 334073
Email: Chris.Vicary@carterdawes.com
Twitter: @carter_dawes

Registered in England & Wales No 4610768
 Montana House
 130 High Street
 Honiton
 Devon
 EX14 1JP

Justine Mobile Hairdresser

Professional stylist for
 Men, Ladies & Children

Fully qualified in all colouring
 And cutting techniques

Affordable Prices & Senior Discount

All in the comfort of your own home

Fully Insured
 Please call or email to
 book an appointment on

07964 375690

justinepepper88@googlemail.com

Iain Clarke Garden Care



07429462166

iainclarkegardencare@gmail.com

**Grass Cutting
Hedge Trimming
Pruning Shrubs / Small Trees
Planting
Garden Maintenance
Advice**

30 + Years in Horticulture

Exe Valley Pilates



*The Perfect antidote to
21st Century Living*

Want better Posture and to feel healthier? Want to move better, strengthen and tone? Want to feel less sluggish and have more energy? Want to de-stress and feel less anxious?

NEW BEGINNERS PILATES COURSE STARTS:

WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 6-7PM

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL

OTHER CLASSES AVAILABLE SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL
WWW.EXEVALLEYPILATES.CO.UK**

MESSAGE BETH: T 07875 437022 / EXEVALLEYPILATES@GMAIL.COM
to find out more and book a class

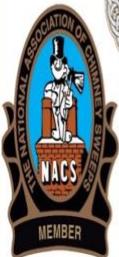
NJB CHIMNEY SWEEPS

EST. 2017

- Polite, friendly & clean service
- Traditional rod, brush & vacuum
 - Modern power sweeping
- Smoke tests & CCTV inspections
- NACS Sweep Certificates issued
- HETAS Landlord Safety Certificates issued
 - Full public liability insurance
 - Professional indemnity insurance

Please contact Noah on 07527041733 or
njbchimneysweep@gmail.com for any
questions or a free quote.

www.njbchimneysweep.com



BESTOES MOBILE FOOT CLINIC

Louise Carr

Foot Health Practitioner

S.A.C.Dip.FHPT, S.A.C.Dip.FHPP
Fully insured and Qualified

Mobile: 07789 426311

Email: carr.louise@hotmail.co.uk

Corns, Callus, Nail Trimming,
Cracked Heels etc...

Cost per treatment £30

Discount rates for group bookings.

Flixx

HAIR & BEAUTY

Wyndham Road, Silverton, EX5 4JZ

01392 861558

Open: Tuesday 9am - 5pm
 Wednesday 9am - 5pm
 Thursday 9am - 7pm
 Friday 9am - 5pm
 Saturday 9am - 1pm

Flixx continues to offer a wide range of Hair and Beauty treatments including:

Gel FX Nail Manicure Spray Tanning Bridal Packages
 Eye Lash Extensions and Lash Lift Gents cuts

Traditional Swedish Massage & Pregnancy Massage
 available Wednesdays 9am - 5pm
 Special rate for Senior Citizens

10% off for all our new clients

We also offer discounted rates for Senior Citizens.



Free parking with disabled access

Search us on Facebook to see our latest offers and available appointments.

Kevin Sussex

PAINTER AND DECORATOR

Tel:

01392 881961

or

07919950222

Postcards of Thorverton

Photos donated by Alex and Sam Fice
 Available from

The Berry Dairy and the Post Office

All proceeds in aid of the
 Thorverton pre-school and
 Thorverton Post Office

Appleyard's

CHIMNEY SWEEPING & SERVICES

REGISTERED MEMBER INSTITUTE of CHIMNEY SWEEPS

FRIENDLY, CLEAN & SAFE SERVICE

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE £5M

INSURANCE CERTIFICATES ISSUED WITH EVERY SWEEP

Chimney Sweeping
 Wood-burning Stoves
 Multi-fuel Stoves
 Open Fires
 Aga/Rayburn
 Gas & Oil Flues



REGISTERED MEMBER

www.instituteofchimneysweeps.co.uk

OTHER SERVICES INCLUDE

Removal of bird nests

Resealing of appliance components

Replacement rope seals, fire cement seals and fire bricks

01884 829464

07868 589525

www.appleyardschimney.co.uk

ALL ASPECTS OF CARPENTRY UNDERTAKEN
 PROFESSIONAL FRIENDLY SERVICE
 FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

S.L. CHANIN & CO.
 CARPENTRY

City & Guilds
 Qualified

Find us on

www.slchanincarpentry.co.uk
 Tel: 01884 855 060 | Mob: 07708975156
 Email: stuart@slchanincarpentry.co.uk

HUDDS APPLIANCE REPAIRS

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS

Covering Tiverton & Surrounding Areas.

25 years experience with Clarkes electrical of Tiverton.

Call now for a first class service at a very reasonable rate.

Call now 07427206560

Domestic appliance repairs

GCSE, A LEVEL and UNIVERSITY COACHING;

CREATIVE WRITING SUPPORT

Help from teacher of over 40 years' experience - university, college and school, TV, books and articles

Former A Level examiner, over 35 years of university examining – undergraduate and postgraduate

ENGLISH, HISTORY, POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY and SOCIOLOGY

GCSE English Language - a speciality

John Kirkaldy,
22 Fore Street, Silverton, EX5 4HP.

Tel: 01392 861423/07970 875601
Email: john.kirkaldy22@gmail.com

Computer Support and Supply Services

- Desktops and laptops supplied, upgraded, mended or prepared for disposal.
- Printers, scanners, networking set up or modified.
- "How to" topics demonstrated, with notes.
- Changeover service to help you move from an old to a new computer, including programs and data.
- Local, friendly, professional, unbiased.

Home visits or remote link-ups, including evenings or weekends, to suit you.

Contact **Ian Gunter** on **01392 851841**

Logs For Sale



£90 for a load

Also can supply bags of kindling £3 per net

**Contact Robert or Dawn on
01363 866319**



Curtains and Gowns

Bespoke



Curtains, Roman Blinds and Soft Furnishings
Dress and gown making service. Also alterations undertaken

Dressmaking and Soft Furnishing Classes

7 or 8 week blocks (some one-day classes)

Held in Silver Street, Thorverton
Mondays and Tuesdays 12-3pm and 7.30-9.30pm

For information call Donna on 01392 860088.

Email: curtainsandgowns@btinternet.com

Anketell Footcare

Claire Bainborough

Dip CFHP. MPSPract.

Mobile 07749 326 483



Foot Health Practitioner

COUNTRYSIDE TREE SERVICES

TEIGNHOLT COTTAGE · HITTISLEIGH · EXETER EX6 6LP

Selena Shaw



Telephone 01647 24340 Mobile 07989 072453
countrysidetreeservices@hotmail.co.uk

Funeral Directors

M. Sillifant & Sons

EXETER'S INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS SINCE 1906



19-20 HOLLOWAY STREET,
ST LEONARD'S, EXETER. EX2 4JD

01392-272688

www.sillifantandsons.co.uk



Pre-Paid Funeral Plans



Adrian Andrews

home & garden maintenance



fencing turfing
garden sheds and raised beds
grass & hedge cutting / laying
paths patios & walls
pressure washing
house exterior maintenance

for a FREE no Obligation Quote

t. 01392 860766

m.07743 969647

all jobs considered

Elite Blinds & Tracks Ltd

MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS OF ALL
TYPES OF WINDOW BLINDS AND DRESSING

FREE ESTIMATES AT HOME OR WORK:
SUPPLY AND FIT: COMPETITIVE PRICES

Roller Blinds, Vertical Blinds, Pleated Blinds,
Hand Sewn Roman Blinds and Curtains.
Motorised options available

A WIDE FABRIC RANGE TO CHOOSE FROM
SOMETHING FOR EVERY OCCASION

Unit A6, Mercury Business Park,
Exeter Road, Exeter EX5 4BL

01392 860141
eliteblindsdevon@btconnect.com

THORVERTON PARISH INFORMATION

AIR AMBULANCE EMERGENCY: QUOTE NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

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

- Carers' Support Group** Anne Higman, Wyndham House Surgery, Silverton, 01392 860034
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
- Electricity** Report a loss of power 0800 6783 105 (replaces 0800 365 900)
- (Western Power)** EDF bill enquiries 0800 365 000, street lights 0800 197 6763
- Gas Emergency** 0800 111999
- Leonard Trust** *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 52 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
Mon–Fri 9:00–1:00, 2:00–5:30; Sat 8:00–12:00 (PO opens 9:00);
Sun 8.30–10:30 (for newspapers only) Business Management Team 01392 860419
Royston Kershaw, Heather Kershaw, Helen Ratcliffe
Chair and Company Secretary: Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- Public Telephone Kiosk** *Opposite the Church, outside the former Bell Inn, Dinneford Street, Thorverton*
- Thorverton C of E Primary School (Part of the Exe Valley Federation)**
Executive Headteacher (Exe Valley Federation): Mr John Jolliffe
Head of School (Thorverton): Mr Chris Holding 01392 860374
School Office (Thorverton) 01392 860374
Chair of Governors (Exe Valley Federation): Jackie Enright 01392 851859
Clerk to the Governors: Mrs Heidi Last hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
- School PTFA** Chair: Wendy Coles Vice chair: Elaine Green Secretary: Amy Crebo
Treasurer: Peter Stevens thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
Please contact any members of the PTFA via the school office 01392 860374
- South West Water** 24 hour emergency 0800 169 1144, helpline 0800 169 1133
- Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust**
Chair: Di Foxford Secretary: Maggie Dunlop 01392 861185
- Thorverton Millennium Green Trust**
Chair: John Spivey 01392 861324 Secretary: Peter Hargood

THORVERTON ORGANISATIONS

Amateur Dramatic Society (TADS)

Chair: Sheena Hunter-Hedges 01392 860843

Treasurer: Simon Hedges

Minutes Secretary: Mary Ette

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

Association Football Club

Chairman: Jorga Wilson 07801 984 462

Secretary and Treasurer: Paul Webb 07944 533372 grecianwebb@blueyonder.co.uk

Bridge Club

Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203 *New members always welcome, no partner needed. Contact Graeme for more information.*

Cricket Club

Chair: Charles Kislingbury 07971 880421

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

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

Focus Magazine

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

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

Secretary: Geoff Bulley, 17 Broadlands, Thorverton

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

History Society

Chair: Richard Pocock 01884 855450

Secretary: Karen Marshall 01392 860831

Ladies' Group

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

Saturday Market

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

Thorverton Pre-School 01392 861707, thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com

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

Thorverton Ambling, Rambling and Tramping Society (TARTS)

Caroline Prince 07749 775304 or Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203

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

TMH Committee

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

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

Bookings: thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com

Website: thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Toddler Group

Liz Armstrong emcarmstrong@outlook.com

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

Royal British Legion

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

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Felicity Cashmore

Women's Institute

Bookings: Sue Maguire 860631

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

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



(formerly New Valley Practice)

Drs. Saunders, Griffiths, Harris, Kirwan and Cook.

Newcombes Crediton EX17 2AR	The Surgery, The Bury Thorverton EX5 5NT	Chiddenbrook, Threshers Crediton EX17 3JJ
--------------------------------	---	--

Main telephone: 01363 727111 Press 2 for direct line to Thorverton Surgery

<https://www.redlandsprimarycare.nhs.uk/>

	Crediton	GPs available	Thorverton	GPs available	Nurses at Thorverton
Monday	08.30 – 18.00	Drs. Harris & Saunders.	08.30 - 13:00	A doctor will be available.	
Tuesday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Cook, Saunders & Harris.	08.30 - 13:00	A doctor will be available.	
Wednesday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Griffiths & Kirwan.	08.30 - 17:00 (closed 1-2pm)	Dr Lesley Weiss	Nurse 08.30 – 13.00
Thursday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Harris, Saunders & Kirwan.	08.30 - 13:00	A doctor will be available	Nurse 08.30 – 17.15
Friday	08.30 – 18.00	Drs. Griffiths, Kirwan & Cook.	08.30 - 13:00	A doctor will be available	

Thorverton surgery dispensary is open at the following times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 08.30 – 18.00 (closed 13.00 – 14.00)

Wednesdays 08.30 – 17.00 (closed 13.00 – 14.00)

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)

To Exeter

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.

To Thorverton

13.35pm from the same stop.

Wednesday and Friday – Country Bus 678
(from Witheridge)

To Exeter

10:09 at The Berry and Broadlands.

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

To Thorverton

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: Dec 11th Jan 3rd (**Wed**) & 22nd

Recycling boxes fortnightly on Mondays: Dec 4th & 18th Jan 3rd (**Wed**) 15th & 29th

Chargeable garden waste fortnightly on Mondays: Dec 11th & 27th (**Wed**) Jan 9th (**Tues**) & 22nd

Mobile Library

Thursdays 3:45–4:30pm in Quarry/Post Office Car Park every 4 weeks to 21st Dec 2023

Road works

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



Bubble Church is a free, puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-croissant-fuelled, 30 minute kids and families adventure.

Here's the deal: you turn up at Thorverton Church for a croissant and a coffee at around 9.15am. Then you'll be guided to a 'bubble', and you and your little ones will share in 30 minutes of song, story, puppets, and prayer.

Book NOW at www.bubblechurch.org
or just turn up on the day!