

focus

on thorverton



FEBRUARY 2024

£1.00

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

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

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

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Mike Stannard

Welcome to the February 2024 Focus.

I was twelve in December 1962 and just before New Year a blizzard swept across the South West of England and Wales. It was driven by gale force easterly winds leaving massive snow drifts more than 20 feet (6.1m) in places and blocking roads and railways. This was a fully-fledged 'Beast from the East' and the snow which fell froze and stayed frozen for all of January and well into February of 1963. This really was a 'Big Freeze'.

It was a great time to be a kid living on the edge of Dartmoor. We carved out blocks of snow and built igloos in the fields around. The family just made the most of the situation; despite not having any central heating, I don't remember feeling desperately cold. An extra pair of socks, a thick jumper and an old coat kept us warm enough to just enjoy playing in the snow. I do remember my dad throwing a couple of stone weights and a few bags of cattle pellets into the boot of the Ford Anglia. With Town and Country tyres on the rear wheels we could go anywhere as well as any 4x4! Journeys into Newton Abbot were just great fun as my brother and I sat in the back and wished for the odd skid or slide.

The freeze lasted practically until March when we then had the inevitable 'Great Thaw' and there was plenty of flooding around in lower areas.

Not that I would want to make light of any of the recent storms we are experiencing, but sometimes I just can't resist thinking 'Call that a big freeze?'

I hope you find this month's magazine interesting as there are a number of new articles for you to enjoy.

Editor

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FEBRUARY

Tues 6 th	WI Meeting and talk WI Hut, 2pm
Sat 10 th	Saturday Market and Big Breakfast, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 9.30-11am
Fri 16 th	TMH Film Night, 'A Haunting In Venice', 7.30pm
Sun 18 th	Bubble Church ,Thorverton Parish Church, 9.15am
Sun 18 th	Choral Evensong, Thorverton Parish Church, 6.30pm
Mon 19 th	Rewe Garden Club, Rewe Village Hall, 2pm
Mon 19 th	Upton Pyne Garden Club Meeting and talk, Upton Pyne Village Hall, 7.30pm
Fri 22 nd	History Society talk ' <i>Black Sam Bellamy</i> ', WI hut 7.30pm
Sat 24 th	WI Coffee morning and Market WI Hut, 10-11am
Sun 25 th	Creative Workshop for Lent Bridge Centre Stoke Canon, 2.30pm

MARCH

Sun 3 rd	Creative Workshops for Lent, Bridge Centre Stoke Canon, 2.30pm
Tues 5 th	WI Meeting and talk WI Hut, 2pm
Sat 9 th	Saturday Market and Big Breakfast, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 9.30-11am
Sun 10 th	Creative Workshops for Lent, Bridge Centre Stoke Canon, 2.30pm
Sun 10 th	' <i>Show Of Hands</i> ', Newton St Cyres Village Hall, 7.30pm
Fri 15 th	TMH Film Night, 'The Great Escaper', 7.30pm
Sun 18 th	Creative Workshops for Lent, Bridge Centre Stoke Canon, 2.30pm
Mon 18 th	Upton Pyne Garden Club Meeting and Talk, Upton Pyne Village Hall ,7.30pm
Sat 23 rd	WI Coffee Morning and Market, WI Hut ,10-11am
Sat 23 rd	Thorverton Cricket Club Quiz and Curry Night, Thorverton Memorial Hall

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EDIT FOCUS?

I will be standing down from the role of Editor at the end of March. I have really enjoyed working on Focus but unfortunately need to devote more time to my family care responsibilities for the foreseeable future. I need to pass the baton onto a new Editor by the 31st March which, hopefully, allow time for a handover period during March.

So, we are looking for anyone who has, with the help of our team of sub-editors and a proof reader, a few hours to communicate with contributors, to piece the Focus together and to submit the finished product for printing in the last week each month.

You will need to be proficient using emails and using Microsoft Word and if you have further computer skills, that would be very helpful.

If you interested and would like to discuss this opportunity please email
Russ Clarke: thorvertonfocus@gmail.com



Letters

VOLUNTEERS.

For some time now I have thought what would Thorverton be like without volunteers who help to make this village a desirable place to live.

I will not name individuals, but the team who put many hours of their time into producing and distributing Focus magazine throughout the year are volunteers.

Then we have the Organisations listed in Focus who keep them running.

What are not listed in Focus are the people who come together when needed e.g. to tidy the Churchyard, tidy the village, look after the Jubilee Green and the Millennium Green, organise street parties. Also, we have the weekly Welcome Cafe, the Defibrillator, and last but not least are the people who deliver the newspapers on a daily basis. All voluntary-run.

What spurred me on to write this was the Christmas light display and Christmas Tree on Jubilee Green and the Thorverton Memorial Hall. They were a delight.

These volunteers by and large go unrecognised and often taken for granted, so I would like to say thank you to past, present, and future volunteers. Three rousing cheers to you all.

I hope I have included everyone but if not you have my apologies.

Mavis Beaumont

The Village Shop (sonnet 2)

To shop or not to shop, that was the quest'n?
Is it better that we should spend at stores
Or give our shop some help and our protect'n,
To keep it open, never shut its doors?

Supermarket voices smooth as honey
Will lure us with their gifts of three for two.
Should we go and give them all our money
Or could we keep our shop for me and you?

Our shop has made it through to '24
But if we want its twinkling lights to last
Think hard, I plead again for sure,
Buy here and nail your colours to the mast.

Our shop still needs your help, you know the score,
Don't let it go, unless we shop no more!

Lorraine Colebrook



THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Update Feb 2024

With Focus not being published in January there is quite a lot of new information for you here regarding the Affordable Housing project, but first I must let you know about the precept that has been set for the 2023-24 financial year.

The precept is the funding your PC receives to make it possible to run; it covers the Clerk's salary, pays for the village handyman and helps to keep the areas we own in good order. Full details of this can be seen on the PC website. In addition to the annual expenses we have reserves that have been set aside for major projects, most significantly the purchase of the new cemetery and for new play equipment at the Rec. The amount held in the reserves has been a talking point for the last few years and the PC has tried to take this into account when setting the precept. We have used some of the reserves in the last few years to hold down the increase in the precept and even in one year, 2022-23, we lowered the figure so that the amount you paid was *less* than the year before.

We again took into account the reserves when we set the precept last year; that increase was just 3%, way below the inflation rate of up to 11% that we were seeing at the time. I'm afraid that we cannot do the same again this year as the general rate of inflation has now caught up with us. The new rate will mean a band 'D' household will be paying £48.89 per year, an increase of £0.58 per month. You will see this begin when you get your annual Council Tax documents from MDCC.

While the Affordable Housing project will dominate affairs for the foreseeable future, the PC still try to keep Thorverton looking at its best; a small example of this will be seen in the spring when one of the grass verges between the Methodist Church and The Glebe will be sown with wild flowers. We set aside up to £100 for this project and Harriet Lampard, from Cleaves

Close, will be planting them soon. We will also be supporting Ann Parkinson and Felicity Cashmore as they continue work on Leigh Gardens.

The work on Barliabins will be going ahead and although we have seen one of the main sponsors of the Rec Ground rejuvenation project withdraw, the group leading this project (a mix of PC members and willing Thorverton volunteers!) tell me that they are working on new sources.

Turning to the Affordable Housing Project I need to point out that while Focus is very worthwhile way of getting information to you all, we are somewhat hampered by the fact that it's a monthly report; when matters are moving quite quickly any updates can be superseded by later events! What I can tell you is that we have formed a new larger group that expands the original TAHG; this group has brought in a consultant who has considerable experience in delivering Affordable Housing projects. He has helped the group set up four sections that will cover Communications, Legal Governance, Technical and Site Procurement and Fund raising.

We have had further meetings with the Church Commission, who are supportive of releasing land at below market rates to projects like ours. We are still looking into other possible sites around the Parish, as you would expect, so that we have back up plans if required.

We will be holding another Open Meeting as it's vital that the whole community gets their chance to be involved. We will be advertising the date for this which may, or may not, be in the next month. This will be well advertised by our use of the new website, www.thorvertonclt.co.uk as well as a new Facebook page (both of which will be live soon) and the usual notice boards and telegraph poles throughout the village!

Andrew Foster
Thorverton Parish Council

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL



After a very busy December, January proved to be quite a busy month too! On top of the regular activities starting after the Christmas break there's been a run of children's birthday parties in recent weeks – the children of Thorverton got in some party practice (and let off a lot of steam!) at the Children's Disco in January which was a lot of fun.

Don't forget Big Breakfast and Saturday market on **10th February**.

The three winners of last month's draw were Mr Ireland, Ann Rawlings and Bryony Coles.

Looking ahead to this month's Film Night on **Friday 15th February**, we have **A Haunting in Venice** being shown, starring Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot. In



post-World War 11 Venice, Poirot, now retired and living in self-imposed exile, reluctantly attends a séance. But when one of the guests is murdered, the former detective must put his grey cells to work one more time to uncover the killer. A murder mystery with a dark and atmospheric tone.

Looking at the TMH Committee we'd **welcome more Trustees** to join our team. Is becoming a Trustee something you might consider? Meetings are once a month on a Thursday evening.

We are also keen to expand our list of **volunteers** – a chance for you to be involved on an ad hoc basis, helping out from time to time with such things as setting up for Film Night and other events. And if you feel like trying your hand at being behind the bar, this is your chance.

If becoming a Trustee or volunteer helper is something you might be interested in, please do get in touch with me, either by email or phone.

Penny Wiles

penny@apwiles.co.uk

07884 312627

LUCY'S LARDER

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

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: 004361Ref: Lucy's
Larder**

MOBILE LIBRARY (*Taken from Devon Libraries web site*)

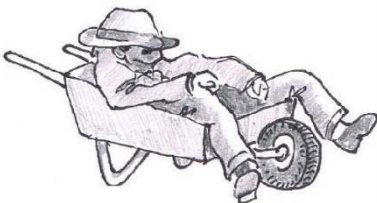
The Devon mobile library service will end on Thursday 29th February 2024.

Devon County Council made the decision to end the service in autumn 2023 and we are now preparing for the end of the service.

We are working with Devon County Council to best support customers through this transition. Each regular mobile library customer will be emailed and telephoned by library staff during January and talked through alternative arrangements to help them continue to access books. These alternatives include our Home Library Service, the Good Neighbours scheme, using our static libraries and our BorrowBox app for digital downloads.

Our mobile library assistants will be updating customers on the regular mobile library stops and will redirect customers to the alternative arrangements.

The County Council has launched a grant fund to support local community library spaces and you can find out more by following this link: Community Library Support Fund - Communities ([devon.gov.uk](https://www.devon.gov.uk))
To find your next mobile library stop please check our 2024 timetables



Rewe and District Gardening Club


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

**At our next meeting on Monday 19th February at 2.30 pm we
have invited Mr Tim Ellis to give us his tips about the successful
growing of vegetables**


Visitors fee £1

Information: mandsgriffin4@gmail.com

Thorverton & District History Society



WANTED



BLACK SAM BELLAMY

Bounty hunters are advised that he may not look like these artists' depictions

ELLY BAINBRIDGE

Will explain all about Devon's own successful and richest Pirate on

Friday 23rd Feb 2023 7:30pm
Thorverton WI Hut.

Imagining the Word

- exploring Lent and Easter through Arts & Crafts

Creative Workshops for Lent for All Ages

Clay
modelling?

"Thou takest the pen - and the lines dance.
Thou takest the flute - and the notes shimmer.
Thou takest the brush - and the colours sing.
So all things have meaning and beauty
in that space beyond where Thou art."

Dag Hammarskjöld, *Markings*

Create a Collage?

Sunday 25th February

Sunday 3rd March

Sunday 10th March

Sunday 17th March

Painting?

2.30pm - 4pm(sh)

at

The Bridge Centre, Stoke Canon

All Welcome - anytime, just drop-in
Refreshments Provided

Sing a new song for
Easter?

For more information contact Revd Tim Collins:

01392 860767/tim.collins@netherexe.org

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





Leonard Trust

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
CONTACT June 01392 841272



Monday February 19th @ 7.30pm
Our speaker for the evening will be
Local Wildlife Photographer
STEPHEN POWLES

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY IN PURSUIT OF THE
IMPROBABLE**

Monday March 18th @ 7.30pm
Our speaker for this evening will be
JOHN WALTERS - Dartmoor wildlife artist



**THE SECRET WORLD OF THE
UNDERGROWTH**

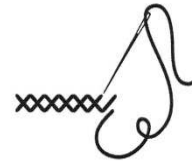


ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW - MAY 4TH

More details next month or call Chris 01392 851970

At each of these events there will be a "seed swop" corner
where you are invited to bring any spare seeds you
have and maybe swop them for others you quite fancy!
RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS

Sale of Cross Stitch Paraphernalia



**AT BIG BREAKFAST SATURDAY 10TH
FEBRUARY 2024**

**PROCEEDS TO THORVERTON
CHURCH AND LUCY'S LARDER**

Skeins & Bobbins of thread

Aida

Kits

Needles

Designing Grids

Books

Cross Stitch Collection Magazines

*Floor Standing Frame (with unfinished
project)*



Next Bubble Church
Sunday 18th February
Thorverton Parish Church

- 9.15 am Coffee and pastries
9.30 am Bubble Church Service
for families with young children
10.00 am Home time or more coffee

Hope you can come...



Warm-up with the dice game,
then the puppets appear...



...then...

action songs
bible story with
puppets



activity time

prayer

home time at
10am





PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

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.

Date	Speaker	Title
Wednesday 7 February 2024	Clare Law	The life and work of a professional artist Clare is a full time Landscape artist working from her studio in the heart of the beautiful Tamar Valley in Cornwall. Her talk will look at how she developed her style as a professional artist and the range of her work from larger canvasses to greeting cards with scenes of rich vegetation and bodies of water exploring how nature is a lifeline, to be shared and celebrated.
Wednesday 14 February 2024	Robert Guyver	General Sir Redvers Buller VC: his life and controversies surrounding his legacy. Robert will make a welcome return visit to the Forum to tell the story of General Si Redvers Buller's life and career, including the various controversies that are associated with him.
Wednesday 21 February 2024	John Davidson	Earthquakes: Where and why they happen, and how we can manage them. John will look at the causes of earthquakes and the places they affect, including parts of the UK. He will look at how the risks from earthquakes can be managed.
Wednesday 28 February 2024	Jonathan Turner	The Way to the Sea Historian and author and member of the South West Maritime History Society (SWMHS), Jonathan Turner will look at the links between Exeter and the sea and particularly the role of the Exeter Ship Canal.

OFF THE SHELF

I have earned my living in various ways, but mostly by writing. And my wife, Helen, was a librarian. So, not unnaturally, the walls of our different houses filled up with books, and despite much thinning-out over the past few years a great many remain.

Some are old and valued friends. Some have never been read at all, and probably never will, but their spines remain familiar. Some have recently been taken down and opened for the first time after years of waiting to be read. These tend to come into the category of books of considerable reputation that I have, for one reason or another, put off reading, such as Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* or Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. I hope I may be allowed to share my thoughts on these and other Munros of the literary highlands on another occasion. But let me start at a lower level, with the work of a less ambitious but reliable ploughman – Neville Shute, and his novel *No Highway* (1948).

Shute was an aero-engineer, and engineers and engineering problems figure prominently in many of his stories. *No Highway* is deeply concerned with mismanaged officialdom. A research scientist, charmingly called Mr Honey, has been carrying out experiments on metal fatigue, using the spare wing from a Reindeer, an aeroplane being used in the transatlantic passenger service. His boss, Denis Scott, the narrator, being worried about an unexplained Reindeer crash in Canada, sends Mr Honey over there to investigate. Seated in another Reindeer over the Atlantic, Mr Honey is horrified to discover that the plane is near or at his own calculated limit for fatigue failure.

Honey's name deliberately misleads, for he is sinister rather than sweet. His mind is focused inwards, driven by his need to know, by his belief that everything is understandable and therefore controllable, given enough data. This rational assumption leads him to take refuge from knockabout reality, which, of course, the narrator understands only too well. Honey is a loving widowed father, but his attitude to his young daughter Elspeth is rather like that of a researcher

to his assistant. Making her use a planchette board to identify the whereabouts of the crashed Reindeer marvellously brings the rational and irrational into potentially disastrous collision.

Another collision is with Prendergast, the designer of the Reindeer. Here is a man with punch, a man with conviction, determined to get things done his way because otherwise they will not be done at all. To do this, as Shute himself had learned, you must be prepared to trample on obstruction and act like a swine. Scott and Prendergast have conflicting agendas. But Shute poses, and partly answers, a perennial question about the creative process. Here is Scott describing his sensations on seeing a Reindeer swooping over his camp in the Canadian jungle:

I cannot describe what a beautiful sight she was... a great shining lovely thing that slipped through the air without effort, with only a murmur of noise... I remember looking at her perfect lines and the clean grace of her, and thinking it was worth while, after all, to bear with Prendergast, who could turn out so wonderful a design as that.

For me, *No Highway* has all the ingredients of a good story, whose momentum carries the reader along with no need for assistance from 'fine writing'. There are also little touches reminding us of what life was like just after the war. When one of the characters looks around the Scotts' flat, she notices 'the bookcases I had made in the evenings out of the planks of packing-cases stained with permanganate of potash.' This is exactly what my father did – with no paint available, purple potassium permanganate was the only alternative to bare wood.

I have had *No Highway* on my shelf for a long time. I hope I may be able to take down some other books, older and more recent, and share them with you.

James Muirden

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& TCT LTD NEWSAGENT/STATIONERS**

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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 & BHs closed

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**

SERVICES & INFORMATION FEBRUARY 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".

Friday 2 February

06:00 pm Candlemas Service [with Communion] Thorverton TC

Sunday 4 February 2nd Sunday before Lent

09:30 am Holy Communion Thorverton TC
 10:00 am Informal Service Stoke Canon Lay Led
 10:30 am Coffee & Chat Newton St Cyres Lay Led
 11:15 am Informal Service Cadbury Lay Led
 11:15 am All Age Service Rewe Lay Led
 04:00 pm Lego Club Newton St Cyres Lay Led

Tuesday 6 February

09:00 am Chattertots Thorverton Lay Led

Sunday 11 February Sunday before Lent

10:30 am Holy Communion Upton Pyne TC

Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday

10:30 am Ash Wednesday Service Cadbury TC
 06:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service Newton St Cyres TC

Sunday 18 February 1st Sunday of Lent

09:30 am Holy Communion Bramford Speke GC
 09:30 am Bubble Church Thorverton Lay Led
 11:15 am Holy Communion Cadbury KR
 05:00 pm Holy Communion Stoke Canon SS
 06:30 pm Evensong Thorverton Lay Led

Sunday 25 February Lent 2

09:30 am Holy Communion Newton St Cyres JD
 10:00 am Messy Church Stoke Canon Lay Led
 11:15 am Holy Communion Rewe 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]	GC	Revd Preb Graham Cotter
TL	Revd Tony Lane	KR	Revd Preb Kathy Roberts
SS	Revd 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 Netherexe Parishes please see www.netherexe.org or contact:

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

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

Looking Forward!

Sometimes we take some things so much for granted that we don't even question them. They just 'are', as it were. And right at this moment, as I was planning the year ahead, thinking of the services and the other events that are to come, I was thinking about the months of the year – especially February. Now, February is a really odd month. Firstly, it's got challenging pronunciation and spelling– just how is one actually supposed to pronounce it? It certainly doesn't easily roll off the tongue. Do you make sure each letter is clearly heard? Drop the 'a'? Drop the first 'r'? And my apologies if I have now got you in to a mental tangle about how the word is pronounced.

Secondly, why is February the only month that only has '28 days clear, and 29 each Leap Year'? (and now many of you are probably reciting that old rhyme – "Thirty days hath September...!). Well, according to the online Encyclopaedia Britannica, it's all down to Roman superstition, and something about even number of days in a month! And then, later, when scientists calculated the exact time the Earth takes to travel around the Sun, they recognised that it was just about 365.25 days, so added an extra 'day' to the year every 4 years, and it seemed to make most sense to add it to February as the shortest month. (Though that's not the whole story concerning leap days, because there is also something about not adding a day to the year every 100 years, except when the year is able to be exactly divided by 400 – so no leap years in 100, 1800, 1900 – but there was one in 2000. All absolutely crystal clear!).

Thirdly, why is it actually called what it is called. Again, blame the Romans. February is named

after their festival of *Februa*, which was a celebration of cleansing and purification at a time of the winter's last full moon. Now, very interestingly (well, I think so, anyway), February 2nd sees the church celebrating Candlemas, a service to commemorate Jesus' presentation in the Temple at Jerusalem. We hear again the story of Simeon and of Anna as Jesus is declared to be the Light of the World. But, one of the alternative names for this Christian Festival is the *Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. I won't bore you with all the Levitical Laws etc, but I did think that there was a certain similarity between what the Romans were celebrating and what was happening within Jewish laws and customs at the time, and now how Christianity has somewhat 'appropriated' the festival – or not...

Before ending this month's letter, I really wanted to offer my deepest thanks to all involved in putting on a wonderful array of services and events over the Christmas period. Every parish and every church were involved throughout the anticipation and expectation of Advent, and then the sheer joy and excitement of Christmas as we once again heralded and celebrated the birth of Jesus!

And finally, watch out for some very creative activities throughout Lent (which starts after Ash Wednesday on 14th February).

All blessings

Tim

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

Imagining the Word

Four creative workshops

- exploring Lent and Easter through Arts & Crafts

These four workshops are an opportunity to explore ideas, thoughts and feelings around Lent and Easter. You are welcome to attend every one or just those you can make.

At the beginning of each workshop, we will spend a few moments considering the theme for the week, have a short bible reading in connection with that theme, and then toss around some ideas – but the creative side is down to the individual; people can interpret the thoughts, ideas and feelings however they want. You may want to be collaborative with others, or do your own thing – and either is absolutely fine.

At each session a range of materials will be available, including clay, collage materials, and pens and paper – but please do bring your own creative resources.

We will also take some time out of each session to learn a new song/hymn for Easter.

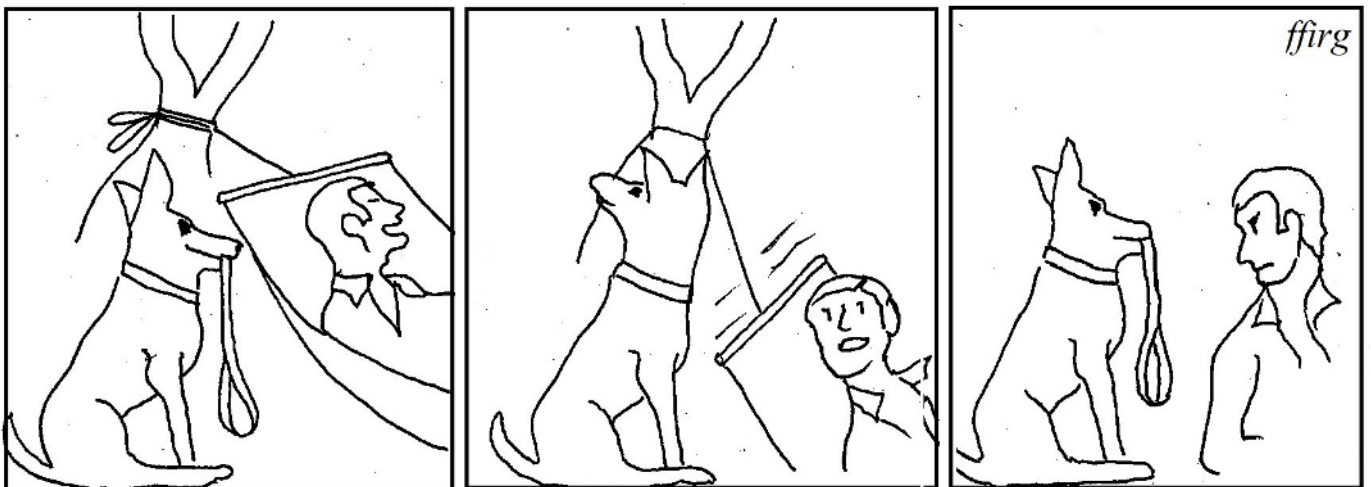
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|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Sunday 25 th February | Wilderness/Labyrinth | Mark 1:12-13/Luke 4:1-2 |
| • Sunday 3 rd March | Temptation | Matt 4:2-11 |
| • Sunday 10 th March | Change/Transfiguration | Matt 17:1-10 |
| • Sunday 17 th March | Hope | Mark 11:1-11 |

For more information contact

Revd Tim Collins:

01392 860767

tim.collins@netherexe.org



THORVERTON CHURCH: MUSIC



All are welcome in our choir which 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 and enjoy sharing it with others.

We have instrumentalists including strings, clarinets, brass, and recorder accompanying some services and would welcome 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:

- Feb 4th** Communion service : **9.30am**
- Feb 18th** Choral Evensong BCP : **6.30pm**
- Mar 3rd** Communion service : **9.30am**
- Mar 10th** Mothering Sunday service : **10.00am**
- Mar 31st** Easter Sunday Communion service for the Netherexe Parishes : **10.00am**

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

Sunday Feb 18th 2024 6.30pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

at Thorverton Parish Church

Please join Thorverton Church Choir for
 a reflective, traditional-style, Book of Common Prayer service of
 readings, prayers, uplifting choral music and congregational hymns
 - refreshments available beforehand from 6.00pm

Allotment Talk – February 2024

This is the first of what I hope will be monthly articles over 2024 about the Thorverton allotments, its plot holders, what they are growing and some recipes using seasonal produce. Thorverton's allotments are located at the end of Broadlands, past the garages, in a field now overlooked by the new houses of Leonard Square. There are 24 plots in all, each one being approximately 22 yards long by 6 yards wide. The allotment rent is just £10 per annum, which must make these plots some of the cheapest to rent in the whole country. Also, the views from the allotments across to Raddon Top are beautiful at any time, but particularly in the tranquillity of a summer evening with the sun setting behind Raddon Top.

On a sunny but cold afternoon in January I found David Addicott (pictured here) tending his plot. David told me that he had looked after this plot for two years now, probably spending about seven hours a week on it. Since taking it on he has hand-weeded the whole plot, which he regards as the best way to stop pernicious weeds such as bindweed from reappearing. Last year he had good crops of broad beans, runner beans, early potatoes, parsnips and tomatoes. He currently has leeks in the ground, which last through the winter. His tomatoes were particularly successful last year, bought locally as small plants of outdoor varieties and planted in late-spring. There is always the danger of blight affecting the crop, but that was not a problem last year. His wife Sarah has made good use of the beans and tomatoes, making a lot of chutneys in the autumn.



David also enjoys growing lots of flowers, which have provided a supply for him and Sarah to put on her parents' grave through the year. He has daffodils early in the spring, followed by Sweet Williams, sweet peas and, finally, dahlias. To my surprise, David told me that he leaves the dahlia plants in the ground all winter, cutting them right down and putting mulch over them. He would have done this in December, but it was too wet, so he was going to do that during this drier spell.

The winter is a good time to harvest leeks, and plenty of allotment holders have rows of them now, so my recipe this month is for Likky Soup. This recipe is based on one I came across in a small book from the Francis Frith Collection – “Flavours of Devon – Recipes” – which I like because of the taste that the addition of bacon gives:

Likky Soup

Ingredients

3 large leeks (with plenty of green), washed, and sliced	1.2 litres (2 pints) of chicken stock
1 onion, peeled and sliced	A pinch of grated nutmeg (<i>I use a good pinch!</i>)
3 medium-sized potatoes, cubed	150ml (¼ pint) cream (<i>optional</i>)
1 rasher of streaky bacon (<i>I generally use two rashers</i>)	Salt and pepper
25g (1oz) butter	Chopped parsley to garnish (<i>optional</i>)

Method

Remove the rind and cut the bacon into small pieces. Put these into a large saucepan and heat until the fat runs. Add the butter, and when it has melted add the leeks and onion. Cook for a few minutes until the vegetables have softened, then add the potato cubes and mix well. Add the stock and nutmeg and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat, cover the pan and simmer for 25-30 minutes until all the vegetables are soft and cooked. Season with salt and pepper (*I don't find that it needs salt unless the stock cube is no-salt*).

I would recommend liquidising/blending the soup, although you can serve it rough if you prefer. If you like, serve with a swirl of cream and some chopped fresh parsley on top. Delicious and warming for the winter.

Neville Lane

Recipe

Devonshire apple pancakes

Prepare your favourite pancake batter adding grated cooking apple to the mixture- 50g (2oz) apple to 100g (4oz) flour. Serve the pancakes with an apple compote made by stewing cooking apples with cider and sweetening with honey or brown sugar. A dollop of clotted cream to finish!

Paul Cleave

THORVERTON CO-OPERATIVE TRUST LTD

supporting

THORVERTON COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

February 2024

Thank you for your loyal custom over the Christmas period. We sold lots of stationery and charity Christmas cards. Our Post Office was well supported too. Please keep using it as much as you can. We want to keep our much-valued village amenities.

Of course the TCT shop business relies on your custom throughout the year in order to enable the post office to have premises. We sell newspapers and magazines every day, cards and stationery, have a photocopier and other useful things.

Our shop is run and managed almost entirely 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, (June 2023 – May 2024) 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 (to cover absences for holiday or illness), then you would be very welcome. Just get in touch.

Heather Kershaw Chair and Membership Secretary TCT Ltd 01392 860419

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

Thorverton PO 01392 860455



NEWTON ST CYRES TENNIS CLUB

November Update

A Happy and Healthy and Active New Year to you all

The first social event was on Friday 12th January in the Recreation Club. A Murder Mystery designed and run by two members of the Club. There was a murder at the Tennis Club and there were quite a few suspects. Each team of two received a clipboard with information. And the answers were cunningly disguised in various locations. There was a lot of humour and very clever clues. Afterwards we enjoyed a bring and share supper. A fantastic evening.

Below PC Jana and DI Sarah with the winners were Neville and Lucy

The Rusty Racket Members' Group is thriving and playing 3 to 4 times a week. If your New Year's Resolution is to play tennis again, do contact me at frederiekmaddock@gmail.com

You can join now for half price for a winter membership. Just contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259.

Winter League matches are in full swing. The East Devon leagues matches are nearly finished and we are doing very well in division 1 and division 6 and the Exeter League has more matches to finish but the men are holding their own in division 3.

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

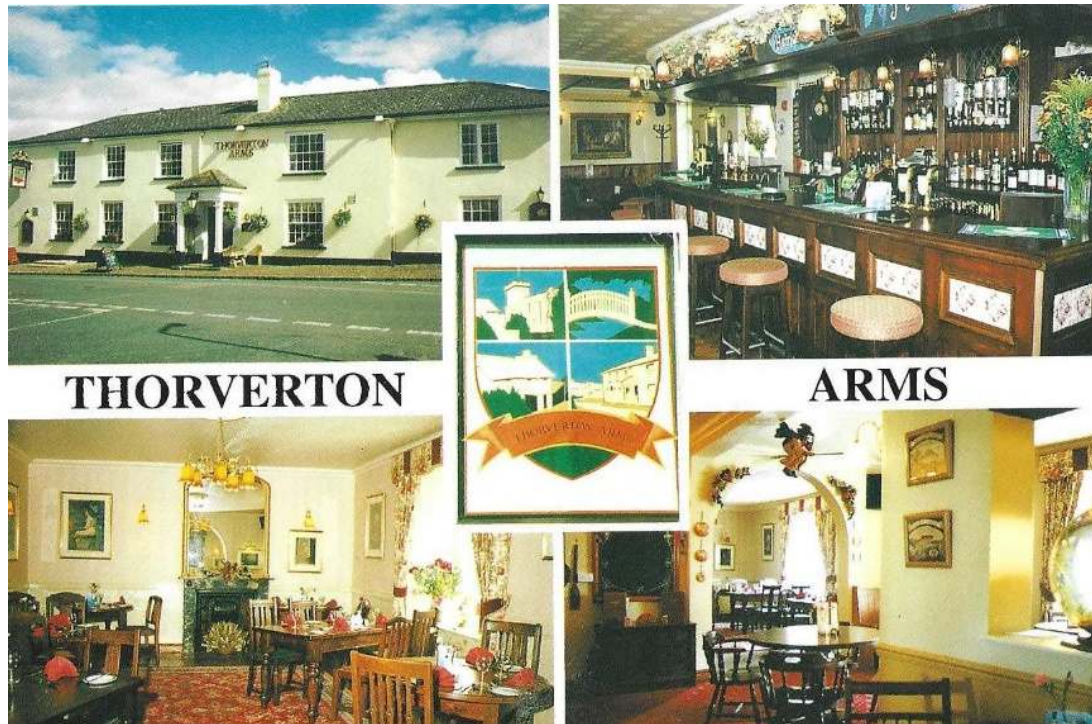
juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information and put your name down and check if there is room in the right age and right level group.

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

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



“THE THORVERTON ARMS”– formerly “THE DOLPHIN”



THORVERTON

ARMS

In December the masking and scaffolding were at last removed and the refurbished exterior of Steve and Mandy Plumridge’s Thorverton Arms was visible again, overlooking the Bury as it has for some three hundred and fifty years. But not always under that name. For most of the time it was the Dolphin, this being the emblem and title of Le Dauphin, the eldest son of the Kings of France, the equivalent of our Prince of Wales, and thus a prestigious name for a public house.

The earliest known written reference to *ye Dolphin Inne* is in an account list of 1697, but there is physical evidence of its existence earlier than that, namely a small metal trade token used for cash, embossed “John Thomas” and “In- Tharverton” and also, tellingly, with a representation of a dolphin on it. This can only have been the John Thomas who, in 1673, paid a penny a month for the relief of the poor, the rate being levied *for the Inne he lives in*. Whether it was a new business in the 1670s or already well established is unknown, but there was surely no truth in the claim that it was a 16th century coaching inn, which appeared on the pub’s van some years ago and was still being repeated in the early days of online advertising: in the 1500s, even royalty progressed in waggons with wooden wheels.

Rent and tax lists of the 18th and 19th centuries gave fairly frequent indications of the names of the gentry and yeoman farmers who rented the Dolphin from the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, the legal owners of the village and some of the farms in the parish, and also of the succession of landlords to whom it was sub-let. Such lists provide little clue to what happened in the Dolphin, but here old newspapers are helpful. The earliest press references were in the “Sherborne Mercury” in 1766 and 1779; the first advertised a forthcoming auction at the Dolphin of East Court Barton and the second the auction there of four premises within half a mile of Berry’s Bridge. Auctions occurred regularly throughout the first half of the 19th century, together with sales of land and trees and household goods, meetings of Friendly Societies, and dinners to mark local events. In 1829 the Dolphin itself, *with the GARDEN and PLEASURE GROUNDS thereto belonging*, was to be let for ten years. The current yeomen farmers who owned it would repair the premises *and the Tenant is afterwards to keep the same in good Repair, on being allowed Reed and Spars*

for Thatching, and sufficient rough Timber” which shows that the building was thatched at that time, just as all the other dwelling-houses and cottages must have been.

The man who took it on and stayed for twenty years was Thomas Babbage. His signature, or mark, is on a bill for a dinner that took place in 1841. For *23 Dinners upstairs, 12 Dinners below Stairs, 24 Brandy Grogs, 51 Rum and Gin Grogs*, several beers and sundry other items, the total cost was £6 19s 11d. It is unclear whether those present were separated vertically on social grounds but clear that two storeys were available for meals.

Throughout this time there were also meetings and events in the Exeter Inn and the Bell Inn for the locals, but it seems that the Dolphin was the venue when people from further away were likely to come. To start with, it was a larger building, with more room for guests. More importantly perhaps, it had something that is still sought after and valued: parking places, in this case for the horses and ponies and traps that were the only means for men and women to come here from other towns and villages, and stables where the animals could be attended to or left overnight. The Coleridge map of 1813 showed a large open space behind the Inn, which is now much reduced since parts were sold off for housing in the 1960s. The stables were demolished about then, and nothing indicates where there used to be a Bowling Green.

In 1849 the barn of the Dolphin caught fire and three weeks later a serious blaze broke out in the main building itself, the damage to the premises and furniture being reported as very great. Two fires in the same place in such quick succession, together with the fact that the stock of beer, malt and spirit had been undamaged, must have led to the malicious gossip referred to in one newspaper and its defence of the character of the landlord. It was he who a year later announced that the premises had been entirely rebuilt and would be found to be *replete with every comfort*. Soon afterwards *Seventy gentlemen sat down to a most sumptuous dinner with the owner, the Master of the Thorverton Harriers, who had paid for the rebuilding, in the chair*.



There are no paintings or drawings of the inn before the fire but the dimensions on the 1813 Coleridge map closely match those on modern maps, so the past and present external appearances may well have been similar. The Listed Buildings entry mentions no 17th or 18th century features, so the destruction must have been considerable.

The most detailed description of the interior is provided by an advertisement of 1855 when the landlord moved away after the death of his wife. For sale was *the entire of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE for 6 bedrooms, large dining room, parlour, tap-room, sitting room, kitchen, and other appurtenances*. Also available were *the brewing plant, beer, store casks, beer-engine, useful van horse, spring van by Milford, dog cart, nearly new cart, ditto hutch, &c, &c*.

For the rest of that century, in addition to its daily trade, the Dolphin remained the principal venue for sales of property and public meetings. Twenty years passed between the first assembly to raise funds to

promote an Exe Valley Railway scheme in 1864 and the jubilant celebratory meal at the inn in the evening of the day the first train ran in 1885.

After the Thorverton and Cadbury Conservative Club was set up in Silver Street in 1890 there was space for concerts and social events to take place there, and once the Club became the Memorial Hall, with no political affiliations, after the Second World War, the Dolphin lost its function as sole option for larger gatherings (other than religious) in the village.

The Dolphin 1930

The auctions continued until well into the 20th century and two or three inquests were held, but newspaper references in connection with other matters became fewer and fewer. Businesses rather than private individuals acquired the ownership, probably by purchase from the Church Commissioners, and licensees came and went. There are no records of famous people as guests. One fictional character stayed at the inn, however. In Rachel Joyce's much admired novel of 2013, "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry", the eponymous traveller spent a night in a hostelry in Thorverton and left next day down Silver Street. There was only one hostelry that could be. But by now it was no longer the Dolphin. In the 1980s a new landlord made it known he was to rename it the Thorverton Arms. Traditionalists were dismayed. The Parish Council despatched an emissary to enquire about the landlord's reasons. These were that pubs called the Dolphin had a "spit and sawdust reputation in the trade", that he wanted a new name to go with the new kitchen and the new menus, and most of all that diners should remember the name of the village where they had eaten well. His plan was realised and the old Dolphin sign was replaced by a sign based on the "heraldic" Arms of Thorverton as created to embellish the badge of office of the Chairman of the Parish Council. That sign, too, has gone now, but, all being well, traditional business and hospitality will continue on the site for many more decades, even centuries.

Ian Stoye



The Dolphin 1970

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New Year's Day walk to Raddon Top

This year (January) was the 25th anniversary of planting the new pine trees at Raddon Top, it was part of the Village Millennium Celebrations (several of our walkers helped to plant them).

Our New Year's Day Walk was our 24th consecutive walk, twenty-five family & friends meet at Lynch Cottage our normal starting place at 10.30am. After the greetings and a small port to warm you up, we headed off along Lynch Road and used the public footpaths to the top.

William Fice with his new drone took some really good arial photographs and film. The weather was very kind to us, it was the only day for weeks that we had no rain.

It's a really good walk where everyone can enjoy a chat with different people along the route. It takes about 45-50 minutes to reach the top and then you can take in the wonderful views, there's time for some light refreshments and take a few photographs.



Afterwards our return journey which is not a footpath but with the farmers permission took us along the fields to Eastern Down, then back along Dinneford meadow. Most people went home for a quick change and then met up at the Exeter Inn; fourteen others who didn't make the walk joined us for a delicious Brunch prepared by Matt & Rick (thank-you). Afterwards we had a few drinks and enjoyed a fun game of Bingo. After 24 years its still is a really good way to start the "New year"

WI Report for December 2023 and January 2024



December is a busy month for everyone; the WI is no exception. The regular monthly meeting was a Christmas Tea Party with entertainment by Jude. Jude is a magician who is following his dream of becoming a professional in magical entertainment for groups of people by carrying out tricks with playing cards, cardboard boxes, disappearing items, etc. Jude involved members of the audience to take part in his tricks, and for a few of which he explained how they worked. As well as tricking the eyes of all, Jude taught everyone a trick with playing cards which he suggested could be used at any gathering. Jude created a very warm relationship with his audience; he was wished good luck for his future – a member of the Magic Circle in the making! Members had brought Festive Goodies to share and a good time was had by all.

The following day was the Federation Carol Service at the Cathedral. Four members from Thorverton WI attended this most delightful service of readings and carols. A talented choir of members from all over the county sang some less known pieces and everyone joined in the familiar carols. One very clever lady faced the congregation and signed every piece of singing. This was a delightful afternoon.

The December market, although a week early due to Christmas Festivities was a small but busy gathering with all the usual vegetables, cakes, etc.

The first meeting of the New Year followed the WI tradition of a late Christmas meal together. This year it was the turn of the Thorverton Arms, who served us a most enjoyable meal with twelve members able to join.

Dates to Note:

Tuesday, 6th February – A return visit of Rosemary Griggs – ‘Bessie the Serving Maid’ Rosemary will be talking about the life of an ordinary Tudor working woman and clothing of the less wealthy.

Saturday, 24th February – WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o’clock to about 11 o’clock in the WI Hut.

Tuesday, 5th March – Caroline Tavener – Local Bee Keeper.

Saturday, 23rd March – 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 Joy of Slot Canyons

In South West USA there are many slot canyons cut into the sandstone base layer to the south of the Colorado River. These have been created by water flow and wind-driven sand. The most famous canyons are Antelope Canyon (Upper and Lower) which are now blighted by the world-wide problem of over-tourism. There are other less famous but equally photogenic canyons in the area; some you have to pay to visit but some are remote and are free.

We visited Lower Antelope Canyon in 2004 before it became *really* popular. It is on Navajo land and the visitors are charged a fee (\$15 then) to explore the half mile or so cutting through the comparatively soft sandstone. We paid our fee and were pointed in the direction of a tiny gap in the stone surface a short walk from the carpark. We had the place to ourselves and we found the metal staircase leading down between walls about 10 ft apart. Some 40 ft lower down we found a level sandy track leading north



towards Lake Powell. It is also possible to hire kayaks and paddle along the Lake to reach the other end of the canyon and explore the wider part of the canyon beyond the point where we climbed back to the open air.

Antelope canyon

Walking along the twisting, narrow (only 3ft wide in some places) track, the view above is really magnificent. Sinuous orange stone curves, flashes of blue sky, dark shadows and suns rays striking the walls. The lighting is best around noon when the sunshine extends deeper into the canyon. It is a photographers' paradise. No matter which way you point your lens you get a stunning shot – and

that is why it has become so popular and is on the bucket list of so many travellers and tourists. In fact it has now become *too* famous and is now *very* expensive. Now \$90 per adult and only a small reduction for children. Tripods are now banned, videography is no longer allowed and you have to be herded along by a guide before the next 20-person tour party catches up with you. A very different experience from our unaccompanied trip nearly 20 years ago. Looking back, we were very fortunate to have as much time as we needed to enjoy such a stunning location.



A cave with light

Slot canyons are not without their dangers. As we walked back to the carpark we read a warning notice we had not seen on the way in. This related the tale of a group of French tourists who had visited the canyon during a distant rainstorm. The resulting 10ft high wall of water had funnelled down the canyon, sweeping them all down towards the lake. Ten were drowned and only the guide survived. One would hope that the visits would be suspended if there were a weather forecast of rain and flash floods.

A red rock formation



If you look on YouTube there are dozens of videos of these canyons so at least you can see the reason so many go there. The videos of flash floods are really scary! If you are travelling the area around Lake Powell and wish to visit a slot canyon the recommendation now is to go to a local visitor centre (or look online) and get a map which shows the location of other slot canyons which are less popular and cheaper or ideally free. For example Peekaboo is free but you need a 4WD to access the entrance. Other sites in the area worth seeing are the extensive Zion and Bryce Canyons further north from Page AZ, at the other end of the 45mile drivable Cottonwood Canyon (passable with 2WD).

Finding interesting places which are not full of (other) tourists is becoming increasingly difficult. Although, last August, I was fortunate to visit a large area of South Greenland with no other tourists, apart from our small group of 12 (*that's another story*).

And finally, despite being a month late, a Very Happy New Year to everyone. Looking forward to longer days with more sunshine.

John Spivey

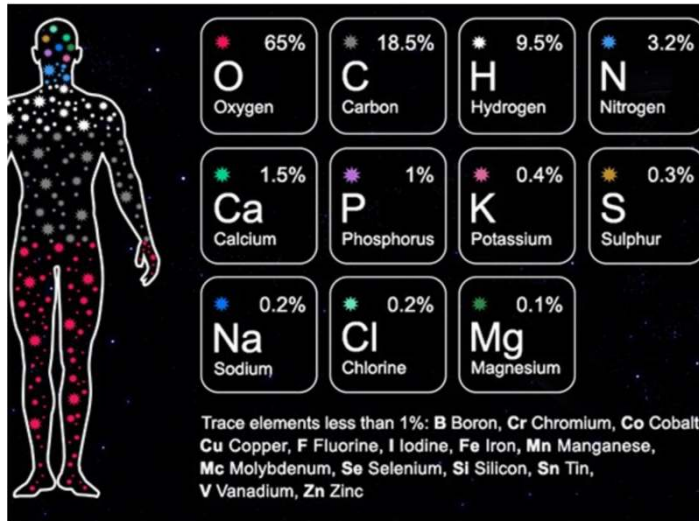
SKY AT NIGHT: We Are Stardust

Joni Mitchell's lyrics remind us to consider that stars have been forming from clouds of primeval hydrogen gas since the earliest 500 million years of an embryonic universe that is now almost 14 thousand million years old. And, that after much theorising by astrophysicists, most of the elements that make up the human body were formed in stars!

Just like Darwin's idea for any organism, stars, and indeed the whole universe, evolve. The first generation of stars formed as lumps of cooling gas drew together and eventually began to ignite into full luminosity. Just like life, this process took millions more years. The first stars that formed after the Big Bang were probably much greater than the size of our Sun and quickly 'burnt their fuel' fusing together their atoms to make new, bigger atoms. The first stars were able to make only a few elements heavier than hydrogen and helium. As all stars do, those stars inevitably went supernova - exploding powerfully, expelling the elements they had produced, they formed nebulae (clouds of gas) which seeded the next generation of stars and ultimately every element in the periodic table (remember that?). The Tarantula nebula is a star-forming region in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a small but nearby and highly visible southern hemisphere galaxy (see fig.1, NASA/ESA).



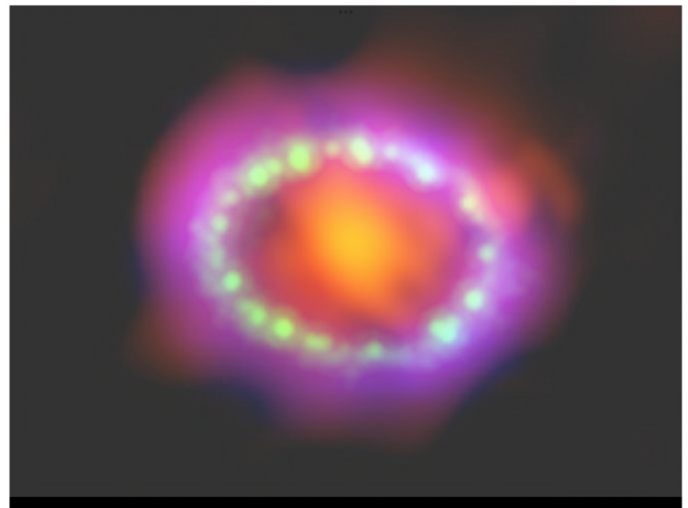
If it can be harnessed safely (as happened briefly at a tiny scale in California last year) the fusion of elements provides the ultimate clean form of fuel to save humankind from global warming and all else that ensues. Elements are the basic form of matter, identified and distinguished simply by the protons in each of their minuscule atoms (atomic number); Hydrogen - 1 proton; Helium - 2 and so on proceeds the table of elements from the likes of carbon(6) and nitrogen(7) to the exotic plutonium(94). These



protons, together with neutrons (variable in number and the trigger for radioactivity) originally began to form (from even hotter and smaller components called 'quarks') and bind together once the mindbogglingly hot exotic cosmic soup of the Big Bang had expanded and cooled. This cooling is just like how the expanding gas cools in our fridge/external heat source pump. It had eventually become cool enough for these particles to join to form hydrogen, the simplest of atoms.

Under conditions of high temperature and pressure, the central nuclei of two atoms can undergo fusion, melding their protons and

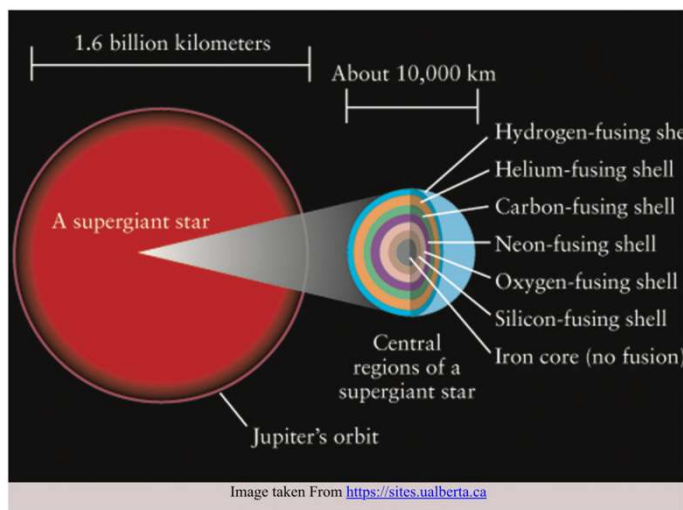
neutrons into a new, larger nucleus. 1,2,4,8 protons can be built up whilst other combinations will yield 3,5,6.. In fact anything is possible, but only up to 26 (iron!); a process of 'galactic chemical evolution'. Imagine a star of iron! The smallest stars only convert hydrogen into helium. Late in their lives, when their hydrogen 'fuel' becomes depleted, medium-sized stars like our Sun can convert helium into the familiar substances, oxygen, carbon, neon, sodium, magnesium, sulphur and silicon. Reactions in future stars transform these elements into calcium, nickel, copper and iron. When they are old, supergiant stars explode catastrophically and the conditions are then right to create all the heavier elements before expelling them into space.



The pressure and temperature increases dramatically as you get closer to the centre of a star and so larger atoms can be fused closer to the centre (see fig.2, University of Alberta).

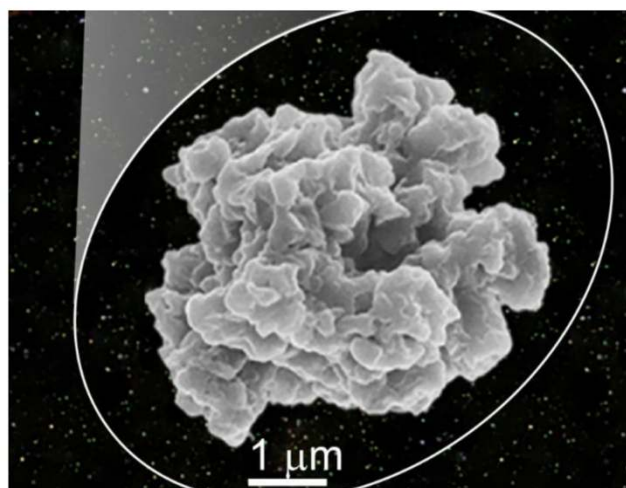
The Earth comprises a multitude of elements, such as iron, oxygen (30% each) and silicon (15%), yet many more are needed for life. How are we constituted? Well principally from the simpler elements. Hydrogen makes up a large fraction of the water which dominates our bodies. The rest is comprised of oxygen. About 99% of the mass of the human body is made up of just six elements, (see fig.3), with the following proton numbers: 8,6,1,7,20,15. About 1% is comprised of another five elements: 19,16,11,17,12. All 11 are necessary for life yet there are more with even more protons, from 24 up to 42. Iron (26) is crucial for our blood for instance.

The fusion that takes place inside stars draws on a huge amount of fuel and creates an enormous amount of energy. Stars are immense objects - over 99% of the mass and gravity in our solar system is inside our Sun, suspending tightly all the planets in their orbits. Meanwhile, the fusion inside any star creates explosive energy which counteracts the crushing forces of gravity. Stable stars remain in this equilibrium until they run out of their fusion fuel, crushing themselves with their imploding gravity only to explode on the rebound. Words are almost comedic for such profound and fundamental events. Large stars last for only a few million years, while smaller stars can exist for 10 billion years. The stages of star life cycles can be determined telescopically by studying the colour and temperature of their surfaces! Another aspect of star lifecycles is the residue left behind following an explosion, the gases and dust.



It's possible to find examples of cosmic dust, formed from earlier generations of stars. This original stardust (pre-solar grains that are older than our Sun) is made up of grains only a few microns in size - 100 times smaller than the width of a human hair (see an electron microscope image, fig.4, eurekaalert.org).

The most primitive of rocky meteorites, that were never clumped onto large asteroids will contain minute examples of these mystical grains - as close as we'll ever get to material from the first suns. The alchemy of strong acid dissolving these rocks leaves behind carbon (graphite and nanodiamonds) and silicon carbide, substances that have withstood the hot acidity inside a star.



We're not exactly made from stardust but as it turns out we're made of similar stuff; fig.5 (NASA) shows both the gas and dark dust within a nebula, whilst fig.6 (aasnova.org) shows a composite image of the most spectacular central core remnant of a supernova observed as recently as in 1987.

So, which do you prefer, Joni Mitchell's lyrics or this illustrated Chemistry lesson?

Peter Hargood

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Nature Notes

The Christmas and New Year festivities are well past and I hope you all enjoyed them. As usual here is a round-up of what's been seen since I last wrote. There are two interesting Royal Mail stamp issues in February. On the 1st is Weather Forecasting and on the 20th Viking Britain.



The Tarts mid-week walk of 22nd November along the Tiverton canal produced the sighting of two Kingfishers one of which was bashing the life out of a fish before swallowing it head first. Sadly, I was not on that walk to witness one of our most colourful avian fauna.

On the Saturday Dartmoor Tarts walk of 25th November, although there was not much wildlife about, at Cranbrook Castle I found a small patch of tiny Earth Tongue fungus. This is a late autumn species found on acid short grassland and associated with moss. The grass at the castle is grazed which helps the fungus to survive.

Friendly Jackdaw 15/12/2023

On 1st December (the day after the snow), in the afternoon, I walked my normal local route. Around 2.45 I noticed several Buzzards walking in fields. With only an hour or so before sundown they were searching for anything they could find to eat. Buzzards will take rabbits, voles, young birds, insects, frogs, snakes, carrion and worms. On this afternoon their choice would have been carrion or maybe a rabbit, vole or worm, if they were lucky. I disturbed a drake Mallard from the stream that flows beneath the road. In years gone past, here it would have been a ford. The stream, an arm of the Jackmoor brook, starts its life in a field above Yendacott copse. The stream and the copse form a part of the parish boundary between Shobrooke and Thorverton, and Rixaford Lane is the boundary for Upton Pyne parish. A few Dunnocks were making their soft warble within a hedge. As I headed home I walked into the wind and, although not strong, the cold stung my cheeks reminding me this was the first day of meteorological winter. By 10pm surfaces were already sparkling with frost. The next day I repeated the walk. Buzzards were in one of the fields again but accompanied by a heron.

A trip to Lynmouth and Combe Martin to search for skate, ray and shark egg cases was done on 15th December. Just one Blonde Ray egg-case was found at Lynmouth but also the surprise of a Red Mullet in the morning's fresh strandline. A very friendly Jackdaw amused us along the riverside edge. Two Dipper were searching for food, diving off rocks into the river. As well as finding egg-cases, I picked up sea-worn pieces of glass and pottery. A lady on the beach said the light-coloured green pieces of glass are called mermaid's tears by local crafters. Combe Martin drew a blank this time but there are lots of bits and pieces to spot; for example, washed up conkers, hazelnuts and empty bright yellow periwinkle shells.

A second visit to Blacklands beach, Lynmouth, was done on 12th January. There was a big strandline with large tree trunks among the mix brought in by the effects of Storm Henk. Six egg cases were found

comprising of two Nursehound Shark, one Small-spotted Catshark and three Spotted Rays. The best find was a colony of Goose Barnacle attached to a long piece of rubber.

My last sighting of a Common or Viviparous Lizard in 2023 was on 31st October. It was one of the youngsters of three I had previously come across with a parent on 9th October. Common Lizards give birth to three and up to eleven live young in July. Hibernation takes place between October and March so I was very surprised to come across one of these last year's youngsters sunbathing on 6th January. Common Lizards use the same basking spot and, not really thinking I would see one, I nevertheless checked some of the gateposts where they are usually found.

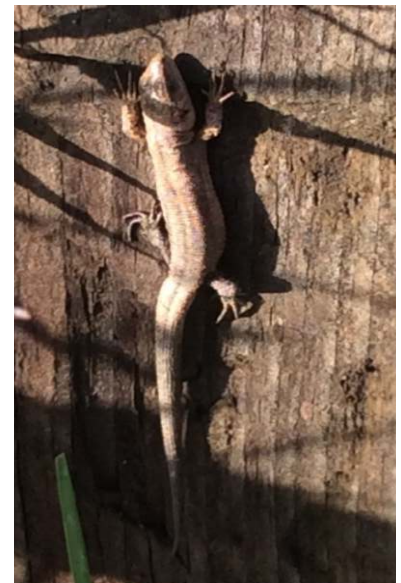
There was bright sunshine with frost and ice about on my local walk of 15th January. In the biggest puddle along the lane I spotted a very small water boatman powering around beneath the thin sheet of ice covering most of the water. To my right I noticed a Winter moth *Operophtera brumata* stuck with its wings flat on the surface and legs in the air. I put my finger to its legs but it couldn't latch on and by now with my efforts it had flipped on its side with wings closed. I then picked it up by its closed wings and put it in the hedge in the sunshine in the hope it would recover. Sometimes it is too late to rescue soggy butterflies and moths but always worth a try. I carried on my walk to see two buzzards once again standing in the same field as before waiting for something to run, hop or wriggle to eat. I also spotted a Grey Heron again far in the distance against a hedge no doubt doing the same thing.



Adult & two young lizards



Goose Barnacles Lynmouth



Young lizard

Jenny Garne 01392 860875

jenny.garne2@tiscali.co.uk

Thorverton Cricket Club

February 2024 Update



A very Happy New Year to everyone reading!

New 3rd Team for 2024

We are delighted to report that our 3rd XI was re-elected to the Devon Cricket League at the DCL AGM last week, so Thorverton will field three league sides on a Saturday for the first time since 2017 and provide vital opportunities to our younger players to play competitive cricket. The 3rd XI will be playing the majority of their fixtures at Clyst Hydon CC. We are extremely grateful to Clyst Hydon for the opportunity to play cricket on their ground. If you'd be interested in playing for a newly formed 3rd XI, scoring, umpiring or helping with the ground then please get in touch by emailing seniors@thorvertoncricketclub.com

Quiz and Curry Night – Saturday 23rd March at Thorverton Memorial Hall

Our first big fundraiser of the year will be a 'Quiz and Curry Night' at the Memorial Hall. Get your teams assembled for an evening of quizzing and good food. This will follow the club 'get set day' as we start to prepare the facilities for the season. If you are interested in helping or attending then please get in touch!

Pre-Season Nets Confirmed for March

Pre-season training will take place at 'Buzz about Cricket' in Cullompton. Training will take place on Sunday afternoons with juniors 1pm-2pm and seniors 2pm-3pm.

New & returning members are encouraged to attend. Buzz About Cricket is located at Unit 14, Kingsford Business Centre, Cullompton, EX15 2AU.

Club Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The club and company AGMs took place on Monday 27th November at Rewe Social Club. The key changes in personnel for 2024 are as follows:-

Treasurer - Bob Rice has stood down as treasurer following 15 years exceptional service to TCC; thank you Bob. James Meredith was elected treasurer.

2nd XI Captain - Jack Stirling has stood down as 2nd XI captain after three years in the role. Rapidly emerging club legend Ben Coe will lead the 2nd XI for 2024.

3rd XI Captain - James Meredith was elected 3rd XI captain.

Draft Pavilion Plans Shared

Initial plans for a new pavilion were shared at the recent AGM. The drawings, put together by DMA Architects, provide an exciting vision of what a new clubhouse could look like. The sub-committee are seeking further ECB guidance before fully publishing the plans in 2024.



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

Scoring and Umpiring

With the introduction of a 3rd XI and increasing womens and junior fixtures we are in need of more volunteer scorers and umpires. The cub can cover the cost of full training!

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

2024 Fixtures Released

The Tolchards Devon Cricket League fixtures have now been released.

The 1st XI start with a trip to Plymouth, whilst the 2nd XI host Upottery 1st XI and the newly re-established 3rd XI play their first game at home (Clyst Hydon), against Culmstock 2nd XI.

A number of pre-season fixtures have also been arranged for all teams. You can find all of our fixtures at www.thorvertoncc.co.uk

You can find out more information about everything going on at the club on our website – www.thorvertoncc.co.uk. We also have a monthly newsletter you can subscribe to and an active Facebook page! You can always contact the club by emailing seniors@thorvertoncricketclub.com

We are very excited about what is to come in 2024.

TARTS news

Thorverton Amblers Ramblers and Trampers

Saturday 25th November



Seven of us, led by Jenny, set off in two cars and between Chapel Corner and Upton Pyne one car load of us was lucky to watch a male Merlin falcon skimming the road ahead of us before it veered off into a hedge. It was a sparkly frosty morning and on the way to Moretonhampstead our car load experienced wheelspin when we travelled over a patch of ice. The walk started at Moretonhampstead, a circular walk of approximately 6.7 miles including a stretch to Cranbrook Castle where we stopped for lunch. We were blessed with a sunny day among the dreary days of November but did not see any other wildlife of note. The route took us through fields and woodland to emerge onto a lane where a few yards up we came to Willingstone rock, a very large granite boulder where the book 'Dartmoor 365' states there is a wind vane on its summit, but it's not there now. Before turning into the lane leading to the castle is a lowly trig point that was once on Cranbrook Castle but was moved in 1993 as deemed redundant by Ordnance Survey. Cranbrook Castle is a ten acre iron-age fort with views to Castle Drogo and Cosdon Hill.

After lunch we retraced our steps to Cranbrook barns where we took the signed route to Butterdon Hill to start negotiating most of the 12 stiles of the total route back to Moreton. This stretch included passing a standing stone and crossing a stream over granite blocks. On arriving back at the town we were delighted to find the square closed off to traffic and a

Christmas Fair in progress with lots of stalls where one or two purchases were made before retiring to a café for drinks and cake.

Saturday 9th December

We had a record turnout for the annual Christmas Killerton amble. I think the promise of mulled wine and mince pies might have had something to do with it!

We met a little later than usual and made our way over to Killerton, where we took a very leisurely stroll up to Dolbury hillfort, passing a small herd of rather pretty cows with rather large horns on the way! Dolbury is an Iron Age hillfort, landscaped in the 18th century to lay out the park and garden and create Killerton Clump.

We stopped for mulled wine and mince pies overlooking the sweeping parkland of Killerton Estate, before heading back to the cars.

That evening we met up again at the Thorverton Arms where we enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal and good company. Thanks to Graeme for organising this year's meal.

Saturday 30th December

Six brave TARTS set out on this walk, which was to be a linear one as opposed to the usual circular walks. We left one car at Rewe and continued to the car park at the foot of Stoke Woods, from where we started our walk uphill through the woods and then along past Stoke Hill Farm, observing the distant stag. Fortunately, the wind was at our backs and the rain just about held off, although it has to be admitted that the distant views, often so lovely from this point, were shrouded in low cloud. After passing the Silverton Kennels we started along a bridleway taking us to Huxham. This path proved to be a little muddy in places, but did present an accommodating mossy bank where we were able to enjoy a cup of coffee and some of Mrs Lane's gingerbread.

From there it was downhill most of the way, first to Huxham and then along the minor road to Brookleigh before crossing three fields to come out at the main road near to Rewe church, where we used the spare car to take the drivers back to collect the other two cars from the starting point car park and return to bring us all safely home.

It was a shortish walk by TARTS standards, but just what was needed to waken us up after any Christmas excesses.

Saturday 13th January

After the very wet weather we've been having John lead us on a local walk which was surprisingly dry underfoot. It was a very cold but dry day and, although it became increasingly misty during the day, there were some fabulous views out towards Dartmoor and to Sidmouth gap.

Starting from Silverton we soon found ourselves climbing a very steep hill out of the village. Having been thoroughly warmed up by the hill, we descended the other side to a stream which we followed for a short distance before turning north through the little hamlet of Ravenhayes. We stopped for coffee, and Mike's customary chocolate biscuits, in a farm gateway and admired the views. Continuing roughly northwards we passed through the hamlet of Great Dorweeke. Turning east we picked up a very rough uphill track which very much had the feel of being 'off the beaten track'. As lunchtime approached we came across the entrance to a field with several large bags of silage in it, providing a handy seat/table/leaning post to use for lunch! It was a little cold to linger so when we had finished lunch we promptly set off again heading south to Christ Cross. Although the lanes were generally very quiet, with the odd car passing by, all of a sudden we were interrupted by the hunt passing through. A noisy crowd of dogs, horses and the motorized entourage a change of pace from the peace of the lanes. At Christ Cross we took a left fork which lead us to a rather steep downhill green lane through Greenslinch and

onwards back into Silverton. A truly delightful walk passing through some interesting little hamlets and out of the way cottages. At the end of the walk John and Chris invited us for coffee and cake at their house, which was a lovely end to the day.

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.

TARTs' Weekday Walks

Once a fortnight we walk on a weekday morning, usually a different one each time. We meet at Thorverton Church at 10.00 and try not to drive for longer than 20 minutes to get to our start point OR we walk from the village. The walks are usually 4 – 5 miles in length.

If you are on the main TARTs' e-mailing list you will hear about these walks anyway. If you are



not but are interested in them, then you could contact Caroline or Graeme OR us, Heather + Royston Kershaw, who lead the weekday walks.

Walk suggestions always welcome!

heatherpkershaw@gmail.com 01392 860419

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)

Legal Eagle

On the 5th of November 2023 the Driftwood Spars pub in St Agnes, Cornwall held a fireworks display. No charge was made for attending the event. During the evening, a firework, instead of going up into the sky, went straight towards the crowd. Some minor injuries were caused and several people, particularly children, suffered shock.

The question which naturally arises is where does the legal liability for such an occurrence lie? Looking at subsequent media reports, the pub issued the following statement: *“Every precaution is taken in the intensive planning behind this free community display, with thorough risk assessment and training courses undertaken, and an official Fire Marshall in attendance to oversee the event.* The pub claims that the injuries were caused by a “rogue” firework.

When considering the question of legal liability, one would first consider the Driftwood Spars pub and possible claims in negligence and/or under the provisions of the **Occupiers’ Liability Act 1957**. If we assume, for the purposes of this article, that neither negligence nor breach of the 57 Act can be established, where might an injured person turn to seek compensation?

The answer might be found in the provisions of the **Consumer Protection Act 1987**. Whilst the word “Consumer” is used in the title, this is somewhat misleading. The question of who might rely on the provisions of the Act is not dealt with expressly. However, reading **s2(1)** and **5(1)** it clearly allows a party to sue, if they suffer damage as a result of a defective product.

This raises the question of when a product will be regarded, for the purposes of the Act, as being “defective”. This is dealt with by **s3**, which defines a defect as existing when “the safety of the product is not such as persons generally are entitled to expect”.

If, as claimed, the injuries were caused by a “rogue” firework, this would suggest that the “product”, i.e., the firework, was not as safe as persons generally were entitled to expect. The firework satisfies the definition of a “product” for the purposes of the Act, as the definition includes, **s2(1)** “any goods...”.

The next question to consider is who might be liable under the Act? In terms of potential liability, the Act includes not only manufacturers (or “producers”) but extends to own-branders and parties importing goods into the United Kingdom. Generally, “suppliers” are not liable except under the special provisions of **s2(3)**.

Where the injured party can identify the producer then the claim will be brought against the producer/manufacturer of the product. Problems might occur if the product was produced/manufactured abroad as is often the case with fireworks. In this event an action could be commenced against the person who imported the product into the UK in order, in the course of any business of his, to supply it to another **s2(2)(c)**.

If we assume that the persons entrusted by the pub with organising the display did not manufacture the fireworks but simply acquired them for the purpose of fulfilling their contractual obligation to the pub and if we further assume that the fireworks were imported by the organisers for this purpose, then an action may be brought against the organisers as importers into the UK relying on **s2(2)(c)**.

In contrast to the law of negligence, where proof of fault is required, liability under the Act is strict, that is liability without fault. An action in negligence requires the claimant to prove the existence of a duty of care, breach of duty and damage suffered as a consequence. In an action under the 87 Act the claimant needs to identify the defective product, identify the defendant as a person to whom the Act applies and show that the damage suffered was suffered as a consequence of the defect.

Solicitors acting on behalf of an injured party might also consider an action in negligence against the person entrusted by the pub with organising the display. The organisers would certainly owe a duty of care to persons attending the event but there might be some difficulty in showing that they were in breach of their duty. There appears to be no suggestion that the organisers were at fault in relation to the way in which the event was organised, and no way of them being able to ensure that the fireworks used in the display were free from defect.

Given the minor nature of the injuries sustained, I think it unlikely that any legal action will follow. If a successful legal action is brought, then any damages awarded would, one assumes, be paid by the insurers of the person found to be liable, in this particular case either the producer/manufacture of the defective firework or the organisers of the display as importers into the UK.

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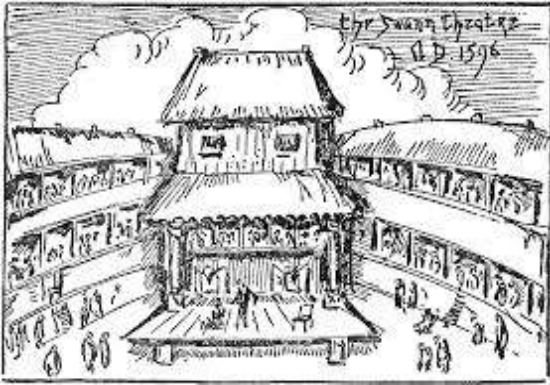
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SHAKESPEARE FOR EVERYONE

The Taming of the Shrew

The story of the shrew opens in the busy Italian city of Padua, a centre of the arts. A rich young tourist named Lucentio arrives with his servant to round out his education, and almost at once finds himself a spectator to a vigorous family argument. A rich merchant of the town has two daughters, Katharina and Bianca. Katharina, the elder of the two, has such a violent temper that no-one will marry her, but her sister Bianca is gentle and soft-spoken and has two ardent suitors, one young and one older.

The merchant announces that he will not let Bianca marry until he first finds a husband for Katharina, and this leaves the two suitors with the problem of finding someone who is willing to marry a shrew. Meanwhile young Lucentio falls in love with Bianca. He decides to let his servant take his place in Paduan society while he disguises himself and tries to get a position as schoolmaster to so pretty and gentle a lady.

A vigorous young man named Petruchio then arrives in town with only one thought in his head: to marry a rich wife.

*I come to wive it wealthily in Padua,
If wealthily, then happily in Padua.*

He is a friend of the younger of the two suitors, who is delighted to present him to Katharina's

father as a potential son-in-law. In return, Petruchio agrees to present his friend, in disguise, as a music master who has come to teach Bianca.

Still another suitor for Bianca's hand turns up in the person of Lucentio's servant, dressed as a fine gentleman, to help his master in his wooing, and the whole troop, half of them disguised and all of them anxious to see Katharina married, go off in a body to the rich merchant's house.

Katharina is furious at her father, jealous of her sister, and generally in a bad temper with the entire world. Petruchio is told what a violent woman she is, and he is soon able to judge this for himself when they meet. Petruchio tries to teach Katharina to play the lute. He foolishly finds fault with her fingering and she, being an impatient woman of direct action, breaks her lute over his head. Petruchio refuses to worry. She is rich and he is sure he can tame her.

There follows the first of a series of lively scenes; always audience favourites. The fun lies in seeing two strong wills opposed to one another, both without scruple or any sense of fair play, and both of them determined to win at all costs. Petruchio has hit upon a technique that maddens Katharina because she cannot find a way to turn it back on him. When she shouts, he tells her he loves her sweet and gentle voice, and when she rages about the room, he admires her charming way of walking.

The rest of the company returns, and Petruchio reports blandly that Katharina loves him devotedly. He will be back on Sunday to marry her, although Katharina assures him she will see him hanged first.

Now that she believes her older sister is safely betrothed, Bianca is free to marry, but at once her suitors fall to arguing amongst themselves. The elder suitor and the servant who is disguised as Lucentio vie with each other, offering huge sums of money to her father, while the other two

suitors, disguised as schoolmasters, try to give Bianca lessons in music and Latin, all whilst making advances. The scene ends with Bianca being called away to help with the preparations for her sister's wedding.

The wedding is a peculiar one. Petruchio arrives late, dressed like a lunatic, on a horse that is almost falling apart, his servant Grumio as untidy. He behaves like a madman throughout the wedding ceremony, upsetting the priest, throwing wine in the sexton's face and kissing the new bride with "such a clamorous smack" that the whole church resounds with the impact. When Katharina tries to make him stay for the bridal dinner, he seizes her bodily and carries her away, shouting energetically that he is rescuing her from thieves. "Fear not, sweet wench; they shall not touch thee, Kate."

All through the long cold journey to his country house, Petruchio keeps up this performance. Grumio, his servant, staggers into the front hall, completely worn out and feeling like "a piece of ice." He has a wonderful tale to tell about the outrageous behaviour of his master.

The result? The other servants cannot wait to see the new bride : "Is she so hot a shrew as she is reported?"

They are all well trained in the parts they are to play by the time Katharina and Petruchio arrive, Katharina bewildered and half-frozen and Petruchio in full swing. He bullies the servants when they try to serve supper, calling them names like "beetle-headed, flap-eared knaves".

In the end Katharina gets no food at all. Then Petruchio makes such a commotion about the way the bed is made that she gets no sleep either. He alternates such behaviour with expressing the warmest regard for her comfort, singing snatches of song with unsinkable good cheer and bidding his "sweet Kate" welcome to his house. His behaviour at times matches Katharina's at her worst, but he then displays such a sunny air of

doing everything for her comfort that she feels quite defenceless.

*I, who never knew how to entreat
Nor never needed that I should entreat,
Am starved for meat, giddy for lack of sleep,
With oaths kept waking, and with brawling fed,
And that which spites me more than all these
wants;
He does it under name of perfect love.*

Petruchio decides it is time to make a return visit to Padua and orders a special outfit for Katharina to wear. The haberdasher enters with a little cap he has made for her, and Katharina's heart goes out to it. Petruchio with assumed contempt exclaims that it is no better than a walnut shell, and Katharina is roused to fury in her desire for the cap. Petruchio then says he understands her feelings. It is "a paltry cap, a custard-coffin", and he loves her for disliking it. Katharina fights back: "Love me or love me not, I like the cap, And I will have it, or I will have none." So she gets none.

Then the tailor comes in with the gown, and again Petruchio finds fault with everything. One sleeve is carved like an apple tart and nothing is the way he ordered it. The tailor tries to defend himself, and Petruchio turns on him with some of his most talented insults:

*Thou flea, thou nit, thou winter-cricket thou!
Braved in mine own house with a skein of
thread!
Away thou rag, thou quantity, thou remnant!*

The tailor is actually safe enough and will be paid, but as long as he is in front of Katharina, Petruchio never forgets the part he is playing. The scene ends with the two of them setting out for Padua with no new clothes, and with Katharina realising that this is dual warfare she is unlikely ever to win.

Andrew Hoellering

Bonjour la France. Keeping in Touch

It would be a truism to say that communications in 1968 were very different from those of 2023. It is difficult for us now, looking back, to recall how limited they were compared to our contemporary world, where social media never sleep and people need never be disconnected from what is going on throughout the world. In contrast, during our four months away we didn't have a phone or access to a phone. Of course, in an emergency we could have phoned home but nothing urgent enough ever cropped up and so we didn't need to.

Actually I seem to remember that the whole French telecommunications network was rather primitive at the time. Even when we went back to live in France in 1975 the waiting time to have a phone installed was six months and I rather think that as a Protestant minister needing to maintain contact with church members, I found myself on a priority list. I remember that the situation provoked incredulity among our colleagues from America, where folk would be highly indignant if they didn't get a line the same day they requested it!

So...no telephone calls. Not that we minded, or could suspect that we would live to see a day when most of the people on the planet would carry in their pockets a small device that would enable them not merely to speak to people all over the world but also to watch their favourite films and check their bank balances among a plethora of other activities. In our situation, we didn't have the telephone and that was it. You don't hanker after instant communication when you have never known or suspected it. We wrote letters, or rather Fiona did. In fact, she spent most of her days in partial composition of a letter which when completed, or when one was received from the family, was duly sent off to her mum. These very same letters, which her mum carefully conserved, Fiona typed up years later into the collection which I now draw upon in order to compile these reminiscences.

Of course, newspapers, radio and television were all around in the sixties. Our lovely landlady was most insistent that every evening we should come down and watch the eight o'clock news with her, which we were very pleased to do. It was the time of the Grenoble Winter Olympics and the French were putting on a splendid show in which Sebastian Coe, now the British politician and sporting advocate Lord Coe, an erstwhile President of World athletics and Chairman of the British Olympic Association, was making a name for himself.

As for the radio, we had brought a small transistor with us on which we listened to The Archers every evening! I had been a great fan from my youth, although nothing would induce me to listen regularly at the present time, not even the final days of the evil Rob Kitchener and his dying wish for baptism. But back then it was a great link with home. The BBC also kept us abreast of current affairs. To our delight, we could pick up the early morning news programme presented by Jack de Manio. This was followed by Regional Extra, and again we were gratified that it was the Midlands version that came through, since this was my home area and we had been living in Birmingham before we came to France. It was via the BBC that we learned there had been heavy snowfalls back home. In Orange snow was rare. The weather

was seasonally cold, with ice on the pavements, but with blue skies and bright sunshine most days. We felt very privileged.

I got into reading a French newspaper most days, either a national like Le Monde or Le Figaro (both heavies) or our own regional Le Provençal. It was via the press that I learned of the satisfaction of Mrs Barbara Castle (the Minister of Transport who couldn't drive, if my memory serves me correctly) with her breathalyser policy, which had reduced fatal road accidents by 30%, indeed an excellent result. It was on reading this information that I learned the French for 'breathalyser' ('alcootest' if you're interested). There were also reports of a Budget presented by Prime Minister Harold Wilson's government. (By the time you read this, another Budget will no doubt be being widely commented on. *Plus ça change...*).

We were still in France on April 1st, which brought to mind past examples of April fool jokes back home. In France we found that the custom was widely supported by the media, so that you got fake news on TV, radio and newspapers. We were told that one year our regional newspaper featured a front-page article on the collapse of the antique Roman theatre here in Orange - complete with pictures! On a social level, on 1st April the French – or at least the children - make April fish (*poissons d'avril*) out of paper to surreptitiously stick on the back of unsuspecting friends -

Summing up, although we didn't have Zoom, FaceTime et al, we never less managed to keep connected to our nearest and dearest during the time we were away.

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Dignity in death

On entering hospital, it is now standard practice for the admitting clinical team to discuss with you what treatment you want if you become critically ill. This information is recorded on a document called a Treatment Escalation Plan (TEP) form. This focuses on which treatments may or may not be most helpful for you. A variety of treatments can be considered, such as antibiotics, artificial feeding or ventilation of your lungs. The option of whether it would be helpful or not to readmit you to hospital in the future for further treatments may also be included in your plan.

The most important part of this discussion is what happens if your heart stops beating. This will happen to all of us at some point in our lives and for the vast majority it will be the moment of our death. The TEP form looks at the important issue of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, also known as CPR. This is the medical treatment that can be used to try to restart the heart and lungs if they suddenly stop working. It includes chest compressions and the use of a defibrillator to shock the heart back into beating. While resuscitation can be successful for some people, for others it is very unlikely to work. CPR can be very traumatic and it is not a suitable treatment for everybody. The older you are the less likely that you will recover your previous level of mental and physical function. The TEP form can be used to document the resuscitation decision that is right for your individual circumstances. If you decide that CPR would not be the right thing to do for you then the doctor will fill this in on the TEP form. It is called a do not attempt (try) to resuscitate or DNA CPR.

Until now this recording of a patient's wishes was held on a piece of paper that could easily get misplaced. In the next few months these TEP forms will be available for all medical professionals to access on the Devon and Cornwall Care record. This is a new secure computer system that brings together information about your health and care and presents it as a single record. Healthcare staff can now see the details held by GP practices, hospitals and other health and care organisations across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Having a more complete view of your medical history helps healthcare professionals identify problems more effectively and make quicker diagnoses. For instance, they can see which allergies you suffer from, any treatment and medication you have received plus quickly understand advance care decisions you have made using a TEP form.

You do not have to be in hospital to complete a TEP form. GPs are very happy to have this conversation with patients and complete the form together. It is actually more sensible to have the discussion when you are well rather than when you are sick and having to deal with the disorientating circumstances of being admitted to hospital.

We all understand the importance of writing a Will. Over the next few years, I think completing a TEP will be considered in a similar way. The fact that we can now record the information so it is easily accessed by hospital and ambulance teams means it can be reviewed and changed at any point with everyone knowing exactly what your wishes are.

Anthony O'Brien, Wyndham House Surgery

Puzzles

In December's edition I asked you to work out, from the information given alone, the year when Boadicea was born. There were 129 years between the birth of Cleopatra and the death of Boadicea; but as their combined ages amounted to 100 years only, there must have been 29 years when neither existed – that is between the death of Cleopatra and the birth of Boadicea. Therefore, Boadicea must have been born 29 years after the death of Cleopatra in 30 BC, which would be in the year 1 BC.

On to this month's puzzles:

a) Su Doku

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

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

b) Figures for Letters

Look at the following sum, expressed in letters:

$$A B C D \times E F G H I = A C G E F H I B D$$

Every letter stands for a different digit from 1 to 9 (there is no zero). The number represented by

the first four digits when multiplied by the number containing the five digits, equals the number containing all nine of the digits in the order shown.

Can you substitute digits for letters so that it works?

c) A Leap Year Puzzle

February this year will contain five Thursdays. Can you work out when the last year prior to 2024 was that had five Thursdays in February and when will be the first year after 2024 with five Thursdays in February?

d) 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			
				4	>	
	v		<		>	
			^			
					<	4

Happy puzzling.

Neville Lane



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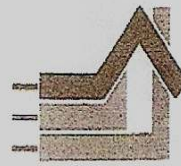
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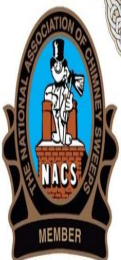
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Church Choir	Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
PCC Treasurer	Jean Brown, Rydal Cottage, Bullen Street, Thorverton, 01392 861176
Friends of Thorverton Parish Church Trust	Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
County Councillor	Margaret Squires, 01363 84337, margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk
District Councillor	Cllr Rhys Roberts, 07515 437373, Rroberts@middevon.gov.uk
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Library (Exeter Mobile)	<i>Every 4 weeks 3:45–4:20pm Thursdays, Quarry Car Park (See page 52 for dates.)</i>
Member of Parliament	Mel Stride MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 02072 197037 mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk
Parish Council Chairman	Cllr Andrew Foster 01392 759560
Parish Clerk	Jim Roberts 01392 202692 or 07768457590, thorvertonpc@gmail.com
Parish Council Meetings	2nd Tuesday of the month (except August), at 7pm in the Memorial Hall <i>(See Notice of Agenda on the Parish Council Notice Board in School Lane.)</i>
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Public Telephone Kiosk	<i>Opposite the Church, outside the former Bell Inn, Dinneford Street, Thorverton</i>
Thorverton C of E Primary School (Part of the Exe Valley Federation)	Executive Headteacher (Exe Valley Federation): Mr John Jolliffe Head of School (Thorverton): Mr Chris Holding 01392 860374 School Office (Thorverton) 01392 860374 Chair of Governors (Exe Valley Federation): Jackie Enright 01392 851859 Clerk to the Governors: Mrs Heidi Last hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
School PTFA	Chair: Wendy Coles Vice chair: Elaine Green Secretary: Amy Crebo Treasurer: Peter Stevens thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk <i>Please contact any members of the PTFA via the school office 01392 860374</i>
South West Water	24 hour emergency 0800 169 1144, helpline 0800 169 1133
Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust	Chair: Di Foxford Secretary: Maggie Dunlop 01392 861185
Thorverton Millennium Green Trust	Chair: John Spivey 01392 861324 Secretary: Peter Hargood

THORVERTON ORGANISATIONS

Amateur Dramatic Society (TADS)

Chair: Sheena Hunter-Hedges 01392 860843

Treasurer: Simon Hedges

Minutes Secretary: Mary Ette

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

Association Football Club

Chairman: 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](mailto:01392_861707_thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com)

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

Thorverton Ambling, Rambling and Tramping Society (TARTS)

Caroline Prince 07749 775304 or Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203

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

TMH Committee

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

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

Bookings: thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.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
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Main telephone: 01363 727111 Press 2 for direct line to Thorverton Surgery

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

	Crediton	GPs available	Thorverton	GPs available	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 SystemOnline.

Please ask at reception for details.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wyndham House Surgery

Wyndham Road, Silverton, EX5 4HZ

Telephone: 01392 860034

www.wyndhamhousesurgery.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bus Services

Dartline 675 and Country Bus 678

Tuesday - Dartline 675 (from Cheriton Fitzpaine)

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: Feb 12th & March 4th & 25th

Recycling boxes fortnightly on Mondays: Feb 12th, 26th & March 11th & 25th

Chargeable garden waste fortnightly on Mondays: Feb 5th, 19th & March 4th & 18th

Mobile Library

Thursdays 3:45–4:30pm in Quarry/Post Office Car Park every 4 weeks February 1st & 29th then finished

Road works

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



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

 The poster is split into two vertical panels. The left panel features a close-up photograph of a white mug filled with coffee, topped with a dusting of brown powder, resting on a rustic wooden surface. Pine cones and evergreen branches are scattered around the mug. The text 'Winter Warmth in Thorverton' is overlaid in white at the bottom left. The right panel has a light, textured background with a pine branch at the bottom right. It contains the following text:

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

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL logo

Thorverton Christmas Lights 2023

On Sunday at 6pm on the 3rd of December the Christmas tree lights, and all the Jubilee Green lights were switched on.



A large crowd had gathered, the Church choir were singing Carols and with Father Christmas leading the countdown the lights were switched on.

Although it seems a long time ago, we have to thank Thorfest for generously supplying the lights and the team of Dom & Natasha Carbines and Nic & Sam Fice for doing a wonderful job giving up their time and arranging the display.

Each year it seems to get just a little bit better than the previous year. We are so lucky to have a village green and people willing to work to enhance the Christmas Spirit, we must be the envy of a lot of neighbouring villages.

