

focus
on thorverton



MARCH 2024

£1.00

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Digital version	(courtesy of Rob Purvis): thorvertonfocus.wordpress.com
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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: Russ Clarke

Welcome to the March 2024 Focus.

There are many things to really like about this village.

The approach over the Exe and then on to the Cricket Club ground and pavilion, especially when there is a match being played, somehow triggers the brain to slow down a little and gives the feeling of entering an English village.

A glimpse of the old station house is a reminder of days gone by when steam trains regularly stopped to take passengers in and out of the village.

Over the brow of the hill the houses are set well back giving a feeling of space and at the end of the straight we can see how the newer Court Barton houses successfully merge with and emulate the surrounding buildings.

A range of quintessentially English properties, including the Court Barton Farmhouse, Pynes House and Thorverton House lead us to the Jubilee Green where we find the recently restored 'Old Butchers Shop' dating back to 1793 and a seat to sit for a few moments to contemplate some of the history which surrounds us.

Walk up Jericho street between the cottages and houses and carry on to the top of the hill where you will find the view is just amazing and all you will hear is the wind and the Skylarks.

All this and we've not even reached the centre of the village. What a great place to live!

Editor

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MARCH

Sun 3 rd	Creative Workshops for Lent, Bridge Centre Stoke Canon, 2.30pm
Tues 5 th	WI Meeting and talk WI Hut, 2pm
Wed 6 th	FOCUS AGM, WI Hut, 7.30pm
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
Sat 16 th	TMH Film Night, 'The Great Escaper', 7.30pm
Sun 17 th	Bubble Church, Thorverton Church, 9.15am
Sun 17 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
Thurs 21 st	Easter Bingo, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm
Fri 22 nd	History Society talk 'Killerton Gardens Fragments of History', WI Hut, 7.30pm
Sat 23 rd	WI Coffee Morning and Market, WI Hut ,10-11am
Sat 23 rd	Thorverton Tidy Up Day, Jubilee Green, 10am
Sat 23 rd	Thorverton Cricket Club Quiz and Curry Night, Thorverton Memorial Hall

To shop no more!

Alas my heart is broke, the shop has gone,
 we knew the score but still we let you go
 and in our hearts we know that must be wrong.
 We've lost a limb and now will suffer so.

A lot of mem'ries creep into my mind,
 of people I would meet inside your door,
 of smiling faces, welcomes that were kind.
 I feel so sad to lose them that's for sure.

To step from street to shop was a delight.
 The cold and weather soon was left behind
 and into warmth and colour, cosy, bright,
 to buy whatever you could wish to find.

The village is bereft, my spirit sore,
 For now I know, I'll really shop no more!

LUCY'S LARDER

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

Payments and regular donations may be made through the
Parish Church Treasurer using the following account details:

PCC Thorverton - Sort Code: 30-93-14 - A/c no: 004361

Ref: Lucy's Larder

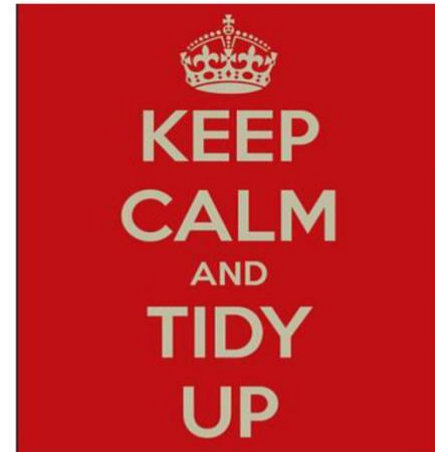
Part-time
holiday nanny / baby sitter
required.

Please call 07535 256795
for more details.

CALL FOR SITES

Thorverton Affordable Housing Project
is looking for sites in the area.
If you have some land available,
please write, in confidence,

to info@thorvertonclt.co.uk



THORVERTON VILLAGE

TIDY UP DAY

Saturday 23rd March

Meet at Jubilee Green

10.00 am

Refreshments after we finish

Don't forget your gloves!

Thorverton Parish Council Update March 2024

If it will only stop raining we might be able to say 'spring is in the air'! As eternal optimists TPC has set Saturday 23rd March as the next Village Tidy Up Day, with us all meeting on the Jubilee Green at 10.00; we have an assortment of tools but bring along your weapon of choice. There will be something suitable as a refreshment when we are done and don't forget your gloves!

As you may already know the DCC Mobile Library Service will end this month. Can we set up some sort of library service in the village? There are modest grants available from DCC and Cllr Shirley Nightingale will be looking into the possibility; her contact details are on our website and she also works several shifts in The Exeter. Alternatively, if you have any suggestions please share them with us via the PC Clerk at thorvertonpc@gmail.com

The Rec Ground Working Group has been trying to find sponsors for the new equipment we need; one that has helped in the past was ready to back the project again, but the company concerned was bought out and we seem to be back to square one.

This monthly update now always includes details on the Affordable Housing project. This is coming along at a quicker pace and from next month a separate bulletin will be published in Focus. So here is the last that will be included as part of the PC update:

The original TAHG group has been expanded and a larger Steering Group (SG) of 12 members has met; this number includes an advisor we have brought in who has recent successful experience in this area, having been very involved in a similar project in Beer. The SG will report to members, or shareholders, of Thorverton Community Land Trust (TCLT) which will soon be officially registered. We can also report that a third meeting with the Church Commissioners and their agents, Savills, has been held to discuss available land in the area. This was extremely positive and a Memorandum of Understanding has been exchanged, but note it is all still very much only in the discussions stages. As you will see elsewhere in Focus we are still advertising for possible sites.

The SG has been split into four sub-groups, Communications, Governance, Technical and Finance and all are holding meetings at the moment. They are going to present their initial recommendations to the SG and the advisor on 29th Feb, which is after this update is written so, unfortunately, we cannot give you more information here. We expect to hold an Open Meeting for the whole Parish during March which will be the opportunity for all to attend.

Please look out for more details on this and come along and have your say. We already have a good number that have signed up to be part of the CLT and we are always looking for more to join. This doesn't mean you have to be an active participant in the Group meetings; it will be similar to being a 'shareholder' in a public company, with the Steering Group as the 'Board of Directors'.

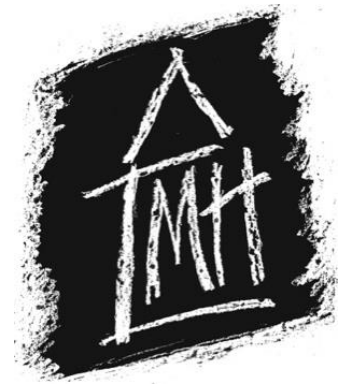
The promised website is almost ready to go live, but we need to have some more parts of the jigsaw in place first. You can email

info@thorvertonclt.co.uk if you would like to register your interest in joining TCLT.

Andrew Foster

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL

There was a bumper turnout for February's Big Breakfast – a big shout out to the kitchen and serving team who were kept busy right to the end. We are sorry if it was a bit squashed – we are thinking how best to create more space for the breakfast tables & may make some minor changes to the table layout over the next couple of months or so to see what works best. The three winners of last month's draw were Sue Trott, Neil Harrison and Brian Chilcott.



Don't forget Big Breakfast and Saturday Market on **9th March**.

Important note about March's Film Night - we have had to change the date to Saturday 16th March. The film is **The Great Escaper** starring two British icons Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson. This film is a true-life heart-warmer about a 89 year old Royal Navy veteran who in 2014 jauntily sneaks out of his care home to get aboard a cross-channel ferry and attend the 70th anniversary celebrations of the D-day landings in Normandy. You can buy tickets online by going onto our website thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk or alternatively tickets can be bought on the night. Doors open 6.45pm, with the film starting at 7.30pm. Just to give advance notice of April's film, which is the epic '**Napoleon**' and will be shown on **Friday 19th April**.

After the very successful Christmas Bingo last December, we are pleased to be holding the **TMH Easter Bingo on Thursday 21st March** in the hall. Doors open 7.00 pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Once again there will be **top cash prizes, including flyers at £50 and £100!!** We are grateful to Paws for Pleasure for their generous sponsorship of this event.

At our February committee meeting we reviewed the hire charges in the hall, which were last set in 2021. The good news for anyone considering booking the hall is that we agreed the charges should remain unchanged for the next year.

Penny Wiles penny@apwiles.co.uk 07884 312627

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



FOCUS NEEDS YOU

A letter from our Chairman

Focus has been running for 55 years; it has a strong supporting team of assistant editors and committee members, but Russ Clarke our editor is stepping down at the end of March.

Focus has come a long way since it began life put together by local people. Although everything is still done by volunteers, it is printed by an outside company, which is paid for. We cannot continue without an editor.

If you could help, or know of anyone who would be willing to help, you don't need to live in the village, please get in touch with either:

Russ Clarke 01392 860279 or email thorvertonfocus@gmail.com

Michael Ayre 01392 860434 ayre.ratcliffe@gmail.com

It would be such a shame to see our village magazine disappear due to the lack of an editor.

Michael Ayre
Chairman

FOCUS AGM – WEDNESDAY MARCH 6th, WI HUT, 7.30pm.

Plant sale at Fair Oak, Friday 3rd to Monday 6th May. Funds for Thorverton church.

Afternoon tea at Fair Oak, Sunday 16th June from 3.00 in aid of Thorverton Church and Force.

CALL FOR SITES

Thorverton Affordable Housing Project is looking for sites in the area.

If you have some land available, please write, in confidence, to

info@thorvertonclt.co.uk

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





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

Thorverton & District History Society

 A collage of images showing various parts of Killerton House and its gardens, including a large building, a garden with tall red flowers, and a smaller garden area. The collage is framed by a white border.

KILLERTON GARDENS:

FRAGMENTS of HISTORY

NICK COX

**Nick has a passion for trees
and is a regular Guide at Killerton's gardens**

**Friday 22nd March 2024 7:30pm
Thorverton WI Hut.**

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



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 6 March 2024	Reuben Ayres	Freemasonry in Exeter – History and Today. Reuben was Consultant Gastroenterologist at Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital from 1994 – 2022. He joined Freemasonry (St George’s Lodge No.112) in November 2023. He is currently Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the Devonshire Freemasons. His talk will cover a general history of Freemasonry, the history of Freemasonry in Exeter, and Freemasonry Today (Exeter & beyond)
Wednesday 13 March 2024	Carolyn Southcott	FearFree Charity talk Carolyn is the Devon Fundraising Manager of the Charity FearFree. FearFree is a charity working to break the cycle of domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking across the Southwest. They support over 10000 adults and children every year by creating experience specific programmes tailored to a person’s needs and experiences.
Wednesday 20 March 2024	Bob Ball	Isandlwana and Custer’s Last Stand – British Style! Bob will present his latest historical talk showing how two events separated by 30 months and 9560 miles but identical in nature, resulted in the destruction of two famous indigenous races in South Africa and the United States.
Wednesday 27 March 2024	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Easter break</i>
Wednesday 3 April	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Easter break</i>
Wednesday 10 April	<i>Forum restarts</i>	<i>The programme from April to August will be published in February 2024</i>

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& TCT LTD NEWSAGENT/STATIONERS**

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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



Rewe and District Gardening Club

At Rewe Village Hall opposite the Church
Free Car Park by the Church

**Our next meeting on Monday 18th of March 2024
at 7.30 pm we have invited Mr Karl Emeleus the
Head Gardener at Killerton to talk of his work.**

Visitor's fee £1

For further information: mandsgriffin4@gmail.com

OFF THE SHELF

Last month I shared my thoughts on a book I greatly enjoyed (Neville Shute's *No Highway*). I feel it is now time to tackle a heavyweight, one of those challenges I have delayed taking off the shelf: John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, which I confess I have not enjoyed. But it is too important to ignore.

Bunyan was a 17th century dissentient, who certainly suffered for his principles: he was immured in Bedford Gaol for twelve years because he would not be bound by an Act of Parliament forbidding nonconformist preaching. His most famous book, published in 1678, describes the allegorical journey towards salvation of a man with the generic name of Christian, put into the form of a trudge from his home-town, the City of Destruction (in other words, the fleshpots of Mammon) towards the Celestial City. He is accompanied by different guides (Evangelist, who encourages him to leave, then Faithful who is executed on the way, and then Hopeful who stays the distance). They pass through dangers, privation, and temptation (the Slough of Despond, the Valley of the Shadow of Death, Vanity Fair, and so on). Eventually Christian arrives at the Golden City and is welcomed with trumpets, the whole expedition being narrated as a dream experienced by the writer - a familiar and convenient device.

The Pilgrim's Progress was a bestseller of its age and for a long time after, and probably rivalled the Bible as a necessary presence in solid Victorian book-cases; and although I found its style harsh and challenging, this is in great part a reflection of the different context in which its method and message have to be viewed after more than three centuries. But some values, such as duty and selflessness, are less context-dependent than others; which emboldens me to say that in my opinion Christian is no pattern Christian, but a monster. On the second page of the story, convinced that his home-town will be destroyed by heavenly vengeance, he asks himself "What shall I do to be saved?" On the third page, the Evangelist gives him a parchment inscribed *Flee the wrath to come* and points to a wicket gate, the beginning of the way to Heaven. The story continues:

Now, he had not run far from his own door, but his wife and children, perceiving it, began to cry after him to return; but the man put his fingers in his ears, and ran on, crying Life! life! eternal life!

So he abandons the family in the hope of saving his own soul. This is not the behaviour of someone I warm to, although it parallels Bunyan's own track record. Imprisoned in Bedford Gaol, he could have been freed and able to support his own family if he promised to give up his outlawed preaching. But he refused, and his wife, the mother of four children, was obliged to make shoelaces to keep them afloat. Bunyan was adamant:

I saw in this condition I was a man who was pulling down his house upon the head of his Wife and Children; yet thought I, I must do it, I must do it.

No compromise. Admirable, or stubborn?

Interestingly, he wrote a sequel in which Christian's family do indeed follow him. Theirs is a much slower journey, during which his sons grow up and marry and do not in fact enter the Celestial City at all. But his wife does, although we do not witness their reunion. However, the introduction to Part 2 is interestingly different from Part 1. A neighbour, being asked about his family, is told:

They are like to do as well as did Christian himself; for though they all played the fool at the first, and would by no means be persuaded by either the tears or entreaties of Christian, yet second thoughts have wrought wonderfully with them; so they have packed up, and are also gone after him.

Christian's 'tears and entreaties' were noticeably absent from the first part. Perhaps Bunyan's attitude softened after reflecting on his own case? But basically I find his protagonist so doctrinaire, self-centred and loveless in his pursuit of personal salvation that any trace of human warmth is hard to imagine.

James Muirden



The new tennis season is fast approaching; our membership year starts in April.

To get your full benefit of your membership, do join from April 1st. There is much tennis to be had. Four club sessions, a ladder for single play, rusty racket sessions, sessions to try out the ball machine and there is a lot of match play.

We have three teams playing league tennis this winter – two mixed and one men's team. Congratulations to them for their successes so far and good luck for the rest of the season. You can follow their results on the website

- <https://www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk/league-tennis/>

For the summer season we will be playing three mixed teams, two men's and one ladies' team. They will be at different levels of play. The league matches are a chance to play against unknown players. The matches start at 6.30 on weekday evenings. Something for you?

Frederiek Maddock

SERVICES & INFORMATION MARCH 2024

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

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

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

Sunday 3 March Lent 3

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

Tuesday 5 March

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
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Sunday 10 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

10:00 am	Mothering Service with Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	TC
10:00 am	Mothering Service	Thorverton	LF/Lay Led
10:00 am	Mothering Service	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
10:00 am	Mothering Service	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
11:00 am	Mothering Service	Huxham	Lay Led
11:15 am	Mothering Service	Cadbury	Lay Led
11:15 am	Café Church	Rewe	Lay Led

Sunday 17 March Lent 5

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Bramford Speke	JD
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton	TC
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Cadbury	TC
05:00 pm	Holy Communion	Stoke Canon	TC/LF

Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
04:00 pm	Lego Club	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led

Monday 25 March

06:00 pm	Prayer Service	Thorverton	TC
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Tuesday 26 March

06:00 pm	Prayer Service	Thorverton	TC
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Wednesday 27 March

06:30 pm	Remembering Service	Bramford Speke	TC
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Thursday 28 March Maundy Thursday

06:30 pm	Service with simple meal	Newton St Cyres	TC/LF
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Friday 29 March Good Friday

11:00 am	Passion Service	Stoke Canon	TC
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Sunday 31 March Easter Day

06:00 am	Sunrise Service	Cadbury [Cadbury Castle]	TC
09:00 am	Mission Community breakfast	Thorverton	Lay Led
10:00 am	Mission Community Service with Holy Communion	Thorverton	TC + Others

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

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.

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

For more information contact

Revd Tim Collins:

01392 860767

tim.collins@netherexe.org

Easter – the Truth of Christianity

For the church this whole month of March takes us through Lent to the great feast of Easter, but not before we have been through the difficult, challenging events of Holy Week: from Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (on a donkey!) to the whole drama of the Last Supper, Jesus's trials before the chief priests of the Jews, Herod and finally, Pontius Pilate then Jesus's crucifixion on Good Friday (with 'good' in this context meaning 'holy').

It is a challenging week – but we need to move through that week, need to experience a tiny portion of what it was that Jesus experienced before we can fully appreciate and understand the truth of Easter in order to know who Jesus is.

During that final trial, in response to questioning from Pilate, Jesus provides an insight into his mission, "The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:37)

Pilate responds simply: "What is truth?"

We don't really know the tone Pilate used. Was it mocking, ironic, dismissive, genuinely inquisitive?

But, certainly, Pilate's question should be one to stop and make us all think – particularly in the current political and journalistic world of post-truth, fake news and deep-fake images. We are perhaps living in a world now where 'truth' is whatever we want it to mean for ourselves – even perhaps what we can manipulate it to mean for others. So each of us may have a different 'truth' by which we live our lives.

But Jesus is making it clear to Pilate that in fact there is a fundamental truth found in Him, in God. That all that was, and is and is to come finds its truth in God.

And the truth of Easter isn't that Jesus died on the cross – but that on the third day his tomb was empty, and he walked among us again. The truth is that death is no longer the end. The truth of Easter is about the life that we have all been promised. The truth of Easter is a critical part of us because it celebrates how Jesus dies and rises in each of us, in our personal lives, in family, church, parish, community. It celebrates how Jesus dies and rises in our daily work, in our home life, in our relationships, in the joys and sorrows of the world.

And it is because of this, our foundational belief in the truth of Easter, that Christians are Christians.

How is your parish church managed?

I am writing with some exciting news about a collaboration between the churches within the Netherexe Mission Community!

I don't know how much you know about the management of your local parish and its church. Well, as priest-in-charge, I am very much deeply involved in the planning and delivery of services, and mission across our communities. But the actual day-to-day running of each parish church and the upkeep of the building is undertaken by a very dedicated group of elected people called the Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council (PCC). These people are elected at an annual meeting called the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) at which the year's accounts are presented and lots of reports on the life and work of the parish.

This was very much the way it has been for the past 100 years for the parishes in the Netherexe Mission Community, as it still is for the vast majority of parishes throughout the country.

However, from the beginning of this year, that changed for six of our seven parishes. This year we established a single Joint Churches Council to look after the affairs of the six parishes of Brampford Speke, Newton St Cyres, Rewe with Netherexe, Stoke Canon with Huxham, Thorverton, and Upton Pyne. Over the next few months, each parish will, at their respective APCMs elect members to this Joint Churches Council, who will then take on the responsibility for many of the legal and administrative duties currently undertaken by the PCCs, and to ensure that we continue to provide effective care and management of the churches.

The actual services, events, fund-raising and great social occasions will still be managed by the parishes themselves, working alongside many people from the wider communities, with monies raised staying in the parish for the care and upkeep of the spiritual hearts of our wonderful communities.

We believe this is a positive development as we continue working together into the future. Should you have any questions about this change or would like to play a part in your local church and its activities, I would be very happy to speak to you.

All blessings

Tim

Revd Tim Collins

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community

PS: We are offering some time and space – and a cup of tea – on Good Friday, from 3pm – 5pm at The Rectory, School Lane, Thorverton. All most welcome to join us.

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: **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**

Apr 14th Communion Service : **9.30am**

Apr 28th Choral Morning Prayer : **9.30am**

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



Next Bubble Church Sunday 17th March Thorverton Parish Church

- 9.15am Coffee and pastries
 - 9.30am Bubble Church Service
for families with young children
 - 10.00am 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



Allotment Talk – March 2024

There hasn't been too much activity on most of the allotments over the past month, but things are getting moving now as plans for the year start being put into action. I met up with Helen and Rob Hunter, who have had their two adjoining plots for only eight months, so are looking forward to their first full growing year. I understand that Helen is the planner and Rob is called in when labour is required. They wanted to take on an allotment so that they could grow as much as possible for their own consumption, for the enjoyment of eating freshly picked food and without any plastic packaging or air miles.

The Hunters had been busy over the autumn and winter preparing the ground, covering and suppressing weeds where necessary, and they had recently started constructing a large frame which would give a cage around their raspberries. This looks to be an impressive structure in the making. I was also impressed with the number and variety of fruit which they have: lots of strawberry plants, raspberry canes – many of which are new, but some of which they have taken and divided from the couple of rows that had been there already – a quince tree, blackcurrants, gooseberries, a plum and a pear tree. Helen was grappling with what to do with the strawberries; she had moved some new plants, taken from runners off established plants, which is far cheaper than buying in a load of new plants, and she had laid straw around her other plants from which she was trying her best to remove grass.



Helen has four patches where she will be growing vegetables in rotation, probably concentrating on potatoes, kale, cabbage, spinach, beetroot, leeks and rainbow chard. She also has her Italian bed in which she intends to grow basil, tomatoes and garlic. There is another patch in which she is growing flowers: tulips early in the spring, with sweet peas, cornflowers, nasturtium and dahlias amongst those to follow. There are also three large composting areas which they intend to utilise. I was impressed with her ambitious plans; I just hope that Rob is up to it!

There is not a lot ready to harvest in March on the allotments; however, Peter Colebrook has recommended the following recipe using kale of which he and Lorraine have an abundant supply at the moment:

Kale, Chorizo and Potato Soup

Ingredients

225g kale with stems removed	1 tsp ground black pepper
225g chorizo sausage	Pinch of cayenne pepper (optional)
675g red potatoes	12 slices of French bread, grilled
1.75 litres vegetable stock	Salt and pepper

Method

Chop the kale finely in a food processor for a few seconds. Prick the sausages and place in a pan with enough water to cover; simmer for 15 minutes, then drain and cut into thin slices. Cook the potatoes in lightly salted boiling water for about 15 minutes or until tender, then drain, place in a bowl and mash, adding a little of the cooking liquid to form a thick paste.

Bring the vegetable stock to the boil and add the kale. Add the chorizo and simmer for 5 minutes. Add the paste gradually and simmer for 20 minutes. Season with black pepper and cayenne.

Place bread sticks in each bowl and pour over the soup, serving generously sprinkled with pepper.

Neville Lane

Stilton and celeriac mashed potatoes

1 large peeled celeriac
 an equal amount of peeled potatoes
 boil or steam them until cooked, drain well and mash
 to every 1 lb (450g) add:
 2oz (50g) grated Stilton cheese
 two tablespoonfuls milk
 1 oz (25g) butter
 Season with freshly ground black pepper and a little grated nutmeg.
 Place the mash in a buttered oven proof dish, sprinkle breadcrumbs and grated stilton over the top and
 bake in a hot oven until golden brown. Good with meat or vegetable stews.

Paul Cleave
 Sustainable Crediton

MEMORIES OF TIMES GONE BY

I have been going through some old family papers and came across this memory of my Great Grandmother, Mary Vaughan, which I thought is an interesting insight into times gone by in Exeter. She passed away in 1938 aged 75 so her memories must relate to the latter part of the 1800s.

She wrote this out and sent it to the local paper on 15th January 1936.

"I remember a man who used to dredge the river above the bridge at Exwick Crossing for gravel. He was tall and used to be called 'Stocking Needle'. The gravel was put in heaps on the bank and it was a playground for school children much to his annoyance.

I was living in Exwick at the time of the big flood when the water was up to the counters in Red Cow village shops. My father, a railwayman on the Southern, had to walk all around Upton Church up over Maryfield Lane to get to duty. That quickly settled it and we were soon in town living at St Pauls.

I see there is talk of the Episcopal School being rebuilt. It has been a good school as long as I can remember. I was a scholar there when it was called the Blue School. Although I was not a Blue-Girl, I had free schooling.

The girls used to wear blue serge frocks and blue check aprons, with white ones for special occasions such as going to the Cathedral. We used to march in twos with a small plaid shawl on but I forget what hat or bonnet. We had hobnail boots given out twice a year. A pile of boots were turned out on the floor and every girl fitted. Each girl had two unbleached calico Chemises made by the girls at the school. We also made the linen collars for the boys.

The boys used to wear blue serge clothes, the linen collars and brass buttons.

How many of the school girls today would like to be appointed a cleaner of the school? Such was the rule for us; any big girls were chosen for the job. I was one.

We had to sweep the school after schooling was over for the day, then come early enough to get it ready for the day. We had to scrub it at the end of the week, and the mistress saw we did it properly. She used to make us scrub on the grain of the wood, and when wiping up she would make us bring our cloth well back over the last spot, so that no dirty marks were left.

In winter when fires were going so many of us were appointed for that job. It meant going in about six o'clock in the morning to light the fires, clean up the grates, dust the desks etc. It was very cold some mornings with snow and wind.

We were allowed to take a screw of tea and sugar and milk each, put it together, and were allowed to have our breakfast in the classroom, clean ourselves and be ready for school at nine o'clock.

At the end of winter we were given tea in the school house which we all enjoyed.

Our mistress had a kind of pulpit in the middle of the classroom from where she used to read the prayers of the day then scripture lessons."

Thank goodness times have changed and we have school caretakers and central heating.

Nick Bright

The preacher from Galilee before the Roman governor

In a Focus issue coming up to Christmas I wrote about the Emperor Augustus, who was in power when Jesus was born. We are now approaching Easter and this time we look at Pontius Pilate, the Roman official who condemned Jesus to death.

Pilate was governor of Judea from AD 26 to AD 36. We don't know anything about him before he took up this post. Ancient Rome didn't have the equivalent of a Sandhurst for training officers, nor indeed any other form of preparation for military service. We do know that he was appointed by the Emperor Tiberius but we don't know what criteria guided the emperor's choice. Some surprising lines from Tiberius may give some indication: the emperor preferred a little-known candidate for a post rather than a better-qualified one on the strength of his impressive ability to drain an amphora of wine at dinner! On another occasion, after a two-day drinking bout with friends, he appointed one of them as governor of Syria and another to a post of importance within Rome.

One thing that sets him apart from every other governor of Judea is that we have a contemporary reference to him carved in stone. This was unearthed during excavations at Caesarea in 1961. It was set in a building erected by Pilate in honour of his master Tiberius. The inscription is brief and incomplete but enough to indicate that the correct contemporary title for a governor of Judea was '*praefectus*' and not '*procurator*' despite the wide usage of the latter in subsequent Latin sources.

A second thing that is unique about Pilate is that his name is universally known. This is because it is so regularly recited in the creed by Catholics and Anglicans: 'Suffered under Pontius Pilate.' Otherwise, his name would be as obscure as that of all the other Roman governors of Judea, unknown except to specialists of the period.

The name of Pilate figures not only in the New Testament but in the works of various classical authors, for instance the Roman historian Tacitus, who writes of 'one Christus, executed by the governor Pontius Pilate when Tiberius was emperor.' Pilate's role comes into prominence when the Jerusalem authorities bring before him Jesus of Nazareth, whom they consider to be a political agitator, with the request that he ratify the sentence of death pronounced during the night by a hastily-convened 'kangaroo' court. At first, the governor refuses to ratify this verdict, but he does eventually comply, though not without first finding the prisoner innocent three times.


His hesitation and vacillation before the prisoner's accusers have often been pointed out. They are probably due to the blunders he had made in the eyes of his Jewish subjects over the years and which are recorded by the Jewish historian Josephus. The first occurred at the beginning of his rule, when he offended conservative Jews by allowing standards bearing the image of the emperor to be brought into the city. This provocative act sparked outrage leading to violent demonstrations. He caused a second scandal during his construction of an aqueduct by plundering the temple treasury in order to help to pay for it. Again, there were widespread protests against what seemed to be not only high-handed but blasphemous.

There were other incidents too which all made for bad blood between Pilate and the Jews and all go some way go explaining his unease when he found himself in another potentially dangerous situation with his very volatile subjects. The first responsibility of a Roman governor was the maintenance of public order, and Pilate knew that if there was a further outbreak of unrest due to his mishandling of the Jesus affair it would come to the emperor's ears and Pilate's position might be compromised. It might even mean the end of his political career.

The governor was caught on the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand was his innate Roman sense of justice. This had to be balanced against his own political position and any hope of future advancement. In the end he gave way to the pressures of his opponents and in a cynical act of Realpolitik reluctantly sacrificed the life of a Galilean peasant with popular support but little political clout.

We have briefly outlined some of the political issues being played out on that first Good Friday morning when a prisoner was dragged before the Roman governor to explain himself. But in reality this was not a criminal being condemned by Roman justice. There was a cosmic element to this drama and it is at Easter time that we remind ourselves of the great spiritual principles being played out on that fateful day. Pilate was conscious that the man who stood before him was no ordinary prisoner. He did not realise that he was pronouncing judgment on the Saviour of the World.

Revd Maurice Harrison



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

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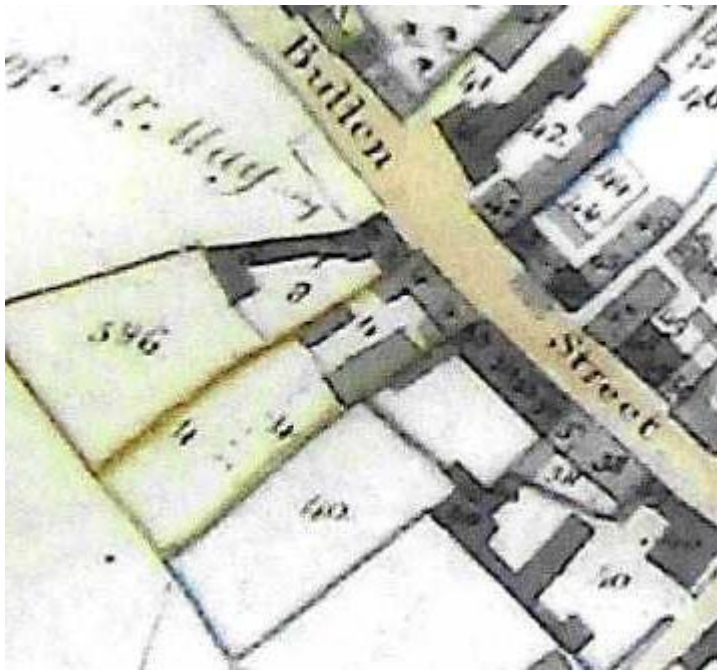
THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Winter Warmth
in Thorverton

And now **THE EXETER (INN)**

“But how about the Exeter?”, came the cries after February’s piece about the Thorverton Arms. So here goes.

This long-standing hostelry has served the local community at least since 1797, when newspapers advertised the auction at the Exeter Inn of nearly three hundred trees growing on the Hulk Estate; particulars could be applied for to Mr Niner in Thorverton.



Two years later, in 1799, the key to a now lost map of the Dean and Chapter’s houses in the town (as it was then classified) listed the building as *John Niner, Exeter Inn*. He, Niner, was a wealthy yeoman who had been since the 1780s in possession of a property named Wests, or Wests House. This was one of very few properties held under a copyhold lease rather than a freehold lease (too complicated to explain!), as it had been at least since a Survey of the Manor was made in 1661, when the West family were the leading gentry in the parish. When Coldridge’s updated map came out in 1813, the inn appeared again, this time as *John Niner, Exeter Inn & Offices*, but also marked as one of only about half a dozen copyhold properties. Later in a list drawn up in 1828, Benjamin Lake, a known Proprietor of the Exeter at that time, is only referred to as the leaseholder of West’s House. These facts seem to be

reasonable proof that Wests and the inn were one and the same place and that the site of the Exeter has been in use and occupation for over three hundred and fifty years, perhaps first becoming an inn when leased and sub-let by Yeoman Niner. An interesting feature revealed by the 1813 map above is that there is no apparent entrance to the inn (No. 4) from the street. This presumably means that it was a house of two storeys with a wide, possibly gated, passage entry at ground level to the large enclosure and outbuildings behind.

According to a notice that has been on display in the pub for several years “*The hanging sign on the Front Elevation depicts The Exeter City Coat of Arms, denoting a station for parcels to the city*”. The second part might once have been true but, since nearly all the rest of the information given on the notice is incorrect, it probably wasn’t. Although the facts were confused, at least the writer did know that the Exeter Inn had not always traded under that name. On the Coldridge map of 1813 it was recorded as such, as noted above, but at some time between then and the next known reference in 1823 it had become The Wellington Inn, doubtless very soon after the Duke’s victory at Waterloo in 1815.

The 1823 document was an advertisement for the sale by auction of “*All that well-accustomed and old fashioned PUBLIC HOUSE, THE WELLINGTON INN (formerly the Exeter Inn)*. It then gave details of the premises in unusual length, and so worth recording. *In high estimation, and which has always commanded an extensive business and now in the occupation of Mr Thomas PRATT. The above mentioned House and Offices comprises a kitchen, cellars, bar, parlour, four excellent bed-chambers, with a spacious dining-room; together with the extensive PREMISES behind, consisting of a productive walled garden, courtlage, stable, brewhouse,*

barn, lincays, and all other convenient outhouses. There is a Woolcombers' Club kept at this house; as also a Friendly Society, consisting of 450 members and upwards. For viewing.. Mr Thomas PRATT, on the Premises, and for further particulars Mr Benjamin LAKE, the proprietor.

A further sale notice in 1834 showed that there were now four sitting-rooms and five bedrooms and mentioned that there was a good Skittle Ground. Everything was lost, though, in 1855 when the whole of the inn was burnt down, despite a messenger having been sent to Exeter to summon horse-drawn fire-engines. Moreover, flames spread to five cottages nearby which were also destroyed.

Yet in just over a year, in 1855, it was on the market again, *recently rebuilt*, and once more under its old name, the Exeter Inn. In the absence of further reports of fires there it must be presumed that that was essentially the building we see today without any special architectural or other interest that has caused it to be Listed by Historic England.

During the following decades, censuses, directories and occasional newspaper reports show not infrequent changes of owners and licensees, with but an occasional glimpse of wrestling matches for prizes, an inquest or two, and a Tradesmen's Ball held on the premises. Business was probably not brisk if most of the customers were poorly paid locals putting in long hours at work every day. There is an impression that the licensees themselves sometimes plied another trade in tandem in order to make a living. Indeed, according to his grandson, the landlord in the early 1940s also cut hair in what is now the main dining area.

For some seventy years from 1946 the Exeter was run by Jack Mann followed by his son, John Mann. Jack vastly extended the range of drinks available and he it was who gathered most or all of the extraordinary collection of firearms, swords, agricultural implements, horse and domestic brasses, nautical knick-knacks, old photos, rare Zuckerman helmets and individual oddities which still clutter the walls and ceilings intriguingly. A feature that probably dates from before the rebuilding in 1855 – even if disregarded by Historic England – is the indoor well, supposedly once between 28 and 38 feet deep, where there was always said to be drawable water, although that is currently no longer visible. All that can be seen now on the gravel at the bottom of the illuminated shaft is a small fortune in coins which customers have enjoyed contributing. And outside are three more objects that may be seen nowhere else: on the gate pillars are two lamps which helped illuminate Exe Bridge in the city until it was demolished in 1905, and concealed under red paint is the green former G.P.O. phone box which the Leonard Trust had purchased about fifty years ago and placed close to the recently built Broadlands so that residents there – and in Cleaves Close – who needed to use a phone did not have to come down to the Berry/Bury to queue at the public call-box near the church.

When John Mann succeeded his father, there was no change in style. But he carried out a significant act in that he bought the pub from the brewery which then had it. For the first time in the Exeter's history the licensee was also the owner. And that was now its official name. No overnight accommodation was now being offered so the establishment was no longer an inn. "The Exeter Inn" was now a misnomer, and the sign and the name became simply "The Exeter". That was quite a few years ago, though the current Google entries are not yet aware of it.

The pub is still owned by members of the Mann family. Today's licensees, Rick and Matt Cox, have preserved the décor, added to the interesting display items Exeter Chiefs' rugby memorabilia and a gallery of old photos of Thorverton, laid on more special events, installed a television which is sometimes popular,

and, above all, made good food available at most times of the day in what was traditionally a drinking-only establishment. They have also kept up the valued tradition of log fires, usually generously fuelled.



Ian Stoye

Easter BINGO!

*Thorverton Memorial Hall
Top Cash Prizes! Flyers £50 + £100!
Thursday 21 March Bar
Door opens 7pm Eyes down 7.30pm*

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The Joy of Arctic Life

Longyearbyen (78deg.N) is the northernmost human habitation on Earth for more than 1000 people. There are about 2000 living here year round. The town has a big supermarket selling guns next to the cauliflower, vodka and chocolates. Three hotels and several guest houses cater to the tourists. Also an excellent museum attached the University and even an art gallery on the northern edge of the town past the graveyard. Due to its isolation the Norwegian government has declared it free of VAT so that drinks are about the same as London prices and possibly cheaper than mainland Norway, but food in the cafes and hotels is almost twice UK prices. The town is crime free and one of the safest places in the world to visit.

I flew to Svalbard via Oslo and Tromso, landing at the Longyearbyen airport (LYB) about 3km from town, and within view of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. This underground facility in the permafrost stores duplicates of seeds conserved in genebanks around the world in case of disasters which may threaten the world's food supply. The guest house had closed early for the winter so I was transferred to the 4star hotel in the town for a night before joining a group of 30 explorers on a 30m yacht heading north up the coast.

The first stop was Ny Alesund, about 70 miles further north in Svalbard, mostly for fewer than 100 scientists from 11 countries working on polar and environmental research. Historically it was established last century as a coal mining site and a way station for polar explorers. The mooring mast, used by Roald Amundsen (he of South Pole fame) for his dirigible, is still standing. The coal mining was discontinued after tragic fatal accidents in the 1940s. Boardwalks around the town are constructed over the communal coal-powered heating pipes. This way they are kept free of snow and ice in the long winter season. There is even a post office here between the research buildings and the disused steam train from the coal mining days.



From Ny Alesund there were 4 attempts to reach the North Pole between 1925 and 1928. Amundsen made an attempt in a flying boat and then he travelled with Italian explorer Umberto Nobile in an airship (*Norge*) travelling via the North pole and finishing in Alaska. This may have been the first human visit to the Pole

as three earlier explorers' claims have mostly been discredited. In June 1929 Amundsen flew a rescue mission to search for Nobile and his new airship (*Italia*) which had crashed after another trip to the North Pole. He and Lief Dietrichson and 4 Frenchmen never returned. Various attempts to find the crashed flying boat have failed.

The climate is tempered by the North Atlantic Drift which ensures temperatures above freezing in the Summer (up to 9C) and around -10C (min -19C) in the Winter. Similar latitudes in Canada have much lower Winter temperatures.



Our yacht (the *Antigua*) then sailed north among the western fjords of Spitsbergen. The weather was variable; some sunshine and then some strong winds which trapped us in Red Fjord (Raudfjorden) for two nights. We explored one historic site where there had been attempts to set up a marble-mining business. Unfortunately, despite setting up all the equipment and getting a shipment down south to Norway, the marble

then crumbled as it warmed up and was unsuitable to use. The remains of the steam engine are still there rusting away between the ocean and the tundra.

One attraction in Svalbard is the possibility of seeing Polar Bears...safely. (there are more polar bears than people in Svalbard!). They are occasionally seen around Longyearbyen so if you travel beyond town limits you are required to carry flare gun or a rifle. Although killing a bear is a criminal offence, human protection is paramount. If you camp on the island, trip wires and explosive flares etc have to be arranged round the campsite. We were fortunate to spot a bear on a small island. He was standing on a high rock feeding on a carcass. We were able to run the yacht within 50m of the coast as the bear descended from the feeding



site and headed down on to the rocks along the shoreline. He ignored us and our clicking cameras as we watched him for almost an hour before we raised the sails and headed on further north. We did see a couple of other bears but they were further inland with little point in trying to photograph them.

After being forced to stay in Red Fjord for longer than intended, the weather relented and we left the main island behind and sailed north to tiny Moffen Island which is right on the 80 degrees N latitude, just a few hundred miles from the N pole. This island is protected and now landing is not allowed due to the very large walrus population lounging on the northern shore. We saw the steam rising from their bodies above the centre of the island before we saw the huge collection of several hundred of these unlikely tusked creatures that feed on crustaceans on the ocean floor.

On the way back we stopped at a Russian town...no, not in Russia, but on the coast of Spitsbergen some 30 miles west of Longyearbyen. Originally owned by a Dutch mining company it was sold to Russia in 1932 and the coal is exported to Russia. Barentsburg (pop. 522) has some quite large wooden buildings, swimming pool, school, hotel and a tiny ornate wooden church with onion domes. I think you could manage to get about 6 people in church at one time; it is REALLY tiny. The buildings, centrally heated by coal are sitting on permafrost, which has started to melt causing the buildings to tilt...the leaning buildings of Barentsburg. We walked round the town, 'admiring' the statue of Lenin and having a drink in the hotel bar...only Russian spoken. There is no road to Barentsburg; travel is by boat, or snowmobile in winter. There is a second Russian mining town across the fjord from LYB, called Pyramiden (after the shape of the mountain behind it). However this large town is completely abandoned, and left to rot, after the coal gave out. This too has a swimming pool, school, hotel etc. You can visit on a day trip by boat.

On our return to LYB we stayed a further night in the Funken Lodge. We joined a walking group to ascend the steep mountain behind the town to explore the tundra, with isolated mosses on the shale surface, to the north with views across to the extensive glaciers inland. Our guide carried the required rifle just in case we met a bear. It was in this area that a schoolboy was killed by a bear the year before. He was dragged out of his tent after the camp's inadequate trip wire failed to work. Spitsbergen is a lonely place with few habitations beyond the town apart from some isolated hunting cabins. A very wild place between the glaciers and the mountain cliffs showing bands of coal. We returned to the coast following a steep-sided valley and hearing eerie sounds echoing up the valley from below which turned out to be the Husky sled-dogs howling, standing on the roofs of their kennels. They were waiting for snow, eager to power the winter transportation or maybe it was getting close to suppertime.



Living this far north year-round would be hard. The winter is long and the sun doesn't rise above the mountains across the fjord from October to February. The summer has no night between April and August, and this is when the midges and mosquitoes are active. Then, you need thick blackout blinds to get any sleep. There's no doubt that Svalbard is a fascinating place to visit. If you would like to see what it's like living there year-round, look on Youtube for Cecilia Blomdahl who lives with her husband Christopher and their sled dog Grim, in a wooden cabin on the outskirts of Longyearbyen. Just be thankful that in Thorverton we get **some** sun even in January...

John Spivey

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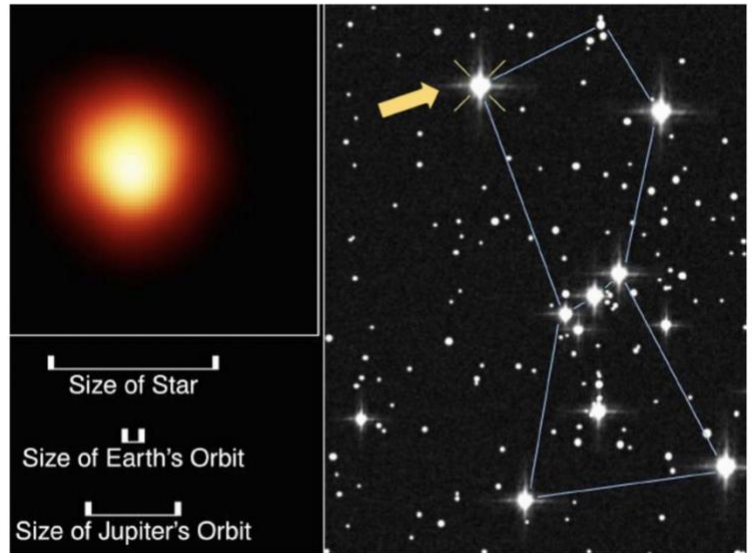
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Sky at Night March 2024

From time to time, events occur in our night sky that remind us that, often, all we really need is our eyes (and maybe a modest set of spectacles and binoculars) to appreciate the predictable passage of heavenly bodies above our heads but beyond our imagination. On 12 December last year, at 2.13am precisely, a bright star blinked. Not twinkled. Actually, the star itself, Betelgeuse, is no

ordinary star. It's a Red Giant, the second brightest star in the constellation of Orion, (see Fig.1 from Universetoday.com), which can be observed with the naked eye even when light pollution is very high. It is located an enormous 500 light years from us but also has a huge diameter 750 times that of our Sun, that's sufficient to engulf all the planets as far out as Jupiter. 319 Leona is a small irregular asteroid, maybe 70 km across, near Mars' orbit at 400 million km from our Sun. It is observable only with the most powerful telescopes. It passed directly in front of Betelgeuse, nearly obscuring it. This

occultation was almost a total eclipse. Yet not quite, so this transit event made more of a two second wink than an outright blink [definitely not a twink(le)!]. Small objects, like most stars, appear to twinkle (as flashing, coloured light) because of the bending (refraction) and unbending of their light rays which are trying to reach our eyes in a straight line. Our atmosphere has several layers of different density which serves to bend the light slightly. Just like the effect you observe whilst trying to find your own leg in the swimming pool!

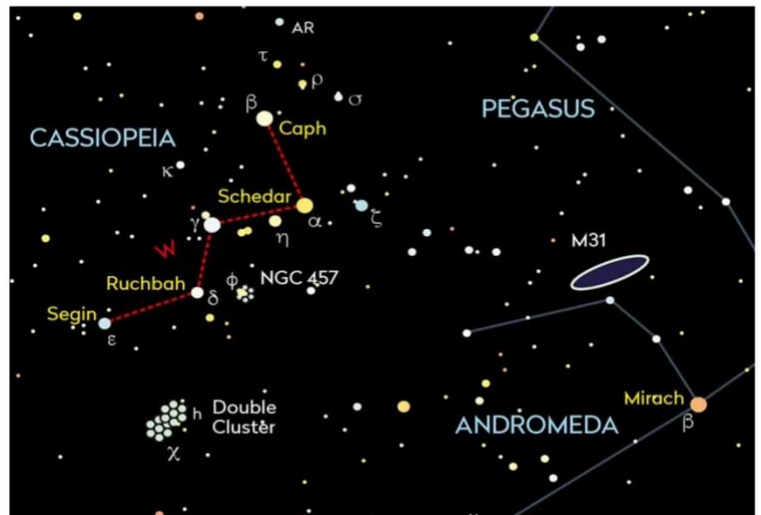


What objects can you see when gazing into our night sky? Well there'll be the brightest stars like Sirius and, of course, a few galaxies (Southern hemisphere is best for many, such as the two nearby Magellanic 'clouds', see Fig.2, courtesy of ESO) and even cloudy nebulae if you're lucky or have perfect sight. There are always prescription glasses but if you're serious you'll invest in reasonably good binoculars and why not a tripod/monopod to stabilise them? In many ways, binoculars have a more useful field of view than a telescope (10x magnification compared to 200+).



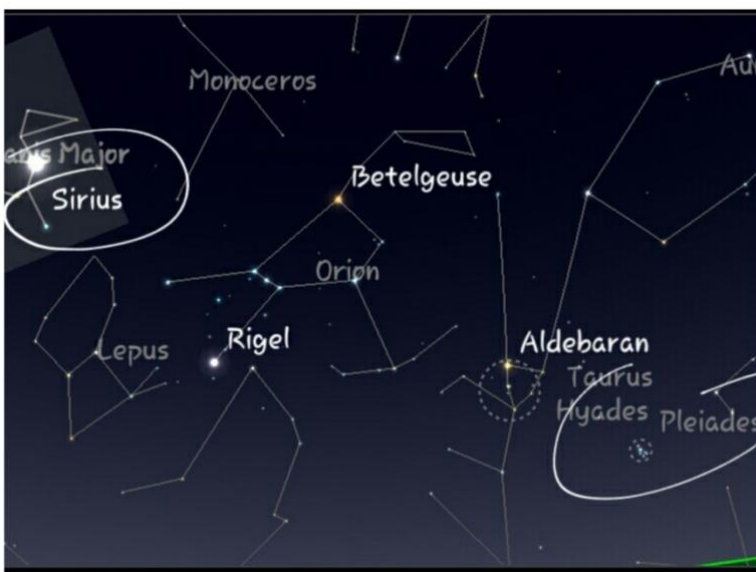
Tips. Colder days with crisp, dry air are ideal for stargazing, as the atmosphere is clearest; and you can find more stars in the sky when the moon isn't out. For starters, acknowledge patience, then

wait for your eyes to adjust to the dark and view in a comfortable position. Using brighter stars, constellations (and asterisms) for reference, you can then determine the positions of galaxies and star clusters. Use a planisphere card, set to the day and month, to provide an accurate version of the current night sky. Alternatively, there are many phone Apps for identifying aspects of the sky at that moment. Of course, there are Dark Skies across the UK for the best, darkest



viewing <https://www.nationalparks.uk/dark-skies/>

Avert your eyes from direct to off-centre vision for best results (central vision is actually much less sensitive) and remember that the closer to the vertical that you look, the less dust and atmosphere you are gazing through. In a typical dark sky, you might see about 6,000 stars whilst in perfect conditions about 50,000 stars could be visible. In Egypt, sleeping under the stars many Moons ago, I was awestruck by not only the sheer number of stars (constellations were less easy to distinguish) but also The Milky Way, spreading itself from one horizon to the other, like close-up smoke from a celestial bonfire. Gases, dust and ultimately light pollution reduce these numbers rather drastically. In a city like Exeter, as few as 50 stars may be visible. Coloured stars can be seen but this is limited from our central vision by the fact that the less sensitive colour-collecting cones of the eye dominate the central (fovea) region of our retina, which comprises less of the more sensitive white-collecting rods. Anecdotally, one cataract operation has absolutely transformed my one-eyed stargazing....



Finding those milky, diffuse objects such as star clusters, nebulae and galaxies is difficult even with the modest light pollution of our village. Only a few such objects are visible anyway and a quick check on internet images, or an App like GoSkyWatch, will confirm what you think you saw, before that wispy cloud got in the way! Finding Pleiades star cluster is a very satisfying start to this game. Orion's Belt, the iconic three close stars, points to both the Pleiades as well as to the brightest star Sirius, (see Fig.3 above from Sky Safari App). Another must is Cassiopeia, the oversize 'W', swaddled inside the Milky Way and pointing so

helpfully to Andromeda galaxy (see M31 in Fig.4, Pete Lawrence/BBC Sky at Night). With binoculars there's a bevy of galaxies nearby, all numbered, usefully, by a French guy called Messier. We're contemplating Andromeda which, at 2.5m light years distance, is just about as far as we're able to

see. Why bother? Well, it's one of our closest galaxies, filling the sky much more than we'd ever guess (see Fig.5, NASA). It seems to be over 6 times the diameter of the Moon and is actually speeding towards us for a galactic hug in 4bn years or so - neighbour becomes friend! Also check out the double-star-cluster (see Fig.4) near Cassiopeia. If you see it, you've done well. Other items worth searching for are the Orion Nebula lurking in the hunter's sword underneath that belt and the M13 Globular cluster of stars. Under really dark sky conditions, however, M33 Triangulum Galaxy, is easy to see, even in direct vision. There are many others in the Southern hemisphere, especially the Milky Way itself, which is far-and-away more evident there.

There are six National Parks of which Exmoor is one. Look out and you won't see the Sun, but after the Moon you might catch the planets Venus, then Jupiter, Mars, Saturn and even Mercury. Some Comets might be also be around. We're not the first people to not use telescopes. Uranus and the tiny Vesta have most probably been seen in the past but could not be recognized as planets because they appear so faint even at maximum brightness. There is anecdotal evidence that people had seen the four Galilean moons of Jupiter well before telescopes were invented. Try it. And good luck! Perhaps this is why Leonardo da Vinci never bothered to set lenses into the form of a telescope but rather rely on his eyes as well as his imagination!



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Nature Notes

Primroses, Marsh Marigolds and Violets appear at their best in this month of March. Look out for butterflies, some have already been seen but as I write I'm still waiting for a glimpse of one. On March 12th Royal Mail will issue a set of stamps titled Age of the Dinosaurs.

Over the winter I have done a few walks over Mardon Down near Moretonhampstead. The walks have been bleak with only cows and adorable calves roaming the down. On 26th January the weather was mild here at Thorverton but on the down gloves, woolly hat and scarf were the order of the walk but there was a change in the air. Five species of bird were seen, Crow, Linnet, Buzzards soaring and doing a bit of winnowing, a Raven performing aerobatics but best of all a Skylark ascending and singing his song, not too far above the Down and returning quite quickly. We were not the only people to witness a singing Skylark this day as there were two reports of this activity elsewhere in the county recorded on a Devon website, Skylark Day! People are commenting on whether the singing is early this year. On returning to Thorverton I found a Seven-spot Ladybird trying to escape the conservatory and a wasp resting on the outside.

Mardon Down is rich in archaeology with not only the largest stone circle on Dartmoor and World War II training trenches (I've mentioned in previous Notes or the Tarts report) but many cairns including the Giants Grave cairn, a turf-covered mound. There is also a headless cross near a parking area.



A trip was done to the Valley of the Rocks and Lynmouth on 2nd February. At the Valley of the Rocks was seen a male Kestrel, male Stonechat and a raft of birds on the sea, possibly Scoters. The feral goats were feeding very close to the cliff path. I happened to pick up a small piece of scree and on its underside was a small metallic bronze beetle with orange/red legs and pitted

wing cases. This is *Chrysolina banksi*, a leaf beetle that is especially found in the South West, usually coastal. It feeds on a variety leaves but likes Ribwort Plantain. A Spotted Ray and Nursehound Shark eggcase was found at Blacklands beach, Lynmouth. Two Oystercatchers there were having a noisy food squabble with a Crow.

I did a walk on my local patch on the sunny afternoon of 11th February. Many Lesser Celandine flowers were out as were the first Primroses of the year. I also saw my first Blackthorn in flower, in the usual spot I find it every year. Crows were harassing a Buzzard, a Skylark was singing and two tiny Water Beetles were scudding around in the large puddle that is to the side of the lane and beside a gateway. A vehicle will only enter the puddle if it has to pull in for another. It is here I see some of the Common Lizards that occupy this lane. Once again one of last years' youngsters was sunbathing on the wooden gatepost.



Beetle and feral goats at the Valley of the Rocks. Photos Angie Delve

Another walk was done here from approximately 9am to 10am on 15th February to beat the pending rain. A Skylark was once again singing but this time at a lofty height and possibly stirring the curiosity of a female. The two tiny Water Beetle and Water Boatman were in the puddle but accompanied by lots of what I think could be water fleas, Daphnia. Further investigation is needed to be sure.

Jenny.garne2@tiscali.co.uk 860875

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A word over the farm gate at East Bowley



As I sit down to write this piece we've been lambing for just over 3 weeks. We've had over 350 lambs born in that short time and whilst the weather initially allowed us to turn some new babies out, it has now got very very wet and so we are filling up all the sheds with more and more lambs! As well as those still in sheds we are feeding the ewes out in the fields every day with a high energy compound to ensure they keep fit, well and producing lots of milk for their lambs.

This year the farming community has seen the return of a disease called Schmallenberg, a viral disease that is spread by biting midges; it can affect sheep, cattle, goats and deer. Schmallenberg can cause late abortion or severe birth defects in new born lambs meaning they do not survive. For anyone lambing at this time of year it can be a nerve-racking time anyway, and Schmallenberg has been pretty devastating to some flocks in the South West. We've noticed about 4 or 5 cases of deformed lambs born, plus a couple of late abortions here on the farm. Unfortunately there is no vaccine for Schmallenberg and no plans to develop one; we can only hope that by coming into contact with it this year our ewes will be immune to it in the future.



We spent an exciting day in the orchard pruning all the old apple trees, something we'd been avoiding as we weren't entirely sure what we were doing. Luckily this time we were under the expert guidance of Mike Shorland from Rull Orchard in Bickleigh. Mike is the most enthusiastic and energetic cider producer we've met, and has a wealth of knowledge that he was happy to share. Each Autumn he collects apples from our trees to blend with his own to make juices and ciders. Look out for the Summer edition of Compass in which Mike shares his cider journey with us, *'The story of an orchard dreamer'*... With our new found confidence in fruit tree pruning we've set about the ones in the garden and surrounds too; no tree is safe!



Winter is also a time to lay hedges, which means to take control of them if they are getting too tall with gaps at the bottom. Hedge laying is something that we enjoy; whilst it's hard work, cutting and removing old growth and brambles, choosing which branches to leave, which to lie flat and weave back into the hedgerow, it is also incredibly satisfying. Laying hedges means they look neater and provide a natural stock proof fence to keep our animals in the field we put them. We've also been planting two new hedgerows on the farm, only small stretches that total approx. 120m overall, but they will hopefully grow into beautiful hedges, offering protection for birds, small mammals and insects. We've planted a mix of native hedging plants including blackthorn, hawthorn, field maple, hazel, dog rose and crab apple to give a mix of protection and durability as well as berries and nectar for the wildlife at different times of the year.

The Mildons



Thorverton Royal British Legion

The Raddon Top "D-Day Challenge"

10k (6 mile) multi terrain run to Raddon Top and a shorter challenge

The "Little D" of 5k to A runners and walkers (dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead) to Commemorate the 80th anniversary of "D-Day"



The Thorverton RBL branch have organised the D-Day challenge on Thursday the 6th of June around Raddon Top to all runners.

Starting at The Exeter Inn at 7pm.

Entrance fee of £5 on the day. Afterwards all participants will get a free beef burger and drink.

The event is being sponsored by Matt & Rick Cox of the Exeter Inn.

"Thursday 6th of June"

All proceeds for the "Poppy Appeal"

Thorverton Cricket Club

March 2024 Update

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

Join us on Saturday the 23rd March at Thorverton Memorial Hall for our first social event of the season. We will be getting the year off to a fun start with a curry and quiz night so get your team of 4-6 people together to test your knowledge!



The quiz will begin at 7pm so please arrive from 6.30pm. The cost is £5 per person for the quiz or £10 to include an array of homemade curries. You can pay using cash on the night or in advance on our online store by visiting [HERE](#) (if you are reading online)

All welcome whether a club member or not! There will be a prize for the winning team and other games throughout the evening.

Competition – Design our New Kit!

We're running a competition open to all Thorverton CC members (senior and junior) to design the new kit with the Admiral kit builder website [HERE](#). (if you are reading online)

The selected winner will have their design made into the new shirt to be worn by our T20, women's and junior teams and will receive a free shirt in their size! You will need to screenshot your design and submit it via email to seniors@thorvertoncricketclub.com.

The only rules are that the base colours of the kit must be the club colours of navy and red. The kits will feature our sponsors Keywise Cars, Squire Biggs Law, Mosaic Rwanda & Exeter School, plus the CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) logo added to the final design. The shirts will also need to have space for numbers on the back. The winner will be chosen by the committee at our March committee meeting, so all entries must be submitted by Sunday 17th March.

New 3rd Team for 2024

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

Pre-Season Nets

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.

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

Fundraising – with increasing costs and a new pavilion planned we need volunteers to support with fundraising plans, events and grant applications

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 club 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@thorvertoncricketclubbc.com

We've joined Campaign Against Living Miserably as a 'CALM club'

CALM are taking a stand against suicide. That means standing against feeling bad, standing up to stereotypes and standing together to show life is always worth living.

125 lives are lost every week in the UK to suicide. CALM exist to change this.

If you're struggling, you can talk to CALM. Chats are free, confidential and anonymous.

Their helpline and live-chat are for everyone over the age of 15. If you're under 15 and need support, you can find more information on the CALM website.

If you ever need help visit their website here:- <https://www.thecalmzone.net/>

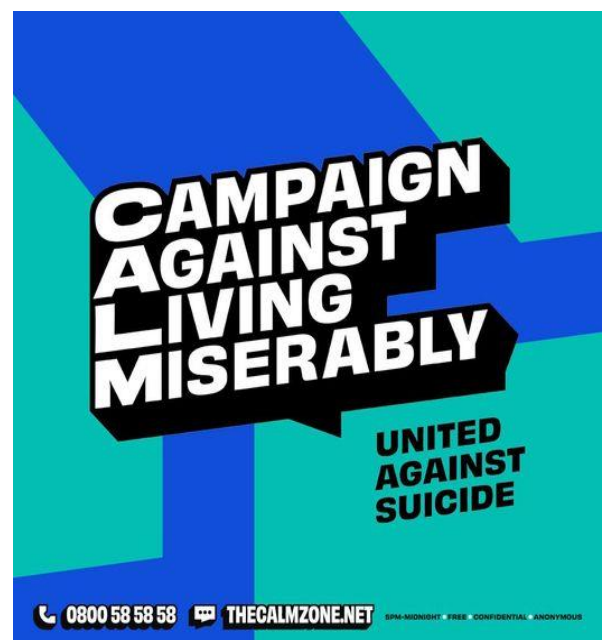
Coming Soon..

- Fantasy Cricket
- New Girls Section
- Updated Pavilion Plans

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@thorvertoncricketclubbc.com

Alex Jopling



History Society

Presentations at the Thorverton and District History Society (TDHS) AGM 2024

Our gathering this year was both well-attended, informed and entertained by four of our members presenting very different aspects of our local history activities, which are outlined below. Our many thanks go out to them.

The Thorverton Town Trail proposal

The activities of a small research group called Thorverton Through Time (TTT) to try and publish a Town Trail brochure and to get the continued wealth of research sources, information and historical interest and conservation in the village onto a website was reflected upon and updated for members.

Rob Turner introduced the meeting to the publications and guides that (to our knowledge) have been published in the past. This included:

Thorverton Past and Present - produced by the Royal British Legion in 1967 - two print runs were made and all copies were sold out at 5 shillings each - the RBL looked at doing an updated copy in 1988 but nothing came of it

Ashley Farm and Thorverton written by Frank Retter in 1987

Thorverton by Ian Stoye written in 1993

Thorverton Tug of War 1976 - 88 written by Alex Fice

History of Thorverton Cricket club - sadly we are unable to source a copy

In Living Memory - a survey of commercial outlets by Michael Crauford Lewis - produced by Focus Magazine

In addition members were drawn attention to the Footpaths brochure sponsored by the TCT and currently available in the Post Office.

Rob also recapped on the 'Origins of the Species' of TTT and how it came into being from TDHS workshops and the enthusiasm of Graham Wills.

Ann Marshall then outlined the proposed route and focus points within a framework guided by The Topsham Town Trail brochure. A quotation has been obtained by the author of that brochure and initial contemporary photos are to be replaced by professional photographs by 'Clare' our lovely volunteer, in due course and with sunshine! Funding is to be confirmed and this will be available asap!

Jean Brown then proceeded to outline an example from one of the Trail buildings mentioned to demonstrate where personal interest could lead you with research into the background and possible origins of a house name. The building of choice on Silver Street was 'Briestown', possibly named by one of our previous more interesting residents, a John Domvile Auchmuty Musters, an Irish-born naval officer with an interesting service history and seemingly multiple wives, after his own birthplace! This could easily be a topic of research by our members and be lodged eventually on the TTT website.

Creating and Interest in Metal Detecting - Discovering our local history

This was delivered by our own amateur metal detectorist and committee member, Andy Brewer.

Andy gave a short account of how he developed a passion for metal detecting and discovering local history. He described how, in the 1980s, he discovered a civil war musket ball and a RAF tunic button in his parents' garden in Topsham with a very simple detector.

Fast forward to the 2020s and Andy showed how technology had moved on and discussed some of local recent finds. He explained how a "federation" of local detectorists had formed a small friendly group and were looking for equally friendly farmers or landowners who would let them search for history in the Thorverton area.

If you are interested please do contact Andy on 01392 860467.

All talks were well received and were lively topics of discussion at the following refreshments.

WI Report for February 2024



On Tuesday February 6th the members of Thorverton W.I. welcomed Mrs Rosemary Griggs for her second visit. Before, she had come as Katherine, the mother of Sir Walter Raleigh, but this time she was dressed as Bessie – Katherine's Lady's Maid. We were told the story of Bessie's life – what her work involved and what kind of clothes she wore. The outer clothes were woollen while other garments were made of linen. Knitting had become very important for stockings and garters, and the special flat, round hat, that the Queen had ordered men to wear on Sundays, which had to be made from English wool. It was a very interesting and informative talk.

Dates to Note:

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 Hut

Tuesday, 2nd April – Peter Isaacson talking about Medical Detection Dogs

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

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

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

Wendy Duff

Legal Eagle

The partial defence of diminished responsibility to a charge of murder has been much in the news of late. The defence was introduced by **s2(1) Homicide Act 1957** (amended by **s52(1) Coroners and Justice Act 1959**). The defence if successfully pleaded reduces a murder conviction, whether as a principal or secondary participant, to voluntary manslaughter.

The amended wording of **s2(1)** reads, “A person (D) who kills or is a party to the killing of another is not to be convicted of murder if D was suffering from such abnormality of mental functioning which:

- (a) Arose from a recognised medical condition;
- (b) Substantially impaired D’s ability to one or more of the things mentioned in subsection (1A); and
- (c) Provides an explanation for D’s acts and omissions in doing or being a party to the killing.

The things mentioned in Subsection (1A) are the ability to understand the nature of their conduct, form a rational judgment or exercise self-control.

The burden of proof is on the accused on a balance of probabilities. In **R -v- Curran [2021]** D was convicted of the murder of Mrs Joan Roddam on Saturday 8th November 2003. D appealed against his conviction, arguing that his murder conviction should be substituted for one of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. D’s appeal was dismissed on the basis that he had provided insufficient evidence of his alleged impairment.

When pleading the defence, the accused is not denying that the elements of murder have not been met, the D is simply offering an explanation for his or her conduct in doing or being a party to the killing.

The first hurdle for D to overcome is to satisfy the court that he/she was suffering from a recognised medical condition. This is a matter of law. When deciding the issue, the courts make use of various works which list those conditions that are recognised as such. Organic or physical injury or disease of the body (including the brain) amounts to a medical condition, examples include clinical depression, schizophrenia, paranoia, epilepsy, bipolar disorder, autism spectrum disorder.

The second hurdle for D is to satisfy the court that the recognised medical condition caused D to suffer an abnormality of mental functioning. Prior to the 2009 amendment the law required D to prove that he/she was suffering from an abnormality of mind. In **Byrne [1960]** the test for abnormality of mind was whether the D’s state of mind was so different from that of ordinary people that the reasonable person would regard it as abnormal. It was held that the term ‘abnormality of mind’, “covers the mind’s activities in all its aspects.” These were identified to be:

- Perception of physical acts and matters;
- Ability to form a rational judgment whether an act was right or wrong;
- Ability to exercise will power in order to control physical acts.

It would appear that the **Byrne** test continues to apply to the requirement that the medical condition caused D to suffer an abnormality of mental functioning.

The third hurdle for D is to satisfy the court that the abnormality of mental functioning has substantially impaired D’s ability to do one of the things listed in ss(1A) (see above). In **Gold’s [2016]**, the Supreme Court provided guidance on the meaning of the word “substantial” suggesting that it means, “important or weighty”.

In June 2023, Valdo Calocane stabbed to death three people, Grace Kumar, Barnaby Webber and Ian Coates. Calocane was charged with murder. Following his arrest, Calocane was transferred to a “secure hospital setting” and assessed by three forensic psychiatrists. The joint assessment was that Calocane was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia at the time of the attacks, and this resulted in an abnormality of mental functioning, which contributed to him committing the offences and also impaired his ability to exercise self-control.

At the hearing on 28th November 2023, Calocane pleaded not guilty to three counts of murder but guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The Crown accepted his guilty pleas.

Much has been written and said regarding the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service but in the face of the overwhelming medical evidence little purpose would have been served in proceeding with the murder charge.

Whether the CPS, prior to agreeing to accept the manslaughter plea, had engaged sufficiently with the families of the victims is presently a matter which is the subject of much discussion.

Clive Hamblin

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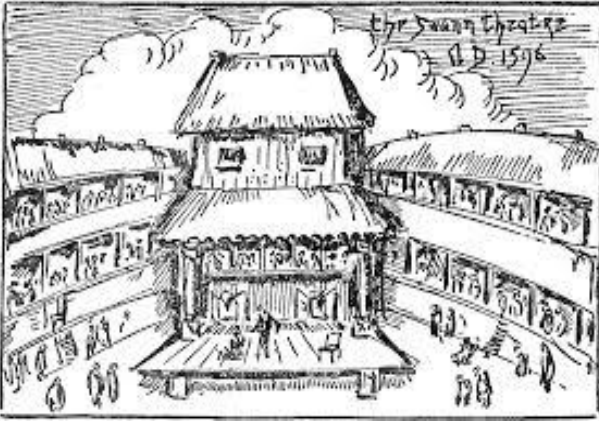
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Richard III

Richard the Third is a melodrama of glitter and violence, as vigorous and bloody as its main character. The story opens at a point where Henry VI, Part 3 left off, with the House of York settled on the throne of England and peace in the realm.

*Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York ...*

But there is no peace in the heart of the King's brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, memorably played by Laurence Olivier in his fine film of the play. With his mis-shapen body he cannot please the ladies, and he is so ugly that even the dogs bark at him as he limps by. Since he cannot be happy Richard sets out to make others unhappy, and he succeeds not only in destroying them but also the peace of the realm.

Richard plants in King Edward's mind a suspicion that a third brother, the Duke of Clarence, is plotting to seize the crown, and Edward has Clarence arrested and sent to the Tower of London. On his way there he passes Richard, and Richard pretends to be amazed that the king should do so unreasonable a thing. It is clear that it must be the fault of Edward's wife, Queen Elizabeth, and while she plots against them, no-one can draw a free breath. "We are not safe, Clarence, we are not safe."

Clarence is sure that his hunchback brother is his friend, but Richard sees him only as a stumbling-block in his own path to the throne. When he hears that King Edward is ill, his first thought is that his older brother must not die until Clarence has first been disposed of;

Which done, God take King Edward to his mercy,

And leave the world for me to bustle in...

Richard has another plan also. He intends to marry the beautiful lady Anne, who is the daughter-in-law of Edward's murdered predecessor, King Henry. The corpse of the martyred King is being borne through the streets of London, with Anne as main mourner, when Richard stops the procession. He has killed King Henry, and Anne knows it. He also helped kill Anne's husband, the king's son, at Tewkesbury, and Anne knows that too. She hates Richard as she hates hell, "He is a lump of foul deformity," a butcher and a devil.

And yet, with an effrontery that is almost magnificent, Richard openly makes love to her in a London street, and little by little, triumphantly, he beats her down.

*Was woman in this humour woo'd?
Was ever woman in this humour won?*

For all Anne's efforts, she cannot make a stand against his vitality, his violence, and his curious, soft, wheedling tongue. He even offers to let her kill him, and gives up his own sword for that purpose, knowing by this time he has her helpless, and that she will now wear the ring he gives her.

Anne persuades herself that Richard has repented all his past evil actions, but Richard, once he is alone, feels nothing but a fierce contempt for Anne's weakness. He sardonically decides that he must be a very handsome fellow if he can win so fair a lady with such ease - and this after murdering her husband!

At the palace Queen Elizabeth is openly worried about the future. For King Edward is gravely ill, and their young son is to be put under the protection of Richard 'Crookback'. Richard himself enters in his favourite role as the blunt, well-meaning man of peace, and accuses the queen of misrepresenting him to the king and plotting against the innocent Clarence. Elizabeth denies all this indignantly, and Richard then accuses her of being in sympathy with the Lancastrian cause of murdered King Henry.

Behind them, like a vengeful ghost, creeps the King's tragic widow, Queen Margaret, exiled to France but now returned to curse the whole pack of them. She hates Richard, the "poisonous hunchbacked toad," but she also hates all the Yorkists since they stood by unaiding at Tewkesbury while her son "was stabbed with bloody daggers." They remind her that her side did the same to the Duke of York and his small son, the innocent Rutland, for evil was bred in the civil

wars and hate was piled on hate. Queen Margaret leaves them with a final curse and Richard looks after her piously.

*I cannot blame her, by god's holy mother,
She has had too much wrong, and I repent
My past thereof that I have done to her.*

As soon as everyone else has left the room Richard's cloak of holiness drops from him, and again he is the devil who takes open delight in his own villainy. He hails his visitors, two "hardy, common, stout resolved mates" who are on their way to the Tower of London. Their business there is to murder the imprisoned Duke of Clarence, and Richard sends them on their bloody way with hearty goodwill; "I like you, lads."

Clarence, in the Tower, is oppressed by a nightmare. He dreamed of drowning in the English Channel, with the noisy rush of water in his ears and the debris of shipwrecks at the bottom of the sea.

*Methought I saw a thousand fearful wracks,
A thousand men that fishes gnawed upon,
Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,
Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels,
All scattered in the bottom of the sea....*

He then dreamt that he entered "The kingdom of perpetual night", where he was greeted by the ghosts of the men he had destroyed: his father-in-law, Warwick, whose cause he had deserted, and the prince he stabbed at Tewkesbury – "a shadow like an angel, with bright hair." All this Clarence has done for his brother Edward's sake, and now Edward has committed him to prison.

Clarence turns again to sleep, as the two murderers whom Richard has sent enter the room. They are talkative men, and the first tells of his conscience:

*I'll not meddle with it: it is a dangerous thing:
It makes a man a coward: a man cannot steal, but
it accuses him; he cannot swear, it checks him; he
cannot lie with his neighbour's wife, it detects him:
'tis a blushing shameful spirit that mutinies in a
man's bosom; it fills one full of obstacles:
it made me once restore a purse of gold that I
found ...*

Then the two men suddenly grow impatient, stab Clarence when he's not looking, and drown him in a barrel of wine.

The dying King Edward is busy persuading his nobles to sign a pact of friendship when Richard enters with the news that Clarence is dead.

Edward's eldest son is to be crowned king, but he is only a boy and the hearts of the people are heavy. "Woe to the land that's governed by a child." Queen Elizabeth waits for the prince to arrive in London and with her is her lively younger son, the little Duke of York. News comes that the queen's kindred have been imprisoned on Richard's order, and she is terror-stricken. For it is clear that Richard is getting command of the realm and will be able to do what he pleases. "I see, as on a map, the end of all." The queen goes into hiding, taking the little duke with her, and the Archbishop of York gives her what assistance he can.

The young prince arrives in London to be crowned, and his uncle Richard suggests he take lodgings in the Tower. Richard has managed to get his hands on the prince's brother also, and although he behaves in a very kind and uncle-like fashion, both the boys mistrust him. The little Duke of York says that he will not sleep quietly in the Tower, and when Richard tenderly asks him what he is afraid of the child answers:

*My uncle Clarence is an angry ghost:
My grandam told me he was murdered there.*

Both boys know it was their uncle Richard who gave the order for the murder and when the prince adds, "I fear no uncle dead," he means that he fears one living, and with good cause.

Once his two little nephews are safely in the Tower, Richard turns his attention to his own advancement. He orders the queen's kinsmen to be executed, tempts one nobleman to his side, and has another beheaded for high treason. He creates as much havoc as the wild boar on his emblem, but on the surface he maintains his pious attitude and even the mayor of London is deceived by him. Richard sends his agents to rouse the landowners against the imprisoned prince and to suggest his own virtues as a possible king, and finally a delegation comes to him, composed of the chief citizens of London. They find Richard deep in prayer between two holy bishops, and it is with the greatest difficulty that they prevail upon him to accept the crown.

Three people know Richard's true character: his wife, his mother and his sister-in-law. These tragic women are gathered together to visit the children in the Tower when word comes that Richard is to be crowned king. They can now see that old Queen Margaret's curse is coming true and that England will become a "slaughter-house" where no-one will

escape the murderer's bloody hands. The two older women feel nothing but sorrow for Richard's unhappy wife as she goes her way to be crowned queen with a heavy heart. As for the former queen, Elizabeth, she says a last prayer for the safety of her two little sons in the Tower.

Richard is crowned, but he knows that his "kingdom stands on brittle glass" unless he can secure his title. He needs a stronger alliance than his marriage with Anne can give him, and so he plans to kill his wife secretly and marry the sister of the little princes instead. As for the little prisoners in the Tower, Richard is finally able to unearth a man named Tyrell, who is evil enough to do anything, and sends him to murder them. Tyrell takes two men to help him and between them they manage the killing, with Tyrell himself recognising that it is a "piece of ruthless butchery."

Richard finds a kinder way to describe his latest murders.

*The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom,
And Anne my wife hath bid the world good night*

He is now free to present himself to Princess Elizabeth as a "jolly thriving wooer," and even the news that a former ally of his is raising an army against him does not trouble King Richard unduly. He now turns to Edward's widow to ask permission to marry her daughter, the Princess Elizabeth. Ignoring the queen's furious hatred of him, he presents his case, and finally manages to persuade her that the only hope for England's safety lies in such a marriage. Again Richard has won, and again he has nothing but contempt for the weakness of the woman who has given in to him. "Relenting fool, and shallow, changing woman!"

News comes that the army which has been raised against him is drawing supporters from all over England. It is led by young Henry Tudor. The two armies meet at Bosworth field and pitch their tents to wait until morning. The two leaders, Richard and Henry, retire to sleep in the cold and dark and there rise up a series of avenging ghosts. They are Richard's tragic victims, from the bright-haired boy who was slaughtered at Tewkesbury to the little princes smothered in the Tower. Each turns to Richard with a refrain like the tolling of a bell. "Despair and die." Then each in turn promises victory to Henry. "God and God's angels fight on Henry's side."

Richard starts up from sleep with a cry. He is tormented by the thought of the sins that lie on his

head, and in his agony he admits for the first time that he feels despair.

*There is no creature loves me,
And if I die no soul will pity me...*

The cock crows, and one of his men comes to help him with his armour. Richard almost breaks down, and the man comforts him. "No, good my lord, be not afraid of shadows." The king recovers:

*Let not our babbling dreams affright our souls,
Conscience is but a word that cowards use...
Our strong arms be our conscience,
swords our law...*

But Richard's strong arms are not enough. The battle goes against the evil king and his horse is killed under him. Still looking fiercely for his enemy, even "in the throat of death," Richard shouts loudly for another mount:

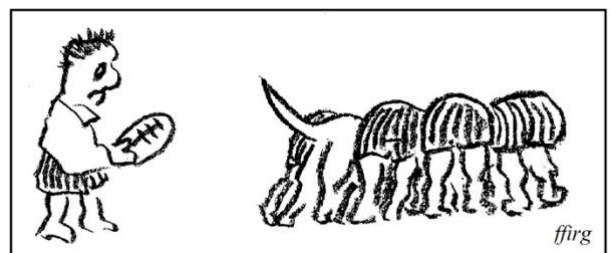
A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!

Defiant and savagely brave to the end, he goes down fighting, and with his death comes a sudden peace. "The day is ours, the bloody dog is dead."

Henry of Richmond stands victorious on the field of battle, and the long years of civil war are ended. For he is heir to the house of Lancaster and will marry the Princess Elizabeth, heir to the house of York.

The new king is the first of the Tudor line to rule England, and as Henry VII he will bring peace and prosperity to his nation once again.

Andrew Hoellering



Sleeping paradoxically

There are lots of questions about sleep that we do not know the answers to. However, we all know how important sleep is because the effects of not sleeping are very difficult to cope with. The good news is that we are developing a better understanding of what helps us sleep when the pattern goes awry. Some of these are not what you expect.

We are animals used to routine and cycles of daily life that follow patterns dictated by sunlight. We have a great ability to train our bodies to respond to certain stimuli in a programmed way. When I was at medical school I took part in research projects that firmly established neural connections within the brain that promoted and engrained reward related behaviours. Sleep is one of these behaviours and the rituals of going to bed train the brain to switch to this 'downtime' operational mode. If sleep becomes difficult, sticking to these routines, or re-establishing them, is the first and most important step. Evening exercise helps, especially if followed by a hot bath before bedtime. This has recently been shown to increase the speed of 'dropping off' by 36%. This is due to increased blood flow to the arms and legs causing the body's core temperature to drop; a very old evolutionary trigger for sleep. Getting up at the same time each morning, whether you have slept or not, is also of vital importance. It is the brain's exposure to morning sunlight that turns off the production of melatonin (our sleep neurotransmitter) but at the same time it resets the clock for it to switch on again 12 hours later ie when you need it again. Distraction techniques to help you drift off are not as good as concentrating on your breathing. Emptying your mind by thinking about your respiratory rate, following a pattern of counting to 4 while breathing in, holding for a count of 2, and then another 1 to 4 whilst breathing out is a very effective technique. Lastly to help sleep at night, a quick nap in the afternoon has enormous benefits, especially as you get older.

Troublesome sleep is often a sign of low mood or anxiety and we would advise you to make an appointment with a GP if it is associated with other symptoms such as loss of motivation, tearfulness or weight loss. However, more often our patterns are disrupted temporarily and a reset will work. Wyndham House patients can access an on-line self-referral support service for free www.sleepstation.org.uk which has a 75+% rate for helping patients improve their sleep.

So, if you are experiencing sleep difficulties short or long term it is worth trying some of the above. Diligently follow the same night time routine. Do some exercise to relax your muscles. Have a hot bath to help your body 'cool' down. Don't lie in but get up early. Concentrate on your breathing to help you drift off. Most importantly do not allow your brain to associate lying quietly in bed as anything other than a direction to turn off. If you cannot get to sleep then get up, leave the bedroom, read, watch TV, do a puzzle and then start again.

Anthony O'Brien, Wyndham House Surgery

Puzzles

Last month I noted that there were 5 Thursdays in February 2024 and I asked you when the last time was that we had five Thursdays in February and when would be the next time. The answer is that the last time was in 1996 and the next time will be in 2052. Well done Ian Stoye (with a little help from Wikipedia I believe).

I also set the following, which I will leave for another month as I have yet to receive any answers:

a) 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?

And so to this month's puzzles:

b) Making the game even

A few of us like to play a card game called "Hearts" in the pub on Thursday evenings. This game also trades under a number of other names, not all of them printable. It is essentially about dealing out all of the cards, passing three to the person on the right and then playing tricks (ie following in a clockwise direction) with the aim of not capturing any with hearts or the queen of spades in – unless you are clever enough (as Ian so often is) to manage to take all of the hearts and the queen of spades.

That introduction was hardly necessary for answering my question. To avoid always having the same person following when passing cards, we like to change seats half-way through a session. Two questions:

1. With four of us – A, B, C and D – is it possible to change seats half-way through so that in the second half no player follows or is followed by the same player as in the previous half?

2. Can you devise a sequence for five players – A, B, C, D and E – which divides the session into three so

that in the second and third parts no player follows or is followed by the same player as in a previous third?

c) Su Doku

A couple of more difficult puzzles this month.

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

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

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

Happy puzzling.

Neville Lane



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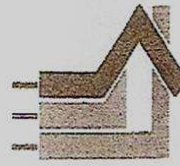
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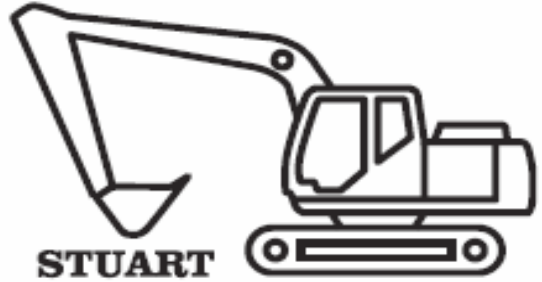


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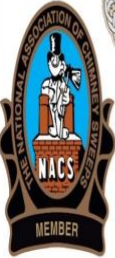

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A WIDE FABRIC RANGE TO CHOOSE FROM
SOMETHING FOR EVERY OCCASION

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

01392 860141
eliteblindsdevon@btconnect.com

Logs For Sale



£90 for a load
Also can supply bags of kindling £3 per net
Contact Robert or Dawn on
01363 866319

Computer Support and Supply Services

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

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

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

COUNTRYSIDE TREE SERVICES

TEIGNHOLT COTTAGE · HITTISLEIGH · EXETER EX6 6LP



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



Curtains and Gowns

Bespoke



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

Dressmaking and Soft Furnishing Classes

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

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

For information call Donna on 01392 860088.

Email: curtainsandgowns@btinternet.com

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THORVERTON PARISH INFORMATION

AIR AMBULANCE EMERGENCY: QUOTE NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

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

- Carers' Support Group** Anne Higman, Wyndham House Surgery, Silverton, 01392 860034
Carers Support Group Lunch, Exe Valley Farm Café, 4th Tuesday of the month, 12:30
Contact Trish Jones for details 07484 377298
- Church (C of E)** Administrators: Juliette Lea, Peter Shepherd
 Netherexe Parishes Administration, administration@netherexe.org
- Church Wardens** Edwin Greed, Fortescue, Netherexe, 01392 841231
 Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- Church Choir** Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- PCC Treasurer** Jean Brown, Rydal Cottage, Bullen Street, Thorverton, 01392 861176
- Friends of Thorverton Parish Church Trust**
 Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- County Councillor** Margaret Squires, 01363 84337, margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk
- District Councillor** Cllr Rhys Roberts, 07515 437373, Rroberts@middevon.gov.uk
- Doctors** Redlands Primary Care 01363 727111, Wyndham House Surgery 01392 860034
- Electricity** Report a loss of power 0800 6783 105 (replaces 0800 365 900)
- (Western Power)** EDF bill enquiries 0800 365 000, street lights 0800 197 6763
- Gas Emergency** 0800 111999
- Leonard Trust** *Supporting local people's needs with small grants, elspeth.holmes@btinternet.com*
 Secretary: Elspeth Holmes, Drill House, Lynch Road, Thorverton, 01392 860535
- Member of Parliament** Mel Stride MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 02072 197037
mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk
- Parish Council Chairman** Cllr Andrew Foster 01392 759560
- Parish Clerk** Jim Roberts 01392 202692 or 07768457590, thorvertonpc@gmail.com
- Parish Council Meetings** 2nd Tuesday of the month (except August), at 7pm in the Memorial Hall
(See Notice of Agenda on the Parish Council Notice Board in School Lane.)
- Parish Allotments** *Contact the Parish Clerk, 01392 202692*
- Pension Service** PO Box 93, Plymouth, PL6 5WJ, 0845 60 60 265
- Police** Non-emergency number 101
- Post Office Portacabin (TCT Ltd)** Quarry Car Park, Thorverton, EX5 5NG, 01392 860455
Mon–Fri 9:00–1:00, 2:00–5:30; Sat 8:00–12:00 (PO opens 9:00);
Sun 8.30–10:30 (for newspapers only) Business Management Team 01392 860419
 Royston Kershaw, Heather Kershaw, Helen Ratcliffe
 Chair and Company Secretary: Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- Public Telephone Kiosk** *Opposite the Church, outside the former Bell Inn, Dinneford Street, Thorverton*
- Thorverton C of E Primary School (Part of the Exe Valley Federation)**
 Executive Headteacher (Exe Valley Federation): Mr John Jolliffe
 Head of School (Thorverton): Mr Chris Holding 01392 860374
 School Office (Thorverton) 01392 860374
 Chair of Governors (Exe Valley Federation): Jackie Enright 01392 851859
 Clerk to the Governors: Mrs Heidi Last hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
- School PTFA** Chair: Wendy Coles Vice chair: Elaine Green Secretary: Amy Crebo
 Treasurer: Peter Stevens thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
Please contact any members of the PTFA via the school office 01392 860374
- South West Water** 24 hour emergency 0800 169 1144, helpline 0800 169 1133
- Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust**
 Chair: Di Foxford Secretary: Maggie Dunlop 01392 861185
- Thorverton Millennium Green Trust**
 Chair: John Spivey 01392 861324 Secretary: Peter Hargood

THORVERTON ORGANISATIONS

Amateur Dramatic Society (TADS)

Chair: Sheena Hunter-Hedges 01392 860843

Treasurer: Simon Hedges

Minutes Secretary: Mary Ette

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

Association Football Club

Chairman: Jorga Wilson 07801 984 462

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

Bridge Club

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

Cricket Club

Chair: Charles Kislingbury 07971 880421

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

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

Focus Magazine

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

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

Secretary: Geoff Bulley, 17 Broadlands, Thorverton

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

History Society

Chair: Richard Pocock 01884 855450

Secretary: Karen Marshall 01392 860831

Ladies' Group

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

Saturday Market

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

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

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

Thorverton Ambling, Rambling and Tramping Society (TARTS)

Caroline Prince 07749 775304 or Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203

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

TMH Committee

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

Secretary: Mike Baldwin, 01392 860853, sjimpl@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 SystmOnline.

Please ask at reception for details.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wyndham House Surgery

Wyndham Road, Silverton, EX5 4HZ

Telephone: 01392 860034

www.wyndhamhousesurgery.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bus Services

Dartline 675 and Country Bus 678

Tuesday - Dartline 675 (from Cheriton Fitzpaine)

To Exeter

10:09 at the Berry only, Thorverton.

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

To Thorverton

13.35pm from the same stop.

Wednesday and Friday – Country Bus 678

(from Witheridge)

To Exeter

10:09 at The Berry and Broadlands.

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

To Thorverton

13:35 from the same stop.

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

Stagecoach (and some Dartline) service 355

Monday-Saturday (except Bank Holidays)

To Tiverton and Silverton (from Exeter)

at Thorverton, The Berry and Broadlands:

07:55, 09:15, 11:31, 13:46, 16:06, 17:31, 18:21

To Thorverton from Tiverton Bus Station:

06:34, 07:30, 08:35, 09:55, 12:10, 14:25, 16:45,
17:45 (Dartline)

To Exeter Bus Station (via St David's Railway Station)

from Thorverton, The Berry & Broadlands:

08:00, 09:06, 10:27, 12:42, 14:57, 17:17, 18:10

To Thorverton from Exeter Bus Station (via St David's Railway Station): 07:30 (Dartline from

Sidwell St.), 08:45, 11:05, 13:20, 15:40, 17:05, 17:55

Stagecoach 55 service runs about every half hour in each direction along the Exeter–Tiverton road, from 05:45 to 22:15 and stopping at the Ruffwell (Thorverton turn). Please consult Stagecoach 55 timetable for details of this service.

Sunday and Bank Holidays (except Christmas, Boxing & New Year's Days):

09:30–20:00 at 1h30m intervals

Stagecoach offers a variety of concessions for regular commuters, shoppers, children, students and jobseekers as well as one-day unlimited-use Explorer tickets. Further details from Stagecoach: 01392 427711 or 01803 664500 or <http://stagecoachbus.com> or <http://devon.gov.uk/devonbus>

Devonbus Timetable information: 0871 200 2233
Timetables are available at the Post Office.

Waste Collection Dates

Collections are on Mondays, unless stated otherwise.

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/collectiondaylookup>

(These collection dates apply to most of the village, but outlying parts may have different collection days.)

Food caddies every Monday except after Bank Holidays

General refuse in black wheelie bins every three weeks on Mondays: March 4th & 25th

Recycling boxes fortnightly on Mondays: March 11th & 25th

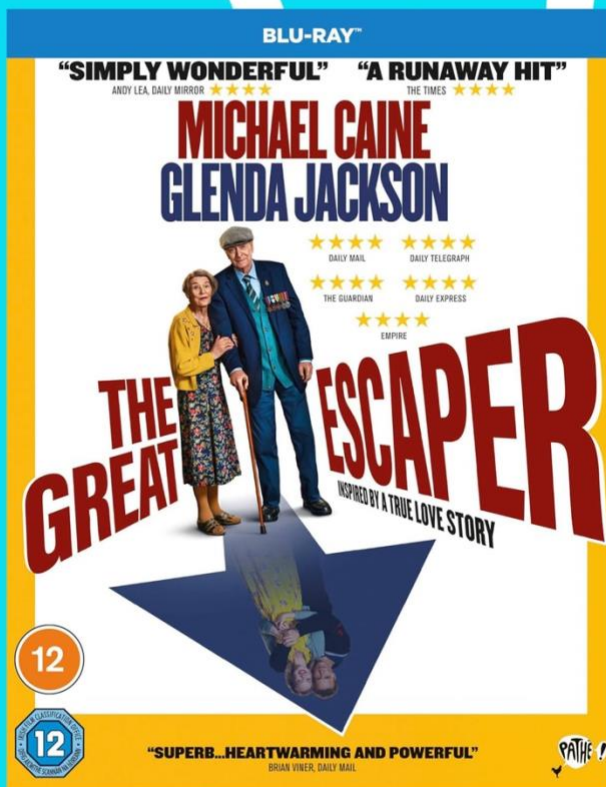
Chargeable garden waste fortnightly on Mondays: March 4th & 18th

Road works

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

TMH CINEMA

SATURDAY 16th MARCH



Doors open 6.45pm
Programme Starts 7.30pm
BAR - ICE CREAMS - DRINKS
Adults £5.00 U18 £4.00
Thorverton Memorial Hall

YES, SATURDAY THIS MONTH..!

Book tickets at thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk



THORVERTON VILLAGE

TIDY UP DAY

Saturday 23rd March

Meet at Jubilee Green

10.00 am

Refreshments after we finish

Don't forget your gloves!