

focus

on thorverton



APRIL 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 April edition of Focus.

I guess most of us have got pretty fed up with the amount of rain we have experienced over the last few months. I am not, what I would term, a gardener but just a break in the continual rain finding some time to do a bit of tidying up and maintenance would be nice.

When I think rain my mind returns to my first paid job. I was sixteen and needed work for a year between leaving school and starting Art College so I took a job on a local mixed dairy farm in Yelverton. Getting to work for 5.30am to milk a herd of Friesians and working a twelve-hour day was a bit of a shock to the system after the nine to four of Newton Grammar! The winter months were often dark, wet and cold and I was regularly told "*A bid o' raan wawn 'urt ee, biy*" (translation below!) and, of course, it didn't. Actually, leaning against a warm Friesian cow in a milking parlour was very therapeutic as most of them were gentle creatures who just wanted to offload their milk.

The year was a real experience of the four seasons. Sunny lunchtimes lying in a field, muddy days collecting mangolds in the mud for the sheep to eat, filling the barn with bales of hay and straw to see you through the winter, driving the little Fordson Dexta tractor and trailer around the large farm and bringing in the cows with the help of the farm dogs. It was a time I will always remember and value as it gave me the time and space to think and plan my life ahead.

You may, or may not have heard that I am handing over the editing of Focus from this edition to my good friend Andrew Saunders and so welcome him as your new editor and offer my thanks to Fiona, Eileen and Jules for their help over the last two years and of course to the Focus management team, thank you all, I have really enjoyed the challenge.

Russ Clarke

Editor

"A bit of rain won't hurt you boy"

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Diary of Events

Please notify the Editor of additions or changes. Email: thorvertonfocus@gmail.com

Details of most events are in the Notices section.

APRIL

- Tues 2nd WI Meeting, Peter Isaacson talking about Medical Detection Dogs, WI Hut, 2pm
 Thurs 11th Affordable Housing Project Open Meeting at 7.00pm in The Memorial Hall.
 Sat 13th Saturday Market and Big Breakfast, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 9.30-11am
 Mon 15th Rewe & District Gardening Club meeting at Bernaville Nurseries. See notice in Notices.
 Fri 19th TMH Film Night, 'One Life', 7.30pm
 Sun 21st Bubble Church, Thorverton Church, 9.30am (9.15 coffee)
 Sun 21st Singing in the Church with Friends, 3.30pm, Thorverton Church. See details in Notices.
 Fri 26th History Society talk 'Recent Archaeological Work in Exeter Cathedral', WI Hut, 7.30pm
 Sat 27th WI Coffee Morning and Market, WI Hut ,10-11am
 Sat 27th Frawsy 2024, Sampford Peverell Village Hall, 12.30-15.00. See notice in Notices.

MAY

- Fri 3 – Mon 6th Plant sale at Fair Oak. Funds for Thorverton Church.
 Sat 4th Upton Pyne Garden Club Annual Spring Flower Show, 2.00pm, Upton Pyne Village Hall.
 Sat 11th Ghosts, Werewolves and Countryfolk, Newton St Cyres Church, 7.30pm. See notice in Notices.
 Sun 19th Lego Club at Newton St. Cyres Church, 4.00pm
 Mon 20th Upton Pyne Garden Club, meeting and talk, Upton Pyne Village Hall, 7.30pm
 Sun 23rd Midsummer Service & BBQ at Netherexe Church in the evening.
 From Mon 27th SCAREFEST. Follow the village Scarecrow Trail and competitions, and refreshments in the Church.

JUNE

- Thurs 6th RBL Raddon Top D-Day Challenge in aid of the Poppy Appeal. Starting at the Exeter Inn 7pm.
 Sat 8th Scarefest celebrations at Thorverton Memorial Hall.
 Sun 9th Scarefest service in the Church.
 Sun 16th Afternoon Tea at Fair Oak, from 3.00pm. In aid of Thorverton Church and Force.
 Tues 25th Exeter Chamber Choir, Thorverton Church.
 Wed 26th Afternoon tea in the gardens of Pyne House, with a Tudor performance by Rosemary Griggs.



Thorverton Parish Council

Update April 2024

The first tulips have just appeared in our garden so spring might be here.....if only it would stop raining long enough. The PC has promised to paint some yellow cross hatching outside the PO to keep cars clear of the entrance, but it has been impossible over the last few months. This job will be completed as soon as possible!

By the time you read this, the Village Tidy-Up Day will have taken place so we'll just thank all those that gave up a Saturday morning to help out. We also mentioned in one of the recent *Focus* updates that we wanted to try planting some wild flowers in one of the verges near The Glebe. The seeds have been bought and the volunteers expect to strip the turf and plant them soon. This can be a contentious issue as we seem to have as many people urging us to cut the grass as we do who would like us to encourage biodiversity.

Let's see how this experiment unfolds over the year and if you think we should do more planting on verges then let us know. (*Note: DCC Highways will always mow some of the verges as they consider it important that drivers can see approaching traffic as they pull out of side roads.*)

Our new Road Warden will complete his training course soon; when DCC confirm exactly what he, and his band of brothers, can do we will let you know and will include how you can notify the Team of defects in your area. Please bear in mind that we already know that they are not going to be allowed to work on any main roads and there will be some limitations on the type of work they can undertake. We hope to have more news next month.

Finally we are looking into some sort of library or book-swapping club to replace the mobile library that was discontinued by DCC recently. If you would like to get involved then Cllr Shirley Nightingale is your first contact. She can be contacted via the Clerk, but she also works a number of shifts at The Exeter.

The Affordable Housing Project now warrants its own page in *Focus*.

Andrew Foster
Thorverton Parish Council

Affordable Housing Project

Update April 2024

Welcome to the first stand-alone Update on Affordable Housing; up until now this has always been part of the Parish Council monthly report in *Focus*, but as the project gains momentum it warrants its own space. We will soon be able to launch a website for the Thorverton Community Land Trust at www.thorvertonclt.co.uk and this will include much more information than we place in *Focus*, so please look out for this soon. For those that don't have internet access we will, of course, continue to place a monthly update in *Focus*.

Last month we included the news that a Steering Group had been set up and subsequently sub-divided into four smaller groups with specific tasks:

- **Community engagement, membership and communication**
- **Corporate governance, structure and legal**
- **Technical, site procurement and outline designs**
- **Finance, funding and viability modelling**

These four Groups have been meeting on a regular basis and reporting back to the Steering Group. This larger group has the benefit of including the advisor we have hired to see us through the early stages of this project, Mr Geoff Pook, who was successful in building Affordable Homes in Beer over the last few years.

We are going to hold the Open Meeting that was mentioned last month; this will be on **THURSDAY 11th APRIL at 7.00pm in The Memorial Hall**. At that time we hope to be able to give you more information on:

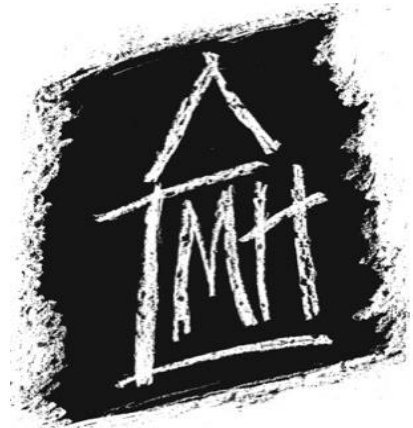
- Where the housing might be sited
- How it will be managed
- How we pay for it
- How you can get involved

A Community Land Trust (CLT) is for the benefit of the whole community and is accountable to the members that join it, for a nominal £1.00 lifetime fee. We believe that this is a once in a generation opportunity for ***The provision of affordable housing for Thorverton's local people in perpetuity.***

Please do your best to come along on 11th April to hear more!

'The TCLT Team'

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL



TMH CINEMA

FRIDAY 19th APRIL

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

Book tickets @ thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Don't forget **Big Breakfast and Saturday Market** on **13th April 9.30 – 11.00 am**. The winners of last month's draw were Kate Vought, Bry Uglow, Jonathan Belle and ...me!

*Join us for a Big Breakfast
and TMH Saturday Market*



SATURDAY 13th APRIL

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 18 April

Come along and hear what's been going on and what is being proposed this year.

Tell us what you think!

Have a glass of wine!

thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

The **Annual General Meeting** of Thorverton Memorial Hall will be on **Thursday 18th April 7.30-8.30pm**. All are very welcome and formalities are kept to the minimum. Come along and hear what's been going. Refreshments will be available.

A note about the on-line calendar: if you'd like to check if the hall is available, just go onto the website thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk. Click on 'About' and then select 'Calendar'. It's up-to-date until the end of May and our aim is to keep it up-to-date for two months in advance.

Happy Easter everyone
Penny Wiles

Notices:

Ref: Lucy's Larder



**DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS TO
SPARE EVERY COUPLE OF
MONTHS!**

**Redlands League of Friends needs
you.**

We are looking for a new secretary to join
our thriving team of fund raisers.
We meet every couple of months and
hold about 6 fund raising events each
year.

If you are interested or would like to know
more, please contact Shelia Job
(Chairperson) on 01363 775210

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

Silverton Link Up

Incorporated with The Friends of
Wyndham House Surgery
Charity no.1048253

A voluntary car service for Wyndham
House Surgery patients.

If you have problems getting to /
from health appointments - surgery,
hospital, optician or dentist, **Link Up**
may be able to help.

There is no charge for the service.
However, any donations to our
charity would be appreciated.
Donations can be given to the driver,
who will issue a receipt.

**To book transport please contact
LinkUp as below.**

We are always looking for additional
volunteer drivers. If you are
interested and for further information
please contact us.

Linkup 07821718672 or
silvertonlinkup@ gmail.com

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

**Part-time
holiday nanny / baby sitter
required in Thorverton.**

Please call Jo on
07535 256795
for more details.

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
 All events are held in the Upton Pyne Village Hall
 CONTACT June 01392 841272

ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW
 Saturday May 4th @ 2pm

Everyone is welcome to exhibit or just come along and enjoy the show
 Any contributions towards our **PLANT SALE** will be very welcome!
 Schedules available at March meeting

Or-Contact Show Sec. Chris Grundy 01392 851970
 PHOTOGRAPHY-COOKING-RAFFLE-REFRESHMENTS

Monday May 20th @ 7.30pm
BECCA FLINTHAM returns to talk about **FOOD FOR FREE**
 Seasonal Foraging for Wild Foods

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

You are invited to our **Spring into Summer Frawsy 2024!!**
 (A frawsy is a Devonshire dialect word for a treat or small feast)

Sampford Peverell Village Hall
 Saturday 27th April 2024
 12.30-15.00

Free event but voluntary contributions welcome

Devon Voice is a not for profit group celebrating Devon culture. We invite you to share a free Cream Tea with us - also to bring along your favourite Devon dishes, recipes, memories and stories.

Entertainment by Folk Musician Jim Causley

Kindly supported by 

Sign up here—<https://www.devonvoice.org/spring-into-summer-frawsy-2024.html> or
 Email: hello@devonvoice.org



Plant sale at Fair Oak

Friday 3rd
 to Monday 6th May

Funds for Thorverton church

Afternoon Tea at Fair Oak

Sunday 16th June
 from 3.00pm
 in aid of Thorverton Church and Force.

We make finding quality care simple



Tell us what you want & need → Review the PA profiles we send → Meet with any PA's you choose → Agree which PA will support you




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exeter@hubcaresupport.co.uk
www.hubcaresupport.co.uk



PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR APRIL 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
Wed 10 April	Dr Julia Neville	Follow your Nose! Fish, beer and candle-making along Exeter's waterfront in the 1920s Dr Julia Neville, Honorary Research Fellow in the History Department of Exeter University will tell the story of the thriving industries that thronged Exeter's waterfront before WW2, and the people associated with these trades.
Wed 17 April	Emma Laws	The Reformation in Exeter Emma is the Cathedral Librarian of Exeter Cathedral. The Reformation was a very significant time for Exeter, and Emma will show some of the important effects using original sources from the extensive collection in the Cathedral Library.
Wed 24 April	Brian Fernley	Hunting the Hunter- the wartime role of Dunkeswell airport In World War 2, RAF Dunkeswell airport near Honiton played a vital role in the Battle of the Atlantic. Brian is a member of the South West Airfields Heritage Trust and will show how cooperation between RAF's Coastal Command and the USAAF and the US Navy helped limit the effects of U-Boats on allied shipping.
Wed 1 May	Richard Crangle	The Magic Lantern - an (almost) forgotten entertainment medium" Before PowerPoint, and even modern slide projectors existed, talks were illustrated by magic lantern slides. Richard will tell the story of the magic lantern, and why the slides are so important, both as part of our history but also today as an important archive source.



Rewe and District Gardening Club
Normally at Rewe Parish Hall opposite the Church
on the 2nd Monday in the month except December and January.
Free Car park by the Church

**Our 15th April meeting we are gathering at the
Bernaville Nurseries for a talk on pollinators,
followed by tea and a possible purchase or two.**

**Visitors and
Guests - £1**

For more information < mandsgriffin4@gmail.com >

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

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Seasonal cards available: Easter, Fathers' Day, etc.

TCT Shop

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

Post Office

Mon - Fri	9.00 - 5.30 (closed 1.00 - 2.00)
Sat	9.00 - <u>12.00</u>
Sun & BHs	Closed

BRINGING HOPE TO MID DEVON



CHAT have been working in the Mid Devon community since 1995, supporting people to make positive changes to their lives. We know life is not always easy and we are here to help.

We believe that everyone is entitled to food to eat and somewhere to call home.

We offer free support and advice on:


- Housing and Tenancies
- Food and Household essentials
- Debt and Money
- Energy Costs

Please get in touch if we can support you in any way or if you would like to explore opportunities to get involved in our work in the community.


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Thorverton & District History Society



RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN EXETER CATHEDRAL



an illustrated talk by
John Allan

Friday 26th April 2024 7:30pm
Thorverton WI Hut.

Photo © Mark Passmore/Apex

TMH CINEMA

FRIDAY 19th APRIL



"GENUINELY UPLIFTING"
★★★★★
"DEEPLY MOVING"
THE IFC

SAVE ONE LIFE. SAVE THE WORLD.

Doors open 6.45pm
Programme Starts 7.30pm

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

Thorverton Memorial Hall

Book tickets @ thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

An invitation
to all
village organisations
to take part in

SCAREFEST



- + Create a scarecrow out of recycled materials (and straw if you wish) to showcase your organisation.
- + Display your scarecrow in church for two weeks from **Bank Holiday Mon 27th May**. Refreshments will be served in the church on that day.
- + Contact Jean Brown 07979 816033 or Allison Toogood 07936 978779 for more details, by April 30th.



Thorverton Royal British Legion The Raddon Top "D-Day Challenge"

Thursday 6th of June



Starting at The Exeter Inn at 7pm

A 10k (6 mile) multi terrain run to Raddon Top and a shorter challenge The "Little D" of 5k for 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 for all runners.

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.

All proceeds for the "Poppy Appeal"



THORVERTON
CHURCH
BETHEREKE PARISHES

BUBBLE CHURCH

9.30am, third Sunday of each month

Next service: Sunday 21st April

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

Here's the deal: you turn up at Thorverton Church for a pastry and a coffee at around 9:15am. Then you'll be guided to a 'bubble', and you and your little ones will share in 30 minutes of song, story, puppets, and prayer.

Book NOW for the next Bubble Church service at
www.bubblechurch.org
or just turn up on the day!



*You are invited to join us for the first Ring of Seven Festival
in Thorverton Church,*

a sparkling and varied recital of solos, duets and organ pieces

Singing in the Church with Friends

Sunday 21st April 3:30 pm

*and to enjoy a glass of sparkling wine/cider/juice,
or a cup of tea, and cake.*

Stephanie Talbot
Mezzosoprano
formerly of D'Oyly Carte
Opera Company

Jeremy Davies
Baritone
from Geneva

Michael Hodges
Organist FRCO
Former Director
Nonsuch Singers,
London

No advance tickets: please donate what you can
towards the upkeep of Thorverton Church

With many thanks to our sponsors, The Thorverton Arms

LEt'sGO

LEGO CLUB



Sunday 19th May at 4 o'clock

Newton St. Cyres Church

All ages very much welcome

For more information, please contact:

Revd Tim Collins 01392 860767 tim.collins@netherexe.org



SCAREFEST

a family festival of **scarecrows**
in and around Thorverton
and the church

from

**Bank Holiday
Monday 27th May**

- + follow the village scarecrow trail & competitions
- + enjoy the scarecrows & refreshments in church
- + take part in celebrations in TMH on Sat 8th June
- + come to the Scarefest service on Sun 9th June
- + make a scarecrow out of recycled materials (and straw if you wish) to display on your own land in full view of the road. More details soon...



Ghosts, Werewolves and Countryfolk

A major concert tour, featuring Devon folk stars Miranda Sykes and Jim Causley, will be launched with a special performance
**at the Church of St Cyr and St Julitta in Newton St Cyres
 on Saturday 11 May 2024 Doors 7.00pm for 7.30pm**



Anyone living in the Netherexe Parishes will have an exclusive and unique opportunity to buy tickets for *Ghosts, Werewolves and Countryfolk* before they go on sale to the general public.

Miranda and Jim are joined by narrator John Palmer, producer of *Country Diary in Song* and *Pub to Pulpit*, to celebrate the centenary of famous Devonian, Rev Sabine Baring-Gould. Baring Gould was an astonishing, and often overlooked, celebrity of the Victorian era. A pioneer of folk song collecting, he was also one of the Victorian era's best-selling novelists; the writer of a gruesome book on werewolves, author of a nerve-tingling book of ghost stories; compiler of one of the finest Dartmoor travel books and composer of the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

In the show, folk songs he collected are interwoven with extracts from his books and anecdotes from his life. It will be performed nationally at more than 20 festivals and arts centres later this year.

Tickets £17.00 are available from the Netherexe Parishes Office

To reserve tickets please email administration@netherexe.org
 stating your name, number of tickets requested, email address & contact telephone number
 (please also state which parish you live in)

Please then pay for your reserved tickets on the evening by cash/card



NEWTON ST CYRES CHURCH
 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



SERVICES & INFORMATION APRIL 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”.

Tuesday 2 April

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
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Sunday 7 April Easter 2

10:30 am	Coffee & Chat	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
11:15 am	Service	Cadbury	Lay Led
05:00 pm	Communion	Stoke Canon	SS

Sunday 14 April Easter 3

09:30 am	Communion	Thorverton	KR
10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne	GC

Sunday 21 April Easter 4

09:30 am	Communion	Bramford Speke	TC
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton	Lay Led
10:00 am	Service	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Communion by Extension	Cadbury	LF

Sunday 28 April Easter 5

09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
09:30 am	Choral Morning Prayer	Thorverton	Lay Led
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe	TC
04:00 pm	Prayer Service	Upton Pyne	TC

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

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

TC	Revd Tim Collins	JD	Revd Julia Dallen
LF	Laura Ford [Licensed Lay Minister]	GC	Revd Preb Graham Cotter
TL	Revd Tony Lane	KR	Revd Preb Kathy Roberts
SS	Revd Sharon Simpson		
SN	Sheila Newton [Emeritus Lay Minister]	TBC	To be confirmed.

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

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

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

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

Correspondence: The Netherexe Parishes, Church Office, St Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke

Believing the impossible!

After the busyness of Easter, and as we enter a relatively quieter period within the church's year, perhaps this is a time to spend a moment in reflection – thinking about the enormity that was and is Easter. Because, as Christians, we are defined by Easter, by the Resurrection. And nothing can be the same again after such an event.

In Lewis Carroll's book, "Through the Looking Glass", the White Queen says to Alice:

"I'm just one hundred and one, five months and a day."

"I can't believe that!" said Alice.

"Can't you?" the Queen said in a pitying tone. "Try again: draw a long breath, and shut your eyes."

Alice laughed. "There's no use trying," she said: "one *can't* believe impossible things."

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

That moment of realisation of the Resurrection of Jesus was just one of those 'impossible things.' And the account in John's Gospel is perhaps the most vivid telling of that moment. Amidst some incredible detail, John offers some insight from the perspective of three disciples - the first witnesses to the events of Easter morning. Three disciples, and three very different ways they try to believe the impossible:

- One sees the grave clothes neatly folded and instantly believes.
- One sees the same thing but there is no sense of understanding; no sense of accepting.
- One sees the rolled away stone, sees the empty tomb, sees the angel but only believes when she hears her name spoken with love by the Risen Christ.

They see; they believe; they hear; but initially they just don't understand; they can't understand, because the reality of what this might mean is just impossible to think about. Three very different reactions to the same impossible thing. But, how might we react to this impossible thing?

It is likely, I guess, that we will do so each in our own individual, unique way.

Because each of us has to see and believe in our own way. There is no right way to reach understanding of what happened that first Easter morning; no right way to believe; no right way to come to faith.

John's account of the Resurrection leaves room for each of us - for the one who sees and believes, for the one who sees and leaves uncertain, and for the one who needs to hear their own name.

But most of all he leaves room for the risen Christ to be in our hearts and minds.

Welcome to this impossible moment – welcome to the impossible Resurrection - because for God, nothing is impossible!

All blessings

Tim

Revd Tim Collins

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community

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, are listed here:

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

The Ring of Seven Festival

Exciting times ahead!

Over the next 9 months, the Netherexe Parishes will be putting on a number of events and activities across the area, all badged under “The Ring of Seven Festival” banner! With all the parishes working closely together, we are all busily planning a wonderful variety of events and occasions, but already we know that there will be:

- Singing in the Church with Friends, Thorverton Church – 21st April
- Ghosts, Werewolves & Countryfolk – a celebration of Sabine Baring-Gould – 11th May at Newton St Cyres Church
- Scarecrow Festival around Thorverton at the end of May
- Bell-ringing festival across all our churches – 22nd and 23rd June
- Midsummer Service and BBQ at Netherexe Church in the evening of Sunday 23rd June
- Exeter Chamber Choir, Thorverton Church – 25th June
- Afternoon tea in the gardens of Pyne House, including a Tudor performance by Rosemary Griggs – 26th June
- Rustic Flower Festival at Cadbury – 6th and 7th July
- Classic Car Show at Brampford Speke in September



And that is just the start – there will be many more events to come, with each parish putting on something in their church or village. We hope that there will be something to tickle the tastebuds, as it were – something for everyone! Please do look out for more information on the above events in the parish magazine.

All blessings,

Tim

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

Annual Meetings for your Parish

The Meeting of Parishioners elects the churchwardens of the parish. It is open to:

- all residents of the parish who are listed as such on a register of local government electors, and
- non-residents whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) immediately following the Meeting of Parishioners is open to all members of the Church Electoral Roll for the parish. It chooses representatives for the parish in church councils and synods, receives the annual accounts of the Parochial Church Council, and reviews the life and work of the local church over the preceding year. Please plan to attend these important and informative annual meetings for your parish.

Brampford Speke:	Tuesday 23 April, 6:30 pm	Brampford Speke Church
Cadbury:	Sunday 17 March, 12:30 pm	Cadbury Church (after 11:15am service)
Newton St Cyres:	Wednesday 24 April, 4:00 pm	Newton St Cyres Church (to include afternoon tea)
Rewe with Netherexe:	Tuesday 16 April, 6:30 pm	Rewe Church (after 6pm evening prayer)
Stoke Canon with Huxham:	Wednesday 15 May, 7:00 pm	Stoke Canon Church
Thorverton:	Thursday 21 March, 11:00 am	Thorverton Church
Upton Pyne:	Saturday 20 April, 10:30 am	Upton Pyne Village Hall

If you have any queries or require more information regarding the APCM, please contact Revd Tim Collins.

Revd Tim Collins, Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community 01392 860767 07449 111663

A Bible Study in Lent

The Gospel of Mark – A Beginner’s Guide to the Good News

Oh dear – if we’re going to study one of the gospels, why does it have to be Mark? I love to read about Jesus’ birth: the Christmas story, complete with angels and shepherds... I love to read about the events at Easter, when the empty tomb is discovered... I think it’s because these elements are missing in Mark’s gospel that I’ve neglected it in favour of the others.

So, a Lent group, meeting weekly, to read and discuss Amy-Jill Levine’s book on the Gospel of Mark, might not have been my first choice. Now, after four meetings (to date as I write this), I can honestly say that my eyes have been opened. A-J Levine is a Southern American Jewish teacher of the New Testament – interesting! The short introductory video each week shows her wearing unlikely sweaters along with bright lipstick and nail varnish, and a sometimes whimsical delivery, but looks can deceive and this very bright lady challenges and tussles and digs deep to find out why Mark wrote as he did.

There are eight of us in the group – we didn’t all know one another at the beginning but supper before discussion has been a wonderful time of growing relationship. We’ve discovered that we represent a wide range of opinions and backgrounds, and that we share a love of soup! Also we share a thirst for what God might be saying as we read the pages of the gospel.

We meet at Mill House, in Thorverton, the home of Revd. Preb. Kathy and Peter Roberts and myself. The idea for the group came about by chance, when Kathy ordered a copy of the A-J Levine book and by accident ordered the leader’s edition. It seemed too good to waste! When she mentioned the idea to Tim Collins, he was happy for us to go ahead.

Each week we arrive having read a chapter of A-J’s book and each week we are posed questions to consider. Suddenly, short phrases become filled with meaning, modern day parallels reveal themselves and Jesus becomes ever more a fully human being, capable of hunger, anger, humour and love.

I won’t miss the ending of Lent, but I will miss these weekly gatherings. Thank you to each person who comes and for the riches they bring. Thank you, Kathy, for gathering us together and preparing the material each week.

Will we be meeting in the future? Time will tell, so please watch this space!

Morag Lobley



Sunday 21st April

Bubble Church is a free, puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-pastry-fuelled, 30-min kids and families adventure (from 0 to 8years old).

Here's the deal: you turn up at Thorverton Church for a pastry and a coffee at around 9:15am. Then you'll be guided to a 'bubble', and you and your little ones will share in 30 minutes of song, story, puppets, and prayer.

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




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Off the Shelf

Last month I wrote about a book that has been continuously in print for 350 years. I doubt if *The Shell Seekers* by Rosamunde Pilcher (1987) will match that record, but whereas the protagonist in *Pilgrim's Progress* rejects his family, the central figure in *The Shell Seekers* is under siege from hers. The novel is swept through by wind and weather, war and peace, generosity and meanness, uncontrollable forces that alternately buffet and uplift the interesting mixture of characters assembled for our pleasure.

The blurb in my copy says that the author, much of whose previous output had consisted of serials for magazines, had always wanted to write a 'big book', and claims that this is it. In fact, *The Shell Seekers* is effectively a collection of novellas documenting three generations. It centres on Penelope Keeling, who is reflecting on her eventful past life and the problems of her present one. She is the daughter of Lawrence Stern, a successful painter of the Victorian and Edwardian eras - the child of a mother young enough to be her sister and a father old enough to be her grandfather. This unusual configuration is splendidly managed. Much of the story refers back to her own youth, her disastrous marriage and her wartime love affair, but the driving force is the conflict with her own family over her father's few remaining pictures, in particular the very valuable work that gives the book its title.

I think that part of the interest of Pilcher's writing lies in its immediacy. This can cut both ways. She is warm and splendid when describing some characters and situations, and frankly clumsy when writing about others. Two of Penelope's children are irredeemably awful, and she makes her disapproval plain – she lacks the Austen pinprick touch. Her daughter Olivia, however, is admirable, and we share the writer's enjoyment of her. Some descriptions – such as the Cornish surroundings that make up much of the scenario, with the village cobbles shining like fish-scales after rain, or the huge basement room in her parents' high London house and the lodgers sharing it – are so vital that she does seem to be writing from personal experience. And some shocking or beautiful moments are written with a simplicity and directness that bespeaks long practice. *The Shell Seekers* is not a great book, but it is an engaging one, and I have re-read it with pleasure and enjoyed being present once more at some of her most effective scenes.

I would pair this with another 'family' novel that could hardly be more different. *Mr Britling Sees It Through* (1916) was written by H. G. Wells. It is about the effect of the war, which was raging while he wrote it, on a comfortable middle-class family in material circumstances resembling Wells's own. The benchmarks are familiar – sons volunteering, hopeful marriages, flower borders left untended, the fear of the telegram boy – but the real battle of the book is going on in Mr Britling's mind as he tries to make sense of it all. By profession he writes thoughtful syndicated columns for serious readers in the dailies and weeklies; but faced with events for which he can find neither parallel nor reason, he is at a loss.

The book chronicles tranquillity disrupted. In the Essex village where he lives, the only source of information is hearsay and the newspapers. The sense of that last summer of peace is marvellously evoked. It begins with an American visitor, Mr Direck, arriving in England in July 1914 to meet Mr Britling. We share his delightful first impressions of England (the train stopped at the country station only by request – 'the thing was getting better and better'). Surviving Mr Britling's erratic driving, he is welcomed to the family at lunch under the sycamore tree with such cheerful informality that introductions are overlooked, and with the reader he tries to work out who is who. And we realise that, even as late as the gunshots in Sarajevo, the main worry of politicians and the public alike was not of war in Europe, which was unthinkable, but of civil war in Ireland, which was looming. Meanwhile, the unbreakable institutions in this comfortable menage – dressing up fantastically for Saturday-night revels, inviting friends and neighbours round for Sunday hockey – are darkly edged with hindsight.

The novel was published when the Somme battle was raging. Neither Mr Britling nor his creator knew what was in store. It ends with him sitting at his desk in the dawn, after a night of frenetic jotting. He sees beauty through his window, and gains strength from the fact that this darkest time has not quenched the possibility of joy. The last sentence:

From away towards the church came the sound of some early worker whetting a scythe.
Life will go on.

James Muirden

Allotment Talk – April 2024

March was a disappointing month on the allotment for me, with some rain on most days causing the soil to be still very sticky and not really conducive for weeding, so I didn't get much preparation done for getting this year's vegetables started. However, just before I wrote this article, I did bump in to Mary and Simon Ette. They had also ordered a delivery of "well rotted local cattle dung" from the Newton St Cyres Young Farmers. This club was selling bags of dung at a very reasonable price, in aid of two charities - Little Hero, who are based in Cadeleigh; and Dartmoor Search and Rescue. I usually try to get dung onto my allotment plot in the autumn, but with my usual source of dung having been unavailable last year, this seemed like a good opportunity. My photo shows Mary and Simon with some of their bags of newly purchased manure (isn't that your wheelbarrow that they are using Clive?).



Mary and Simon have had an allotment plot for forty years now, their current second plot for about ten years. They like to grow a range of fruit and vegetables so as to support themselves through the year. This was a quiet time of the year, with only the ever-reliable leeks and Swiss chard able to be harvested. Each year they have a great variety of fruit: loganberries, tayberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, strawberries, plums, apples (from a tree planted by Steph Shelton's father) and pears. They grow some of their vegetables from seed and some from plants; indeed they were just back from the Farm Shop, where they had bought some very good and reasonably priced cabbage plants. They will probably get their bean plants from there.

Simon had some background in agriculture, having been to agricultural college and then as a farm manager in Oxfordshire, so this has provided useful knowledge of growing. They both do the digging – in shorter shifts than when in their youth maybe, but nevertheless they have kept two plots in very good order.

Mary reminded me of what a life-saver it was having an allotment during the pandemic. She and Simon were able to spend some time there almost every day, sipping a drink and waving across to neighbours. It was a rare sociable time during a period of restrictions. They still enjoy the friendliness of the people they meet there.

April tends to be the start of the rhubarb-picking season (unless you have been forcing it, in which case you have probably had some already). Here is a simple recipe that I found in "The Allotment Cookbook" by Pete Lawrence:

Rhubarb and Ginger Crumble

Ingredients

a) for the rhubarb filling

700g rhubarb cut into 2½ cm lengths
1-2 tablespoons of caster sugar
25g unsalted butter
3 teaspoons dried ginger

b) for the crumble topping

250g cold unsalted butter, cubed
175g caster sugar
350g rolled oats
275g plain flour

Method

Lightly butter an ovenproof dish and preheat the oven to 200°C (425°F or Gas mark 7). Arrange the rhubarb lengths in the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle with the sugar, dot with the butter and sprinkle with the ginger.

To make the crumble, rub together the butter, sugar, oats and flour until the mixture has the consistency of coarse breadcrumbs. Gently spoon the mixture onto the rhubarb and bake in the oven for 40 minutes. Leave the crumble to stand for ten minutes before serving. This would go very nicely with creamy custard.

Neville Lane



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Nature Notes

I try not to bore you with the same things like my trips to Lynmouth and Dartmoor but it won't be long before these diminish as the moth recording season gets busy. That being said, a trip to Lynmouth was done on 23rd February and, despite a fresh but thin strandline, no mermaid's purses or wildlife were found apart from several surfers who were enjoying riding waves coming in around the headland! It was decided that during the walk back along the beach to the footpath we would do a two minute beach clean. That in itself throws up interesting finds. There were two vapes, a ball and half a ball, a broken plastic measuring jug, a random piece of plastic and polystyrene, a small piece of green plastic string and a child's pair of Specsavers glasses made unusable by wave and pebble action to their lenses. We'll never know if the glasses were lost on a beach or off a seagoing vessel.

In February *'Focus'* I wrote about Goose Barnacles found at Lynmouth on 12th January no doubt brought ashore from the effects of Storm Henk. Since then I've done further reading about Goose Barnacles and found out this species does not breed in UK waters and so the Lynmouth find had come from a long way out in the ocean. If you watched the recent television programme about the disappearance of the aeroplane MH370 you will have seen a piece of wing flap encrusted with Goose Barnacles found washed up on Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

Baby wild bunnies have already been out and about in early March independent of their mothers. I've also watched adult wild bunnies amorously chasing each other in the field next door to us. In the same field for months now Wood Pigeons have been eating the oil seed rape crop that will have a small negative effect on its yield. The Wood Pigeon population is doing very well!

On 12th February and 5th March a Ruby Tiger moth caterpillar was found crawling along the wall of the house. You can guarantee if you see a brown hairy caterpillar with swept back hairs and a black head in early spring it will be a Ruby Tiger.

I did a walk with my sister on 5th March when we had a bit of sunshine. We were delighted to see a male Brimstone butterfly and very surprised to find an eggshell of a Blackbird that had no doubt recently hatched. Blackbirds like many birds carry away from the nest their hatched eggshells. The Blackbird eggshell photo was taken by my sister Angie Delve.

On 13th and 14th I watched a male Wren collecting moss and taking it up and under our car port and I've seen the nest he is creating.



My daughter Rowena and I were walking along Raddon Lane from the village on 17th March when we spotted two Slow worms together in sunshine on the hedge entwined around a small tree stump. They are the same colour and I think therefore the same sex especially as mating does not start until May. The Slow worm photo was taken by Rowena. Note the pollen covered bee. The same day I saw a hen Blackbird gathering dried leaves and I'm sure a different hen Blackbird with a large twig in its beak. These birds flew into different hedges with their nesting material.



In this month of April look out for Drinker moth, Oak Eggar moth and Fox moth caterpillars. The latter two are more likely to be found on heaths, moorland, cliffs and dunes. Drinker and Oak Eggar caterpillars are immature at this time of year and will be feeding. Any Fox moth caterpillars seen have already fed and ready to go into the pupal stage of their life cycle. Also keep an eye out for the flightless vegetarian oil beetle that is very partial to Lesser Celandine. Find this species in meadows and also clifftops and grassland near the sea.

Jenny Garne
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 01392 860875

The Joy of the Southernmost City

Ushuaia sits on the southern coast of the Argentine part of Tierra del Fuego. The western part belongs to Chile. In fact to travel overland from the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires, down Ruta 3 you have to pass through part of Chile and cross the Magellan Strait by ferry. Many stretches of this road are without tarmac and sandy surface gets formed into corrugations. These are uncomfortable unless you travel at fairly high speed or extremely slow speed. During the last few miles of the drive you descend from the tail of the Andes mountains into the city, which is built on a narrow west-east strip of land facing the Beagle Channel. There is a town, Puerto Williams, of 3,000 people further south on a Chilean Island. However Ushuaia has a population of 75,000 and has developed into a tourist hub - in Summer for Antarctic cruises, and in Winter, when skiing is available.

Like Svalbard, Ushuaia is also tax-free to encourage settlement - although expensive shipping costs from the north more than make up for the tax reduction (like Svalbard!). Ushuaia has a chequered history. The original inhabitants, the Yamana were wiped out by the northern diseases of measles and typhus and by 1917 there was just one pure blooded Yamanan woman left. Missionaries were also present in the 19th century. A penal colony was established there in the 1880s and repeat offenders were sent there from northern Argentina. They had to pretty much fend for themselves and chopped down most of the original lenga trees which were used for building what became the city (you can see similarities with the early development of Australia here). The prison was shut down in 1947 and now houses an excellent museum and art gallery with photos and artefacts of the original inhabitants in the 19th century plus a section on Antarctica. The recent surge in tourism has given this city at the end of the world some welcome prosperity.



Ushuaia city centre

Penguin in a bookshop

For many tourists the city is just a way station. Many of the cruise ships heading down to the Antarctic Peninsula start their voyage at the port. They have to traverse the Drake Passage which is subject to the near constant winds and strong ocean currents which surround Antarctica. There is no land in this circuit to get in the way. This ocean current is the strongest in the world and the crossing is rightly feared by seafarers, particularly in small boats.

There may soon be increased sea traffic round Cape Horn due to the Panama Canal running out of water to keep the locks operational. Other voyages to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia also leave from here, although Argentina periodically tries to stop access to the Falklands, which they lay claim to, and call the Malvinas. Graffiti on town walls near the local naval base often say *Ingleses = Pirates*, and *Islas Malvinas son Argentinas*, etc. Feelings are still quite high following the war, especially as some of the combatants feel badly treated by the Argentine Government, and we observed continuing protest in front of the Rose Palace in Buenos Aires.



The climate at the southern tip of South America is actually fairly similar to Svalbard despite being only as far south as Liverpool is to the north. There is no equivalent to the North Atlantic Drift here, in fact the Humboldt current carries cold water up the west side of Chile. It can drop to -10C in the winter and up to a rainy 15C in summer. And like Patagonia, the strong westerly wind is constant. Even the world's most southern village, Puerto Toro, is still 740 miles **outside** of the Antarctic Circle. Svalbard is mostly 800 miles **inside** the Arctic Circle. The Southern Hemisphere has only 20% of the world's population and 10% of the Earth's land. So, head south to get away from it all!

There were successive gold rushes and oil was discovered in the 1940s and is still extracted in N. Tierra del Fuego. Argentina and Chile divided the island in 1881 but verged on the brink of war in the 20th century due to their conflicting claims over some of the smaller islands. The northern part of the island has sheep farms (estancias) and wildlife including condors, guanachos, and beavers, which have caused widespread devastation to the forests and they are being trapped to reduce the population.

I visited Ushuaia twice, once on the way to catching the Dutch ship to head east to the Falklands and South Georgia. Before boarding I took a trip around the Nation Park of Terra del Fuego to the west of the city, with mountains, forests, lakes, waterfalls and scenic hiking trails. Introduced European rabbits were much in evidence. On return from Antarctica I had time for lunch and a visit to the museum before catching the flight back to Buenos Aires and London via Madrid. This trip was 14 years ago, but I would love to return, for the scenery but not the wind!

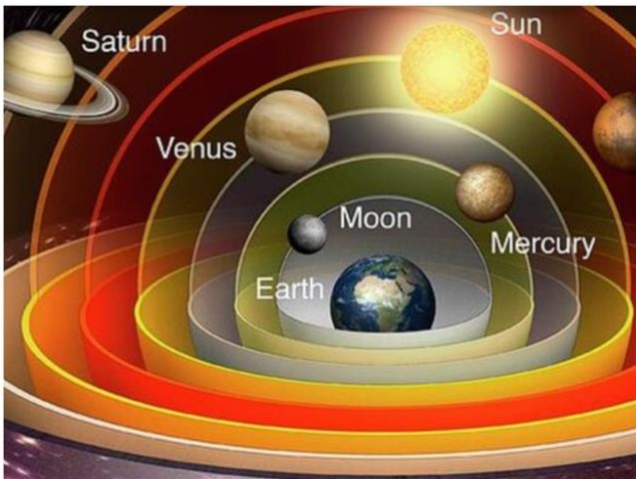
John Spivey

The Sky at Night

APRIL 24

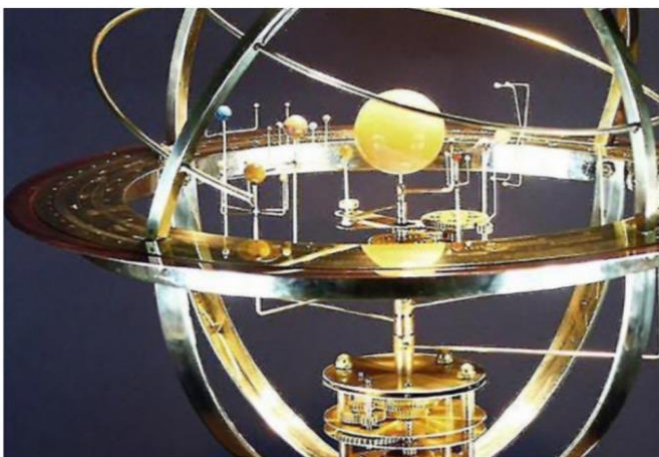
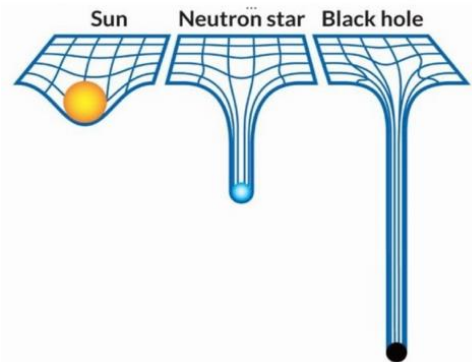
Watch out for the Solar eclipse on 8 April. Two comments - you'll need to be in the West of Cornwall and need a good sky with eye protection (a type of tin foil, sunglasses are not good enough)."

From the earliest times of philosophy and embryonic science, humankind has sought to create models to describe our inscrutable cosmos. Over the millennia our concepts of scale and "What's out there?" have changed and arguably become more realistic, yet more incredible! The complex history and nature of the universe will always challenge the biggest of brains, the brightest of minds.



And the sheer scale of the the universe is beyond comprehension but let's rise to this challenge! If the universe were a football pitch (100m) then our whole galaxy would be no more than the thickness of a piece of paper (0.1 mm). Conveniently, the same comparison links the infinitesimal atom to the thickness of paper! But try scaling up between the two - the paper to our actual galaxy - you'd need to compare paper to pitch four times over and then some more!

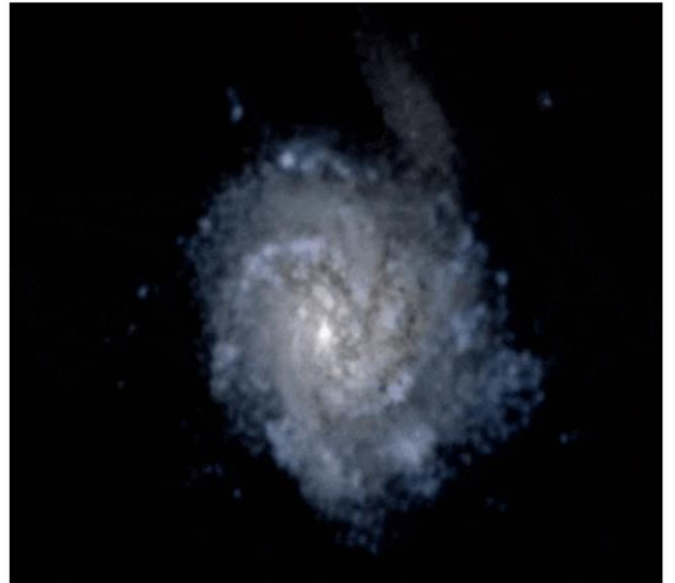
Throughout history geocentric models have sought to place us, planet Earth, fair and square at the centre of the Universe. Look up ancient names like Ptolemy, Aristotle and Eudoxus. They tried to make sense of an Earth and other planets somehow set into regular, circular-ish motion. Some experimented with the idea of stars on the inner surface of an outer shell. Shells could be concentrically placed nested together like Russian dolls (see figure 1). Far-fetched? Well, the basket-like form of curved space-time, conceived by Einstein, (see fig. 2) is fantastic too! Aristarchus, of the Pythagorean school, three centuries before Christ, described a heliocentric Solar System, complete with our Moon, and several planets all revolving around the Sun!



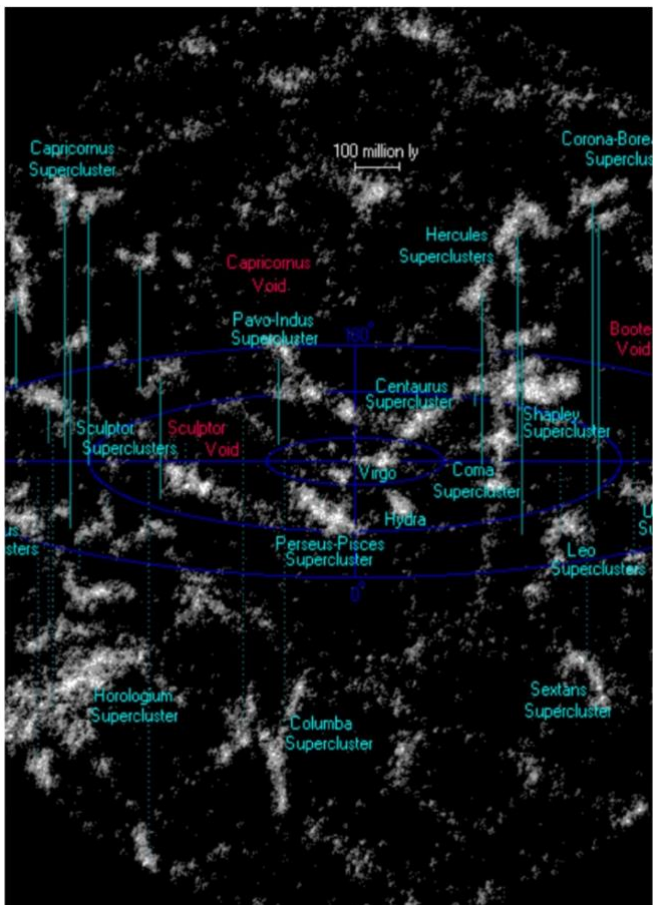
Similar models came to fruition in the turmoil of the Renaissance with Copernicus. Sun-centred and altogether realistic? Not quite. A century later, Galileo added the moons rotating around their mother planet, Jupiter. The most open minded would have already been trying to hypothesise more, smaller moons not just around weighty Jupiter but also mobbing bright Saturn. The most accurate models, orreries, tantalisingly showed how a simple system of gears can produce planets and their moons alike, all effortlessly



revolving around the central Sun (see figure 3). Previous ideas could not readily explain the looping, whimsical motion of planets as seen from Earth.



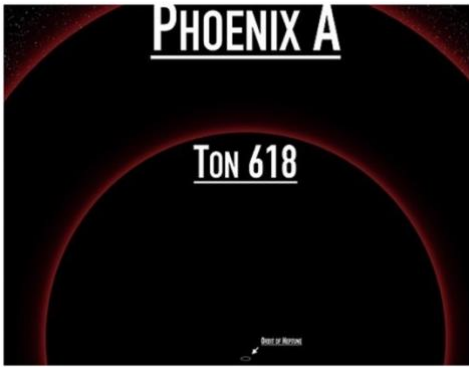
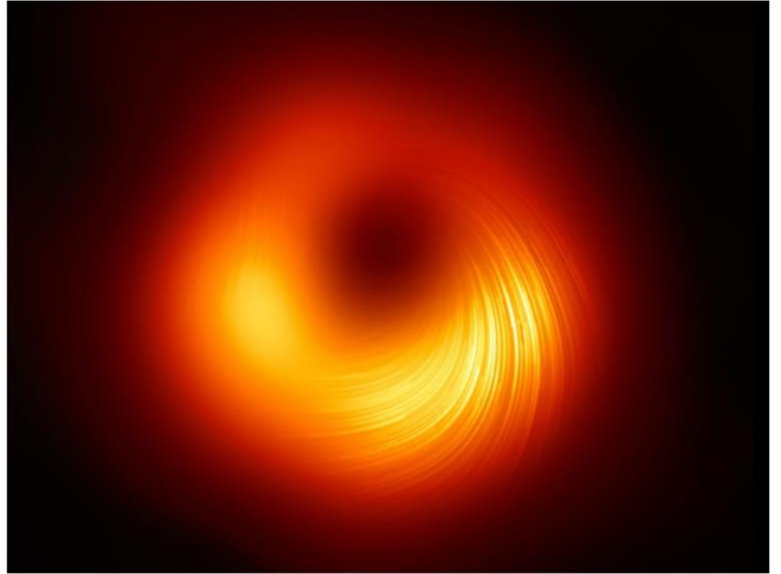
In the twentieth century the presence of other galaxies, beyond our own Milky Way, was discovered (see figure 4). How old were they? How far away? How many? Even now, especially with recent telescopes, new information about the oldest structures is coming in and computer models (figure 5) need to be seriously tweaked if we'll have any chance of understanding how some galaxies can possibly be so old.



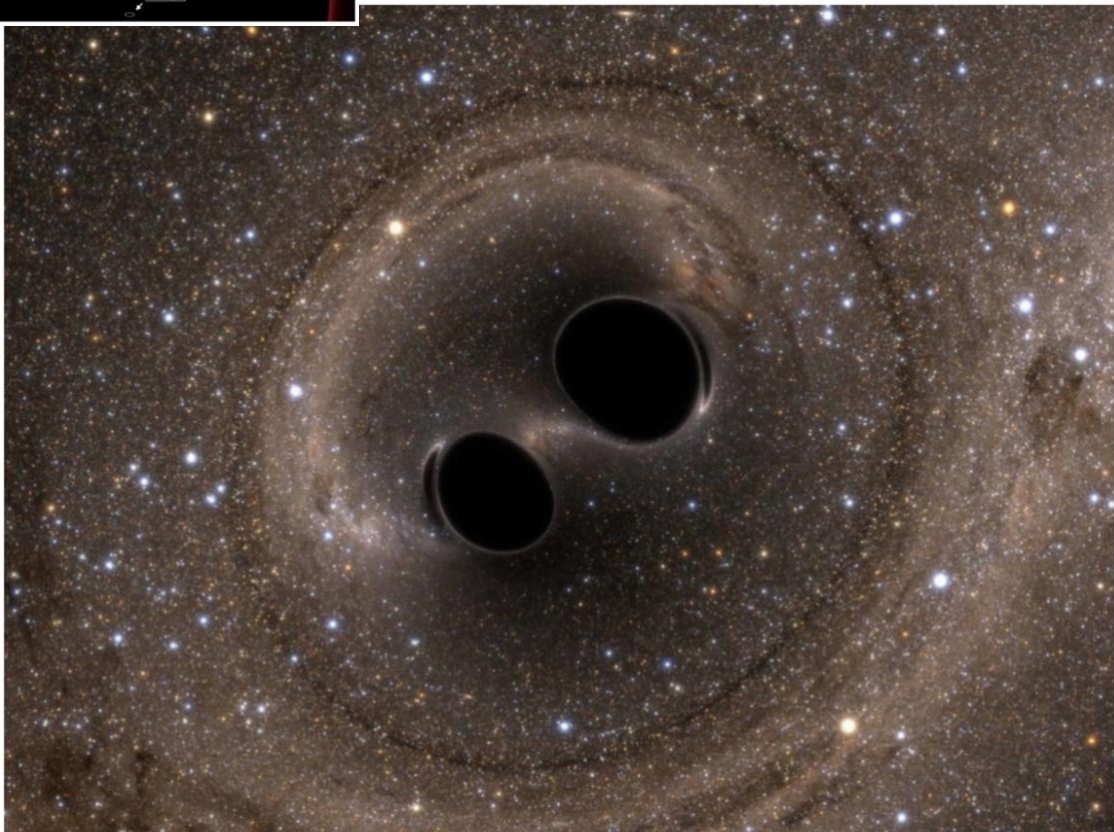
For poor-sighted and musically minded people other non-visual models have been invented. Visit the imagination of Holst whose 'Planets Suite' evokes an amazing array of spheres, both large and larger, spinning slowly and endlessly through the vast distances of Space. NASA has created a sonic model, creating a descriptive soundscape from a line rotating across the sky, rather like the radar screen in submarines.

Schools and even town councils have created physical models, a scaled up arrangement of balls of appropriate size is laid out from anywhere between 100m to Sweden's 300km! Clusters and superclusters of galaxies (see figure 6) can arguably be portrayed in a 2D tapestry that our brains can resolve into a possible 3D network.

Perhaps the most famous model/image, like the one at our Galaxy's centre (see figure 7), is that of a black hole. This is a polarised telescopic image. Phoenix A is 100 billion times the mass of our Sun. TON 618 is 66 billion times the mass of our Sun. Its event horizon completely dwarfs the scale of our puny Solar System (see figure 8). Its centre is monstrously dark and eerily silent. Outside the horizon you find swirling, incandescent, superheated gas whilst energetic radiation jets out of its 'poles' at impossible, near-light speed. Finally, the most energetic event known is the collision between two black holes. Armageddon with knobs on. The illustration (see figure 9) doesn't do it justice - or does it?



Peter Hargood



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TARTs News

Thorverton Amblers Ramblers and Trampers

Saturday 9th March

Neville led a circular walk of just over 5 miles starting from Steps Bridge. The forecast was not looking great but, as optimists, 10 human TARTS and 1 canine decided to don our waterproofs and hope for the best.

We took a bridleway leading up the South West side of the river. The first $\frac{3}{4}$ mile was mostly uphill but not too steeply. We passed the Youth Hostel as we climbed through Bridford Wood, our path levelled a little before descending to the road. Crossing over we continued downhill, steeply at first and then more gradually through the National Trust land of Woodcock Wood.



We stopped for coffee just as the rain started to come in, so rather than linger it was a quick slurp and a snack and we pressed on, heading down to the south bank of the river Teign. We followed the river west to Clifford Bridge.

From here it was an easy, level path along the North side of the river back to Steps Bridge. The

rain continued as we made our way along the river bank, the bright yellow of the numerous wild daffodils that carpeted the ground was beautiful. They have colonized the area well and were a particularly cheerful sight.



We stopped for lunch in a small clear area alongside the river where we could take advantage of some tree roots and logs to sit on.

By the time we got back to Steps Bridge we were all a bit soggy, but very happy to have been able to get out and walk after the dire weather we've endured lately.

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

Future walks:

Saturday April 6th led by Nick and Judy around Wellington

Saturday April 20th led by Jenny

Saturday May 4th led by John and Fiona around Lustleigh

Saturday May 18th led by John and Chris

Saturday June 1st led by Ann Parkinson

Saturday June 15th led by Caroline

Saturday June 29th led by Jenn



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

Recipe

Wild garlic – the young tender leaves add a subtle garlic flavour to soups, stews, mashed potatoes, and pesto. They make a seasonal local addition to a plate pie or pasty filling.

To 450g (1lb) cubed or sliced boiled potatoes, add a generous handful of wild garlic chopped and cooked for two or three minutes in butter, season with sea salt and black pepper, and 100g (4oz) of grated cheddar cheese.

Paul Cleave (Sustainable Crediton)

Au Revoir la France

Saying goodbye to Provence

Several of you have been kind enough to indicate to me that they have enjoyed the series of articles over the last few months outlining our time in the South of France from January to April 1968. We found ourselves at Orange on a direct post-to-post exchange which saw me teaching English for a term at the local lycée, while my job teaching French at a boys' grammar school in Birmingham was taken over by a teacher from Orange. The months had gone by quickly and now it was time to say goodbye to all our new friends and colleagues and return home.

'It's a pity you're leaving just as the weather is getting warmer,' people said to us. We politely acquiesced, secretly esteeming that we were quite relieved to be escaping the soaring temperatures soon to hit Provence. In fact, we were delighted with the weather we had experienced during our stay. At the beginning it had often been cold and at times the fierce Mistral had almost blown us away; but there was the compensation of blue skies and sunshine which never failed to lift the spirits - very different from the lowering skies and dismal damp of Birmingham.

In March, we discovered that the weather some 60 miles further down south was even more pleasant. One Friday afternoon, Fiona caught the train to Montpellier to meet up with a young woman from her home church who was studying French and Arabic at the university with a view to

working as a missionary in North Africa. They enjoyed glorious weather, with a hot sun that drew them to the balcony of Margaret's pleasant flat for meals. Fiona found herself acquiring a tan in mid-March. I travelled down by car next day as I had a Saturday morning class and after the meal we went down to the beach. Fiona and I sat on the sand in front of the gorgeous Mediterranean and watched the sun go down as Margaret flew her kite. Then we drank our coffee as it grew dark. What a wonderful first-time introduction to the blue, blue waters of the Mediterranean that was!

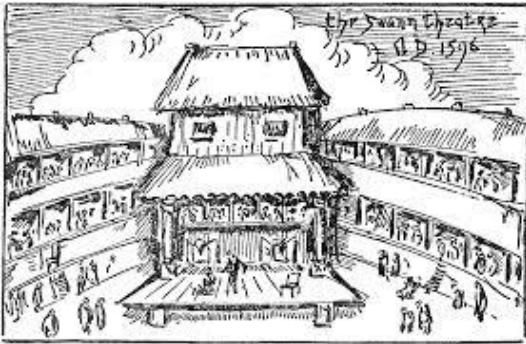
Back in Orange and a couple of weeks later the good weather continued. On 2nd April, our second wedding anniversary, we were enjoying hot sunshine and an azure sky, which meant that not only could we have meals on our garden patio but, as that gave us more room to entertain, we could repay some of the hospitality that had been lavished upon us, by inviting friends to eat with us. We found ourselves growing more and more sun-tanned.

Realising - a little belatedly - that we really were due to leave relatively soon, people began inviting us for meals. Our diary became so full that at times we had to fit in two engagements on the same day! One such occasion was a meal with a couple we hadn't visited before, the husband being a member of the English department at the lycée. They kept us entertained after the meal with colour postcards of Cotswold villages they had visited - so the names of Lower Slaughter, Broadway, Stow-on-the-Wold and Castle Combe peppered our exchanges.

Our last two weeks in Orange went by in a flurry of activity. It had been a wonderful experience but we were by now longing to be back and see our family and friends at home again. In a burst of extravagance, we booked plane tickets. It would be wonderful to avoid humping our luggage by land and sea. Friends accompanied us to the railway station at Orange, where we said our goodbyes with many fervent expressions of hope that we should meet again. And, some eight years later, we did but that's another story...

Maurice Harrison

Shakespeare for Everyone



Richard II

The play paints a remarkable portrait of King Richard as an unwise and unsteady young man. The story opens as the king is respectfully talking to the oldest of his uncles, the Duke of Lancaster. The Duke's son, Henry Bolingbroke, has had a fierce quarrel with the Duke of Norfolk, accusing him of treason, and King Richard is prepared to listen to the two men. Henry is his first cousin, but Richard sees himself as an impartial and almost god-like like king who does not doubt his own ability to be the best of all possible judges.

What he calls "the unstooping firmness of my upright soul" is his honest opinion of himself, although it is a judgement few of his nobles would share.

King Richard cannot persuade the two men to make peace with each other, and he sets a time and a place for them to fight a duel. The duel is about to begin, in all its glittering array of heralds and trumpets, when Richard suddenly changes his mind and has the whole thing stopped. Instead he sends the two men into exile. It is a bitter sentence for them both, but especially for Henry Bolingbroke. He deeply loves England and is loved by Englishmen in return, his proudest title being that he is a "trueborn Englishman."

King Richard is delighted to get rid of his cousin, for he sees Henry's popularity as a threat to the throne. He has practised a "courtship to the common people... wooing poor craftsman what is the craft of smiles," and the king does not approve of it.

He is on his way to Ireland to put down a rebellion there, and he does not feel himself bound by any scruples in the way he raises funds. He is willing to

force money out of his subjects if he cannot get it by legal means, and when he hears that his uncle,

John of Gaunt, is on his deathbed, he is chiefly pleased at the thought of the vast Lancastrian estates he will be able to seize for his own use.

Old John of Gaunt is dying with his heart full of fear for England. He is convinced that his beloved land is being destroyed, and he expresses his love for his country in some of the most famous lines ever written about England.

*This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war;
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea..
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this
England ...
This land of such dear souls, this dear, dear
land ...*

This most loved of countries could not be conquered from without, but is now being infected from within.

*England, that was wont to conquer others,
Hath made a shameful conquest of its self ...*

King Richard enters the room of the dying man, and John of Gaunt reproves him for his bad government. Richard is furious, and calls his uncle "a lunatic, lean-witted fool." When the old man dies he at once seizes all his property for the crown, and Richard's other uncle, the Duke of York, is appalled. By right and by law the money and land of the dead Duke of Lancaster belong to his exiled son, Henry Bolingbroke, but Richard will not listen to his uncle's warning and refuses to be turned from his course.

The nobles of England are equally shocked when they hear the news of what Richard has done. They have been growing increasingly restless under the

young king's erratic tyranny, and when they hear that Henry is returning to England, they go to enlist under his banner.

During Richard's absence in Ireland he has left the country under the government of his uncle, the Duke of York, and the excitable old man has no idea what to do about the rebellion he finds on his hands. He has no money, no carts for armour, no way of raising troops.

The old man does his best to comfort Richard's woeful young queen, who loves her husband devotedly, and the king's unpopular favourites scatter to do what they can against the approaching army.

The Duke of York goes out to parley with the rebels, and Bolingbroke greets him as "my gracious uncle". The old duke is not pleased.

Tut, tut !

*Grace me know grace, and uncle me no uncle:
I am no traitor's uncle...*

Bolingbroke maintains that he is not a traitor but has only come to England to win back his right to the estates of his dead father, and his uncle admits there is no army to oppose him. The muddled old man does not know what to do, and he finally decides to retire peacefully.

King Richard lands on the coast of Wales, aware of the existence of the rebellion but convinced that Heaven would never permit an anointed king to be destroyed.

*Not all the water in the rough rude sea
Can wash the balm from an anointed king ..
For every man that Bolingbroke hath pressed
To lift shrewd steel against a golden crown,
God for his Richard hath in heavenly pay
A glorious angel...*

This was a doctrine believed by most men in Shakespeare's England. All kings were chosen by God, and if the kings were evil, then it was up to God, not to men, to destroy them.

The news comes that 20,000 Welsh soldiers have deserted the army, thinking the king is dead, and for a moment Richard's picture of himself is shaken. Then he becomes the invincible monarch again, with a God-protected glory. Further news comes that all England is flocking to Bolingbroke's

banner, even old men and children, and that Richard's worthless favourites have all been executed. The king abandons his former role of exulted confidence and becomes instead, with the emotional suddenness that is characteristic of him, a mourning philosopher.

*For God's sake, let us sit upon the ground,
And tell sad stories on the death of kings:
How some have been deposed, some slain in
war,
Some haunted by the ghosts they have deposed,
Some poisoned by their wives, some sleeping
killed;
All murdered. For within the hollow crown
That rounds the mortal temples of a king
Keeps Death his court...*

This grim view of kingship is quite as exaggerated as the golden one that went before, but Richard can do nothing by halves. His friends suggest that he show a little more courage, and the king grows hopeful again; it will be an "easy task" to overcome the rebellion. Then the final news comes that his uncle, the old Duke of York, has yielded to the enemy, and Richard clutches grief to his heart as though it were a fair lady. He will go to Flint Castle and "pine away", taking a melancholy and artistic pleasure in the depth of his woes.

Bolingbroke arrives at Flint Castle, apparently prepared to make a respectful submission to the king if he can have the Lancastrian estates back again. Richard is in a regal mood, threatening all traitors with supernatural punishment from the walls of the castle. But when he is alone with a friend, he collapses into tears, for it seems to him a pitiful thing that he should be prepared to give up his whole kingdom and be buried in oblivion.

*...my large kingdom for a little grave,
A little little grave, an obscure grave...*

When Richard comes down from the castle walls to greet his cousin Bolingbroke, he is a king again. He is gravely courteous to his foe and wholly cooperative - a model monarch in defeat and quite prepared to accompany the victorious Bolingbroke back to London.

The scene shifts to the garden of the old Duke of York, where Richard's queen is trying to escape her fears. She has no heart for dancing or story-telling

and turns instead to listen to a gardener who is giving instructions to his men.

He is a good gardener, careful to give support to the loaded boughs of the apricot trees and keep the flowers unchoked by weeds, and he only wishes the king of England had treated his kingdom as well as he treats his garden. For he has just heard the news that Richard is being deposed and Henry Bolingbroke is taking the crown.

The horrified Queen steps out of the shadow of the trees to ask him where he heard such news, and the gardener reassures her regretfully that it is true. He can do nothing for the unhappy lady, but when she is gone he sets out a bank of rue, the herb of sorrow, to commemorate the place where her tears fell for her husband.

In London, in the great Hall of Westminster, the parliament of England has gathered to give Henry Bolingbroke the crown.

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

As evenings start lengthening and hopefully the rain starts lessening, tennis will be uppermost on our minds.

The Club singles league is running again. This is a wonderful challenge for your tennis and fitness.

In the East Devon Tennis League our two Mixed teams are - one at second or third place in Division 1, and one at second place in Division 6. In the Exeter and District Tennis League our Men's team is at third place in Division 3.

There will be plenty of opportunity to play competitive tennis in the summer.

The Rusty Racket sessions are running well often on Saturdays (contact Frederiek Maddock frederiekmaddock@gmail.com if you would like to try a session) and the other Club sessions are well-attended with some sessions now being divided into two slots as they are so busy. We have quite a few new members and it is great to see them so involved. Coach Jon Wills runs our Junior coaching sessions on Wednesday afternoons and is also available for individual or doubles coaching for adult members.

Membership renewals are due in March, so this is a good time to think about joining if you are new as you will get a full year for your subscription. We are still very reasonably priced compared to some of the larger clubs. For all information about the club please see our website

www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk or contact our membership secretary

Laura Leigh on 01647 24259

No one speaks against his claim except the loyal and spirited Bishop of Carlisle, who prophesies that the end will be civil war if Richard is deposed and Henry enthroned.

*If you crown him, let me prophesy,
The blood of English shall manure the ground
And future ages groan for this foul act...
Disorder, horror, fear and mutiny
Shall here inhabit, and the land be called,
The field of Golgotha and dead men's skulls...*

The bishop is placed under arrest, and Henry sends for Richard so that the king can formally surrender his crown, in the full view of all.

(to be concluded)
Andrew Hoellering



Frederiek Maddock

Thorverton Cricket Club

April 2024 Update

Quiz and Curry Night

Thank you to all of those who supported our recent Quiz and Curry fundraiser at Thorverton Memorial Hall. It was a great evening and we hope to do more events through the year!

Training Dates – New Players Welcome!

The season is upon us and we have set start dates for training at the ground (weather permitting).

Open-Age Training - Thursday 4th April

Women's Softball Training - Tuesday 9th April

Junior Training - Friday 26th April

All Stars/Dynamos - Friday 10th May

Girls Cricket - Tuesday 4th June



Can you help with the play-area project?

An area at the club has been identified to install a small play-area for young children. We are hopeful that we'll be able to access S106 funding to support the cost, but we need someone to take a lead on managing the project, please get in touch if you can help!

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 on a Friday evening.

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 women's 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@thorvertoncricketclub.com

Fantasy Cricket

This year we have launched a TCC 'fantasy league' based on players performances for the 2024 season. Help fundraise for the club and you may win a cash prize! You can find out more at www.thorvertoncc.co.uk/tcc-fantasy-cricket-2024/

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

Alex Jopling

History Society

A Talk by Elly Babbedge

Pirate Black Sam Bellamy



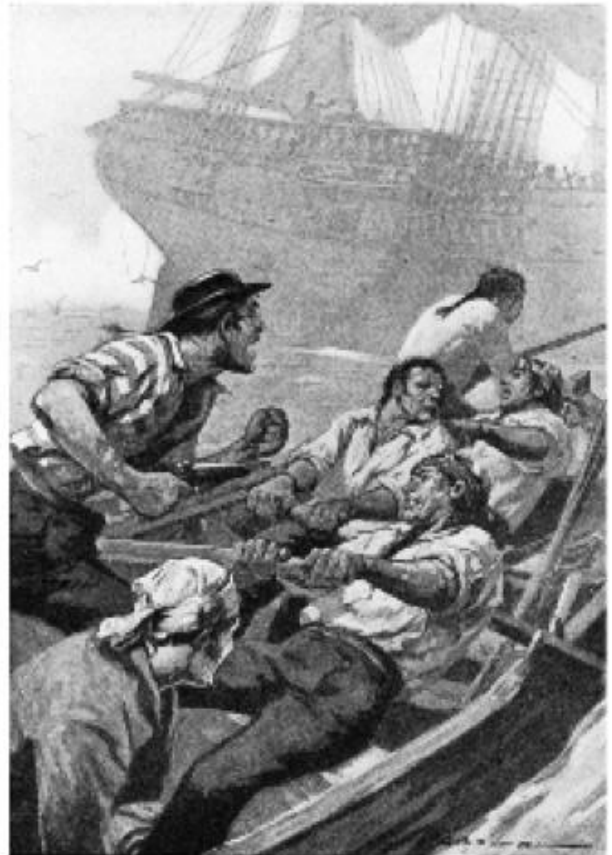
We were delighted to welcome Elly to Thorverton on Friday 23rd February to introduce us all to this famous local celebrity from the past, one Samuel Bellamy.

A genealogist, educator and local historian, Elly gave us an insightful and flavoursome feel for the pirate life of the eighteenth century.

Born in Hittisleigh, a small hamlet of only 15 names in 1641 to the west of Exeter, on 23rd February 1689 (and who died 26 April 1717), Samuel was destined to be known variously as "Black Sam" Bellamy, Black Bellamy, Prince of Pirates, Robin Hood of the Sea. He is believed to have been the sixth child of Stephen Bellamy and Elizabeth Pain.

Samuel left his home and served in the Royal Navy, being released in 1714 at the age of 25. Trained and skilled in the sea, with experience of battle in the War of Spanish Succession, it is not surprising that he reappears in 1715 in Cape Cod in the Colonies, where he teams up with one Paulsgrave Williams. Williams was a 39-year-old silversmith with a wife and family. His father, who died in 1687, had been the Attorney General of Rhode Island. At some point in the friendship, Williams convinced Bellamy to go treasure hunting in Florida. Spanish plate fleets had been wrecked in a storm off the coast of Florida in 1715, and many men headed down there to dive on the wrecks to try and recover some of the treasure reported to have sunk in the storm. Historians agree that it was probably Williams who had the money to finance the trip. Disappointed in their original endeavour, by March they owned two canoes known locally as periaguas which could be manned by armed men and were very manoeuvrable, allowing them greater success in plundering both French and Spanish ships.

Such was their success that they impressed local pirate celebrities such as Benjamin Hornigold who operated out of New Providence in the Bahamas and Edward Teach (Blackbeard). In teaming up with these mentors with bigger captured ships and fearsome reputations, Bellamy began to reap substantial rewards. Part of the reason for their ease in capturing vessels was reputation established by previous pirates who had tortured sailors, particularly captains, who did not immediately surrender upon being approached by a ship bearing a Jolly Roger and firing a shot across their bow.



The early 1700s was a time of low pay for sailors, with generally no chance of advancement. Most did not feel any loyalty toward their captain or the company that owned whatever ship they served on, and thus saw no reason to sacrifice themselves defending the ship. Most hoped that by giving up and staying out of the way they would survive the pirate encounter unscathed. That being said, there is no record that Captain Bellamy and his crew ever used force or violence to capture any of the scores of vessels they plundered.

Indeed, Sam Bellamy was unusual in that he held to his morals and established a Pirate Code which attracted crews to his team and also meant that he had no qualms in attacking English slave ships laden with goods and valuables on their last leg of the Triangular Trade. He was well known for being both generous and egalitarian with his crew and equally rewarded and freed slaves, providing a rare example of a notable reputation which inspired loyalty, early enfranchisement and opportunity for sailors of colour. His own epithet of Black Sam seems to come from his personal appearance with dark hair and skin.

In 1717 his crew took the 300-ton galley, the Whydah, laden with ivory, indigo, gemstones, weapons and gold and silver coins. However, less than two months later the ship went down off Cape Cod. The accident was succinctly described by Thomas Davis in his deposition before his trial for piracy in Boston, Massachusetts, in October of 1717:

The Ship being at an Anchor, they cut their Cables and ran a shoar, in a quarter of an hour after the Ship struck, the Main-mast was carried by the board, and in the Morning She was beat to pieces. About Sixteen Prisoners drown'd, Crumpstey Master of the Pink

being one, and One hundred and forty-four in all. ("Trials," 2:318)

Those men on the Whydah who could attempted to save themselves, but *"the bitter ocean temperatures were cold enough to kill the strongest swimmer within minutes. Other crew members were crushed by the weight of falling rigging, cannon, and cargo as the ship, her treasure, and the remaining men on board plunged to the ocean floor, swallowed up by the shifting sands of the cape."* ("Trials," 2:318)

Local residents arrived on the shore the next morning to find that *"more than a hundred mutilated corpses lay at the wrack line with the ship's timbers."* (Clifford & Kinkor, 131)

The fascinating thing is that more than two hundred years later the wreck has been discovered and salvaged and items retrieved which now form a fascinating and growing display at the Manitoba Museum and also a New Netflix series the Lost Pirate Kingdom. Well worth watching!

K A Marshall

WI Report for March 2024



We were pleased to welcome a local person to speak at our March meeting. Caroline Tavener, a local bee-keeper brought along a display of a bee-keeper's equipment and samples of the many products she makes – as well as different types of honey. There were all sorts of candles, lip balms in many flavours, and polishes for different purposes.

Caroline began her very interesting and informative talk by giving us ten good reasons to keep bees. The last of her reasons was that bees protect your garden from elephants!!

She built a hive in front of us, explaining the function of each part as she went. We were then told about the functions of the Queen, the drones

and the workers. Within the hive there would probably be one Queen together with fifty to seventy thousand worker bees and drones, each bee having its own specific function. We were amazed at how all the bees seem to work together to make the hive successful – the saying 'as busy as a bee' is so true of these incredible creatures. The Queen bee produces the eggs, while the worker bees (non-reproducing females) have different jobs depending on their age – starting as cleaners and then progressing to nursery workers, warehouse workers, guards, and finally foragers.

The drones are the male bees whose function is to mate with the Queen. After mating, the drones usually die. Unlike the worker bees, drones do not sting.

Caroline is very passionate about bees and bee-keeping. She told us that her interest in bees began from her school days when a bee-keeper visited her school.

Dates to Note:

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.

Tuesday, 7th May – WI Annual Meeting and Presentation of Resolutions.

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

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

Judy Bright

Legal Eagle

Some readers may have watched the recent Channel 4 series, 'The Jury'. Billed as a social experiment, two juries, neither knowing of the existence of the other, listened to evidence in a trial where the accused was charged with the murder of his wife. In response to the charge the accused pleaded loss of control, a partial defence to a charge of murder which, if successfully pleaded will reduce the conviction to manslaughter.

Loss of control is the second of the two partial defences to a charge of murder - last month we looked at diminished responsibility.

The Channel 4 series used actors to play the leading roles - accused, judge, counsel - but used the transcripts from a real trial which took place at Norwich Crown Court in 2013. The Channel 4 juries heard the same evidence as the jury would have heard in the original trial.

In the 2013 trial, Thomas Crompton, a sculptor in metal, was charged with the murder of his wife Angela. Crompton did not deny having killed his wife but claimed that his actions were the result of a loss of control.

Having watched all four episodes, I have a number of concerns regarding the 'experiment' as depicted in the series. The viewer was given very little information regarding the defence, although it was clear from the deliberations of the respective juries that reference was made during the course of the trial to the criteria which needs to be satisfied for the defence to be successful. It was equally concerning that the judge gave no

directions to the jury so that at some points during their deliberations they were addressing the wrong questions.

The defence of loss of control was introduced by the **Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (CorJA 2009)**. **S54(1)** provides the definition of the defence:

"Where a person (D) kills or is a party to the killing of another (V), D is not to be convicted of murder if:

- (a) D's acts and omissions in doing or being a party to the killing resulted from D's loss of self-control;*
- (b) The loss of self-control had a qualifying trigger; and*
- (c) A person of D's sex and age, with a normal degree of tolerance and self-restraint and in the circumstances of D, might have reacted in the same or in a similar way to D."*

The burden of proof is on the prosecution to disprove the defence once the evidential burden has been met by the accused. What this means is that there must be enough evidence on which, in the opinion of the trial judge, a jury, properly directed, could reasonably conclude that the defence might apply. The jury must assume that the defence is satisfied unless the prosecution proves beyond a reasonable doubt that it is not.

There are two qualifying triggers, one where D's loss of control is caused by D's fear of serious violence against D, or another identified person. The other, where D's loss of control was caused by things done or said which constituted

circumstances of an extremely grave character and caused D to have a justifiable sense of being seriously wronged.

The television series did not make clear whether the accused was pleading both qualifying triggers or just one. The jury deliberations suggest both and indeed there was evidence which might have supported both.

With regard to the second of the qualifying triggers - whether there are circumstances of an extremely grave character and whether this caused D to have a justifiable sense of being seriously wronged - will be judged objectively which means that for a plea to succeed under this trigger a reasonable person would have to think that the circumstances are extremely grave, and that D had a justifiable sense of being seriously wronged.

Once the qualifying trigger has been identified, the accused now needs to produce evidence that this caused the loss of control. In **Jewell [2014]**, the term loss of control was acknowledged to mean, "the loss of the ability to act in accordance with considered judgment or a loss of normal powers of reasoning."

S54(2) makes clear that the loss of control does not have to be sudden, but the accused should not act out of a considered desire for revenge **s54(4)**. At the trial, time was spent considering whether the accused, having unsuccessfully tried to strangle his wife, picked up the hammer with which he

inflicted the fatal blows from the kitchen table, or whether he went to his workshop/studio to fetch the hammer. During their respective deliberations, neither jury seemed to have a sense of the importance of this.

The final hurdle is the 'reasonable person test', namely whether a person of D's sex and age and with a normal degree of tolerance and self-restraint and in the circumstances of D, might have reacted in the same or a similar way. The test imposes a uniform standard of self-control to which the accused is expected to comply.

At the trial of Thomas Crompton, the plea of loss of control was accepted by the jury and Crompton was sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment. Angela's family were deeply unhappy with the verdict.

In the Channel 4 series one jury found the accused guilty of murder whereas the other jury accepted the plea of loss of control and found the accused guilty of manslaughter.

What did the Channel 4 'experiment' prove? I truly have no idea. What it highlighted was how important it is, as a member of the jury, to form your own opinion on the evidence and not be swayed by someone with perhaps a more forceful personality into agreeing something that runs counter to your view as to the guilt or otherwise of the accused.

Clive Hamblin

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Puzzles

I was sorry not to receive any answers to the two puzzles that I set last month, so I won't take up space with printing the answers, although if you do ever want to know an answer just contact me through *Focus*.

Just two puzzles this month, both of a type probably quite familiar to those of you who take a daily newspaper.

a) Su Doku

I hope that you found last month's two Su Doku puzzles a little more challenging. Just one this month.

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

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

b) Codeword

This is a puzzle that I haven't included in *Focus* before, but I know that some of you do enjoy Codeword puzzles. I have to apologise that I have not used the crossword symmetrical grid format, but that looked to be one challenge too far for me.

Anyway, try your hand at this. Each number represents a letter. Work out which is which to complete the grid.

14	16	20	7		25	13	14	10	18
		7			13		15	7	24
4	9	14	22	2	7	6			14
		12			13		8	3	21
	21	3	19	19	7	7			11
23	3	21		26		1	14	15	7
9		18	14			1		7	
3	6		22	11	26	18	7	12	
17	14	12	7	21				3	5
7	1	14	16		13	23	3	6	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		L						

19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
							I	

Happy puzzling.

Neville Lane



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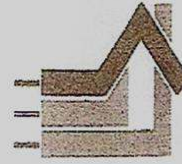
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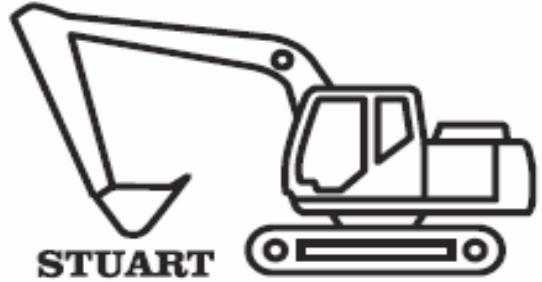


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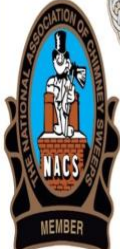





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Contact Trish Jones for details 07484 377298
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 Netherexe Parishes Administration, administration@netherexe.org
- Church Wardens** Edwin Greed, Fortescue, Netherexe, 01392 841231
 Royston Kershaw, 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
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- 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*
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 Head of School (Thorverton): Mr Chris Holding 01392 860374
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 Chair of Governors (Exe Valley Federation): Jackie Enright 01392 851859
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Minutes Secretary: Mary Ette

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

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

Focus Magazine

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

Editor: Andrew Saunders, 2, Milford Lane, Thorverton EX5 5NX 01392 860866

Secretary: Geoff Bulley, 17 Broadlands, Thorverton

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

History Society

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

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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.

NB: bustimes.org is very good for checking times or seeing where your bus is.

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: April 15th, May 7th (Tues.) & 28th (Tues.).

Recycling boxes fortnightly on Mondays: April 9th (Tues.) & 22nd, May 7th (Tues.), & 20th.

Chargeable garden waste fortnightly on Mondays: April 3rd (Wed.), 15th & 29th, May 13th & 28th (Tues.).

Road works

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



Thorverton
Affordable Housing Project
PUBLIC OPEN
MEETING

Come along on

Thursday 11th April at 7.00 pm

Thorverton Memorial Hall

This is your chance to have your input on:

- Where it might be
- How we run it
- How we pay for it
- How you can get involved

The provision of affordable housing for Thorverton's local people in perpetuity