

focus

on thorverton



MAY 2024

£1.00

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	Printed by Sarum Graphics
	At the present time Focus is produced each month except January .

The Editor welcomes interesting news items, reports etc. for publication. Items for inclusion in *Focus* should be accompanied by the name of the originator, which may be withheld from print if requested. The aims of *Focus* are:

- To produce a non-political monthly magazine serving the people of the parish of Thorverton, providing them with information on activities in the parish;
- For the magazine to be one that villagers are proud of;
- To provide a window for those outside Thorverton to see what the village has to offer;
- To promote local businesses through advertising; and
- To run at a small annual profit, but with surplus funds put to support village organisations for the benefit of Thorverton residents.

Items for publication, adverts, changes to adverts, Diary entries, changes to Thorverton Information lists should be sent to the Editor at thorvertonfocus@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND COPY BY THE 20th OF THE MONTH DEADLINE.

TEXT should be as plain text in an email, or as unformatted TEXT in a Word doc file.

PHOTOS should be sent separately and preferably in JPEG or otherwise PDF FORMAT.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND POSTER TYPE NOTICES should be prepared as near as possible to how it is intended to appear, with pictures supplied as required. Please consider A5 LANDSCAPE format for posters to ensure inclusion and readability. NB: We cannot guarantee a full page for your poster.

All items received are acknowledged, so if you don't receive an acknowledgment within a few days, please assume not received. Check your item thoroughly before sending, especially dates and contact details.

Focus reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or notice at its sole discretion for any reason whatsoever. Check with editor if you wish to discuss the design of an advert. (Quarter & Eighth page minimum 3 months).

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

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

Images: © **Clare Lou Photography:**

Front cover & page 29:

St Thomas of Canterbury Thorverton. Back cover: Church of our Lady Upton Pyne.

Welcome to the May 2024 edition of **Focus**

A few weeks ago I was asked if I would consider becoming the new Editor, and I was very pleased to accept. Apparently the publication is now in its 55th year and it would be such a pity if it stopped. Of course, I've got a very hard act to follow-Russ Clarke has done such a great job over the last couple of years and I would like to thank him on behalf of the local community. His creative background has definitely had a beneficial effect upon the "look" of the magazine.

Although I have spent all of my life in Devon, I only moved to the village about two and a half years ago and I absolutely love living here. The people are so friendly and welcoming and the village and its hinterland are just so beautiful!

Thank goodness that the weather improved towards the end of April and we could all enjoy getting out into the village and countryside at last. Talking of which, it is lovely to see the hedgerows coming to life. I think that I once read that May 17th is the date on which our countryside is supposed to be at its most lovely. May and June are, without a doubt, my favourite months of the year.

I would welcome suggestions for new features and any ideas on how we can improve **Focus** and, of course, we are always pleased to receive articles. We are planning to have an illustrated monthly series about each of the churches of our Netherexe Parishes, and I have one or two other ideas for new regular features.

Andrew Saunders
Editor

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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.

MAY

- Fri 3 – Mon 6th Plant sale at Fair Oak. Funds for Thorverton Church
 Sat 4th Upton Pyne Garden Club Annual Spring Flower Show, Upton Pyne Village Hall, 2.00pm
 Sat 4th Devon Cricket League games begin, Station Ground
 Tues 7th Thorverton Millennium Green Trust AGM, Exeter Inn, 7.30pm
 Tues 7th WI Annual Meeting/100years of Thorverton WI, Afternoon Tea, WI Hut, 2.30pm
 Sat 11th Ghosts, Werewolves and Countryfolk, Newton St Cyres Church, 7.30pm. See church info.
 Tues 14th Parish Council meeting, Thorverton Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
 Sun 19th Lego Club, Newton St. Cyres Church, 4.00pm
 Mon 20th Upton Pyne Garden Club meeting and talk, Upton Pyne Village Hall, 7.30pm
 Mon 20th Rewe Garden Club AGM and film
 Sun 23rd Midsummer Service & BBQ, Netherexe Church in the evening.
 Fri 24th History Society talk 'Ivy's Story', WI Hut, 7.30pm
 Sat 25th WI Coffee Morning & Market, WI Hut, 10.00 to 11.00am
 From Mon 27th SCAREFEST and refreshments in the Church, 10.00am to 5.00pm.

JUNE

- Tues 4th WI meeting & talk, WI hut, 2.30pm, see notice
 Thurs 6th RBL Raddon Top D-Day Challenge in aid of the Poppy Appeal, starting at the Exeter Inn 7pm.
 Sat 8th Scarefest celebrations, Thorverton Memorial Hall 10.00am to 5.00pm.
 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, 7.30pm
 Wed 26th Afternoon tea in the gardens of Pyne House, see notice



Thorverton Parish Council

Update May 2024

We have a new Councillor! Or, to be more accurate, we have the return of a previous Councillor in Steph Shelton who was co-opted at the beginning of the April meeting and joined us immediately.

As you will see there are now separate notes in *Focus* about the Affordable Housing Scheme, but this item will remain part of the PC agenda for a little while longer until the new CLT is registered, and a bank account is opened. Until then you may see payments from the PC for expenses incurred by the AH Group. The PC is holding the grants that have been given by MDDC on their behalf and these are being used to pay for registration fees, surveys, website design etc.

Our new Road Warden has been fully trained, and he and his team are expecting delivery of materials and equipment next month; the Road Warden will then be touring the village looking for holes to fill. We wish the new team every success.

A few months ago I mentioned that the Rec Ground project to replace some of the old equipment had been set back by the withdrawal of one of the main sponsors; getting funds for

Here is Harriet Lampard's team hard at work removing the old turf and planting wild flowers in the verge near The Glebe. We are grateful to Harriet, James, Rea and Lauren, being supervised by two keen gardeners, Marliyah and Nalani! Let us know what you think of the results and if you would like to see more wild flowers in the verges in the future. Write to Focus or mail the PC Clerk at thorvertonpc@gmail.com



such work is never going to be a quick process, but we are now pursuing Lottery Funding sources.

Harriet Lampard and her group of helpers, including some very little ones, managed to strip two large sections of turf near the Glebe and wildflower seeds have been sown. With the recent belated appearance of the sun (finally!!) we hope to see the results soon. Once the 'biodiversity management' is established let us know what your thoughts are on repeating this elsewhere in the village.

Jack Andrews looked after the Rec Ground for decades, so his family's wish for a memorial bench to be installed there is a fitting tribute to his years of dedicated work.

The next PC meeting is Tuesday 14th May 2024, but we will start a little earlier, at 6.30pm, to include the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual Council Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust.

*ANDREW FOSTER
Thorverton Parish Council*

Affordable Housing project - May update

The constraints of publishing deadlines mean that this monthly report for *Focus* magazine is never going to be as up to date as our new website, but we appreciate that not everyone in the village has access to the internet. We will therefore print a summary of what has been happening here each month, but would encourage you all to look at www.thorvertonclt.co.uk where possible; if you don't have access yourself maybe a neighbour can help you.



Please note that the website now includes the minutes of the Steering Group meetings; the next meeting of the SG will be on Weds 24th April.

An Open Meeting was held in Thorverton Memorial Hall on Thursday 11th April to hear a presentation by members of the Steering Group; over 50 members of the public attended.

Using a PowerPoint format six speakers were able to give further details on the following items:

- * The background to the Affordable Housing Project
- * The Aims and Vision of the CLT
- * Which type of CLT might be the most appropriate for Thorverton
- * How to become a member of the CLT
- * Details of the potential site(s)
- * What progress has been made on funding

Each presentation section was followed by a break for questions which were handled by various members of the speaking group.

The final slide asked the audience the following questions:

- *Should we adopt the suggested Aims?*
- *Should we proceed with the formation of Thorverton Community Land Trust?*
- *Should we continue with the investigations into the two Silver St sites?*

There being no objections to any of these proposals the meeting closed, with the Steering Group now being given approval to proceed.



The TCLT Team

Letters

Dear Thorvertonians

My daughter Alice and I are walking the last 116km of the Camino Frances from Sarria to Santiago in Spain from the 6th to 19th June. We are walking in support of Exeter Leukemia Fund (ELF) who support patients and their families who have any type of blood cancer.

I was diagnosed with an incurable form of blood cancer in 2008 and have been supported by ELF for more than a decade.

Every penny we raise goes directly to ELF.

Please read my story, every bit of money makes a difference and will help keep ELF at the Royal Devon and Exeter, providing their services and dispensing kindness for the future.

Our Just Giving Page is:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/alice-player?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Falice-player&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

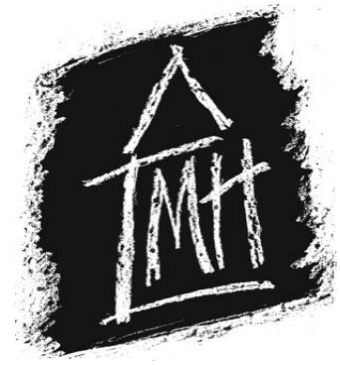
Kind regards

Jean Player
Ford Meadow
Thorverton

Notices

Phoebe Wills Smith was born in Salisbury on 9 April to proud parents Annie and Ben. Grandparents Graham and Jan Wills and Uncle George, Auntie Sophie and Uncle Oliver are delighted.

THORVERTON MEMORIAL HALL



Well the rain stopped and the sun came out, and customers for April's Big Breakfast came in their droves....we reckoned it was the busiest Big Breakfast ever – all credit to the kitchen and serving team. The winners of last month's draw were Neville Lane, Maggie Harrison and Louise Heard.



Don't forget the next

Big Breakfast and Saturday Market on 11th May 9.30 – 11.00 am

Looking ahead to this month's Film Night on **Friday 17th May** we have **Anatomy of a Fall**. This film has won a fistful of awards including the 2023 Palme d'Or and 2024 Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. It's been described as a smart, solidly crafted mystery/thriller anchored in psychological family drama. **Note that the film is in French, German and English, with English subtitles.**

If anyone would like a copy of the Chair's report to the AGM just let me know.

Penny Wiles

penny@apwiles.co.uk

Tel: 07884 312627



**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
Ref: Lucy's Larder

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.**

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

Thorverton Millennium Green Trust

Annual General Meeting
 7 May at 7pm in the Exeter Inn.

Everyone Welcome

Afternoon Tea at Fair Oak

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

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

Monday May 20th @ 7.30pm

BECCA FLINTHAM
 our popular speaker from Rowanleaf

returns to talk about
FOOD FOR FREE
 Seasonal Foraging for Wild Foods

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www.hubcaresupport.co.uk



Programme of Talks for 1 May to 5 June 2024

The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks for May 2024 is shown below. Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings. The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Descriptions of talks and speakers also 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. Late programme changes will be shown on the Exeter Forum website.

Wednesday 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.
Wednesday 8 May	Miriam Guard Followed by the AGM	The incredible story of the All Age, All Ability Play Park on King George V Playing Fields. The Play Park on King George V Playing fields is rated the sixth most accessible in the World. Exeter Mencap led the project to create this truly inclusive playpark and Miriam will tell how this incredible project came about, and some of the challenges encountered on the way. This short talk will be followed by the Exeter Forum AGM.
Wednesday 15 May	Peter Kiff	An Indian childhood. - Growing up as a missionary's child in the 1960's Peter will tell the fascinating and often humorous story of his early life in India, attending boarding schools and often separated from his parents for many weeks at a time. This talk is a wonderful insight into life in India when the country was still adjusting to independence.
Wednesday 22 May	John Allan	Recent archaeological discoveries at Exeter Cathedral Cathedral Archaeologist John Allan will make a welcome return to the Exeter Forum and will show how recent excavations and building work at Exeter Cathedral has unearthed hidden and often unexpected aspects of Exeter's history from Roman times to the Middle Ages.
Wed 29 May	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Spring half term break</i>
Wednesday 5 June	John Davidson	Impact of the railways on Exeter - A Festival of Steam To introduce the 2024 Festival of Steam at Exeter's Heritage Harbour on the weekend of 8/9 June, John will show how the arrival of the railways and steam engines changed Exeter. The talk will also explain the important links between Exeter's Canal Basin, steam power and coal.

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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Sat 8.00 - 12.00
Sun 8.30 - 10.30
Bank Hols 8.30 - 9.30

Post Office

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



Rewe and District Gardening Club

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

On the 20th May we are holding our Annual General Meeting, (usually a rather short affair) - followed by a film by Tim Ellis on "Composting". We look forward to seeing many composters!

Visitors and
Guests - £1

For more information < mandsgriffin4@gmail.com >

CAN YOU ASSIST THOSE IN MID DEVON FACING FOOD POVERTY?



There are many different reasons someone may find themselves in food poverty. Whatever the reason is, we are here to help.

We believe that everyone should have access to essential food, regardless of their circumstances. Our Foodbank is open five days a week and is there to provide a helping hand when things get tough.

We are grateful to the local community for their support.

Food donations can be dropped off at Tiverton supermarkets and CHAT Office.

For more information please visit www.chatmid.org

Coffee/Tea
Long Life Milk
Cereal
Tinned Meat
Tinned Vegetables
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Can you add one of these items on your next shop?

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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:
Rev'd Tim Collins 01392 860767
tim.collins@netherexe.org

CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL Crediton Heart Project

The Big Boniface Bash!

Crediton community fun day

Summer fun in the park
Live bands
Euro street food
Games
Ye olde Saxon fayre

BRING A PICNIC!
BRING YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

Sunday 9 June
12.00 - 16.00
Newcombes Meadow

NEAR THIS PLACE
ST BONIFACE
WAS BORN
680 AD



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...



Thorverton & District History Society

IVY'S STORY

A Devon woman, neither famous nor infamous, who lived through the 19th and 20th centuries and kept a diary.

Robin Blythe-Lord
relates this fascinating piece of social history on

Friday 24th May 2024 7:30pm
Thorverton WI Hut.

THORVERTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Raddon Top "D-Day Challenge"

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

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



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

Starting at The Exeter Inn at 7pm.

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

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

"Thursday 6th of June"

All proceeds for the "Poppy Appeal"

Crediton Food & Drink Festival



music
takeaway food
demos
bar
stalls
kids' fun

**Saturday
8 June
10.00 - 16.00
Town Square**

Thank you to our sponsors:

PECK AND STRONG





ASHGROVE
KITCHENS

CREDITON
TOWN COUNCIL

The songs collected by Sabine Baring-Gould

We are fortunate enough to be able to offer an additional event this summer, which should be of interest to History Society members. Martin Graebe is going to talk about the songs collected by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), a clergyman by profession, but also a writer, an antiquarian, an archaeologist, and the first of the large-scale folk song collectors in the Victorian era.

Martin has offered to talk to us in the **WI Hut at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th August**. The charge will be just £3 for Thorverton History Society members and £5 for non-members.



Martin Graebe

As well as talking about how Baring-Gould collected songs, he will sing with his wife, Shan. Martin's book, *As I Walked Out, Sabine Baring-Gould and his search for the Folk Songs of Devon and Cornwall*, won the Devon History Society's W G Hoskins Prize for 2017 and the Folklore Society's Katharine Briggs Folklore Award for 2018.



Sabine Baring-Gould

TMH CINEMA

FRIDAY 17th MAY

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BEST FILM & BEST DIRECTOR

★★★★★ "CONTINUALLY TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY" ★★★★★
★★★★★ "A CAPTIVATING AND EMOTIONALLY SEARING ALPINE MURDER-MYSTERY" ★★★★★

ANATOMY OF A FALL

★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★

★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★

Doors open 6.45
Programme starts 7.30pm

BAR - ICE CREAMS - DRINKS
Adult £5.00 U18 £4.00
Thorverton Memorial Hall

Book tickets @ thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

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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SERVICES & INFORMATION MAY 2024

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

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

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

Sunday 5 May Easter 6

11:15 am	Service for Animals	Cadbury	Lay Led
11:15 am	Café Church	Rewe	Lay Led
05:00 pm	Communion	Stoke Canon	SS

Tuesday 7 May

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
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Thursday 9 May Ascension Day

06:00 pm	Service [followed by meal]	Stoke Canon	TC/LF
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Sunday 12 May Easter 7

09:30 am	Communion	Thorverton	JD
10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne	TC

Sunday 19 May Pentecost/Whit Sunday

09:30 am	Communion	Bramford Speke	GC
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton	TC
10:00 am	Coffee & Chat	Stoke Canon	LF
11:15 am	Communion	Cadbury	KR
04:00 pm	Lego Club	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led

Sunday 26 May Trinity Sunday

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

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

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

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

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

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

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

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

 **Happy Birthday!**

Happy Birthday to you

Happy Birthday to you

Happy Birthday dear Church...

Happy Birthday to you



“What is he wittering on about now”? I hear you ask. “Birthday, what birthday”? Well, after our recent celebrations of those two great festivities of Christmas and Easter, May sees the third of the important festivals for the Christian Church – that of Pentecost! A time of great celebration, time for a party and a moment that marks the birth of the Christian Church.

And while it probably passes many people by, the Day of Pentecost is such an incredibly important moment for the church, and so very different from those other two momentous events. The actual birth of Christ took place in the middle of the night, in a place for animals, in a small village, in a little province at the far end of the Roman Empire - witnessed by only Mary and Joseph. That moment of glorious Resurrection was hidden away in a cold, dark, sealed tomb, and only later - after the actual event – was Jesus met and seen.

But this moment of birth for the whole church was anything but hidden away, anything but in the middle of the night. This is how Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, describes what happened:

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. (It was about 9 o'clock in the morning.) Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale-force - no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, with tongues like flame, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came running. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

(The Message translation)

From that moment on, everything changed for the disciples. From being fearful and hiding away, from anxiety and uncertainty, they totally changed. With great confidence and certainty, they flung wide the doors and the windows and began telling everyone about Jesus – about his miracles, about the wonder of the Resurrection. A real party atmosphere took hold and so powerful was their testimony that over three thousand people on that day committed themselves to following the teachings of Christ.

And from that moment, the church began to grow and grow and grow, quickly spreading across the region, the whole of the Roman Empire and beyond: to Egypt and Africa. Within a few decades, Christianity had become an organised, accepted and still growing movement.

So that moment of Pentecost, of tongues of flame and rushing winds, is definitely a real moment of celebration. So, very much – “Happy Birthday, Church!”

All blessings

Tim

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



NEWTON ST CYRES CHURCH
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Ghosts, Werewolves and Countryfolk

*a Celebration of the life and works of the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould
on the Centenary of his Death*



Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley

Created & narrated by **John Palmer**

Newton St Cyres Church

Saturday 11th May 2024

7pm

Tickets £17

available from the Netherexe Parishes Office

To reserve tickets, please email administration@netherexe.org

Stating your name, email, contact telephone number
and number of tickets required.

Payment – cash or card – at the door on the night

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:

May 12th Communion Service : **9.30am**

May 26th Choral Morning Prayer : **9.30am**

June 9th Scarefest Service with communion : **time TBC**

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




Next service: Sunday 19th May

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!



NEWTON ST CYRES CHURCH
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Tony's Mad May Challenge – The Camino de Santiago
Not a walk in the park....



Despite being the wrong side of 80, I am setting myself a challenge! Walking 115km on the final stage of the 'Camino de Santiago' in northern Spain. It's hilly, hot and dusty! So definitely not a walk in the park.

Why, you ask, am I putting my body through this ordeal? Well, I am working with other local residents on a process of modernising the inside of Newton St Cyres Church. We want it to be able to offer a wide range of different activities – both church and social events such as concerts, art exhibitions, theatre productions, family events, etc. But, to complete the work will require something approaching £75,000. While some of this, we hope, will be met by grants and national funds - to secure that funding, we must self-fund at least half this figure.

And so, my reason for this little spiel - please be kind enough to help by sponsoring me on this mad walk in May. I appreciate it is a big ask, but if we don't invest in this project the church will seriously struggle to survive. Any contribution will be gratefully received and you can do this by linking to my 'Just Giving' page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/anthony-lane>

Thank you for reading this and please do contact me for further information:
lane.tony42@gmail.com

Tony Lane

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:



- 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

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D for Don't really know yet

It has been a long wet and dreary winter with little sun. There is no doubt this affects our mood and our vitamin D levels however whether these two are connected or just have the same causal link is currently a matter of scientific debate.

Our skin makes Vitamin D when exposed to the sun. We do not need much sun exposure to produce the amount of Vitamin D required to fulfil its main metabolic function of ensuring our bones have enough calcium. In the summer this is easy but in the winter our Vitamin D levels will fall. As we get older our skin is less efficient at making Vitamin D and this means that probably half of the older adult population has a low Vitamin D level in the winter. As a result Public Health England advise older adults to take a Vitamin D supplement during the winter months. These are 10mcg / 400 international unit tablets that can be bought cheaply over the counter in a pharmacy, they are not prescribed by GPs. Oily fish and eggs are the alternative main dietary source of Vitamin D. Optimising our bone strength is dependent on both having enough vitamin D and also doing sufficient daily exercise; walking in the sun ensures both needs are covered. Patients who have osteoporosis (weak bones), normally discovered following a low impact fracture, are treated with Vitamin D and calcium supplements plus a once weekly medication that ensures the calcium is deposited in the bones.

Whilst we have a good understanding of Vitamin D's role in bone health the search continues for other roles that it might play within our bodies. There are Vitamin D receptors in some parts of our brain and there are also some trials that show it has a role in optimising our immune system. Taking a Vitamin D supplement in the winter is linked with fewer days of illness from viral infections. There is currently a trial being run by Exeter University testing whether taking very high daily doses of Vitamin D will decrease risks of dementia and other studies are trying to establish links to depression. No data is available yet.

It is perhaps because so little is known, apart from the fact that levels are variable, that Vitamin D has been linked to so many pathological pathways. It was hailed as a panacea for Covid and as a protector against cardiovascular disease however neither of these claims stood up to scientific analysis.

One thing that is very clear from the research is that there is no benefit in measuring Vitamin D levels unless there is a clear medical indication for doing so. This is because the levels are predictable; if you have reduced sun exposure your levels will be lower than they could be. Nothing is gained from analysing the actual level as we are a long way from establishing what the most beneficial level is. So, this summer get out, get exercising, use sunscreen (it does not affect Vitamin D production) and next winter consider taking a tablet during the darker months.

*Anthony O'Brien,
Wyndham House Surgery*



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Off the Shelf

If you pause on the small railway bridge between Rewe and Killerton, you may observe two things. The British Rail notice spells 'affect' incorrectly, and the distance from the London terminus is given as *188m 60.5ch*. The 'ch' stands for *Chains*, and behind this remarkable and almost forgotten measure lies much of the story related in the book I want to write about this month: *Measuring America* by Andro Linklater (2002).

The history of the Chain is linked (if I may use the expression) with two social revolutions. The Rev. Edmund Gunter's clanking measuring device, which he invented round about 1620, was prompted by the increased appetite of the landed gentry for reclaiming their property. Until that time it had had little economic value, and the common people quietly farmed it. But now it began to show agricultural potential: the common land was being 'enclosed' by the landlords, and this demanded a simple and reliable method of measuring the new patchwork of fields. Gunter made his chain 22 yards long, a manageable unit that fitted beautifully into the sub-divisions of an acre. Divide the number of square chains by 10, and you had the area in acres. It was as simple as that.

So when the land-hungry English and Irish started their westward migration across the Atlantic, they took with them their homely units of gallons, pounds and feet, and also packed some of Gunter's 22-yard or 66-foot chains with which to measure the acres that were theirs for the taking in this vast new space. And when the nascent United States began expanding its territories across the continent, Gunter's chain became the unit of claim, possession, and indeed urban planning from New York to San Francisco. Here is Linklater describing the decision on how to develop Manhattan, in 1811:

The choice was a grid-iron consisting of a dozen north-south avenues crossed at right-angles by 155 east-west streets. The dimensions were

decided by the standby of every surveyor, Gunter's chain. The avenues were to measure one and a half chains wide, or ninety-nine feet; the city blocks would be three chains deep and from eight to twelve chains wide.

It is an extraordinary fact that a set of metal links designed to measure our homely fields (there were a hundred equal links in Gunter's chain), should eventually decide the width of streets and blocks throughout the United States, its imprint still visible today.

But this is only one of the stories found in *Measuring America*. The gallon, pound and foot that travelled with the migrants were suggestions rather than facts. They were the advance guard of the confusion that reigned over here. A pound of nails by Exeter's measure might tip the scales either way when weighed elsewhere. The foot or yard was elastic, the gallon debatable. In 1588, Queen Elizabeth had a standard yard created in bronze; but London was a long way from the market-places of the land.

So in 1792, when the fledgling United States were writing themselves into formal existence, President George Washington declared that "A uniformity in the weights and measures of the country is among the important measures submitted to you by the Constitution".

Instead of trying to rationalise a historical confusion of units, here was a blank-sheet opportunity to start from scratch. Where to begin? The committee decided to define *length*. From a unit of length, all other basic units could be established. Rather than creating a unique and necessarily remote standard as the home country had done, they advocated basing it on the length of a uniform metal bar that took exactly one second to swing from side to side – a seconds pendulum. This, in theory at least, could be reproduced anywhere. Dividing its length by five gave the foot, dividing the foot by ten gave the inch.

A cubic foot gave the unit of volume (bushel), and a cubic inch of pure water gave the unit of weight (ounce).

This proposal, pleasingly logical, came within a hair's breadth of being accepted. If it had been, it could have spread into the markets of the world. But by then, the use of Gunter's chain was becoming too widespread for its 66 feet to be re-defined. Instead of letting impartial Nature set the standard, they were back, ultimately, with Elizabeth's 200-year-old bronze yard.

Measuring America, while concentrating its attention on the new world, does not ignore what was happening elsewhere. France wanted to define a standard of length (the metre) in terms of the size of the Earth. One of the last acts of Louis XVII, before he was dethroned, was to sanction an expedition to measure the distance between Dunkirk and Barcelona, from which they hoped to derive the required value. The attempt to do so, during the tumult of the French Revolution and subsequent war with

England and Spain, is another saga to be found in this absorbing book. So is the UK's long sparring with the metric system, a battle that miles and pints have yet to concede.

Even if my enthusiasm doesn't prompt you to read the story for yourself, I hope that when you next cross the little bridge beyond Rewe, you will take note of the vanishing trace of the unit that measured America.

James Muirden



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Allotment Talk – May 2024



Janice Archibald took on the allotment plot next to mine a couple of years ago. I could not believe the difference that she had made to it in one season, really getting stuck in to removing what was a considerable area of weeds. I caught her at work recently, cutting the grass towards the front and at the sides of her plot.

She told me that, having moved from the Manchester area, the thing that she missed most at her new house in Thorverton was not having a garden, so when an allotment plot here became available she was keen to take it on. She cleared half of the plot in 2022 and the rest last year. She hadn't previously grown vegetables, only flowers, so she has enjoyed the new challenge of vegetable growing as well as the opportunity to meet new people.

Janice bought small plants of broccoli, lettuce, leeks and runner beans last year,

as well as beetroot, which she grew very successfully from sowing straight into the ground. She also grew some carrots, although she did not find that these always came out in exactly the shape that the books suggested.

In the autumn she put in some garlic and shallots, both of which appear to have come through the wet winter/spring. Janice is also looking forward to receiving some help from Amanda this year and to growing courgettes and French beans. She has some new raspberry canes which she has planted this year, and also has some strawberries, gooseberries and blackcurrants. Plenty to look forward to.



This month's recipe is of something that I tried for the first time last year and found surprisingly enjoyable.

Broad bean hummus

Ingredients

500g broad beans	1 tsp salt
approx. 30-50 ml water	about 12 fresh mint leaves
3 tbsp lemon juice	a few grinds of fresh pepper
2 garlic cloves, pressed	a few pinches of hot chilli (optional)
50ml olive oil	

Method

Boil the podded beans for little more than 5 minutes until cooked. As soon as the beans are ready, drain them and chuck them into a bowl with icy water. Shell the beans (ie remove the outer shell) by making a tiny incision at the top of the bean and pressing the inside out. Blend the shelled beans, minced garlic, lemon juice, mint, salt, pepper, olive oil and chilli (if using), gradually adding water until you get the texture you want.

Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary. To prevent the hummus from drying up you may want to put a little more olive oil on top. Serve with bread and chopped up vegetable sticks.

Neville Lane



SCAREFEST

a family festival of **scarecrows**

in and around Thorverton

and the church

from

Bank Holiday

Monday 27th May

Visit **Scarefest Surprise** in the church

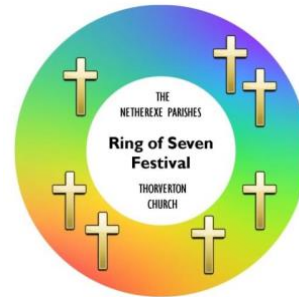
Grand Opening

Bank Holiday Monday 27th May 10am-5pm

Find out about what happens in the village from a display of scarecrows from village organisations

Refreshments available all day, including light lunches

Offers of help to Tina Ayre please: ayre.ratcliffe@gmail.com or



Make a scarecrow for the trail

- out of recycled materials
- display on your own land

To be included on the trail map, tell Jean Brown by Weds 15th May:

Jbrown326
@btinternet.com
or
07979
861033

Follow the **Scarefest Stomp** village trail map to find all the scarecrows in Thorverton

Monday 27th May – Sunday 10th June

Just get a trail map from the Post Office or the school office or the church - available from Monday 20th May

Come to a party in Thorverton Memorial Hall...

Scarefest Saturday

8th June from 5pm to 10pm for all the family

...Delusions Childrens' Entertainer at 5pm

...pasties (all sorts of fillings) & sausage rolls on sale from 6pm

... 'life' drawing of a scarecrow competition for all ages

...music entertainment from Lorraine & friends and TADS

...screen display of scarecrows from the trail and photographs of 'old' Thorverton

bar, raffle and lots more...

Nature Notes

How was your nature spotting last month? Did you see any interesting beetles or caterpillars?

In mid-March my sister was walking up through her small woodland when she spotted a Buzzard and Pheasant on the ground ahead of her. Both took off on her approach and when she arrived at the spot where the Buzzard had been she found a Slow worm missing quite a chunk of its tail end. She could not tell if it was dead or alive and it had disappeared by the next day and therefore we don't know if it survived its injury. A Slow worm has the capacity to detach the end of its tail called autotomy as a survival mechanism from attack but this injury was a jolly sight more than that.

I took my daughter to Mardon Down and Blackingstone rock on Dartmoor on 30th March as she had never been to these two sites. We hadn't been walking along the down for very long when we spotted an oil beetle scurrying along in a determined manner. Further into the Down we saw three Bloody-nosed beetles. At Blackingstone rock we found one Bloody-nosed beetle on the path to the rock and three

in the grassy margin of the little car park near the rock. Two of these were mating. [right]

I walked a bit of the coastal footpath at Widemouth Bay on 13th



April and came across an oil beetle. A Wheatear landed some 15 yards in front of me calling and splaying its white tail feathers tipped with black. At Crooklets beach, Bude, Sand Martins were milling around a sandy part of the cliff face where holes could be seen. The following day my husband Jeff and I drove to Northcott Mouth beach. I found a dead fish

washed up with the morning's tide but I don't know what species it is. One suggestion is Shad and another Atlantic Silverside. [below]



If anyone out there can identify it I'd love to know. It is approximately 15-20cm long and slender. Jeff spotted a dead dolphin. When I came home from our weekend away I rang the number you can report finding dead dolphins, porpoise, whales, seals and turtles. The young lady who answered said the dolphin had been reported three weeks ago. She said there are two dead seals nearby.

On 3rd April my sister spotted a Scarlet Tiger moth caterpillar on comfrey in the garden of Fursdon House.

Paul Uglow found ladybirds at Barliabins on 15th April. The small ones are Sixteen-spot ladybirds and tend to be found in an aggregation. The other one is a Seven-spot ladybird.

It appears the first Cuckoo calls and sightings were on 13th April so if you haven't heard it yet head for the moors. Other things to look out for in May are St Mark's Fly (a black hairy fly that when in flight has dangling legs,) Cockchafer or May Bug, Swifts and Oak Apples.



The ladybirds taken by Paul Uglow [left] and the oil beetle at Mardon Down [right]

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



The Joy of a visit to the Houses of Parliament

A few weeks ago, I was invited by a friend who works in the House of Lords to look round her workplace. My daughter Kate and I met her at the river entrance to Portcullis House and we passed through security in a fairly short time. We entered an enormous indoor space with a huge glass roof (which was leaking into a few strategically placed plastic tubs). Between large potted plants were various tables and chairs scattered around the floor area. Food was served at the north end.

No photographers are allowed in areas where sitting members were likely to be. We followed a tunnel under the road leading to Westminster Bridge and emerged in the open space under the NW corner of the Elizabeth Tower (housing Big Ben). From here we walked the length of Westminster Hall with its extraordinary 1000 year old timber roof. A new brass plate had been installed in the



Westminster Hall

centre of the floor commemorating the place where Queen Elizabeth's coffin had lain in state.

Then via St Stephen's Hall we collected tickets for the visitors' gallery in the House of Commons. We ascended a steep staircase, left our cameras and phones in cloakroom, and entered the steeply tiered gallery.



We installed ourselves on the green leather seats with a clear view of the speaker's end of the chamber through the huge glass window (installed to prevent objects being ejected onto the MPs). Jeremy Corbyn left the chamber soon after we sat down. The Member for Kilbride was supporting, at length, a bill relating to the laws governing permission for teenagers transitioning sex.

TV screens on both side walls showed the live feed of the proceedings to the BBC for onward transmission. Note; a 5 second delay is inserted, so what you see is not quite live. A couple of school parties came and went before we collected our belongings and headed down to the ground floor.

There is a long corridor connecting the Commons to 'the Other Place' with huge murals on the walls. One showed the departure of the Mayflower in Plymouth, heading for New England.



Once in the House of Lords we signed our names and addresses on acquired tickets for the Strangers' Gallery. Again steep stone stairs were ascended leading to the red leather seats in the gallery. Here we had an open view of the chamber with no glass window separating us from the action. The Speaker was sitting on the huge red woosack with a small back support. Note: the woosack is actually stuffed with horsehair, as was discovered when they attempted a renovation with wool, which then collapsed. I never discovered what bill was being discussed and we didn't stay long.

Our friend took us into the tower at the west end of the Lords where the archive centre has a few rooms dedicated to renovating old documents...and who knew that there is an **enormous guillotine** housed in one of the rooms. It has a 4-foot blade and 10kg counter weight...and it is used, not for beheading...but to cut some of the paper documents which are being archived. We saw one such signed by Queen Elizabeth I. Many of the old documents are rolled up paper or parchment scrolls stored in cardboard tubes.

We descended back to the ground floor looking into the room used for the enrobing of the Lords for State occasions. There is canteen on the river side where we managed to buy a plate of fish and chips and mushy peas (£6.40) and a generous glass of wine (£3.20). As it was 1pm the room was quite crowded with lords and staff.

After lunch we retraced our steps along the 'road' which runs the length of the building occasionally stepping aside to let a car go past to the small carpark under the Commons. We passed the entrance to the cellar where Mr Guy Fawkes stored his gunpowder.

Leaving our neck-string visitor's passes on a hook, we exited though the revolving door



Dining Terrace in the House of Lords

back onto the pavement facing the River Thames, concluding what I thought was a really fascinating visit.

We then had to contend with an overcrowded Victoria Tube and Train Station with hordes of people walking at speed in every possible direction including a few nuns attempting to herd a group of young girls along the platform to the waiting tube train.

It was very different to the leisurely stroll down the Bury heading towards the Millennium Green. It's good to be back in Thorverton.

John Spivey



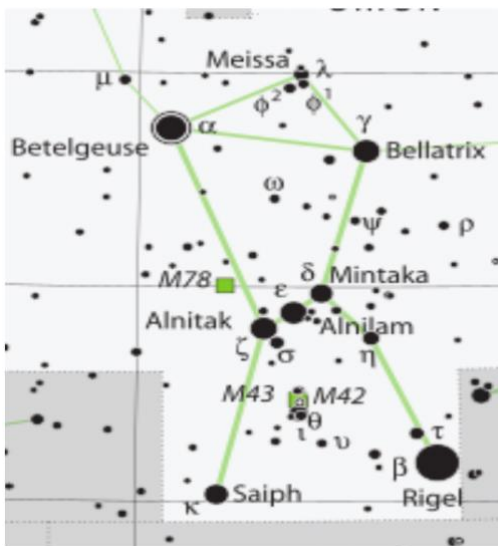
The Guillotine



The Sky at Night

May

It's all about the Moon. Early risers will see its thin crescent and Mars start to rise close together at a quarter to 5 on 5th May. Wait till after sunset on subsequent nights and the waning Moon will become increasingly apparent, but not before the ETA Aquarid meteor shower becomes most visible before dawn on 6th. A new thin Moon will be evident on Thursday evening just after sunset. Early the next morning see Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn lining up to welcome the dawn. Full Moon appears on Friday 24th and the half-lit Moon a week later, sitting close to Saturn.



Did you just say that a star can burp?

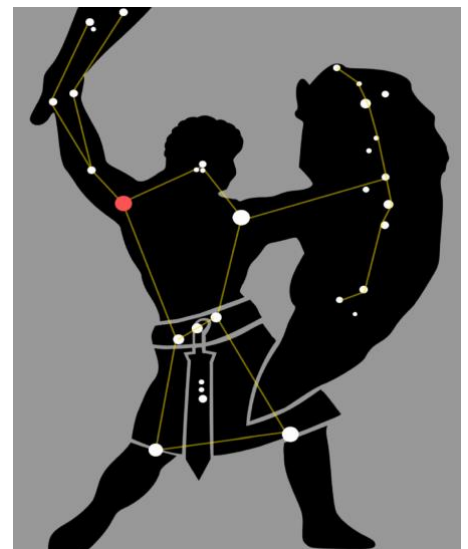
A dying star's name 'Betelgeuse' doesn't readily jump out of the page, or the mouth! Its moniker 'BeetleJuice' was supposed to engage the public about a comedy horror film. But in reality, it's the horrific humour of Betelgeuse itself which renders this movie genre entirely appropriate! Most visible stars might twinkle a bit, appearing to express themselves in several colours at the same time. Much of a muchness you'd suppose. But this particular star has a few extra peculiarities up its stellar sleeve.

The more sensational periodicals would have you believe that this star, in its death throes, will die and explode tomorrow in a catastrophic event, of biblical proportions, lighting up our daylight sky with its red ball of hellfire. Possibly "time for the suntan oil".

The reality is more down to Earth. Give it 100,000 years or so, then we'll know the true outcome. Suffice to say that when it does explode it's far enough away that the image (and all other radiation, including gravitational waves) will take 600 years to reach our cameras! In the meantime, 'Bee' has been up to some tricks. Firstly, have a good look at the constellation Orion (see the two figures) by finding the three-star belt (asterism) and looking up to the left. The name 'Betelgeuse' is a poorly translated version of 'the hand of the hunter' originally in Arabic. It's the second brightest star of Orion and very orange-pink, perfect if you were the hunter named 'Narcissus'!

As stars go, Bee is a pretty ordinary largish star. Or at least it was. The tenth brightest star in the sky, it is now ten million years old and being quite large it consumed its nuclear fuel early, at a high rate, then gravity ultimately forced it to collapse, then its core heated up. Then it began to swell so that now, with a surface temperature cooling down to half our Sun's 6,000 degrees C, it is far larger (its size would reach Jupiter!) and 10,000 times brighter. Such large stars have a life cycle like an observer has been watching in fast-forward mode!

And the burp? Betelgeuse has since been classified as a "semiregular variable star," which is a type of variable star that periodically waxes and wanes in brightness and occasionally undergoes irregular light changes.





Betelgeuse, typically, has a 400-day cycle as well as a longer cycle that stretches about 5 years. But in 2019, something strange happened.

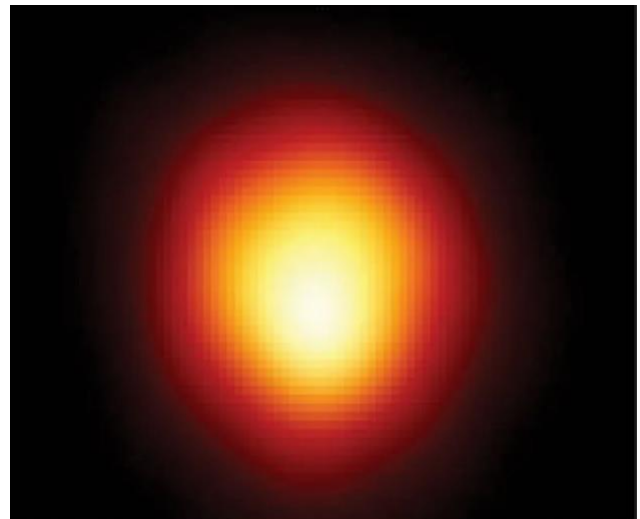
Nobody knows just how unique Bee is. Whether what happened in 2019 was a rare event, or maybe a 5,000 year cycle for example, was unknown. But unlikely. As Bee is entering the final phase of its lifecycle, it's ok to surmise that arbitrary, not-seen-before events might begin to appear. Even so this event was unexpected. At the scale of a huge mass, such as a star, each layer or shell must be more or less uniform, particularly in energy distribution. Minor perturbations, like the clouds and sky storms one might imagine in the high regions of Saturn's atmosphere (see photograph by the Cassini mission - it's NOT an illustration!) will be briefly, regularly noticed just like the Sunspots (wait for another episode).

Over a period of several months The Great Dimming occurred. Headlines abounded". Imminent Supernova". "Betelgeuse goes Bonkers". "The End is Nigh?". To say that a huge object has lost 60% of its luminosity almost instantaneously is like admitting to realising that $2+2$ really did $=5$ all along. It's well nigh impossible. See the Hubble image and then the four time lapse images from ESO to indicate what happened.

Science poses questions then searches for answers. Observations and facts dance before our eyes teasing the grey cells of our brains until a watertight explanation relieves the 'strain' (or 'boredom' if it goes on long enough! - remember Roswell?).

And so the scientists have declared that the balance of probabilities is either that

- 1 - it swallowed a huge planet, or
- 2 - a small invisible star, or
- 3 - a huge bubble of gas erupted carrying with it a massive cloud of condensing gas that produced enormous quantities of light-obscuring dust (larger than our Sun for instance).



Hypothesis 3 is the most likely 'Surface Mass Ejection'. But even at this distance, they'll need corroborating evidence to prove the theory of this unusual event and, just maybe, find a more catchy description.

Peter Harwood

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TARTs News

TARTS walk 6th April

Eight intrepid walkers braved the muddy paths and wet fields on a 7.5 mile walk from Wellington to discover the line of the disused section of the Grand Western Canal which ran from Tiverton to Taunton. I will describe the walk first of all and then hopefully give a brief history of the canal and the boat lifts.



We started off behind Wellington sports centre and the first things of note were the complex system of waterways and ponds that were constructed by Thomas Fox between 1801 and 1803 to enable a constant and controllable water supply for the water wheels at his woollen mills at Tonedale.

We then took a footpath to the small hamlet of Westford where in 1790 the Elworthy brothers set up a small worsted mill which prospered and expanded during the 19th century. Our next port of call was a small village of Holywell Lake where a rest stop for coffee was called for.

From here a walk across fields brought us to the line of the old disused canal which was very easy to miss as a lot of it had been dug up and flattened so that it could be incorporated into the surrounding fields. There was a section however which was easily recognisable as can be seen from the photograph. Following the route of the canal using the OS map we continued along paths (some flooded, but no one got wet feet), fields and very muddy footpaths where we eventually came to the other pieces of historic interest.



The first, were two very well-constructed stone bridges, one which took the canal as an aquaduct and the other, the railway line which is the GWR track to Bristol and beyond. These bridges were constructed across an old carriage drive from Nynehead Court to Wellington. The other significant point of interest was the remains of the boat lift which enabled the stone carrying tubs used on the canal to be raised and lowered due to the difference in water level of the canal.

To complete the walk we retraced some of the route back to our starting point.

A brief history of the canal

The first 11.25 mile section of the Grand Western canal from Tiverton to Lowdells was commenced in 1810 and finished in 1814 at a cost of £244,500. This section is still navigable and the canal is fed by a number of freshwater springs which are in the bed of the canal.

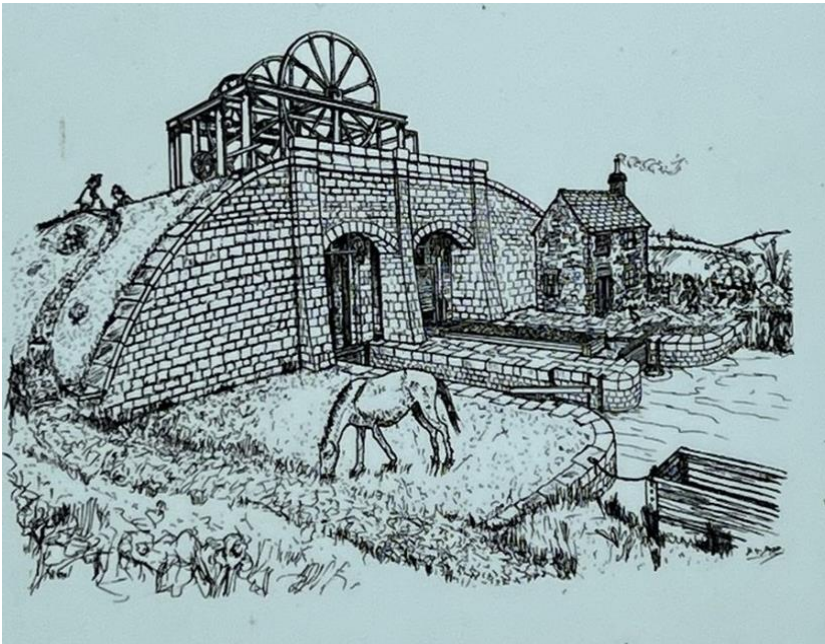
After many delays the canal was extended a further 13.5 miles to Taunton (joining up with the Bridgwater to Taunton section). Work started on this section in 1830 and it was opened in 1838.

The canal was only half the width of the section from Tiverton to Lowdells as it was used to transport tub boats of stone presumably from the quarries at Westleigh.

Due to the difference in levels between the Lowdells section and Taunton section there were 2 locks, 7 lifts (used instead of locks) and 1 inclined plane. The highest lift had a difference in level of 42 feet and the inclined plane took the tub boats up a vertical rise of 81 feet.



With the opening of the Bristol and Exeter railway in 1844 and the Tiverton branch completed in 1848, traffic on the canal dropped and in 1864 the section from Lowdells to Taunton was bought by the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company. The canal was officially closed in 1867 and then abandoned.



The lifts are an intriguing piece of engineering and consisted of two caissons which held the tub boats. The tubs were floated into the caissons, one at the higher canal level and the other at lower canal level. Doors in the caissons were then closed and, with a system of chains and 16 foot diameter pulley wheels, one tub descended and the other ascended so that they could carry on with their respective journeys along the canal. The principal was that the tubs at the bottom and top levels were balanced and only a small amount of energy was required to move the caissons.

For further information on the lifts there is a comprehensive description on the internet under the heading 'Nynehead lifts'.

Nick Bright

History Society

We were delighted to welcome Nick Cox to the History Society again after a very successful and fascinating garden tour last June. This time he was available to introduce us to the house and history of the (now National Trust property) Killerton House, set in its own estate and gardens of about ten square miles.



As an estate, Killerton was first mentioned in 1242 and it is believed that the name originated with a family named Kildrington. It has been owned by the National Trust since 1944 when it was gifted by the owner, Sir Richard Acland. A founder of the Common Wealth Party, his intention to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth was to sell the property, however, his duty to the community of tenants on the estate meant that it was eventually gifted to the National Trust.

The title of the talk was an homage to the British artist John Gendall (born in Exeter in 1790) who was an art tutor to the Acland family and produced a portfolio of sketches entitled 'Fragments of Killerton'. He lived in Cathedral Close, assisted in the creation of the University and in 1861 helped create collections for the inception of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum.

The Acland family name, long associated with the estate, was first referenced in 1155 when Hugh de Accelan came into possession of a small estate in

North Devon, which may have been gifted from William the Conqueror. Killerton itself was purchased from the Drewe family in 1638 and became the principal residence of the Acland family in 1680. Early maps indicate a substantial house with orchards to the front and surrounded by a walled garden and a processional way to the Columbjohn chapel from the house. This remained a family place of worship until the new chapel was built in the grounds in 1841 inspired by the Norman chapel in Glastonbury dedicated to Joseph of Arithemia. By 1770s the main house was felt to be old fashioned and a Palladian style mansion was commissioned from the architect James Wyatt. The original plans, however, were abandoned and remodelled by John Johnson with a hint of the Palladian style residing in the stable block built in 1778 by him. It houses a fine clock and bell cast by Thomas Castleman Bibie of Cullompton.

Nick led us through a route in the gardens which allowed us to appreciate and learn details about the remnants of the Italianate Gardens and the fabulous Borghese vases these are made from artificial stone from a unique process and recipe by one Eleanor Coade. Her home, Belmont House in Lyme Regis, is now owned by the Landmark Trust.

Also in this area is a sundial made by Benjamin Martin in 1780. Within the gardens we also learnt about the origins of the Hermit's Hut (more popularly known now as the Bear Hut owing to a brief period when a black bear cub was on the estate!) as well as the ice house and the lovely Beech Walk. Finally, in the 'Fragments' there was the orangery which stood on the upper lawn to the west of the house. Sadly this building fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1936 by the Lady Acland, who found it a monstrosity.

This was a fascinating talk with great detail and fascinating links to original illustrations of the house and gardens by Gendall, allowing the audience to rightly appreciate the asset that we have on our doorstep. Nick reminded us that garden tours remain available on Fridays.

Karen Marshall

Legal Eagle

A will which at first sight appears to be valid, may be the subject of challenge and ultimately declared invalid for a number of reasons, one of which is undue influence. Animus testandi or testamentary intention will not be present where the party making the will, the testator, has been forced or coerced into executing a document as his or her will. Explaining the concept of undue influence as it relates to the making of a will, Lord Penzance in **Hall -v- Hall [1868]** said, “In a word, a testator may be lead but not driven, and his will must be the offspring of his own volition, and not the record of someone else’s.”

Jill Langley’s father, Robert Harrington, died in 2020 just 11 months after marrying Guixiang Qin, a 54-year-old former lawyer, who had come to Britain from China. Qin and Harrington met in 2018 after Harrington had placed an advertisement in a local paper “offering free food and drink at Christmas.”

Harrington was 93 years of age at the time of the marriage. Two months before his death Harrington made a will in which he bequeathed his entire estate to his wife, leaving his 70-year-old daughter with nothing. Langley sued Qin, who was the executor of Harrington’s estate ,in an attempt to overturn the will. Langley claimed that Qin had lured her father into a “predatory marriage” and “dumped him in the cheapest possible grave” once she “had got all his money”.

The trial judge, Robert McAllister, at Central London County Court declared the will invalid and found that Qin exerted “undue influence” and control over her husband. The judge also ruled that Harrington was mentally unfit at the time the will was drafted and that Qin had been the “guiding hand” behind it. During the trial, Harrington was described as a mentally vulnerable man and the judge said that it would have been relatively easy for Qin to build on his delusions and to draft an updated will.

Lawyers representing Langley told the court that the estate would have been worth about £1 million had not some £350,000 been paid from Harrington’s account to Qin’s account during his final years. Medical evidence was presented to the court which suggested that Harrington was “most likely suffering from paranoid delusional disorder” in his final years.

In 2020, Qin wrote a note to Langley simply saying, “Just to let you know that [your] Dad married again last year.” In his ruling, the judge said, “it would have taken very little [for Qin] to build upon the deceased’s stated views about his estrangement [from his daughter], which I find were delusional, and put these into effect for her financial benefit”.

The judge ruled that Langley’s claim succeeded on the grounds of undue influence. The will, having been found to be invalid means that Harrington’s estate valued at £680,000 passes under the rules of intestacy. This will result in Qin receiving about £475,000 made up of the statutory legacy of £270,000 plus an absolute interest in half the remainder, so a further £205,000, and Langley about £205,000. Qin, having lost in the county court, will be faced with legal costs of about £139,000.

Perhaps the parties were not in the mood for compromise but given the outcome there would have been a considerable saving both financially and in terms of the time and energy which one needs to fight a case. If, for example, one looks at a 60%/40% split, Qin taking the 60% and Langley the 40%, and taking account of the legal costs to be paid by Qin, the figures work out favourably for both parties.

Clive Hamblin

Note the statutory legacy referred to above was increased from July 2023 from £270,000 to £322,000.

More than four years already...

...since we were all suffering under Covid restrictions. In order to maintain contact between the members of the male voice choir I belonged to, I sent out regular bulletins (102 in all) during the period and so have a detailed record I can now draw on to walk you down recent memory lane.

When in March 2020 I watched the Prime Minister's broadcast to the nation I realised that he was dealing some of us a double whammy on the grounds of both age and travel. For us the first consequence of the ban on movement was that we were unable to carry on with our plans to travel to the Midlands for the funeral of a dear boyhood friend. Dave had had a remarkable life. He left secondary modern school with no qualifications and became a dental technician. Seeing Dave's potential, the dentist had encouraged him to get a couple of A levels and apply to Dental School. Once qualified, he gained a reputation as The Cavity King. After a few years in dentistry, he decided he didn't want to spend the rest of his life peering into people's mouths so went to Medical School and qualified as a doctor. Then for the rest of his professional career, he spent his mornings as a GP and afternoons as a surgeon - an extraordinary trajectory for this son of a factory worker from the heart of the Black Country!

Dave was very popular with his patients and normally there would have been a huge crowd at his funeral. As it happened, this took place in rather surreal circumstances, with only 35 people, well-spaced out and masked, allowed in the congregation. Fiona was due to do a reading during the service. We agonised over the decision, but in the end came to the conclusion that we could not ignore the government's 'advice' not to travel and so stayed at home. That was our own personal involvement with the Covid pandemic right at the beginning. Many others had similar dilemmas to resolve. But for us it meant only disappointment arising from the virus, not disease or death.

I think we were all reasonably cheerful during the first few weeks, not realising what was to come. Thus, on 20/4/20 I wrote to my fellow choirmen that I had been tramping through the muddy fields and lanes of Thorverton as usual. The lambs were a delight to watch as they scrambled to the safety of their mothers' protection. Then as now, pools had formed over the notorious potholes dotted along our country lanes, and we were all complaining that Devon must have the worst record in the country for potholes...

In our constraints, we were a little cheered by news from the French members of our family on learning their restrictions. France had imposed a complete lockdown. If you wanted to leave your house you had to download an official form, fill it in and sign it before you could go out. The different grounds allowed were: being on the way to work if you weren't able to work from home; to buy food items; for essential health reasons; to give urgent help to vulnerable people; and for a brief period of exercise, or to walk the dog. I saw on line that a wag had added and ticked another box: 'my wife is driving me mad!' I'm not sure whether that reason would have been accepted by the hundred thousand or so police and other officials who were checking anyone found outside. For those who couldn't produce a valid reason for being out, there was a fine of about £120. So far, over 40,000 of these had been issued.

As there was still no ban here on going out for exercise, on 23rd March I went out for a walk round the village. No need to worry about keeping a distance of two yards as I met no-one. I mused about whether there would soon be further restrictions calling a halt to this last privilege of leaving the home for recreational purposes. I concluded if we couldn't go out we would just have to spend more time on the exercise bike and the miniature trampoline!

Gradually, the gravity of the situation was dawning upon us. Reports were coming through of harrowing personal testimonies of nurses in France, Italy and England, on the whole relatively young women and men with no previous health issues but who had become infected with the virus and were fighting for their lives in intensive care units. For us, it still seemed relatively far away, yet for our heroic NHS personnel, for example, it was becoming a matter of life and death. On the evening of 27/3/20 the nation came out to give health

workers a collective round of applause for their devotion to duty.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer told us that it could be six months before all the current social distancing rules were lifted. The Prime Minister said: 'This will get worse before it gets better.'

He wasn't wrong...

Maurice Harrison (To be continued)

Recipe

Prune compote

Prunes are an often-neglected fruit but they make an excellent compote when stewed with orange juice and muscovado sugar.

250g (8oz) pitted prunes, finely grated zest, and juice of one large orange, 50g (2oz) muscovado sugar.

Place the prunes, orange juice and zest in a basin with just enough hot water to cover the prunes. Cover and leave overnight to soften. To cook the prunes, add the sugar and stew gently until tender on the stove top, or in a casserole in a moderate oven. These are good with yogurt or ice cream.

Paul Cleave

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

After our well-attended Murder Mystery party in January our Sunday afternoon club sessions have become very popular. Rusty Rackets has a regular session going, do contact Sue Bloomfield (sueblmfd03@gmail.com) for further information. Other club sessions during the week are also very well attended and often followed by drinks and chips in one of the local pubs. So not only are you getting great exercise when you join the tennis club, you are also getting a very sociable experience with friendly people of all ages.

Membership year has just started in April so now is a great time to be joining, and remember you can have a couple of free sessions before you commit to anything. Just contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259.

Junior coaching, run by our club coach Jon Wills, takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time, and there might be a few places available in some of the groups for the 12-week summer term, which starts on Wednesday 17th April. Please email juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information and to check availability. Jon also offers adult coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills just get in touch via our website

www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.



Frederiek Maddock

Thorverton Cricket Club

May 2024 Update

Season Underway

The sun has finally come out, just in time for the start of the season with the first Devon Cricket League Games taking place on Saturday 4th May.

1st XI – Plymouth (A)

2nd XI – Upottery (H) – Station Ground

3rd XI – Culmstock (A) – Merryfield, Clyst Hydon

Training – New Players Always Welcome!

Open-Age Training –
Thursdays from 6pm

Womens Softball Training –
Tuesdays 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Junior Training – Fridays from
6pm

All Stars/Dynamos – Starts
Friday 10th May

Girls Cricket – starts Tuesday
4th June, 5:30pm – 6:30pm



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 womens and junior fixtures we are in need of more volunteer scorers and umpires. The cub can cover the cost of full training!

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

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

New Pavilion – The Future of Thorverton CC

Current Situation

As anyone familiar with Thorverton Cricket Club will know, we have long outgrown it's small and increasingly ageing pavilion. The current structure was built in 1963, hauled from the club's previous ground in the neighbouring field in 1972 to where it is today. The current woodworm-ridden pavilion has been extended multiple times, but as the club has grown from a couple of men's teams at the turn of the century to accommodate three open age Saturday league sides, a growing women's section and thriving youth section, the need for a replacement pavilion is clear.

Despite several improvements over the past few years to our ground and facilities, the current ageing structure with woodworm and inefficient energy consumption also provides the following challenges:-

- Two permanent changing rooms far smaller than the ECB recommended size that struggle to fit two teams
- Minimal alternative changing options
- No disabled access
- Only 2 communal shower heads
- Small and dated male toilets linked to the changing space
- Small social space
- Services – currently just use a septic tank with no specific rainwater drainage
- Limited parking

A new pavilion would not only improve facilities for members & players but be an asset to the whole community. Currently the pavilion is unusable during the off-season due to a lack of heating.



Following ECB recommendations the new pavilion would include larger changing rooms, flexible and officials changing rooms, increased social space, an integrated scorers area and disabled access/WC.

Furthermore the pavilion would look to improve the viewing of cricket for spectators from inside the building as well as from around the ground.

Sustainability will also be a priority with rainwater harvesting, solar panels and heat source pumps all being discussed.

Progress on Project

Following the freehold purchase of the ground to safeguard the club's long term future, a pavilion subcommittee, including club committee members, local experts and willing volunteers was set up by the club in 2022 with a view to achieving the monumental task of bringing the long-held ambition to fruition. As of April 2024, the subcommittee have made the following progress:-

- Consulted members
- Engaged architects
- Completed flood risk assessment
- Completed initial ecology survey
- Had initial plans produced by DMA Architects
- Consulted with England and Wales Cricket Board and TCC members (AGM) on initial plans
- Started promotion of plans at fundraiser and community Big Breakfast

The Next Steps

The subcommittee are now working on the next steps, which include

- Further promotion of plans – website, big breakfast, parish council
- Increasing fundraising campaign
- Establishing project costings
- Establishing timeline for planning application submission

How You Can Help

The main challenge we now face is fundraising the large sum to turn the vision into reality. The pavilion subcommittee will be engaging with the following to raise as much of the project cost as possible:- ECB, Sport England, National Lottery, S106, councils & local trusts and charities.

We do have the following ways in which you can help us with our fundraising campaign:-

- **Sponsorship** – More details on becoming a club sponsor can be found [HERE](#).
- **50/50 draw** – Tickets to be purchased at the club with a draw held each month. £5 per ticket, 100 numbers available. 1st (£150), 2nd (£75), 3rd (£25).
- **Easy-fundraising** – Raise money for the club every time you shop online. Visit our easy-fundraising site [HERE](#).
- **Donations** – Anyone wishing to make a donation to the club can do so by using the following bank details:- Thorverton Cricket Club 01257512 30-93-14

Also, if you have knowledge or expertise that could assist the pavilion sub-committee, please contact thorvertonccdevelopment@gmail.com

WI Report for April 2024



Peter Isaacson, a volunteer for Medical Detection Dogs was our speaker for April. Members were hoping and expecting to see Peter with one of the charity's dogs. But as he explained, the dogs are workers and not expecting to be petted, so being faced with a room full of people could upset a working dog. However, no one was disappointed with the information Peter gave us about the charity. Some of the dogs are trained as Bio Detection Dogs; these can detect the tiniest smells associated with diseases like cancer, Parkinson's and bacterial infections. Other dogs are trained as Medical Alert Assistance Dogs. These dogs support people with complex health conditions when they are in danger of having a potentially life-threatening medical event, so they can take the necessary action and prevent hospital admission. Using the power of their noses, these assistance dogs can be trained to detect even the faintest changes in the smell of their human partner. Peter had real-life stories of how the dogs have helped their partners; this was quite amazing. We were told that as well as reducing ambulance call-outs and hospital stays, the dogs give their partners and their families greater confidence, peace of mind, independence and quality of life, allowing them to lead full and happy lives.

Happy Birthday Thorverton WI

Thorverton WI became one hundred years old in February 2024. Members are celebrating this landmark occasion with afternoon tea and a birthday cake at the Annual Meeting in May.

Dates to Note:

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 and Afternoon Tea to celebrate 100 years of WI in Thorverton

Saturday, 25th May – WI Coffee Morning and Market, 10 o'clock till about 11 o'clock in the WI Hut

Tuesday, 4th June – Julia Green, a lively personality, will give an insight into the world of musical theatre through live performance

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 and visitors can also join meetings.

Judy Bright

Puzzles

I was delighted to receive a correct solution to April's Codeword, from Tina Ayre. Well done Tina; I haven't asked her how long it took and whether she has any Bletchley Park ancestry.

Here is the answer:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
G	K	O	B	X	N	E	J	R

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Y	H	L	U	A	M	D	V	S

19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	Z	T	C	P	W	Q	I

On to this month's puzzles:

a) The Folded Sheet

I was reminded of this old puzzle (created by Henry Ernest Dudeney) when trying to re-fold an OS map that I had been using on my recent cycle trip.

Take a rectangular sheet of paper and divide it into eight squares of the same size, numbering them on one side only as shown below.

There are 40 different ways in which this "map"

1	8	7	4
2	3	6	5

can be folded along the ruled lines to form a square packet which has the "1" square face-up on top and all the other squares beneath. The problem is to fold this sheet so that the squares are in serial order from 1 to 8, with the 1 face-up on top.

b) Su Doku

Michael Ayre was amongst those of you to have completed the Su Doku puzzle in April's edition. Two Su Doku puzzles for you to try this month.

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

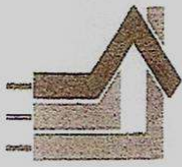
A relatively gentle one to start with:

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

This second one is quite tough:

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

Happy puzzling.



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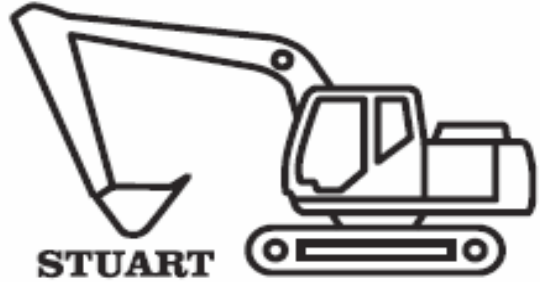


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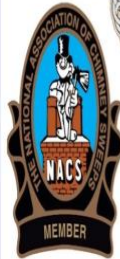





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AIR AMBULANCE EMERGENCY: QUOTE NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

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

- Carers' Support Group** Anne Higman, Wyndham House Surgery, Silverton, 01392 860034
Carers Support Group Lunch, Exe Valley Farm Café, 4th Tuesday of the month, 12:30
Contact Trish Jones for details 07484 377298
- Church (C of E)** Administrators: Juliette Lea, Peter Shepherd
Netherexe Parishes Administration, administration@netherexe.org
- Church Warden** Edwin Greed, Fortescue, Netherexe, 01392 841231
- Church Choir** Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- Church Treasurer** Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- Friends of Thorverton Parish Church Trust**
Royston Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- County Councillor** Margaret Squires, 01363 84337, margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk
- District Councillor** Cllr Rhys Roberts, 07515 437373, Rroberts@middevon.gov.uk
- Doctors** Redlands Primary Care 01363 727111, Wyndham House Surgery 01392 860034
- Electricity** Report a loss of power 0800 6783 105 (replaces 0800 365 900)
- (Western Power)** EDF bill enquiries 0800 365 000, street lights 0800 197 6763
- Gas Emergency** 0800 111999
- Leonard Trust** *Supporting local people's needs with small grants, elspeth.holmes@btinternet.com*
Secretary: Elspeth Holmes, Drill House, Lynch Road, Thorverton, 01392 860535
- Member of Parliament** Mel Stride MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 02072 197037
mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk
- Parish Council Chairman** Cllr Andrew Foster 01392 759560
- Parish Clerk** Jim Roberts 01392 202692 or 07768457590, thorvertonpc@gmail.com
- Parish Council Meetings** 2nd Tuesday of the month (except August), at 7pm in the Memorial Hall
(See Notice of Agenda on the Parish Council Notice Board in School Lane.)
- Parish Allotments** *Contact the Parish Clerk, 01392 202692*
- Pension Service** PO Box 93, Plymouth, PL6 5WJ, 0845 60 60 265
- Police** Non-emergency number 101
- Post Office Portacabin (TCT Ltd)** Quarry Car Park, Thorverton, EX5 5NG, 01392 860455
Mon–Fri 9:00–1:00, 2:00–5:30; Sat 8:00–12:00 (PO opens 9:00);
Sun 8.30–10:30 (for newspapers only) Business Management Team 01392 860419
Royston Kershaw, Heather Kershaw, Helen Ratcliffe
Chair and Company Secretary: Heather Kershaw, 25 The Glebe, Thorverton, 01392 860419
- Public Telephone Kiosk** *Opposite the Church, outside the former Bell Inn, Dinneford Street, Thorverton*
- Thorverton C of E Primary School (Part of the Exe Valley Federation)**
Executive Headteacher (Exe Valley Federation): Mr John Jolliffe
Head of School (Thorverton): Mr Chris Holding 01392 860374
School Office (Thorverton) 01392 860374
Chair of Governors (Exe Valley Federation): Jackie Enright 01392 851859
Clerk to the Governors: Mrs Heidi Last hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
- School PTFA** Chair: Wendy Coles Vice chair: Elaine Green Secretary: Amy Crebo
Treasurer: Peter Stevens thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
Please contact any members of the PTFA via the school office 01392 860374
- South West Water** 24 hour emergency 0344 346 2620, helpline 0344 346 1010
- Thorverton Community Defibrillator Trust**
Chair: Di Foxford Secretary: Maggie Dunlop 01392 861185
- Thorverton Millennium Green Trust**
Chair: John Spivey 01392 861324 Secretary: Peter Hargood

THORVERTON ORGANISATIONS

Amateur Dramatic Society (TADS)

Chair: Sheena Hunter-Hedges 01392 860843

Treasurer: Simon Hedges

Minutes Secretary: Mary Ette

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

Association Football Club

Chairman: Jorga Wilson 07801 984 462

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

Bridge Club

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

Cricket Club

Chair: Charles Kislingbury 07971 880421

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

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

Focus Magazine

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

Editor: 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

Chair: Richard Pocock 01884 855450

Secretary: Karen Marshall 01392 860831

Ladies' Group

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

Saturday Market

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

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

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

Thorverton Ambling, Rambling and Tramping Society (TARTS)

Caroline Prince 07749 775304 or Graeme Culshaw 01392 860203

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

TMH Committee

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

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

Bookings: thorvertonmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com

Website: thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk

Toddler Group

Liz Armstrong emcarmstrong@outlook.com

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

Royal British Legion

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

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Felicity Cashmore

Women's Institute

Bookings: Sue Maguire 860631

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

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



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Tuesday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Cook, Saunders & Harris.	08.30 - 18:00 (closed 1-2pm)	In the morning.	
Wednesday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Griffiths & Kirwan.	08.30 - 18:00 (closed 1-2pm)	Dr Lesley Weiss	Nurse 08.30 – 17.15
Thursday	08.30 – 18.00 (closed 1-2pm)	Drs. Harris, Saunders & Kirwan.	08.30 - 18:00 (closed 1-2pm)	In the morning.	Nurse 08.30 – 13.00
Friday	08.30 – 18.00	Drs. Griffiths, Kirwan & Cook.	08.30 - 18:00 (closed 1-2pm)	In the morning.	

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Extended surgeries are offered on weekday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays
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Please ask at reception for details.

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

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

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

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

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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.

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Sat: 07:55,09:12,11:35,13:50,16:11,17:43,18:30

To Exeter from Tiverton Bus Station (via Silverton and St David's Railway Station)

at Thorverton, The Berry and Broadlands:

08:02, 09:08, 10:28, 12.43, 14:58, 17:23 18:17.

Sat: 08.00, 09.07, 10.28,12.43, 14.58, 17.18, 18.16.

To Thorverton from Exeter Bus Station (via St David's Railway Station) leaves at:

07:25, 08:45, 11:05, 13:20, 15:40, 17:05, 18:00.

Sat: 7:30, 8:45, 11:05,13:20,15:40,17:05.17:55.

To Thorverton from Tiverton Bus Station (via Silverton) leaves at:

07:30, 08:35, 09:55, 12:10, 14:25, 16:50, 17:45.

Sat: 06:35, 07:30, 08:35, 09:55,12:10,14:25, 16:45, 17:45.

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:

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<http://stagecoachbus.com>

or <http://devon.gov.uk/devonbus>

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.)

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. 06.35.

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 3 weeks on Mondays: May 7th (Tues.) & 28th (Tues.), June 17th

Recycling boxes fortnightly on Mondays: May 7th (Tues.), & 20th, June 3rd & 17th

Chargeable garden waste fortnightly on Mondays: May 13th & 28th (Tues.), June 10th & 24th

Road works

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



**NEWTON ST CYRES CHURCH
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Tony's Mad May Challenge – The *Camino de Santiago* Not a walk in the park....

Despite being the wrong side of 80, I am setting myself a challenge! Walking 115km on the final stage of the 'Camino de Santiago' in northern Spain. It's hilly, hot and dusty! So definitely not a walk in the park.

Why, you ask, am I putting my body through this ordeal? Well, I am working with other local residents on a process of modernising the inside of Newton St Cyres Church. We want it to be able to offer a wide range of different activities – both church and social events such as concerts, art exhibitions, theatre productions, family events, etc. But, to complete the work will require something approaching £75,000. While some of this, we hope, will be met by grants and national funds - to secure that funding, we must self-fund at least half this figure.

And so, my reason for this little spiel - please be kind enough to help by sponsoring me on this mad walk in May. I appreciate it is a big ask, but if we don't invest in this project the church will seriously struggle to survive. Any contribution will be gratefully received and you can do this by linking to my 'Just Giving' page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/anthony-lane>

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Funding from Focus

Do you need some assistance with funding?

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

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

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

Email: thorvertonfocus@gmail.com



Thorverton Affordable Housing Project

Will print a summary of what has been happening each month in *Focus*, but regular updates will appear on our website at

www.thorvertonclt.co.uk



South Aisle of the Church of Our Lady, Upton Pyne

[The Church of Our Lady will be the subject of the first in a series of illustrated articles about the Churches of the Netherexe Parishes]