

PYWORTHY POST



Efford Down, Bude - July 2026

What's in your paper this month?

Local brothers were reunited with Y.F.C. Shearing cup after 60 years.

News of a solar eclipse and Perseid meteor shower this month.

Lots of lovely photos of previous events.
Turn the page and come inside.....

Read online at:

<http://www.bit.ly/postpy> or
<https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/>
and view the paper in full colour.

Above: the Holsworthy Walk & Talk group on Efford Down in July



AUGUST 2026
Issue number 354



Pyworthy Village Show

CELEBRATING
10
YEARS

**for all the
family....**

Saturday 5th September

**Doors open from 1.30pm.
Refreshments available.**



**Buy your programmes
from:**

**Marie Heard at:
9 Derriton Road.
Pyworthy.**

**Anita Burnard at:
Anberlea, Pyworthy or
Wendy Ward at:
"Wordona" Derril.**

Still only..... 50p

Welcome to the AUGUST EDITION



By Marion Ravn

August is upon us; the school holidays are here. Time to relax and enjoy the sunny days of summer.

Have you made your scarecrow yet? The trail begins on the 22nd August. See information below.

An extremely full paper this month with lots of useful information and interesting club reports to read.

Thanks to everybody who has made the paper possible.

More news and information next month.

Please keep the news & reports coming in. Email:
pyworthy@post.com



The Scarecrow Trail will run from 22nd August until 5th September 2026!

We would love to see scarecrows taking residence in Pyworthy, Derril and Derriton. Make sure that yours is registered with Angela.

Please email:
angelaskinner27@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible with your name and address, if you would like to take part.

Coming soon a list of scarecrows will be prepared with their locations. The list can be collected from: Pennikwik, Derriton Road, Pyworthy.

For more information contact:
Angela on Tel: 07794 344117

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By Liffy Lowes on behalf of St. Swithun's Church

This is the second edition of the Post. The first was destroyed by the devil cat who managed to leap on the tower of my computer and switch it off. You could say it was my fault as I hadn't saved it, but I blame the cat! She's in the doghouse at present.

On the 18th and 19th of the month, the Patronal Festival at St Swithun's took place. The Patronal Festival always falls on the nearest weekend to the 15th of July as that is St Swithun's Day. No rain fell so I reckon we're good for a few more days yet. Unfortunately, by then we'll certainly be on a hosepipe ban and probably also buying in water. We always have a theme for the weekend, and this year's theme was "Vintage". The flower displays were lovely and really interesting, so many different takes on the subject, from weddings, the 2nd World War, Let's have a cuppa, old fashioned picnics and several others. They were so interesting to look at with so much colour involved. The local Art Group showed off their talents; I say it every year, but I can't believe that such a small area can produce so much lovely artwork. I'm sure this was the best year yet and long may the group go on. There was also a table of memorabilia, mostly local, but not all, and this was pored over by so many people on Sunday afternoon! I think a lot of them were trying to find themselves at school, no matter what

age they are now. But they did enjoy it! I thought Saturday afternoon was very disappointing as regards visitors, but Sunday really made up for it and many people also enjoyed the refreshments available. On Saturday evening we were concerned about how many cakes we had (too many?) but we needn't have worried. We had gauged it just about right! To date, we have raised just shy of £1000 but this may not be the final total.

Thanks to several generous grants and some serious fund-raising, we have now realised sufficient money to go ahead with the repairs/restoration of the church clock and carillon. Both have been silent and the clock stopped for several years, so it will be lovely to have them restored and in full working order. I am just waiting to hear from the company who are carrying out the work; all in all, it should take a surprisingly short time to complete the task. I am looking forward to seeing the clock back in its original state. This time we shall put aside sufficient funding to have the clock maintained each year. At present, the bells and the bell framework are undergoing some repairs and maintenance, including painting the frame and checking the bells themselves. At least the tower has at last dried out which does make the work involved slightly easier to access. I was pleased to see that at least two people were present at all times when working at higher levels.

Amanda does wonderful work with the children throughout the year, and she ran a Saturday craft class earlier in the month. Despite several children being either ill or away, several youngsters came along and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Continued on page 5....

St. Swithun's News continued from page 4.. I wish more youngsters from the parish came along, the children love them, there is always plenty for them to do, and the adults present can join in, have a jolly good natter and really get to know each other. Please do come along, I believe the next craft class is at Hallowe'en so why not bring the kiddies along to it?

Always remember that we live in a beautiful country with so many things that are good about it. Others are not so fortunate, remember and pray for them. My best wishes to you all, **Liffy, on behalf of St Swithun's Church**

United Benefice of Holsworthy

Rector: Revd Alison Hardy, Churchwarden: Liffy Lowes & Janet Grant

Benefice Services for AUGUST

<http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/services/benefice-calendar/>



Worship and Prayer in the Holsworthy Benefice – AUGUST 2026

Date	Bridgerule	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Hollacombe
Sunday 2 nd August	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Saturday 8 th August	2.30pm at Hollacombe Church CREAM TEA , everybody welcome.			
Sunday 9 th August	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	3.00pm Evensong
Sunday 16 th August	-	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd August	11.00am All Age Sung Eucharist	11.00am at the Church of St. Peter & St. Paul - Café style service.	9.30am Morning Prayer	-
	9.30am – Pancrasweek – All Age Service			
	11.00am - Benefice service at Holsworthy Church			

Church Bookings

To book a Wedding, a Christening, or a Funeral, or for anything else, please contact: Revd Alison Hardy, email: reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com Tel: 07780295752.

Benefice administrator:

Libbi York – email: Holsworthybenefice@icloud.com
Tel: 07717750198.



**St. Swithun's Church,
Gift Aid Donation
form is on page 27.**

Pyworthy Village Hall News

Martin Brennan, Chairman

Village Hall Flat Roof Appeal – Your Support is Needed

As many of you know, we are raising funds to replace the flat roof on our Village Hall. The total cost of this essential project is **£25,000**.

We are delighted to report that, thanks to generous support and successful grant applications, we have already secured **£16,050 from external sources**, along with **£5,000 raised through our own fundraising events**. This means we have raised **£21,050** so far, leaving a remaining shortfall of just **£3,950**.

We hope to start and complete the project by **September this year**, which does not leave us much time to raise the remaining funds. We are therefore asking for your support to help us reach our target and ensure this important work can go ahead as planned.

Thank you for your continued support of our Village Hall. Every contribution, no matter how small, really does make a difference and brings us one step closer to achieving our goal.

If you would like to make a donation the details are at the top of the page. Thank you all once again for helping to keep our Village Hall at the heart of our community.

Each month there will be a focus on a club held at the Village Hall.

See page 8 for Sue's Ballroom dancing classes, which are held on Wednesday evenings. Our hall welcomes everybody.

See page 38 for easyfundraising. How you can help our Village Hall, while you shop online.

If you would like to donate toward a new flat roof for the Village Hall, you can do so via:

HSBC: - Pyworthy Village Hall Committee

Sort Code 40-24-25

Account No- 41018248

Alternatively, for further details, please contact **Martin on 01409 691096**.

It goes without saying your continued support of the Village Hall — is really very much appreciated.



Potters Fish n Things

Just to let you all know that Olly will be at the Hall on the **Third WEDNESDAY of each month this year**. This month's visit will be **Wednesday 19th August**.

For further details see page 48.

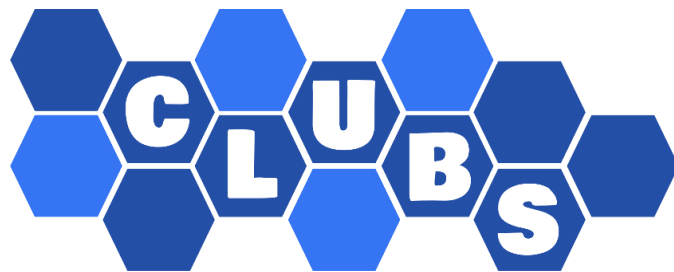
Dates for your Diary



Village Hall Meeting

Wednesday 30th September, starting at 7.30.

Everybody welcome.



What's on at the Pyworthy Village Hall.....

Mondays: Line Dancing Club:

Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm

Beginners/Improvers,

6.30pm – 7.30pm

Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

Tuesdays: the Rural Art Group, will start back on the 15th **September.**

No classes in August!

Tuesdays: Line Dancing Club, **Intermediate,** 7.30pm -9.30pm.

Tuesday evenings: Men's Skittles Team. Playing at home & away.

Wednesdays: Beginners Ballroom dancing & Latin class, including Sequence dancing 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

Thursdays: Gill's Golden Gang, 10.00am – 11.00am.

No sessions in August!

Thursdays: **Coffee Mornings** – 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month. Starting at 11.10am. Everybody welcome!

No coffee mornings in August

Thursdays: **Creative Craft Club** – 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.
No meetings until the 24th September.

Village Hall Social Club Evenings!



This month our Social Evenings are:

Friday the 31st July, 7th & 14th August.

Don't forget to come along and join us for Beer or whatever takes your fancy and perhaps have a go at our '**Play Your Cards Right**' game on the **31st July** – the jackpot is now up to **£231!**

Who Knows it could Be your Lucky Night!!

Doors/Bar Opens at 7pm until late.

Everybody is welcome, come along and have a good time.



MASQUERADE SUMMER BALL - Club Focus number 1



Hosted by Sue Davey



Just one of the many themed social evenings organised and hosted by me. Themed dance evenings give people a chance to dress up, socialize and enjoy dancing in a relaxed atmosphere, everyone gets behind the theme and has fun,

I have a mix of both beginners and intermediate dancers.

My dance classes complement these social evenings, helping people to build confidence and learn new steps, and then putting them into practice.

Classes are focused on enjoyment and participation in a friendly environment where you can learn at your own pace every **Wednesday Evening 7.45 – 8.45 at Pyworthy Village Hall**, the perfect place with a great dance floor and lots of parking.

Together the classes & themed evenings create a welcoming cycle:

- ☐ New dancers learn the basics in class
- ☐ Gain confidence by attending the themed dance evenings
- ☐ Enjoy practicing and meeting new people
- ☐ The social atmosphere encourages people to keep returning

Hosting themed dance evenings and running dance classes can create a real sense of community.

Dance classes are offered in different venues too, anyone interested in finding out more, pick up the phone.

Sue 07907171276



Join

Gill's Golden Gang

Strength & Balance Exercise Class

for the over 55's!

Held at:

Thursdays.

Pyworthy Village Hall

10.00am to 11.00am.

Halwill Baptist Chapel Hall

12.45pm to 1.45pm.

REMINDER:
Pyworthy - no
meetings on the
13th & 27th August.

Contact Gill Aston on: 07854677784
for more information.

Coffee Morning



VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING GROUP

There will be NO coffee mornings in the Village Hall during August, but they will return in September, & will be held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday every month.

**Meet new friends, enjoy a coffee,
and have a good chat.**

For more information phone:

Brenda on: 01409 253015 or

Marie on: 01409 254924.

Now held in the main Village Hall.



**NEW MEMBERS ARE
VERY WELCOME!**

Pyworthy Parish Council Meeting Summary

My report as follows on the Parish Council meeting of 17 July 2026

After the excitement of the AGM in May (or June as it was this year), the July meeting is usually back to "business as usual".

Devon county council's Cabinet have selected Holsworthy Rural as 1 of 8 areas to be included in an expanded pothole repair trial. It focuses on two key initiatives which are now live, 1) Rapid Response Teams and 2) Pothole Repairs Trial. Potholes should be reported to the DCC local member (Cllr. Lynne Rowsell – contact at: lynne.rowsell@devon.gov.uk) who will pass them onto the relevant team. Residents should report as many as possible in Pyworthy Parish!

An update on the Derril Water Solar Park reported that it is currently not exporting any electricity due to potential overload issues with the North Devon grid. It is anticipated it will be back online in October.

The Community Emergency Hubs initiative being delivered by Devon Communities Together. The programme aims to support communities in developing local hubs that can assist residents during emergencies such as severe weather, power outages, flooding or other disruptive incidents. Further information can be found at <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/news/community-emergency-hubs>.

Cllr Kenneally (Torridge Council) updated on local government reorganisation. The Government has decided that Plymouth, Exeter and

and Torbay will have expanded areas, and the rest of Devon will be lumped together as one huge unitary council. Not a good settlement for Devon as resources and investment will inevitably go to the bigger urban centres and we will miss out again.

One planning application was considered, to turn an existing barn into a dwelling (which had previously been agreed), It was asked that the dwelling footprint be reduced due to the large size of the barn. Councillors agreed this unanimously.

One grant was agreed from the Solar Fund, to make a payment of £5,000 towards restoration of the church clock.

Councillors noted further potential planning transgressions on a site located on the road from Derril Cross to Hillsborough Cross. Torridge Planning are aware.

**The next meeting will be
24th September at 7.30pm in the
Village Hall.**

Simon Davies, Pyworthy Parish Clerk
pyworthy@yahoo.co.uk

**Parish Council contact numbers can
be found on page 14 this month.**

**The Pyworthy Post costs almost £1
to have printed each month.**

If you read the paper online and no longer want/need a hard copy you can opt out of having a delivery each month.

Simply email: pyworthy@post.com with your name and address, and I'll remove you from the delivery list.

My Electricity Industry Recollections

Episode 19

Big Changes come to the Electricity Industry

By Mike Godfrey



By the end of this episode, we will have reached 1994 and big changes were occurring in the industry following the privatisation of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), resulting from the changes in the Electricity Act 1989. Hence in March 1990 the Industry was divided into a number of Companies. In the first instance this was just two Generation Companies; Powergen and National Power (NPower). Littlebrook was allocated to NPower. Initially National Power had two divisions one managing the Nuclear Power Stations and the other the conventional coal, oil, gas and Hydro plant and associated infrastructure. The two Pumped Storage Power Stations at Festiniog and Dinorwig were allocated to National Grid control to allow them immediate control of this rapid action plant to assist in keeping the Grid system balanced and stable. Quite early on, the impending issues with the nuclear plant were thought to be too sizeable financially for a fledgling private Company to handle, hence the Nuclear division of National Power was transferred to a government owned Company Nuclear Electric. This was later to be subdivided with the Government retaining all the end of life and closed Magnox Stations and EDF, a French Company, purchasing the remaining newer Nuclear Power Stations, most of which are still running

today. This 11th hour change of mind by the Government, left National Power at a distinct disadvantage because originally the CEGB's Power Stations and associated infrastructure and headquarters had been allocated to create two fairly well-balanced Companies with equal amounts of good and not so good plant as well as overheads from headquarters and Engineering Services. Now the balance of plant left Powergen as a larger Company with a bigger share of good plant and a proportionately less share of headquarters overhead costs.

This immediately required a reorganisation of plant and human resources throughout NPower, more on this next month. NPower went on to take interests in Power Plants in Europe and ultimately around the world. This growing portfolio plant was eventually demerged from the Company in October 2000 to become International Power. At this point NPower became Innogy plc, later to become part of Eon UK. It really became a very complex situation, which I don't profess to understand, apart from I am sure some people and Companies made a lot of money out of it.

In January 2002 Powergen was purchased by Eon a German

continued on page 12...

Big Changes come to the Electricity Industry continued from page 11...

Company and was rebranded to be EON in 2007. Also, in March 2002 yet another German Company RWE purchased what remained of NPower. Hence, we wound up with the French owning most of our Nuclear Power Plants and the Germans owning most of our larger conventional Power Plants.

So where was I in all this, well up to March 1990 I continued to work as an Electrical Engineer dealing with plant defects and faults as they occurred, whilst also trying to design out re-occurring issues and to improve plant performance. This was also too hopefully improve our availability, reliability and response to the demands the Grid Control were placing on our flexibility to provide a substantial output at very short or immediate notice. This was all done a background of the high priority of trying to control our costs. In the late 1980's, following my appointment as a Charter Electrical Engineer, I was asked to give a talk at the Institute of Electrical Engineering, a return to the Savoy Place in London, the hallowed halls of Electrical Engineering, and where I had previously received my award as best apprentice from Lord Hinton some 20 years previously in September 1969. The talk was entitled "milliamps to Megawatts" and attempted to illustrate what modern Power Stations were about and the challenges we faced to keep them running. During the 90's as Chief Engineer, life was pretty hectic dealing with Mechanical, Electrical, Instrument and Control problems 24/7, I always seemed to be in demand, I

sometimes wished that the pager and the telephone hadn't been invented. It was not unusual for the night shift manager to ring in the middle of the night for a "bit of a chat" just to clarify something that could have easily waited until morning, or he had forgotten it was night as the Control Room had no access to natural light. The Company had purchased a number of Power Plants in Europe in places like Spain, Czechoslovakia and other East European countries. Australia was also on the horizon. I was constantly being pressurised to get involved in this new enterprise to go out and "sort them out" but quite frankly I had enough on my plate as the Engineering Manager and I had been on the front line 24/7 for around 25 years and didn't really feel like opening up a new venture, spending most of my time away from home for the next ten years or so.



Above: Littlebrook Power station with a chimney height of 650 feet

During this period of transition of our Electricity Industry, we went from a system where the CEGB and its employees did their very best to ensure that we produced enough electricity to meet the demand under all

continued on page 13...

Big Changes come to the Electricity Industry continued from page 11...

circumstances. Whereas under this newly created privatised environment, there was a multitude of Companies that would only produce electricity if the money is right. Hence our electricity costs have gradually risen by about 30% in real terms since privatisation in the 1990's. Whilst at the same time the electrical network has become far less resilient, particularly with the massive introduction of Inverter connected generation as with PV and Wind power, which provides absolutely no support to the Grid system and which had been provided in abundance by the large rotating Turbo-generators. The importance of this invisible asset seems to have been overlooked in Mr Milliband's head long rush to achieve net zero. I will clarify this with the true picture in a few months' time. Although there were many issues with



Above: the 400kv Thames Crossing is used to take me 20 minutes to climb it

the nationalised CEGB, many of which could have been solved with the right management, as I will explain next month, in my opinion It will never be right to have a public utility, where Companies are beholden to their shareholders and have to make a profit, regardless of the consequences to the end user and this is true of all public utility services.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



Amazing Facts!

Research by Mike Godfrey

Tour de France riders need to eat the equivalent of 27 cheeseburgers a day!

Lightning strikes the Earth 8.6 million times a day or about 100 times a second!

A single bolt of lightning contains enough energy to cook 100,000 slices of toast!

Each year the drug baron Pablo Escobar had to write off 10% of his cash holdings because of rats nibbling away at his huge stash of bank notes!

The first ever edition of the Daily Mirror came with a free mirror!

The smallest known dinosaur was about four inches tall and weighed less than a Chihuahua!

PYWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL
Here are the contact telephone
numbers for our Parish
Councillors:

Ros Skinner: Chair
01409 254159 or 07800667842

Andrew Parrish: Vice Chair
01409 254303

Nick Lock: 01288 381529
or 07989595372

Rob Moores: 01409 254192

Angela Skinner: 07794 344117

Martin Brennan: 01409 691096

Andrew Beaven: 01409 253509 (after
7pm).

For general enquires phone:
Simon Davies, Clerk to the council
on: 07989747416.

Email address:

pyworthy@yahoo.co.uk

Holsworthy **Food Bank**

You can donate tinned food,
packets or boxes of food.
Unfortunately, fresh produce
cannot be accepted.

**Donations can be left in the box at
the back of St. Swithun's Church,
Pyworthy, which is open every
day. Thank you.**



J. Mansell 07896 945889

General Builder

General Building, Property Maintenance & Repairs

**Painting, Decorating, Plastering, Rendering,
Brickwork, Patios, Concrete, Foundations
Roofing, Carpentry & Joinery**

**Gutters, Plumbing, Drainage, Cob Conservation,
Limewash & Lime Plastering**

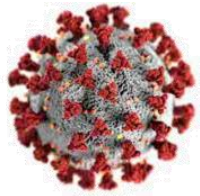
**Kitchens, Bathrooms, Chimney Lining,
Stoves & Garden Landscaping**

Jamescancott@gmail.com

Episode 9 continued

My COVID Diaries

By Mark Marriott



I'm very sorry Mark I didn't have enough space in the last edition, for the end of Episode 9 – here it is:

There were so many fantastic characters across the whole team: in the clinical team, the volunteers, the BIC staff and the visiting emergency services teams. One person stood out in particular and that was "Big Nige"; the ambulance service had lent us their vaccinator to be used wherever we needed him. Nige was an advanced paramedic, a prescriber, a vaccinator, a member of the Hazardous Area Response Team and a mental health first aider; in short, he was a one-man walking emergency response team, and he was very big! At 6 feet 4 and 22 stone, Big Nige ran the crash team when people fainted, looked after nervous patients and dealt with almost every unusual clinical case we had. When he left I had to allocate 3 nurses just to cover his roles!

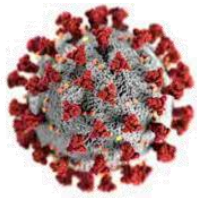
About a month into the BIC opening the vaccination service was opened up to GP practices so that we could reach even more people, but all that happened was an unregulated mess. We would get around 300 people a day cancel their appointment at the BIC and about 100 no shows, so we had staff waiting for people to vaccinate but the queue had suddenly disappeared. What had happened was money. GPs were being offered £45 to vaccinate a person, whereas the BIC was being funded at cost and not per jab, this

meant that GPs were actively encouraging their patients to go to their GP for a jab rather than the BIC, which is fine if it's more convenient, but GPs were telling patients that they would cancel their appointment with us if the patient went to the GP instead. It meant a practice with 10,000 eligible patients could get £900,000 for both jabs, and it turned the vaccination landscape into a lawless wild west. GP surgeries would deny the tactic in meetings, even though my own staff had received messages directly from their GP offering to cancel their BIC appointment and because they could prescribe, they were offering jabs to patient cohorts before they were released to us under the protocol. This effectively meant the NHS was paying twice, once for the BIC to be staffed regardless of how many jabs we carried out, and again on the GP pay per jab scheme, everyone knew it was going on and no one would stop it, it's yet another example of how the NHS wastes so much money. It drove me mad, and so I informed NHS England that the BIC would scale back, and they jumped up and down like frustrated bullies who couldn't get their own way and insisted we retained 100% capacity, I got the Trust board to back me and we reduced the 3 vaccination lines to one and told NHS England what we thought of their management style! Much later on in the programme, the price per jab dropped to just over £10 and GP surgeries started to drop out expecting NHS trusts and pharmacies to take over because it wasn't worth their while. There was never a dull day!

Continued on page 16...

My COVID Diaries

By Mark Marriott



Above: Anti-vax protesters in Bournemouth

Last time the main vaccination centre opened, in this episode I take on the responsibility of the vaccination programme for the whole of Dorset. About a month into the BIC opening the vaccination service was opened up to GP practices so that we could reach even more people, but all that happened was an unregulated mess. We would get around 300 people a day cancel their appointment at the BIC and about 100 no shows, so we had staff waiting for people to vaccinate but the queue had suddenly disappeared. What had happened was money. GPs were being offered £45 to vaccinate a person, whereas the BIC was being funded at cost and not per jab, this meant that GPs were actively encouraging their patients to go to their GP for a jab rather than the BIC, which is fine if it's more convenient, but GPs were telling patients that they would cancel their appointment with us if the patient went to their surgery instead. It meant a practice with

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Meanwhile, back in the vaccine centre, we had started with the AstraZeneca product and our freezers for Pfizer had remained empty, but after about 6 weeks the government announced that Pfizer would be rolled out and we started to use the ultra low temperature supply chain. The pharmacists **continued on page 17...**

My COVID Diaries continued from page 16.....

were overjoyed, they had planned for vaccines to be used and now had the chance to do it, we discussed one Pfizer line and one AstraZeneca line, but then we decided to phase out AstraZeneca until it was all used up and switch to Pfizer. The problem was people started asking if it was a Pfizer jab, because if it was they would refuse it, I don't think people liked the idea of something that had been at -80 degrees being put into their arm, we fed this back to NHS England and they just said we need to make them take it, even though it was happening all over the country. The NHS had already ordered 40million Pfizer doses and there wasn't enough AstraZeneca to go around, so they stuck to their guns of forcing it on the vaccine centres. At the weekly NHS England meeting of all the vaccination leaders we pushed back and said it wasn't good enough and NHS England needed to do something about it, so they eventually agreed to include the type of vaccination on offer in the booking system so patients could make an informed choice. It got further complicated when the Moderna vaccine came out and people didn't want that one either, but then AstraZeneca was suddenly linked with Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, and suddenly everyone wanted Moderna!

As the programme progressed, the BIC settled into a steady rhythm of about 900 jabs a day, far less than the 4500 we'd designed it for, so two of the vaccination lines stayed permanently closed, which NHS England asked about every Thursday at the national

vaccination centre meeting, insisting we go back up to full capacity. We kept refusing and eventually other mass vaccination centres followed suit as more and more pharmacies and GP surgeries provided the vaccination and maximising the opportunity that £45 per jab offered. The service was now nationwide being delivered by mass vaccination centres, like the BIC, GP surgeries and high street pharmacies, and we were well into cohort 6 which was all those over 16 with an underlying long term illness and their carers. It was about then that the anti-vax protests started. Whether it was because cohort 6 opened the service up to children for the first time, or whether it had simply taken a few months for the protests to gather momentum we would never know, but up and down the country incidents started to occur at vaccination centres. The protests started as vandalism and angry people shouting outside the centres, but they soon became more sinister, and we had staff attacked and people in the queue spat on. It then became organised and a rent-a-mob protest group travelled the UK holding protest marches outside centres. We were given a 24/7 police presence and daily briefings on the expected anti-vax activity in the area; it was like being back in the military in Northern Ireland and Bosnia with daily threat level briefings. Eventually, rent-a-mob turned up in Bournemouth one weekend and marched on the BIC, but a cordon of police and very stern looking nurses prevented them from disrupting the programme. Jonathan Van-Tam even read out the warning notice from

Continued on page 18...

My COVID Diaries continued from page 17.....

aspirin on the TV trying to explain there were risks with all drugs but the benefits far outweighed the negatives. In the end 52 million people in the UK had a COVID jab, saving 475,000 lives, but sadly 55 people died as a result of the jab, all of whom had an underlying condition. While this is dreadful, it represents 0.0001%, just over 1 death per million users, whereas aspirin has a mortality rate of around 21 per million users, but you don't see anti-aspirin protests, or pharmacists being attacked for selling it.

After 4 months of directing the mass vaccination centre I was asked if I could move over to running the whole of Dorset's vaccination programme to allow the Director of Nursing to go back to her day job of managing quality and outcomes across the county. I now found myself still directing operations at the BIC and also in charge of the performance and outcomes of 27 vaccination centres across the county, those GPs that had spent weeks stealing patients from the BIC now had to report to me for their vaccine programme! I was now the Senior Responsible Officer for COVID vaccinations for Dorset, one of 42 SRO's across the country responsible for vaccinating 52million people.

Having started with people over 80 in December 2020, by June 2021 the programme reached the final cohort which was everyone over the age of 18. So we now had cohorts 1 to 3 coming back for a booster, cohorts 4 to 6 coming back for their second

vaccination, and cohorts 7 to 10 eligible for their first – the entire population of Dorset aged over 16, or about 800,000 people were now eligible for a jab. At the same time as opening up all the cohorts, NHS England, in their infinite wisdom, decided to start saving money on the programme and reduced the £45 per jab to £25 per jab and GP surgeries started to drop out of the programme, so holes started to appear in the service across the county which we needed to fill. As SRO, I would spend hours negotiating with GPs and pharmacies to continue to run the service and where it failed, we plugged the gap with capacity at the BIC. One such gap was the student population; the various universities and colleges across the county asked students to be vaccinated before they would resume lectures, but the GP surgery with the contract for student health had withdrawn from the vaccination programme so we started student days at the BIC with the aim of vaccinating 30,000 students over 2 weeks. As both SRO and the director of the BIC vaccination centre I attended the first day of the student programme, and it was carnage. Students came inappropriately dressed to stand in a queue in hot sun and the team ran around setting up shades, some of them protested they didn't want the jab but had to have it to continue to study, about 40% of them hadn't actually booked and just turned up which meant we had to search for them in the system, but most of all they fainted. We had a crash team at the back of the BIC that had only had to contend with a dozen

Continued on page 19...

My COVID Diaries continued from page 18.....

collapses in 6 months while vaccinating thousands of people over 70, but now we had young women under 22 and we were getting about 100 faint a day. It turned out that they hadn't eaten all day and were dehydrated as well and the crash team were having to get fluids into those that fainted to make sure they didn't just faint again, so we dispatched a nurse to the local supermarket with some petty cash and she came back with hundreds of packs of biscuits and energy drinks. We ended up with feeding and hydration stations in the queue to make sure they were ready for the jab when it was their turn. Compared to the students, the over 70's were tough as boots and stoic to the last.

Next time we brace ourselves for a Christmas without lockdown, but only if we can vaccinate everyone.

Update from our local hedgehog family



Save your stamps - see page 51.

It is true to say, that we are all on an enforced "diet" as the readily available food supply is somewhat limited due to the hot weather. Apparently, you humans are also suffering a little with gaps on the supermarket shelves. The slimy creatures are holing up also. Needless to say, but we've all been rather 'down' lately and are suffering from "prickly heat" as expected! That tray of fresh water each evening is very welcome, thank you. **Harry & Henrietta**

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Tuesday:	9.00am until 4.30pm
Wednesday:	7.30am until 4.30pm
Thursday:	7.30am until 4.30pm
Friday:	7.30am until 4.30pm or 7.30am until 1.00pm.

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Dr. Reg Godwin
with his puppy Lisa

Name: Dr. Reg Godwin

Age: 76

Occupation: Retired Veterinary Surgeon. First job in Wolverhampton (6 months) then RSPCA in Putney, London, for 4 years. Moved to Hastings, ran own practice. Took a break, moved to Widemouth Bay, where wife Sue's retired parents lived. Discovered house in Pyworthy, by accident, after taking a wrong turn while looking for another property. 18 years with P.D.S.A, Plymouth, including 10 years in charge of the hospital. After another break took up locum work for a private vet in Plymouth. Retired at 63. Volunteered with Streetvet, Plymouth.

Place Of Birth: Stafford, Staffordshire's county town.

What is the best thing about Pyworthy?

What I appreciate most is the countryside and the community spirit.

What one thing would you change about Pyworthy and why?

I would like to see the creation of a community garden with tree planting and for Remembrance Day to be celebrated better.

Describe yourself in 3 words:

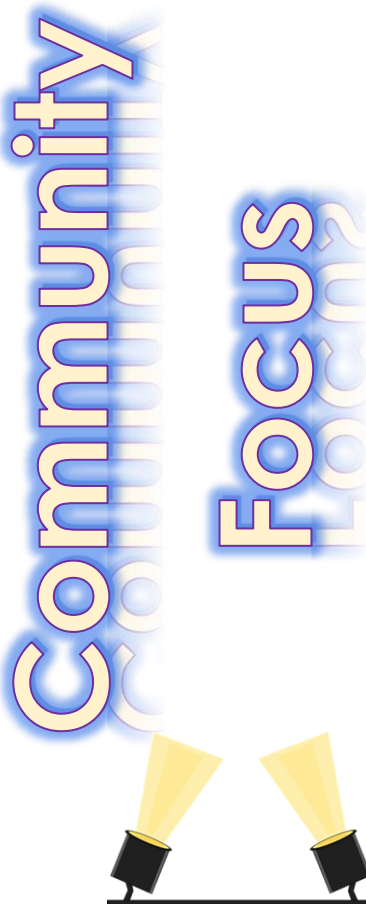
Hard-working. Sensitive. Polymath.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I have so many hobbies! Electronics, photography, writing, conservation work, growing and training Bonsai trees, playing bass guitar, performing, collecting cameras.

What one thing have you always wanted to do, try or learn?

To learn to play a keyboard instrument, an 88 key piano.



Thanks go to Bryony
Rylett for your research.

Continued on page 21...



Dr Reg Godwin

If you could meet anyone living or dead who would it be?

Paul McCartney. We grew up in similar times. I see him as a role model as a bass player.

If you won a million pounds, what would you do with the money?

Conservation work and donate to charities in India that work with children.

I was profoundly affected by the poverty and street children I saw during a trip to India.

If you were granted three wishes, what would they be (extra wishes excluded).

1. I would like to meet the people in my family who I never knew and ask them questions.
2. Maintain physical and mental health and live to 100 so I could do all the things on my bucket list.
3. I would like people to treat others as they would wish to be treated.

If you had to flee your home, at very short notice, due to a fire for example, what three items would you take?

1. I would make sure my family was safe and all other living things.
2. Photographs
3. My guitar collection

Devon Air Ambulance



What three things delight you?

1. Music
2. Smells: of the garden, roses, flowers, the woodland after rain.
3. Getting animals better.

I have received a copy of the thank you letter from the Devon Air Ambulance, which sadly due to a lack of space, I can't print. They have expressed their thanks to all those who donated money to the charity at Barbara's CPR & Defibrillator Awareness session, held in the Village Hall on the 28th May. An amazing **£38.25** was collected.

Thank you, Mary, for emailing the letter for inclusion in our paper.

Men's Skittles



Men's Skittles!

Pyworthy has a Men's Skittles Team, which meet on Tuesday evenings. If you would be interested in joining them, please contact:

Andrew on 07531186466 or 01409 253509.

Training will be given!

Make a Donation to the Pyworthy Post, It's Simple!

If you would like to give a donation towards the printing cost of the Pyworthy Post – see details below.

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A big thank you to all those who have already donated to the cost of printing the paper, which is very much appreciated.

Marion, Editor

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GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT

By Mike Godfrey, keen gardener



This month the weather has been exceptionally dry, with temperatures way above the average. It reminds me of the summer of 1976, when apparently it wasn't "Global Warming" but now it is, at least according to the politicians and business people, who could be making a lot of money out of it. The hot and dry weather is starting to take its toll on our garden plants as well as the flora and fauna in the Countryside. We really could do with a good soaking and then we could go back to the summer sunshine but perhaps not quite so hot. This weather has been excellent for growing weeds but on the positive side the drier and warmer spring and summer has given a really big boost to the Butterfly population. I believe that there is a request to carry out a Butterfly survey over the next week or so. You can find it on the Internet, search for "Butterfly Count" which is being carried out in conjunction with BBC Gardeners World. You can download and/or print off the identification chart. They suggest that you sit in a suitable spot, which is attractive to butterflies for about 15 minutes and use the chart to identify the butterflies and the numbers of each type. Report your findings to bigbutterflycount.org

The undergrowth on the farm and some of our garden areas has gone from pretty manageable in the spring to totally unmanageable at this time. I would go as far as to say that we have been totally overwhelmed here

by nature, this year. Many of our footpaths which we try to keep mowed have been lost to almost impenetrable undergrowth. We had to mow our front paddock again this year, which is usually kept well down by our pet goats and sheep grazing, but even they can't cope with the exceptional growth. It looks like we will be getting a second cut of haylage again this year. Last year we had an extraordinary crop of fruit from our trees and soft fruit bushes but this year it seems to be a much smaller, perhaps more sensible crop for the trees and bushes to sustain. Following my runner bean disasters,, with my first sowing in pots producing nothing and my second sowing direct in the ground producing only 3 plants, one of which subsequently died; I resorted to buying 24 plants. These have also gradually died, leaving about 3 plants, which appear to be struggling a bit, even though they are all in fresh and newly imported compost. I have now sown a third lot of seeds 25 in total and 18 have actually germinated and are looking quite healthy. However, I am now very reluctant to plant them out because it might mean the "kiss of death" for them once again. Of course, there is also the issue with such a late sowing will they actually produce anything even if they do survive and continue to grow. If they get that far, I must remember to spray the flowers around midday to help them set. I totally forgot last year!!

My attempts to create a wildflower area in the Orchard have unfortunately been far from successful, which has been compounded **continued on page 24...**

GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT
continued from page 23.....

exceptional grass growth this year. Out of the 200 mainly yellow rattle plug plants that were put in, only a few survive. This must be at least my forth attempt. Imagine my surprise as I was mowing the grass in the lanes and footpaths around the farm I looked across the adjacent fields to great swathes of yellow flowers, which I assumed to be columbines but on closer examination they turned out to be yellow rattle; just where I didn't want them!!! Just how can this happen; we must have at least 8 acres of it now. I know the place seems to be a bit haunted as we often hear footsteps walking across the floor upstairs when we are both sitting in the lounge and occasionally a figure floats across the floor from the old 400 year old fireplace across the floor and through a wall where there was a door at one time. We are having major works done on the front of the old part of the house to stop the front wall and the chimney from falling down. I hope we haven't upset too many of the previous residents because we do seem to be having a particular run of bad luck with cars breaking down, leaking water tanks; the garden issues and of course the chimney problems. In the absence of any real reason for my gardening woes, I am beginning to believe that there is a possible supernatural explanation for why my green fingers have turned brown or is it just old age? At least my leek seeds have germinated well, and I have a lot of healthy (so far) leek plants. Last year I came up with the idea of drilling 1.5 inch hole 6 inches deep with a battery

drill. It worked brilliantly and saved me a lot of time and energy and produces a terrific crop of sizeable leeks, which lasted until late spring. Why can't all the other veggies grow like this?

My other idea about planting my red cabbage and Brussels in the polytunnel was only moderately successful but still did better than those outside. If I do grow any I will definitely net them over whether they are inside or outside the polytunnel.

Jobs for this month, if you haven't already done them:-

- As always, keep weeds under control, don't let them get on top of you. Don't forget the good old Hoe or if necessary, the strimmer to stop weeds going to seed. Remember one year's seeds equate to seven years weeds.
- Continue to sow salad crop seeds directly in prepared ground now it has warmed up. Try not to sow all seeds in one go, sow to provide continuity of supply rather than have the whole crop ready at the same time, to prevent a lot going to waste or the compost bin.
- Continue to watch out for slugs and snails, water on nemetodes or alternatively use beer traps or dry bran in a pot on its side, to prevent it getting wet. These can be used in combination as well to control your slug and snail population.
- If you are growing brassicas such as cabbage or Brussel sprouts, be alert to the cabbage white and its eggs, which quickly turn into ravenous caterpillars. These can decimate the young leaves on these plants within a day.

continued on page 25...

GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT

continued from page 24.....

- Don't forget to continue to keep hanging baskets and containers watered, daily in dry weather. Also, if you didn't mix some plant feed granules with your compost, add a liquid feed about once a week.
- Also feed sweet peas with liquid feed about every 7-10 days. To get the best flowering from your plant, cut most of the flowers off once a week and pinch out the side shoots and the very tops. That encourages upward growth and more flowers
- Don't forget to pinch side shoots from your tomatoes at least once a week, to encourage the main growth, remove the leaves progressively from the bottom upwards, as the lower tomatoes start to ripen. As the season moves on pinch out the top when the plant is tall enough to allow it to focus on ripening the existing crop. Once the top is pinched out be more vigilant regarding side shoots which can appear and grow 12 inches in around a week on some varieties. Also make sure that you give them a weekly dose of tomerite or similar to obviate magnesium deficiencies.
- Make sure that you regularly pick your ripe crops, including all your soft fruit, to get the best from them.
- Harvest soft fruit regularly
- Cut back early flowering shrubs were necessary and summer prune Wisteria
- If you are growing climbing

beans pinch out the tops. This will encourage the plants to thicken up and put outside shoots for more beans.

- Similarly make sure that you dead head your flowers, particularly roses to promote new flowers

Enjoy your garden whilst we have good weather over the next few months. Find a nice bit of shade with a cool drink and just enjoy.

If anyone needs to contact me, then please contact me on 01409 253401 or 07798 647041 or by e-mail at mikecrinacott1@gmail.com.



At least the potatoes are health so far



Potatoes and comfrey but no beans



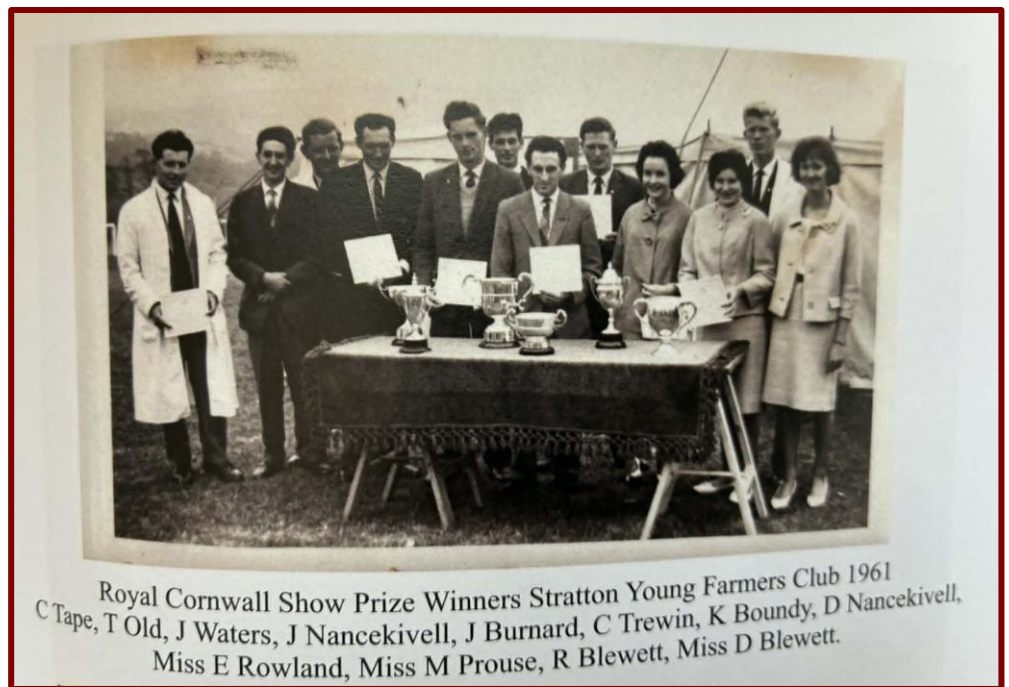
Pitiful amount of Runner beans

Brothers Reunited with Young Farmers Club Shearing Cup After 60 Years!

By Mark Burnard

John and Arthur Burnard were champion sheep shearers in their day representing Stratton YFC and they dominated the YFC shearing classes at The Royal Cornwall Show from 1960 to 1967. John winning the class in 1960, 62, 63 and 64 and Arthur winning in 1961, 65, 66 and 67. Until their retirement they farmed their whole lives in Pyworthy, John at Trelana Farm and Arthur at Hoppatown. Both were keen members of Stratton YFC, taking their turns as Chairman. In April this year they made the journey along with John's sons Mark and David to The Pavilion Centre at the Royal Cornwall Showground to be reunited with the cup with their names engraved on the base. Seeing the cup brought back many memories and stories of the competition and their fellow competitors. "Thanks must go to the staff at the showground and at YFC, especially Fiona James for ensuring a memorable day for them".

The 1st of August is Lammas Day or Loaf Mass Day. A day in the Book of Common Prayer's calendar, when a loaf was baked with flour from newly harvested corn, which would be brought into church and blessed. It's one of the oldest points of contact between the agricultural world and the Church.



Top: a photo taken in 1961 when Arthur Burnard won the Sheep Shearing Cup for the first time

Above: John and Arthur Burnard at the Royal Cornwall Show being reunited with the cup with their names on it



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Please leave it in the donation jar in the Church or give it to Liffy Lowes at: High View, Derriton Road, Pyworthy, (two down from the Village Hall).

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www.discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Also, Holsworthy Library on Facebook and Instagram

What's On At HOLSWORTHY LIBRARY August 2026

Summer Book
Quest
free reading
challenge for
children running all
month!
Pop in to sign up.



- **Devon Family Hub Drop In Advice Session**, Thursday 6th – 2pm–4pm. FREE Family Advice & Guidance to anyone with a child aged 0–19 (up to 25 with SEND). Call 0800 5385458 Mon–Fri 10am–4pm for advice & guidance if you can't make the sessions.
- **Sew Together**, Monday 10th & 24th – 3:30pm–4:30pm. Bring your own hand sewing project (or knitting etc). An informal and supportive group rather than a class or lesson!
- **Gardening Cuppa and Chat**, Wednesday 19th – 2pm–3pm. A monthly meeting to talk all things gardening. Everyone welcome.
- **Make your own road!** Wednesday 5th – 11am–4pm. Paper craft with toy cars and horses! Free, drop in activity.
- **Lego Challenge**, Thursday 6th & 20th – 11am–4pm. Come along and get creative with Lego. Free, drop in activity.
- **Paper Plate Hot Air Balloons**, Wednesday 12th – 11am–4pm. Free, drop in activity. All ages welcome.
- **Board Games and Biscuits**, Thursday 13th & 27th – 11am–4pm. Free, drop in activity. All ages welcome.
- **Tractor & Horse Colouring**, Wednesday 19th 11am–4pm. Free, drop in activity.
- **Junk Modelling**, Wednesday 26th 11am–4pm. Free, drop in activity.
- **Lloyds Bank Community Banking**, every other Monday 2–4. By appointment only – call 02077143681 to book direct with Lloyds.
- **Self Service Baby Weigh**. Every Thursday – 1pm–4pm.
- **Lego and games** for children. Every Saturday – 10am–12pm



Library News!

Holsworthy Library - There are lots of exciting things happening at your local library. In addition to a great range of books, you can use your library membership to access free eBooks and audiobooks via the Borrowbox app. We also have free public computers and Wi-Fi as well as printing, copying and scanning facilities. It is free to join the library, and we are a friendly, welcoming space open to all. Free hot drinks are available, and people are encouraged to use the library as a place to relax, work and socialise as well as to find their next great read!

Opening Hours:
Monday 2pm–5pm
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Wednesday 10am–6pm
Thursday 10am–5pm
Friday Closed
Saturday 10am–1pm - Sundays Closed.





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Bude Jazz Club

The Falcon Hotel, Bude.
EX23 8SD

Forthcoming Event this month:

Sunday evenings – 7.30pm – 10.00pm.

Sunday 30 August 2026 -

**Warren James and his
Lonesome Travellers**

8pm - 11pm

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¼ page: £48 per year.

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Black & white adverts will be viewed in colour by those reading the paper online.

Whole page: £12 per month

Half page: £6 per month

¼ page: £36 per year.

Email Marion on:

pyworthy@post.com for more
information.

Children's Craft & Sensory Session by Amanda Witts

Our theme was the seaside and the children contributed to making a big Octopus out of paper chains and beautiful coloured fish by dropping watered down paint onto cotton pads scales. These can be seen in the Church on display.

Due to grants received, we were able to purchase a ball pit, foam soft play shapes, a sensory tray, which had shells and little plastic sea creatures hidden amongst the sand, colourful mats, a new train set plus more craft supplies. We are extremely grateful to Ali for securing the grant money.

The children also coloured in sharks, made sparkling mermaid tails and wands. We made puffy paint ice-creams, had playdoh and sparkly slime to mould. The craft and play sessions are free to attend and are a way for children, parents and grandparents to meet each other in our rural community and have fun.



**Our next session is
Halloween on Saturday
24th October,
2pm – 4pm at the Village
Hall. Fancy dress optional.**





Village Get-Together on the 5th July



Photos courtesy of Ron Morley



Above: the village were entertained by the Ukulele Band



Devon Air Ambulance



**Supporting the Devon and the
Cornwall Air Ambulances**

Cornwall Air Ambulance



Brenda, and the members of the Village Hall committee would like to thank everybody who came to the Village Get-Together on the 5th July. The event was very well supported, and a really brilliant time was had by all. There are rumours that Brenda was singing along to the music, but I didn't tell you that. Apparently, there is video evidence! I didn't tell you that either.

Entry to the event was free, but a collection was made in aid of the Devon & Cornwall Air ambulances. I'm sure they will be very grateful for all your donations.

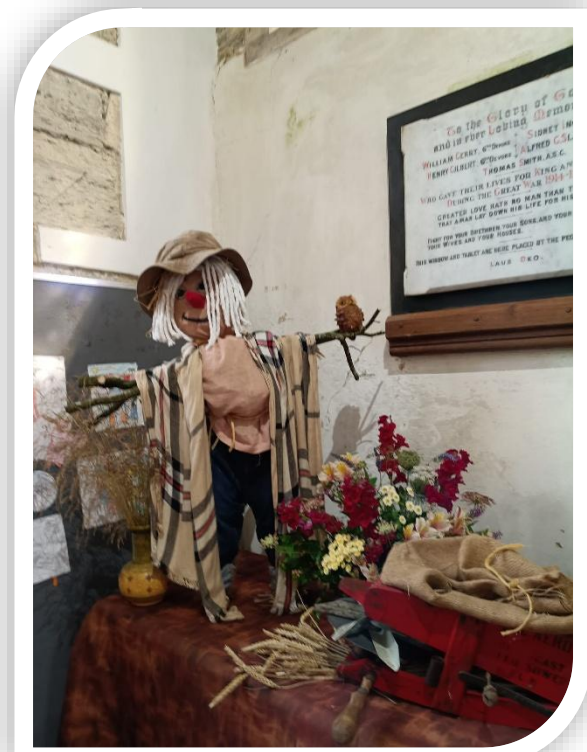
A big thank you to Ron Morley for the lovely photos, and a big thank you to all those who donated refreshments for the afternoon. I'm sure there will be another similar event coming along soon.

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 31

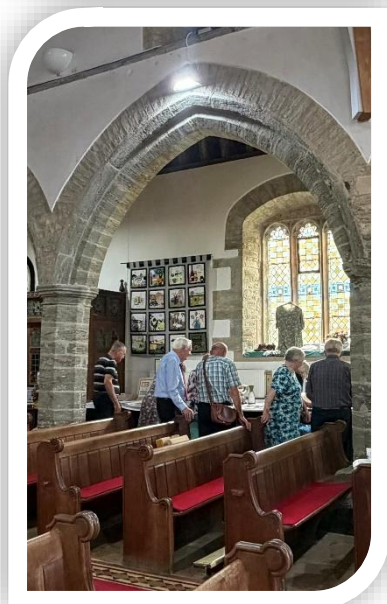


St. Swithun's Church, Pyworthy held its **Annual Patronal Festival** on the weekend of the 18th and 19th July. The Church was beautifully decorated, and the amazing weather brought a lot of people to the event.

The Rural Art group displayed their work from throughout the year; we have some very talented artist locally. Also, the flower displays and memorabilia in the theme of Vintage were much appreciated.



Thanks go to Martin for his photos,



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Pyworthy Poser Quiz For AUGUST 2026..

INVENTORS & CREATORS:

1. Who formed, in 1903, the "Women's Social & Political Union"?
2. The first successful power-driven airplane flight was by?
3. Who invented the telephone?
4. Who invented the first bagless vacuum cleaner?
5. Who invented the "Theory of Radioactivity"?
6. Elizabeth Magie originally invented what, in 1904?
7. In 1882, what did Maria Beasley (US inventor) creat
8. Garrett Morgan (African American) invented what road traffic device?
9. What did George Eastman invent?
10. Who patented the "dimple pattern" on a golf ball?



The answers will be in the next Pyworthy Post

By The Pyworthy Pilgrim

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 33

Pyworthy Rural Art Group

Pyworthy ART



I hope you are all coping with this lovely hot, sunny weather?

Thank you to all who exhibited in the church on the 18th & 19th July. We made a very lovely show of artwork that we had produced in our classes during the year. Also, thank you for your support of the exhibition.

I have had to alter the date for when we start back in September. It will now be the 15th and not the 8th.

If you are interested in painting or want to start a new hobby, why not come and join us. We meet in the Pyworthy Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

The programme of classes for September will be published in the next edition of your community paper.

For further information contact Janet Grant Tel: 01409 259356

Line Dancing!



LINE DANCE

New dancers always welcome!

**For more information call Brenda
on: 01409 253015**

Line Dancing Classes

Our Line dancing classes are held
on: **Mondays** in
Pyworthy Village Hall.

Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm.

Beginners/Improvers:

6.30pm – 7.30pm &

Intermediate level:

7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Intermediate level,
7.30pm – 9.30pm.

All classes cost just £5.

Come and join us!

Holsworthy History Society

The Holsworthy History Society met on Thursday 16th July and Simon Dell gave a talk on 'Sermons in Stone'. It was about the Reverend Edward Atkyns Bray who was born in Abbey House, Tavistock, now The Bedford Hotel, and was also the vicar of Tavistock's St Eustachius Church from 1812 until his death in 1857.

Bray was also a poet and was responsible for having some 25 stones and boulders on Dartmoor carved with the names of poets such as Shakespeare, Spencer and Horace, to name but three. Some of the stones were carved in Druidical Bardic scrips, an alternative alphabet to the Roman alphabet we use today.

The stones and boulders were all carved in the early 1800's and Simon has spent the last six years discovering them and bringing the carvings back to life.

This was a brilliant talk which gave us a fascinating insight into Reverend Bray's life and passion for all things poetic.

The Society does not meet in August so will next meet at 7.00pm on Thursday 10th September in the Manor Suite of the Holsworthy Memorial Hall when Marion Kneebone will be giving a talk on Roadford Reservoir. All are welcome to join us.

All are welcome, membership for the year is £25 payable by either cash, cheque or BACS (preferable) or £5 for visitors.

For more information about the History Society contact:

holsworthyhistorysociety@gmail.com

By Margaret Stacey

JULY'S PYWORTHY POSER QUIZ

ANSWERS:

1. St. Marys, Isles of Scilly (9-hole and very friendly Club).
2. Sandwich, Rye (ex-Romney after it was silted up),
Dover, Hythe & Hastings.
3. Newcastle upon Tyne.
4. Menai.
5. Isle of Mull.
6. Isle of Lewis.
7. Isle of Wight.
8. Camborne.
9. Chesil Beach.
10. Loughborough.



How did you do? Why not try this month's quiz on page 33.

Good luck from your Pyworthy Pilgrim.

ECLIPSE



On **August 12, 2026**, the UK will experience a massive partial solar eclipse, with the Moon obscuring between 91% and 93% of the Sun. This will be the deepest eclipse visible from the British Isles since the 1999 total solar eclipse.

Because the event takes place in the early evening shortly before sunset, finding a high point with a clear, unobstructed view of the western horizon will be essential.

Key Details for UK Locations:

- **Start Time:** Begins around 18:15 BST.
- **Maximum Eclipse:** Occurs roughly between 19:05 and 19:15 BST.
- **Event End:** Finishes shortly after 20:00 BST.

Estimated Obscuration by Region:

- **Cardiff & Belfast:** ~93%
- **London & Edinburgh:** ~91%
- **South West England (e.g., Cornwall): up to ~ 95%**

Celestial Double

The date of the eclipse overlaps directly with the peak of the Perseid meteor shower. Because a solar eclipse occurs at a new moon, skies will be naturally dark without lunar interference, leading to ideal, dark-sky viewing conditions for shooting stars later in the evening.

ECLIPSE & PERSEID METEOR SHOWER



Domestic Abuse Helpline

Phone: 0808 2000247 for free & confidential advice.

More information available online.

If in danger phone: 999

Banking Hub

OPEN AT:

1 The Depot, Lansdown Road, Bude.

Monday TSB

Tuesday Nat. West.

Wednesday Barclays

Thursday Barclays

Friday Lloyds

Banking Hub!

ActionFraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

0300 123 2040

CRIMESTOPPERS

0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about crime

Sunrise, Sunset Times for the coming month:

1st AUGUST 2026 (UK, Exeter) ☀ Sunrise time: 05.40am GMT 🌅 Sunset time: 20.59pm GMT 🕒 Length of day: 15 Hrs 18 mins.	31st AUGUST 2026 (UK, Exeter) ☀ Sunrise time: 06.26am GMT 🌅 Sunset time: 20.01pm GMT 🕒 Length of day: 13 hrs 35 mins
--	--

**Help our Village Hall while you
shop online - sign up today!**
More information at:
easyfundraising.org.uk

 easyfundraising
feel good shopping



**Help us raise
FREE donations**
every time you **shop online**

How to sign up

1. Visit easyfundraising.org.uk
2. Search for Pyworthy Village Hall and support our cause
3. Raise FREE donations for us when shopping



Scan me

4,500 online sites will give us a free donation
when you shop with them - at no extra cost to you!



Over £34 million raised

Trustpilot ★★★★★

1.9 million users



Torridge
District Council

Pyworthy Collections



**AUGUST 2026 - Pyworthy Village,
other villages may have a
different collection schedule.**

Black bag collection days are:

Friday 7th August

Friday 21st August



**Recycling- Every Monday,
Boxes/Bags & Food Caddy**

Weekly collection of 2 x boxes & 2
x bags. Weekly collection of food
waste in caddy.

Garden Waste Collection dates:

Monday 3rd August

Monday 17th August.

**For more information go
to: www.torridge.gov.uk**

Or phone:

01237 428700



Feeding Wild Birds

**Seasonal advice on how
to feed our local birds,
can be found by visiting
the RSPB website for more
detailed information.
Website: rspb.org.uk.**



No Website is Safe Anymore!

By Brian Meadows of Nofix-Nofee

The amount of our personal data washing around the world via internet harvesting companies is making many operators very rich and it stems from a simple coded program used to track everything you do on the internet, and if you are old enough to read and write, then your details are used by some entity. without your knowledge, and the sad thing is we all allow it to happen, when in fact we could stop much of it from taking place!

Ask yourself, do you use social media, shop online, bank online or contact your GP surgery online, then you are being tracked, that is you are monitored and everything you do, view or speak is monitored, don't believe me? Then why does almost every website use at least one tracker per webpage, some use 3 or 4, others over a dozen and each of these activates one or more trace elements which will have links to 2 or 3 other website servers somewhere in the world.

Trackers can be considered as elaborate cookies. Banks use cookies to quality your authenticity as do other institutions. Trackers are used by Harvesting companies to steal, poach, lift and record what you do, what you have, and who you communicate with. They can be constructed to masquerade as an innocent service provider, but under the cloak of helpfulness, they still remain a thief.

I use a simple extension on all my browsers and have installed the same on many of my customers computers.

There are two I use, one is Ghostery and the other is Badger, both are free extension and can be simply downloaded



and attached to any browser, so when viewing online you do it with a high degree of protection from thieves, hackers, scammers and the scum who want to profit from you! Anti-Virus programmes don't do this, so don't think you are already protected.

A few weeks ago, I, like hundreds of other residents in the area experienced a total outage in our BT/EE telephone and broadband service, this for some lasted 48 hours others not as long, but what was jointly experienced was the total isolation experienced without the all-necessary internet service we are all expected to use these days.

That meant no landline, no internet connection and although some had a mobile signal, when a few hundred people begin to use their mobile phones simultaneously, the signal drops out and for some their mobile phones were completely unusable.

OK, so it only lasted a few hours, but what if there was a catastrophic failure and the region was more populated, or major banking services or utility suppliers or distribution centres were affected and not for a few hours, but a few days or weeks? The way our service providers are set up that could happen all too easily.

...and what backup services are there in place if that should happen... absolutely NONE!

Continued on page 40.....

No Website is Safe Anymore!

Continued from page 39....

I am truly not a doom monger, but these things do need to be taken into consideration.

Nofix-Nofee Computer Repair Service. (nofix-nofee.com)



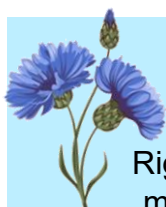
**South West
Water**

**Reservoir
Level**

South West Water state on their website that the Upper Tamar Lake reservoir, which supplies Pyworthy, was 90% full on the 12th July 2026.

Evelyn's Walks Update

*By Evelyn
Sharman,
Group
Organiser*



Right: a photo of
members of our
walking group, on land
belonging to
Ugworthy Barton



Given the recent heatwave, I had wondered how sensible it was to go ahead with the walk on Monday 13th July. However, I decided to leave it to everybody's individual decision bearing in mind that some people deal better with the heat than others. Personally, I don't deal with it particularly well, so I was grateful for the breeze that morning. Having checked with the Booking Clerk of Chilsworthy Village Hall, we met in the car park before setting off along The Willows & then along the BOAT (By-way Open to All Traffic) admiring the beautifully kept Village Green along the way. When we reached the road, with a view to turning right towards

the Chapel, a resident suggested that we should be aware of the speed that some cars drive through the village. He wasn't wrong! There is a 30-mph limit through the village but it was really quite scary when an oncoming car came around the corner. At this point, there is no pavement & we literally had our backs to a garden wall. Thankfully, the car did slow down but we felt much more at ease when we joined the footpath on the left at Quarry Park. The route took us across a couple of recently grazed grassy fields, through a self-closing gate in the left-hand corner of the field, across a **continued on page 41.....**

Evelyn's Walks report continued from page 40....

wooden footbridge over the stream & through another self-closing gate. How lovely not to have to negotiate stiles. The route was well-marked & took us across a couple of fields that had been cut & baled so it was easy walking. Another field hadn't been cut but a tractor had obviously driven across it recently & effectively marked out a track for us. The grass was full of insects including various moths & butterflies & pesky horseflies. We went through the gate in the far corner & turned right onto the road that goes between Chilsworthy & Bradworthy. It can be quite a busy road but in reality, we only had to walk approx. 100m before turning left along the lane that leads to Burnards House. We stopped for a while to look at the Tumuli in the adjacent fields. If you look at an OS map, they are marked as Ugworthy Barrow. We don't normally walk as far along lanes, especially on National Speed Limit routes but essentially, this is a country lane & enabled us to connect two footpaths (5 & 10) in the Parish of Holsworthy Hamlets. Most drivers were very courteous & we thanked them for their consideration as it wasn't much fun being backed up against verges full of nettles & brambles wondering whether some drivers were actually going to reduce their speed so that we felt safe. We passed the entrance to Thorne Farm on our right & then entered the drive heading towards Parnacott House. The footpath sign is at the end of the drive, but you have to look quite hard amongst the trees. We felt much more relaxed & cooler in the shade.

Amazingly, it was really quite muddy in places when we branched left & had to pick our way. The route then took us across the fields & we could see Mr Marshall's farm, so we knew we weren't far away from our cars. The circular route is approx. 3.75 miles & took a couple of hours.



**The next walk will be on
Monday 10th August.**

We'll be setting off from East Vognacott Farm near Chilsworthy at 10am with kind permission of the owners. You are very welcome to contact me if you need any information. Please share transport if you can.

**If you would like further
information, you are welcome to
contact me.**

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

Email:

evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com



**Bude
Lifeboat Day**

31st August 2026



**Lifeboats
BUDE**

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Contact your local Slimming World Consultant
and join a warm and friendly group today!

NEW VENUE

Bude

Bude Rugby Club
Wednesdays
5.30pm & 7.00pm

Holsworthy

Holsworthy Memorial Hall
Tuesdays
5.30pm & 7.00pm
Thursdays
9.00am & 10.30am



   slimmingworld.co.uk

The next edition
of Pyworthy Post
goes off to print

on:

**Wednesday 26th
August at 9am.**

Please email your
news as early as
possible.

Thank you.

View Pyworthy
Post online in
colour. Search:

[http://www.bit.ly
/post/py](http://www.bit.ly/post/py)

No Dog Fouling



Bag it - Bin it

More Useful Contact numbers:

 Holsworthy Food Bank: 
Tel: 01271 377077.

Holsworthy Community Fridge:
email:

mtrudgill@dmatschools.org.uk

Samaritans: Tel: 116 123

Age UK: Tel: 0800 055 6112



THINK — DO YOU KNOW THE
CALLER IS WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE?



 **Action Fraud**
UK's leading national reporting centre for fraud

Thorne Farm Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund Grants

Funds are available as a result of the wind turbine at Thorne Farm in Pancrasweek. Devon Community Foundation (DCF) administers The Thorne Farm Wind Turbine Benefit Fund for the benefit of the local parishes of Holsworthy Hamlets, Pancrasweek and Pyworthy. Local support is given by a panel of volunteers from the three parishes who make recommendations on grant decisions.

DCF is committed to making grants that best meet the needs of our communities and to support community organisations and projects within the following themes:

- Assisting families in need
- Bringing people together
- Developing life skills
- Enabling disabled people
- Encouraging safety and resilience
- Helping to find and /or keep a home
- Keeping people safe and well
- Training and work opportunity
- Promoting access to Arts, Culture, Nature...

Small grants of up to £5,000 are available throughout the year (larger amounts by exception). Organisations can apply to the fund once a year. To find out more about eligibility for the grants and submit an application, please visit the Devon Community Foundation Website:

<https://devoncf.com/grants/thorne-farm-wind-turbine-community-benefit-fund/>

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

50th Anniversary, Summer of 1976: August 1926 and August 1976 are iconic weather milestones. In August 1976, Britain was deep into an unprecedented, record-breaking drought that changed UK water management.

100th Anniversary, 8th August 1926 - 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Britain's 1st Grand Prix, held at the Brooklands race circuit. The original pioneering event, organised by the Royal Automobile Club in August 1926, laid the foundations for Grand Prix racing in Britain.

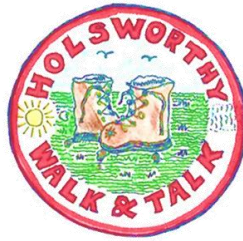
200th Anniversary, 10th August 1826 - Bicentenary of the First Cowes Week. The first official Cowes Regatta was held on the Isle of Wight, laying the foundation for the world's longest-running and largest sailing regatta.



Let's keep Pyworthy tidy!

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group

By Gill Aston



Why not scan
our QR code?
This will take you
to our website.



Whilst the extremely high temperatures over recent weeks have been causing problems across the country, with a few extra precautions of hats, suncream and water to drink, our walks have been able to continue and take advantage of the unseasonal sunshine.

A recent level 3 walk took us to Bratton Clovelly, a fairly new walk in our repertoire, and one of our more challenging routes. Starting from the village centre it was a circular route out on the northern side and in part along some of the old pack horse trail which used to run from Devon through to Cornwall. The village itself has a long history, being mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. The Parish Church, which is dedicated to St Mary, has many Norman features and is 15th century with the former village stocks now being preserved in the belfry. One picturesque cottage which we passed on our walk had the curious name of "Red Spider Cottage", the origins of which we have not been able to ascertain.

Our level 2 group had a very enjoyable walk in Bude, taking in part of Efford Down with a view out over Bude Bay. Again, another lovely sunny day and we could clearly see the radar dishes at GCHQ Morwenstow, to the north and the cliffs at Pencannow Point, Crackington Haven, to the south. Other walks have taken in Buckland

Filleigh, one of our favourite walks which is usually well supported and takes in the picturesque countryside through the grounds of Buckland House and surrounding countryside. This property also has roots back to Norman times when William the Conqueror gave some 5000 acres to one of his French friends, Sir William de Punchardon and it later passed into the Filleigh family of South Molton through marriage. We have also visited Hollacombe and Halwill Junction with other walks, so that throughout the year we try to cover the whole area.

For people who have been advised by their medical practitioners that it would benefit them to take up walking. We have walks every Monday based in Stanhope Park, Holsworthy, where we utilise the surfaced track around the Park. We meet up at the Youth Centre building which is next to the Primary School in Great Oak Meadow, Holsworthy. After walking there are refreshments in the Youth Centre. As your walking strength improves you can then move up to our levels 2 and 3 walks as appropriate.

If you would like to join us on any of our walks to visit local places, meet new people and enjoy the benefits of walking, our current programme of walks is available and published on our website. All our walks start at 10.30 and are **FREE**. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk or via the website. **continued on page 45..**

Holsworthy Walk & Talk group report continued from page 44....

Our website has lots of up-to-date information, together with our current programme of walks, with the details below.

Our AUGUST Programme of walks WITH: What3Words



Level 2 & 3 walks are every Friday at 10.30am.

All these walks aim to be completed in about 90 minutes.

AUGUST Walks: Walk starting points as indicated below:

Friday 7th August – Level 2: Clawton, starting at: the main Car Park. Leaders: Cheryl & Richard. EX22 6PS.
What3Words: [forkful.rules.panic](#)

Level 3: Highampton, starting at Windmilland Cross. Leaders: Jan & Sue. EX21 5JH. **What3Words:** [dried.yards.worthy](#)

Friday 14th August – Level 2: Lower Tamar Lake, starting at: Lower Tamar Car Park. Leaders: John & Mike J. EX22 7LB.

What3Words: [yacht.slippers.teams](#)

Level 3: Kilkhampton, starting at Football Club Car Park. Leaders: Eric & Kim. EX23 9QU.

What3Words: [upset.dormant.captions](#)

Friday 21st August – Level 2:

Witherdon Woods, starting at: Inside Main Car Park. Leaders: Paul & Richard. EX21 5TU.

What3Words: [shameless.candle.urban](#)

Level 3: Luffincott, starting at: Arscott Village Hall. Leaders: Gill & Sue. EX22 6QX.

What3Words: [reap.info.meanders](#)

Friday 28th August – Level 2: Meeth

Quarry, starting at: the Main Car Park. Leaders: Cheryl & Mike J. EX20 3ER.

What3Words: [stub.dockers.upcoming](#)

Level 3: Meeth Quarry, starting at: the main Car Park. Leaders: Eric & John. EX20 3ER.

What3Words: [stub.dockers.upcoming](#)

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group contact details:

Our website has lots of up-to-date information, together with our current programme of walks, details below:

holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com
<http://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Phone numbers:

Gillian Aston 07854677784 or
Mike Jackson 01409 261196 or
Paul Davies 07731 626594.



Right: our group at Bratton Clovelly, on the 3rd July.

On the front cover is a photo of our walkers at Efford Down in July.



Local Government Reorganisation is a Disaster for Rural Devon, Says Devon CPRE

The reorganisation of Devon into four unitary councils, announced by the government (16 July), is a bonanza for the three urban authorities created, and a disaster for the rest of rural Devon, according to Devon CPRE.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/government-confirms-four-unitary-model-local-government-reorganisation-devon/>

The proposals will create expanded authority areas for Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay, with the fourth authority left to cover all the rest of Devon.

Devon CPRE chairman Steve Crowther said, "Of course, the urban unitaries are welcoming this, because they've expanded their empires and claim they can cut council tax by removing costs. But what they are not telling you is that a vast rural area like Devon requires its few urban settlements to help pay the enormous costs of roads, education, social care etc in the 2,500 square miles that are left now they have opted out.

"This has been described as a disaster by all the leaders and representatives not involved in those three enclaves – because they know that an area stretching from Salcombe to Lynton, from Hartland to Axminster is going to have a monumental struggle to provide the services it needs without a significant urban contribution. Plus,

the 'Local Planning Authority' for many people will be 50 miles away.

"There are areas of rural Devon which have some of the lowest incomes in the entire country. Livestock-grazing farmers, of which Devon has a preponderance because of our world-beating pastureland, have seen their average incomes drop to less than £23,000 in recent years. You can make more on benefits, without having to work 12-hour days, 365 days a year to maintain this glorious Devon landscape that's loved and valued by people from all over England.

"This plan clearly demonstrates, yet again, that Westminster has no understanding whatever of what happens outside the cities, of the precarious economics of rural England in general and Devon in particular, and cares even less. Already, they have summarily and suddenly turned off the agricultural subsidies that many Devonian farmers depend on and hit them with Inheritance Tax on theoretically-valuable land that yields their families barely subsistence-level incomes.

"Devon depends heavily on landscape-based and coastal tourism – yet, at the same time, we're a top target for the government's new uses for our agricultural landscapes, **continued on page 47.....**

Local Government Reorganisation is a Disaster for Rural Devon, Says Devon CPRE continued from page 46.....

like massive solar farms and now, it appears, gigantic data centres and containerised battery 'parks' on our fields. Just the sort of things that we're already hearing are causing people to think twice about moving here, let alone coming here for their holidays. And the beneficiaries are huge corporate businesses and offshore investors, not the people whose land is being taken.

"The government really needs to tell us, without delay, how they are going to ensure that rural Devonians don't have a massive increase in their taxes in return for a reduction in essential services."

Photos of our beautiful Devon countryside by Sharon Goble



John Sanders Park Trust

Lottery 2026

Lottery tickets for the Park Trust lottery 2026 are now on sale. If you would like to buy a lottery number, please **contact Jane Oliver on 07500 834620** and make a BACS payment of £10 to the Park Trust bank account adding your name as the reference. Our trustees will also be selling numbers as usual. The first draw will take place soon. There are ten draws throughout the year each with prizes of £30, £20 and £10, so lots of chances to win.

All profits go towards the upkeep and costs of Pyworthy Park.

HOW TO BUY A £10 LOTTERY TICKET:

BACS Information:

If you wish to buy a draw ticket and wish to pay by BACS please do so, our Bank account details are below:

Barclays Bank Trustees Sanders Trust Pyworthy Playing Fields
Sort Code 20-04-59 Account number 10770388



Creative Craft Club

The afternoon craft club takes place in Pyworthy Village Hall on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of

No meetings until the 24th September!

all it costs!

Come along and join us, just bring your own craft project to do, & see what others are doing. Plenty of help available, if you have a problem with your craft project.

**Phone Marie on:
01409 254924**

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**Coming to the Village Hall on
WEDNESDAY 15th AUGUST!**

REMINDER - Potters Fish 'n' Things

By popular request, Potters have agreed to set up shop in the Village Hall Car Park, 4.30pm-7.00pm every 3rd WEDNESDAY of each month, for the foreseeable future.

To pre order, head to their website:

www.pottersfishnthings.co.uk

OR alternately just turn up on the night.



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Computer Repairs Nofix – Nofee Repair Service, Brian 07534804101
Decorating & Property Maintenance Julian Lapham 07765626069
Driving Tuition Evelyn Sharman 01409 259848/07885352082
Double Glazing M.A.G. Double Glazing Repairs 07969 234161
Electrical Contractors..... Algo Electrical Contractors01409 254595
Estate Agents Kivells 01409 253888
Funeral Directors Arthur W. Bryant Funeral Service 01409 253000
Funeral ServicesDenise Wellington Funeral Services 01288 359277
Foot Care Kate Lord: 07557379099 Email: katescompletfeet1@gmail.com
General Builder James Mansell - General Builder 07896945889
Grass cutting & garden maintenance Antony Jarvis, 07990016467 (very busy)
Gun Club (Airgun) West Devon Airgun Club, Nigel Palmer: 07488339351
Heating Engineer Greg 01409 478198
British Hedgehog Preservation Society.....Bob Gelder, 01409-253791
Herbalist Diana Lee, Registered Medical Herbalist 01409 254450
Holsworthy Private Dental Care 01409 255525
Holsworthy Golf Club.....01409 253177
Holsworthy Library 01409 253514
Holsworthy Medical Centre 01409 253692 **District nurses** 01409 255134
Holsworthy Post office & Sorting Office 01409 253608/01409 253236
Holsworthy Rural Community Transport team ... 01409 259001
Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group ...Gill Aston 07854677784
John Sanders Park Trust Jane Oliver on 07500 834620
Line Dancing Group Brenda Martin 01409 253015
MOT & Garage Services ...Pyworthy MOT Ltd, Simon Martin 01409 254275
National Grid (report a problem line) National Grid is on 0800 032 0311
Oil Fired boilers & tanks/service & installations Greg 01409 478198
Police Non-urgent phone calls 101/email devon-cornwall.police.uk
Pyworthy Village Hall Bookings: Marie Heard 01409 254924
Pyworthy PostEmail Marion: pyworthy@post.com
Pyworthy Parish Council Simon Davies, Clerk to the council on: 07989747416.
Renewable Energy/replacement windows Renew SW Ltd, 01409 253533
Round Baling Stan Hopper 01409 253412
Stove SupplierCBL Stoves, call Carl on 01288381852 www.cblstoves.co.uk
Therapeutic Treatments CN Holistics 01288 381201
Torridge District Council www.torridge.gov.uk 01237 428700

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Tower Computer Systems for OAPs in Need!

I have a small quantity of refurbished tower computers with Windows 11 installed. I will gift these to OAP's experiencing financial difficulties free of charge (this offer does not include keyboard, mouse or monitors).

The conditions are primarily that they should be sponsored, and if delivering, installing and transferring data a small charge will be made to cover basic costs.

Phone Brian Meadows:

Tel: 01288 381061.

Save Your Used Stamps for the Hedgehogs!



British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Macmillan no longer sells used stamps, but Bob has found another very worthwhile charity, who can make use of our stamps.

Please Save your used Postage Stamps!

Used National & International stamps can be recycled.

They will be used to generate income for the

British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

Simply pop stamps into an envelope

and drop off at:

**9 Shortlands, Pyworthy or
Sunnymead, Pyworthy.**

Thank you!



EVELYN SHARMAN

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Mobile: 07885 352 082

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

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- Wood & Ceramic beams & surrounds
- Floating Shelves



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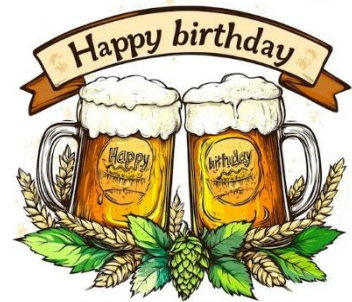
WHO'S CELEBRATING THIS MONTH?



BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

- 2nd Wendy Brennan
- 4th Myrtle Harris
- 5th Bethany Lock
- 6th Jill Lapham
- 8th Isaac O'Farrell
- 9th Jean Thripp
- 14th Annellie Francis
- 16th Catherine Skinner, Natasha Peddle, and Evie Chandler-Galt
- 17th Tegan Holdaway
- 21st Chris Martin, Dean Piercey
- 23rd Ellie Burnard
- 24th Paul Quick, Lacey Francis
- 25th Natalia Abell
- 27th Tim Kirkwood
- 28th Jack Rose, Emily Stevenson
- 30th Finley Weekes



Community Birthday list

New Residents of Pyworthy Parish, please feel welcome to add your birthdays to our community list.

Road Closures: There are no major specific major road closures published directly within Holsworthy town for August 2026, but notable nearby regional disruption includes:

- **Launceston Resurfacing Works:** Multiple road closures (Dutson Road, St Stephen's Hill, West Bridge Road, Roydon Road) from August 17 to August 28, 2026, operating nightly from 7:00 PM to 6:00 AM with extensive diversions.
- **Bude Gas Mains & Cross Closures:** Holnicote Road closed from August 3 to September 4, and the road from Stursdon Cross to Coombe closed from August 10 to August 14. Information sources online.

**AUGUST
2026**



Nature Notes

By Bryony Rylett

"Because a community is more than just people."

Bow Wow Wow, Sex Pistol Manager, Malcolm McLaren's spin-off band, reached number seven in the UK singles chart, in 1982, with a song called 'Go Wild in the Country' containing the lyrics: "Wild, Go Wild! Go wild in the country, Where snakes in the grass are absolutely free".

Bow Wow Wow were probably not thinking of Pyworthy country when they created their chaotically energetic and uniquely musical record but there *are* snakes in the grass and in the ponds and lakes here. Whether they are 'absolutely free' to roam and live their best lives, however, is debatable.

The snake you are most likely to encounter slithering through the grass in Pyworthy is the **Grass Snake**, *Natrix natrix*, Britain's largest and most populous snake.

Despite topping the snake population table, they are listed as "declining" by the Biodiversity Action Plan according to the Freshwater Habitats Trust.



Above: A Grass Snake basking in the sun in the buffer strip* of a Pyworthy field

Mature Grass Snakes are Britain's longest snake, ranging in length from 90 to 150cm and weighing up to 240g.

Information on the life span of Grass Snakes differs but the consensus is they can live up to 25 years but are more likely to live for an average of nine years if unpredated.

Grass Snakes vary in colour but are mainly greyish-green with two yellow or white patches that encircle the neck. Black bars usually mark the flank and there are black dots along the greenish back. The belly has patterned black and grey marks (see photo). The pupils of Grass Snakes are round and their heads are oval.

During their lives they shed or 'slough' their skin between three and 12 times a year. Before shedding their usual colouration **Continued on page 55....**

Nature Note – AUGUST continued from page 54.....

turns dull and dark and their eyes mist over. They bear their brightest colours after sloughing.

Grass Snakes are non-venomous and harmless to human beings although they do emit an unpleasant, smelly liquid if threatened by anyone getting too close or trying to handle them. They may also feign death by lying on their backs with their tongues hanging out should they feel threatened by predators.

All snakes in the UK are protected by law under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. It is illegal to kill, injure or sell Grass Snakes and their potential presence must be considered and mitigated for should any work be likely to disturb them or their habitat.

Grass Snakes are not found in Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isles of Scilly or the Channel Islands apart from Jersey.

In spring Grass Snakes emerge from hibernation, from places such as tree roots and wall crevices to feed and bask in the warmth of the early morning sun.

They are sun worshippers and rely entirely on external heat sources to regulate their body temperature. Basking helps them to hunt and digest food. If it gets too hot, they will seek out shade.

The slithering motion of snakes is enabled by a series of scales that span the width of their bellies. These scales have sharp, rear edges that cut into the ground creating grip enabling forward movement.

American poet Emily Dickinson described a grass snake as: 'a narrow fellow in the grass.'

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 55

Grass Snakes' preferred habitats are damp grass, ditches, pond banks and slow moving streams; they are drawn to water and are strong swimmers. They hunt in ponds and streams and can eat tadpoles underwater while they bring larger prey, such as frogs and newts, ashore to digest.

During June and July, female Grass Snakes may have travelled up to two kilometres to find a suitable site, such as a compost or manure heap, to lay her eggs. They are larger than the males that may be seen 'darting' their tongues, scenting the air, during the courting period.

The need to feed, procreate and find suitable places to lay eggs means that sometimes, just like other mammals, amphibians and insects, Grass Snakes have to cross roads unaware of the danger posed by vehicles.



Above: 'S' For Snake. An unlucky Grass Snake on the road near Beaworthy

continued on page 56..

Nature Note – AUGUST continued from page 55.....

A number of females may choose the same egg-laying site resulting in numerous batches of matt-white eggs, measuring some 3cm in girth, being laid in sticky clusters in the same place. An individual female may lay up to 40 eggs.

Grass Snakes are the only British snakes to lay eggs; Adders and Smooth Snakes give birth to live young.

During August and September young Grass Snakes emerge, sometimes en masse, from their warm and safe nurseries. They 'escape' from their eggs by using an egg-tooth on their snout; this is shed a few days after hatching.

This simultaneous hatching of numerous pencil-thin snakelets from nest sites has resulted in tales of snake 'plagues'.

Gardeners and farmers are encouraged by wildlife organisations to avoid disturbing compost and manure heaps during August and September when Grass Snake eggs may be hidden inside but if this is unavoidable to at least proceed with caution when forking through.

Much mythology is attached to Grass Snakes in the Baltic countries of Lithuania and Latvia. Here they are considered a sacred animal of the sun goddess Saulė and guardians of the home and symbols of fertility.

In the past they were kept as pets and placed around the hearth or underneath the beds of married couples. Their presence was thought to imbue great fortune, bountiful harvests and fecundity.

It was also traditional to leave out bowls of milk near the known habitations of Grass Snakes in the hope the snakes would befriend and 'bless' those making the offering.

Killing them had the opposite outcome as expressed in these Latvian folk sayings:

"Who kills a Grass Snake kills his happiness" and "when Saulė sees a dead Grass Snake she cries for nine days."

These folk sayings are important to this day and Grass Snake motifs, representing education and wisdom, can be found throughout the region.



**Above: A Thick-Legged Flower Beetle on
a Meadow Thistle near Statfold Wood,
Hollacombe.**

Like Grass Snakes, jewel-like, **Thick-Legged Flower Beetles**, *Oedemera nobilis*, are **continued on page 57..**

Nature Note – AUGUST continued from page 56.....

sun worshippers and may be seen on bright, sunlit days when the weather is warm or hot.

Thick-Legged Beetles are also known as: **Swollen Thigh Beetles** and **False Blister Beetles**. Their name derives from the bulbous femora (thigh) of the hind legs of the male beetle that give them the appearance of body builders.

They are members of the Oedemeridae family and are part of the larger, Coleoptera group of insects that form 40% of the planet's 'described' insects.

Beetles make up a quarter of all classified life forms on earth and according to Sussex Wildlife Trust: "Beetles are ultimately the most dominant, species-rich terrestrial organisms on the planet, fulfilling a huge variety of pivotal ecological roles".

Adult Thick-Legs that emerged in spring are now busy, on warm and sunny days, visiting plants such as umbellifers, brambles and oxeye daisies and feeding on pollen. They are also found in most habitats where suitable open-faced flowers grow.

Measuring some 6-11mm they are insects of grassland and meadow. Originally, they were only found in Southern England but have now become widespread.

While relatively common, although their conservation status is "not evaluated", according to the Buglife website, they are nevertheless eye-catching and stand out from other more drab beetle species with their dazzling, metallic green/coppery

wing cases known as elytra. These wing cases are narrow and don't meet in the middle leaving the wing membrane exposed.

Thick-Legged Beetles lay their eggs in the dry stems of plants such as thistles and brooms. The larvae stay cocooned inside the stems safe from predators such as birds and amphibians until ready to emerge.

While focussing on just two species: Grass Snakes and Thick -Legged Beetles these two species demonstrate perfectly the interconnectivity of all lifeforms.

Thick-Legged Beetles, like other insects, feed on and pollinate flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees they, in turn, provide food for amphibians that then form part of the diet of Grass Snakes. Losing one or more animals in even a small food chain, such as the one described above, threatens the balance and continued existence of all species.



Bude Farmers & Craft Market

We be held every Friday
10am until 3pm, until September.

The Green at Lower Wharf, right
alongside the canal and in front
of the artisan workshops, the
market offers a fantastic setting.

[https://budefarmersandcraftmark
et.co.uk/](https://budefarmersandcraftmarket.co.uk/)



The paper will go to print on:
Wednesday 26th August! Please
make sure your input is received
before this date, thanks.

Diary dates this month:

(Dates & events were correct at the time of printing)

Holsworthy Walk & Talk group enjoy a walk every Friday, see their programme on pages 44 & 45. Also, members take a short walk in Stanhope Park on Mondays.

Friday 31st July – Sunday 2nd August – Torbay Steam Fair

Friday 31st July – Village Hall Social Club evening from 7pm – Play Your Cards Right evening.

Saturday 1st August – Lammas Day

Thursday 6th August – North Devon Show at Umberleigh.

Friday 7th August - Village Hall Social Club evening from 7pm until late.

Friday 7th August – Sunday 9th August – Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

Friday 7th August - Saturday 29th August - The 2026 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Sunday 9th August – Bude Summer Food Festival at The Castle, 10am – 5pm.

Monday 10th August – Evelyn's Walks group will set off from East Vognacott Farm near Chilsworthy at 10am.

Wednesday 12th August – partial solar eclipse

Thursday 13th August – Okehampton Show

Friday 14th August - Village Hall Social Club evening from 7pm until late.

Saturday 15th August – Dawlish Carnival weekend & VJ Day

Friday 21st August – Monday 24th August - Torbay Royal Regatta

Saturday 22nd August until 5th September – Pyworthy Scarecrow Trail, see page 3

Thursday 27th August – Holsworthy & Stratton Show

Monday 31st August – RNLI, Lifeboat Day in Bude.

Forthcoming Events in 2026:

Saturday 5th September – Annual Village Show in Village Hall – see page 2.

Thursday 10th September - Holsworthy History Society, 7pm in the Manor Suite, Memorial Hall, Holsworthy, a talk by Marion Kneebone on Roadford Reservoir.

Thursday 24th September – Pyworthy Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Saturday 24th October – Children's Halloween Craft Session in the Village Hall.

Saturday 31st October – Halloween Line Dance Party in the Village Hall.

Saturday 21st November – Children's Christmas Craft Session in the Village Hall.

Saturday 5th December - NOT THE COWBOYS, will be entertaining in the Hall.



Enjoy your
summer!



“A BIG thank you to everybody”

The show will be back next year!



Thank you to all those people who supported the 1st Pyworthy Country Show in June.

An amazing **£1034.25** was raised for Parkinson's Devon, a very worthwhile charity. A cheque was presented to representatives of the charity by Eileen, the show's organiser.



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