PYWORTHY POST



BREAKING NEWS!

The SHOCKING truth about pollution in our area. Read all about it

Read online at:

https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/
and view the paper in full colour.

March 2025 Issue number 337



WHO'S CELEBRATING

THIS MONTH?





3rd Kirsty Rubery

4th Bradley Glessing, Grace Ross

6th Millie Palmer, Samuel Richardson

9th Alex Marsh

10th Faye Piercey, Pat Godfrey

11th Curtis Fairbrass

12th Chris Hopper, Ian Edwards

13th Jean Horwood

14th Chris Durant, Luke Bowden, Charlie Greenaway

16th Wendy Ward

19th Gary Burnard

20th Rob Moore

22nd Arthur Burnard, Pat Whitaker

24th Harriet Oliver, Thomas Rose, Jackie Moores,

Terry Godfrey, Emma Francis

26th Gerald Gulliver, Callum Lock

27th Angela Markus

29th Sarah Foote

30th Louis Durant

31st Marie Heard, Ross Daniel, Harry Lawman

Community Birthday <u>list</u>

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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS AND FAMILY OCCASIONS

To Marion Ravn, Wishing you a very Happy Mother's Day!
Thank you for everything you do for us. Love from all your family xxx



Welcome to the MARCH Edition

By Marion Ravn

I apologise for such an appalling image on the front cover this month, which horrified me when I received it. Not very good for the environment, or the local tourist industry. Let's hope S.W.W. tackle the issue soon.

Dr. Reg Godwin, a resident of Hopworthy, and a retired Vet with a keen interest in wildlife and the local environment, has written an 'eye-opening' article, highlighting the contamination issues. Read more on pages 24 & 25.

The highlight of the month at the Village Hall will be "An Evening with Rupert Kirkwood" on the 28th March. When he will talk about his amazing encounters around our coastline. This is a fund-raising event for the Hall's next big project.

Please note the Village Hall has its AGM on Wednesday 23rd April, if you'd like to attend. Also, our Church has its Annual Parochial meeting on the 17th March at 7.30pm in the Church.

The first Village Show meeting has recently taken place and the date of our annual show is the 6th September. I have printed the classes in the Photographic category on page 44. This will give you the opportunity to take a few snaps during the year in preparation for the show.

We welcome aboard a new advertiser this month, Ruby UK Ltd – see their advert on page 55.

Keep the news and articles coming in. Email: pyworthy@post.com

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Holsworthy Library

Tel: 01409 253514. Email: holsworthy.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

www.discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Also, Holsworthy Library on Facebook and Instagram

WHAT'S ON AT HOLSWORTHY LIBRARY - MARCH 2025

- Lloyds Bank Community Banking session, Monday 3rd & 17th & 31st - 2pm-4pm
- Songs & Lyrics of Bob Dylan with Gary McCausland, Wednesday 5th - 7pm, booking essential, £3
- Bounce & Rhyme, Thursday 6th, 20th & 27th 2:15pm -2:45pm (term time only)
- Scams Awareness! Free workshop with Navigate, Friday 7th -10am-12pm
- Book Bingo Afternoon Tea, Monday 10th 2:30pm-3:30pm
- Home Education Social Club, Monday 17th 10am-12pm
- Spring Wreath Workshop with Trigon Farm, Tuesday 18th -5:30pm-7:30pm, booking essential £5
- The Goat Show Bounce & Rhyme Takeover (2:15-2:24) & After School Drop in Crafts (3:30-4:30), Thursday 20th.
- Digital Workshop with Learn Devon: Sending & Receiving Email, Friday 21st - 10am-12pm. Free but booking essential.
- Community Seed Swap, Saturday 22nd 10:30am-12:30pm
- Creative Workshop with the Resource Centre, Friday 28th 10:30-12:30, booking essential, £2
- Antiques Valuation, Saturday 29th 10:30-12:30, Free drop in

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY THE

13TH MARCH FOR OUR ALL-STAFF CONFERENCE
Free hot drinks available during opening hours. Most events are free but, donations always welcome holsworthy.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk 01409 253514



To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk











TORBAY COUNCIL

Opening Hours:

Monday 2pm-5pm **Tuesday Closed** Wednesday 10am-6pm

Thursday 10am-5pm Friday 10am-1pm (additional hours until 25th April 2025)

Saturday 10am-1pm - Sundays Closed.

N.B. The Library will be closed on Thursday the 13th March.









United Benefice of Holsworthy

Rector: Revd Alison Hardy, Churchwarden: Position vacant



Benefice Services for MARCH

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

Sunday 2 nd March Sung Eucharist Sung Eucharist Sung Eucharist Family Service N T.00pm Ash	30am Mass 2 noon Ash		
March Sung Sung Eucharist Eucharist Family Service No. 200 Sung Eucharist Eucharist Eucharist Sung Eucharist Eucharist Eucharist Sung Eucharist Eucharist Eucharist Sung Eucharist Eucharist Sung Eucharist Eucharist Sung Eucharist Su	Mass P. noon Ash		
Eucharist Eucharist Wednesday 5th March Ash	! noon Ash		
Wednesday 7.00pm 12 5 th March Ash	Ash		
5 th March Ash	Ash		
5 th March Ash	Ash		
· ·	dnesday		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ervice		
•	00pm		
	ensong		
Prayer Eucharist Eucharist			
Sunday 16 th 11.00am 9.30am 9.3	30am		
	Mass		
in Methodist 3.00pm Eucharist	V1033		
Church LYCIG			
	00pm		
	ition of		
the	e Cross		
Sunday 23 rd 11.00am 9.30am			
March All Age Morning	_		
Eucharist Prayer			
CAFÉ CHURCH			
OUR FUN-FILLED ALL-AGE SERVICES			
9.30am – All Age service at Pancrasweek			
Sunday 30 th 10.00am 9.30am			
March Mothering Mothering	N.		
Mother's Day Sunday Sung Sunday Sung			
Eucharist Eucharist			

Church news can be found on page 26 and Church contact information is on page 32. Notice of the Annual Parochial meeting is on page 30.

Pyworthy Village Hall News

Martin Brennan, Chairman

Village Hall Annual General Meeting

The year 24/25 has indeed, yet again, been a very successful year for the Hall. We've managed to keep our Hire charges the same as previous years which has resulted in increased bookings and retaining our existing groups. Pub Nights and our Social Events have been very well attended. The installation of the Solar Panels has proved to be very cost effective with the intention of generating an income from them in the not-too-distant future! We've also added Dado Rails to the Skittle Alley and the Main Hall. As well as New Stage Curtains, Sanding and Re-polishing the Main floor.

A Huge Thanks to All Concerned

Village Hall 40th Anniversary Celebrations on 12th April 2025

As we speak the Team are actively putting together a program of events to help us celebrate the Hall's 40th birthday. I am sure there are many of you here in the Village who have fond memories and many stories to tell about Village Hall Life over the years. So why not come along and share them with us during the afternoon and evening. It promises to be a **Celebration** to remember!

For details of both events see pages 29 & 30.

Our Next Meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 23rd April 2025. The meeting will start at 7.30pm. All Welcome.

Our AGM this year will be held on Wednesday 23rd April @7.30pm

As you are all aware the Hall plays a very important and integral part of Village life here in Pyworthy. We are always looking for new ideas and especially **New Members** so that we can carry on and improve upon what we have got and that is a vibrant **Village Hall**. So, it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible attend.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect members to represent the Hall throughout the coming year.

Nominations are therefore invited for the following positions: -

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

Please forward all nominations to Janet Grant via email: -

artyjan43@gmail.com

by Monday 21st April 2025

Or complete the **nomination form on page 8** and drop it through the Village Hall letterbox by no later than Monday 21st April 2025.

Many thanks.

Not to be Missed - Friday 28th March

An evening of fascinating tales from The Lone Kayaker and local hero:

RUPERT KIRKWOOD

Doors open at 7.30pm for light refreshments: Tea/Coffee/Biscuits The talk starts at 8.00pm approx.

All proceeds in aid of Pyworthy Village Hall

Tickets can be booked in advance by telephoning Marie on 01409 254924 or can also be purchased on the Night @ £5.00 PP.

See page 28 For further details.

Pyworthy Village Hall continued ...



Village Hall Pub



Night!



This month our Social Evenings are:

Friday the 14th MARCH

No single drink will cost you more than £3.00.

Rupert Kirkwood on Friday 28th March.

We look forward to seeing you All 🥂 🧽 🧼

Doors/Bar Opens at 7pm until late.

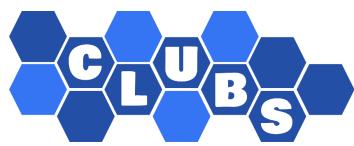
Everybody is welcome, come along and have a good time.

Dates for your Diary.



Our next meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 23rd April at 7.30pm.

Please feel welcome to join us.



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

Mondays: Line Dancing Club:

Complete Beginners: 5.30pm – 6.30pm Beginners/Improvers, 6.30pm – 7.30pm Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

> **Tuesdays:** Rural Art Group, 2.30pm – 4.30pm. All abilities welcome.

<u>Tuesdays</u>: Line Dancing Club, Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

<u>Tuesday evenings</u>: 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.

<u>Thursdays</u>: Coffee Mornings – 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month, from 11.10am. Everybody welcome!

<u>Thursdays</u>: Creative Craft Club – 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. (NEW DAYS)

Sundays: Children's Ballroom and Latin Dance Class -10.00am until 11.00am.

Please see club adverts throughout the paper, for contact details.

Pyworthy Rural Art Group

Pyworthy ART



As I write this the sun is shining and the Snowdrops are out, hopefully the spring is not too far away.

Art classes are going well with lots of exciting new skills to learn. Why not come and join us?

We meet every Tuesday in the Pyworthy Village Hall at 2.30pm until 4.30pm. All abilities are welcome.

Our programme for Tuesdays in March:

4th March Pencil drawing of hands & feet
11th March Reflections in water, in watercolour paints
18th March Spring flowers in watercolour paints
26th March A cottage scene in watercolour paints.



Please bring your own materials, if you have them, and a drink.

For further information contact Janet Grant Tel: 01409 259356.

The Village Hall Committee Nomination Form can be found below.

Register your nominations with Janet Grant via email: - artyjan43@gmail.com
Or complete the nomination form below and drop it through the Village Hall letterbox by no later than Monday 21st April.

Thank you. Martin Brennan, Chairman.

Pyworthy Village Hall Committee Nomination Form – see page 5.

I nominate:		for the position of
	Chairman / Treasurer / Secretary.	
I nominate:		for the position of
	Chairman / Treasurer / Secretary.	
I nominate:		for the position of
	Chairman / Treasurer / Secretary.	
Signed:	Dated:	
Please print name:		
Address		

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 8

Gill's Golden Gang

Strength & Balance Exercise Class for the over 55's!

Held at:

Tuesday: Holsworthy
Scout Hut
10.30am to 11.30am &
12 noon to 1.00pm.

Thursdays: Pyworthy
Village Hall
10.00am to 11.00am.

Halwill Baptist Chapel Hall 12.45pm to 1.45pm.

Contact Gill Aston on: 07854677784 for more information.



VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING GROUP

Come along and join us at 11.10am on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each 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.



My Electricity Industry Recollections What is Electricity, and How does it work?

By Mike Godfrey

Before I get too deeply in with my exploits as an electrical engineer, I thought it might be appropriate to explain what electricity is and how it works for us all in various ways.

We are generally all familiar with water, which we can all see and feel and generally it doesn't do us too much harm and indeed it is an essential component for all life to exist. Similarly, we all understand what a gas is and that it has to be contained in pipes and pressure vessels and although we can't generally see it, if we ignite it, it will burn with a visible flame which provides us with heat and energy. From explosions that have occurred over the years we all know that it can be very dangerous and has to be treated with extreme caution.

However, with electricity we can't see it, it is truly invisible, but if we touch it we can certainly feel it if the voltage is high enough. Indeed, electricity can be just as dangerous as gas if not more so! Strangely enough there are many similarities between water, gas and electricity and it is sometimes easier to explain how electricity works by drawing parallels with water or gas. For instance, electrical voltage is the same as pressure in water or gas Voltage and pressure are system. both a driving force. In water and gas the higher the pressure the more water or gas will flow through a given pipe, similarly the higher the voltage on a given cable or circuit the more



electrical current will flow through it. electrical current will flow through it. Again, with water, if you increase the pressure the water flow will increase and say fill a bucket in a shorter time than if the water pressure was lower. With electricity if you increase the voltage, again it will increase the current flow to say an immersion heater and it will heat the tank up in a shorter time. In both cases you are effectively transmitting energy moving the water from the pumping station to your bucket and moving electricity from the electrical generator to the immersion heater.

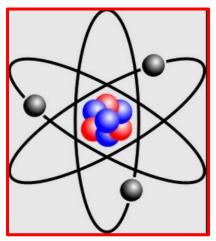
So, given the above, what is electricity? Well, what it isn't, is a tangible substance like water or gas and yet it is all around us in various forms. All animals, including us humans, use electricity to function. To move our arms and leg or blink an eye we send an electrical signal from our brain which in turn causes a muscle to contract or relax according to what we require a body to do. Indeed, there are very many such signals going on all the time.

So just what is electricity? We all know that everything including us is made up of atoms in various arrangements. These atoms consist mainly, believe it or not of empty space but the atom does continued on page 11

What is Electricity and How does it work continued

contain of 3 subatomic particles protons, neutrons and known as electrons. The protons and neutrons form the atom's central nucleus with the electrons circling around. Just like we orbit around the sun. The nucleus has a positive charge, whereas the electrons have negative charge. These opposite charges enable the nucleus and the electrons to bond together. Different elements have different numbers, protons, neutrons and matching numbers of electrons. In turn these elements form and bond together to form all materials and life forms on the planet and through space as far as we know. The atoms which make up the various elements different strength bonds have between their nucleus and their electrons. Some atoms with a weak bond make it easy to tear the electrons away, others have extremely strong bonds, and it is virtually impossible to tear electrons away from the nucleus. Those with weak bonds are classed as good electrical conductors and those with strong bonds are known as good electrical insulators.

If we then apply a voltage (pressure) across say copper wire, which has



Left – an atom

More from Mike next month!

weak bonds, the electrons move quite easily, and it is this flow of electrons that is in fact electricity. We have learnt to harness conducting materials and insulating materials to control the flow of electricity and to enable it to transmit energy for lighting, heating and to provide motive power such as electric motors. Nobody has ever invented electricity, but we have invented ways to generate it and make it work for us in many ways.

A simple example of this, is the flex on your electric kettle. Inside there are copper wires which conductors, each surrounded by PVC or rubber both good insulators. The flow of electrons passes easily down the wire without straying, because it is contained by the insulation material, until it reaches the heating element, which is a material which is neither an insulator nor a good conductor. When the flow of electrons reaches this resistance, they have to work much harder to tear away from the nucleus. In doing so, they create heat and boil the water in your kettle.

Here endeth the physics lesson, which I hope has at least been a bit enlightening, but I did warn you in the introduction last time, that it might be a bit technical and possibly boring on occasions. However, I thought it was worth struggling through it to make what I have to say in the future a bit more understandable. Hopefully next time it should be mainly downhill as I start my career as an Electrical Engineer.

Right – an electrical Arc





EVELYN SHARMAN

Professional Driving Tuition (DVSA ADI)

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Mobile: 07885 352 082

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

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- Pots, Cowls & Bird guards Fitted.

All types of Appliances & Flues Swept & Serviced. Traditional & Power sweeping Techniques Chimney CCTV Surveys/Bird Nests Removed.



24 Hours Emergency Service Call: 01409 240138 or 07984 406290



Pyworthy MOT Ltd



Typical opening hours depending on school times and holidays.

Monday: 9.00am until 1.00pm

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.

For all your servicing and general repairs, MOTs and MOT work.

M.O.T.s can be booked 30 days in advance of
expiry, so booking early can catch and give
time to repair, unknown faults and problems.

Call Simon - Tel: 01409 254275
Courtesy car available.

Holsworthy History Society'meets at 7.00 pm on the second Thursday of the month in the Manor Suite, which is behind the Memorial Hall in Holsworthy. There are talks about local history and talks relating to history further afield. The next few talks are:

- * 13th March Winston Churchill, his later years by David Kendrick
- * 10th April The Royal Navy by Paul Fitzpatrick
- 8th May Holsworthy Court Leet by Richard H Brown.

For more information contact: Julia Warren – 079388 33425 or

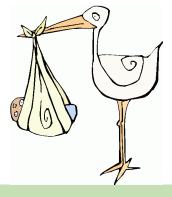
holsworthyhistorysociety@gmail.com

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

FEBRUARY'S PYWORTHY POSER ANSWERS:

- 1. Mexico
- 2. Jamaica
- 3. England (Paddington, London)
- 4. U.S.A. (1940's- 1960's)
- 5. Pakistan
- 6. England (Portsmouth)
- 7. Somalia
- 8. Canada
- 9. Scotland
- 10. Iceland
- 11. Denmark
- 12. Brazil
- 13. India

Pyworthy Pilgrim.



The next Poser quiz is on page 37.

A big thank you to the Pyworthy Pilgrim.

Line Dancing!



New Members welcome.



For more information call Brenda on: 01409 253015

Line Dancing Classes

Our Line dancing classes are held

on: Mondays in

Pyworthy Village Hall.

Complete 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!



Our walk on Monday 10th February was the first one of 2025. Seven of us met at Devon Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserve at Dunsdon in Pancrasweek. I have to admit that it isn't the easiest place to find & I commend everyone for finding it. It was one of those really grey days with a chilly wind, so everyone was well wrapped up. We walked along the track from the car park back to the lane & turned right towards Lana. We could see St. Pancras Church in the distance, but we couldn't enjoy the far-reaching views that we would have done on a clear day. At the point where the lane went round a left-hand bend, we turned right & then joined the footpath on the right. This is a lovely level walk alongside the Bude Aqueduct, the feeder arm of the Bude Canal. There was evidence that volunteers have been busy recently along the route. Given the rate that everything grows, it's no mean feat to keep the route accessible. It goes all the way to Lower Tamar Lake so it's quite a distance to look after. We were all surprised that it wasn't muddy underfoot. We noted that the galvanised gates now have labels on them enabling us to identify our position along the route. There are strategically placed benches so that walkers can rest awhile & enjoy the tranquility. We didn't meet anyone. We walked as far as Puckland Farm & then turned right along the lane. When we reached the T-junction, we



Above: Evelyn's Walkers in the Pancrasweek area this month, braving the cold weather.

turned right & continued past Broomhill. By turning right at Dunsdon Cross, we returned to the entrance to the car park. By this stage, we had all warmed up & rosy cheeks were evident having walked approx. 3.25 miles. We did see a few Snowdrops & a Camellia were in bloom, but I don't think there was as much evidence of spring as there had been at this time last year. It's just a bit more chilly! The forecast says that it will warm up in the next few days & then I think the birds will be doing more singing & probably be thinking about building nests.

The next walk is planned for Monday 10th March. We'll be setting off from Thornbury Holiday Park in Woodacott, EX22 7BT at 10am. Everyone is most welcome to join me. If you would like more information, my contact details are: –

Contact information: Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848 Email:

evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

Pyworthy People - MARCH 2025





Our focus this month is our own Brenda Martin. A very busy resident of our village, who runs line dancing classes, coffee mornings etc. An all-round community minded



Age: 70

Occupation: Retired, but always busy.

Place Of Birth: Born in Torrington Cottage Hospital. First family

home: the family farm at Halwill Junction.

What is the best thing about Pyworthy and why?

The community side of village life and the hub of the people who stay here; the village family. Being just five minutes drive from Holsworthy but also far enough away from the town; I wouldn't like to live in the town.

What one thing would you change about Pyworthy and why? Improve the footpaths by trimming the hedges.

Describe yourself in 3 words:

Helpful. Running the regular Thursday coffee mornings with others and offering line dancing sessions in the village hall. Patient. Busy.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Gardening, completing jigsaw puzzles, 1500 pieces being my preferred size, preparing line dancing sessions.

What one thing have you always wanted to do, try or learn? Nothing really; I'm content with what I've got; my three lovely children, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

If you could meet anyone living or dead who would it be? I would like to have met the late Queen Elizabeth II and shake her hand; she reminded me of my mum.

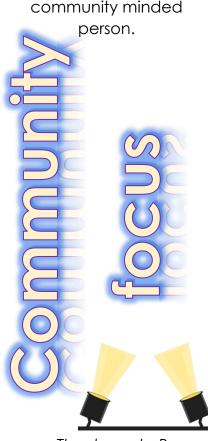
If you won a million pounds what would you do with the money? Give at least half of it to be shared between my three children and grandchildren, then I would spend the rest on a brilliant, luxurious holiday for the whole family.

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

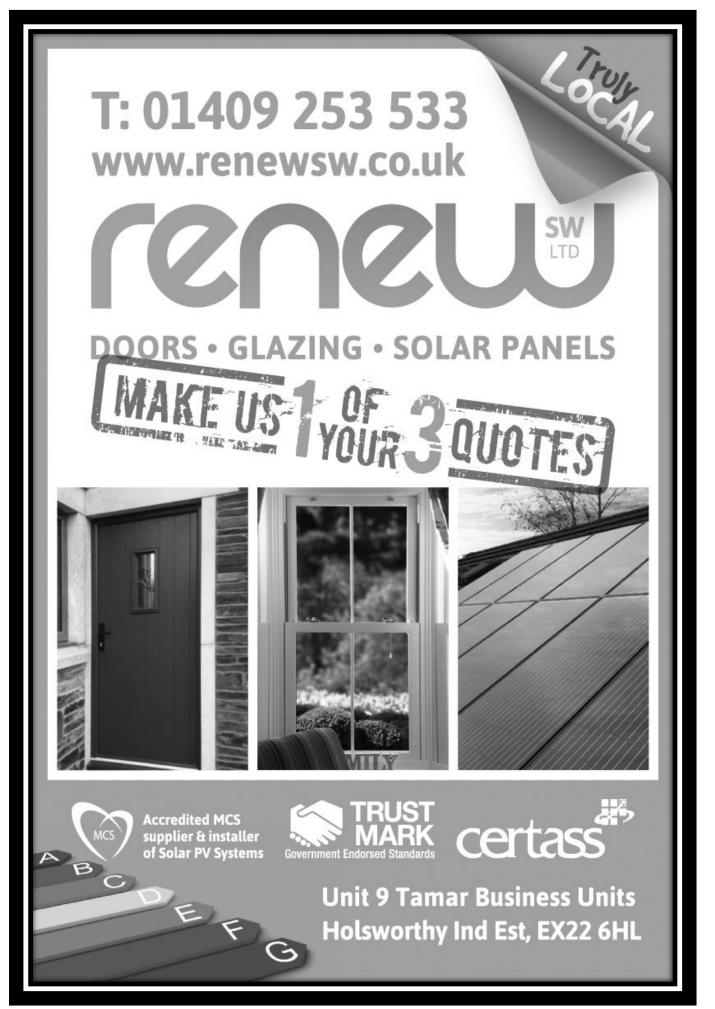
- 1. I always wish I could bring my mum back; she was my best friend and soulmate we got on so well together.
- 2. I would wish for more hours in the day.
- 3. To magic some extra hands sometimes!

If you had to flee your home at very short notice what three items would you grab?

My mobile phone and laptop, my life is on those; all my contacts, I couldn't do without them then my family photographs, although I've got so many albums.



Thanks go to Bryony Rylett for your research.





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

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

BACS details:

Account number: 01086227

Sort code: 40-24-25

Account name: Pyworthy Post Type of account: Community

account.

Please email me your name and address for a receipt.

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



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6 luxury self-catering cottages all recently refurbished to a high standard.

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- Heated outdoor swimming pool
- ❖ Tennis court
- Stunning formal gardens
- Cellar bar & games room
- Children's play area,
- ❖ Woodland walk
- ❖ Hammock area
- ❖ Croquet
- ❖ Firepit
- **BBQ's plus plenty more.**

10% discount for friends & families of local residents.



Why not host your next party at Glebe House Cottage?
We have so many options to make your party stand out.
Make it a party you won't forget!



- ❖ We can host parties from 15 guests up to 200.
- Formal garden parties with a marquee
- Celebrations in our secret cellar bar
- Fun tailor-made children's parties!
- "Have a splash with a pool party!"
- "Birthday, Anniversaries, Christening or any celebrations!"



GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT

By Mike Godfrey, keen gardener \

I am not sure what I make of this winter so far, sometimes it seems wetter and colder than usual and then a few weeks down the line it appears to be drier and warmer than normal. I just think us humans haven't got the ability to retain such information in such detail unless something pretty spectacular occurs and then even that gets a bit muddled. I do know that so far we have had fewer storms but those that we have had, have succeeded in doing more damage. Hence, I was out there at close to midnight holding the roof down on one of our sheds, frantically heaving some 5-metre-long heavy lumps of timber onto the roof to hold it in place. A temporary fix that has lasted so far. Subsequently this near disaster has jogged my memory, that the site of this roof failure was indeed another potential disaster some 10+ years ago, when we applied another temporary fix - oh well it lasted at least 10 years, I wonder if this one will last the same. I haven't seen much sign of an early spring so far; everything seems very dormant apart from a very few daffodils. Whilst some daffodils have built in anti-freeze protection others are not so well suited to cold/freezing weather and will need protection with fleece, straw or similar. We need to keep a careful eye on the situation and be prepared because there is a risk of frost right through April even possibly May. I have got my vegetable seeds, my plug flowers plants on order, my seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots. I

shall chit my potatoes shortly and pot up my onions and shallots in the polytunnel to give them a head start. I have sown Wilja potatoes for probably the last 50 years, following a holiday on a Somerset farm near Cullompton. We were so impressed with them we bought two large sacks of them to cart home along with all the holiday paraphernalia. They have always produced lovely waxy potatoes September from riaht through to March/April the following year. Once lifted they still store pretty well in a dry frost-free shed for another few months. I plant them in one of my Polytunnels so that I can control the amount of moisture in the ground. It makes a brilliant winter store. I also do the same with carrots and parsnips. I am still determined to try "no dig" vegetable gardening this year, as I didn't get too far with-it last year. I am hoping it will save me some time and energy but the more I look into it, what seems simple in principle, in practice is not quite so straightforward and does rely on preparing things at the right time of the year. I may have already missed the boat and unfortunately, I don't have very much time during the daylight hours for about the next 3-4 months, because of other major work projects. Despite all difficulties there seems to be a lot of merit in not disturbing the soil structure or the weed seeds too much. I have a considerable pile of very well-rotted horse manure, which I should have

spread liberally over the designated

vegetable areas to add nutrients to

the soil as well as help to smother any

potential weeds late last autumn.

However, I can't get at it at the

continued on page 20

moment

GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT continued from page 19.....

because the ground is still too wet!! I am still set on a course to improve my wildlife areas and ponds this year, but time just seems to fly by so I am not sure how far I will get but as usual I will do my best. I have just started to sow my wildflower seeds in the polytunnel now there is a chance for things to warm up a bit. I won't plant them out until late May. I will really try to make more time to my "re-wilding" project because the sustainability of our wildlife and their habitat is becoming more important, particularly as it will ultimately affect us humans.

You might think with a small garden, what can I do to help restore matters and ideally a 25-acre plot is what gives "re-wilding" perhaps its best chance to get established but all these small gardens when joined together with little access routes for hedgehogs and amphibians etc can soon have the same effect as the larger plot of land. A sure way to encourage wildlife is to build a pond. A pond will welcome all sorts of creatures to your garden; I hope my pond development work will be a bit more successful this year.

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

- Clean pots and trays
- Clean greenhouses, polytunnels and cold frames
- Select and buy your seeds Plant onion sets and shallots
- Sow Tomatoes for Greenhouse or Polytunnel crops
- Chit seed potatoes in egg containers or similar for chitting

- Prune shrub roses, apple and pear trees
- Cut back autumn fruiting raspberries
- Move shrubs that are in the wrong position or are not doing well where they are
- Cut back late flowering clematis and trim winter flowering immediately after blooming
- Revitalise ornamental climbers such as honeysuckle by cutting back to about 2-3 inches from the ground
- Prune autumn fruiting raspberries
- Avoid walking on the garden soil and lawns until they dry out a bit
- Clean gutters and drainage gulleys
- Clean pathways and patios of moss and other debris, as these can become very slippery and quite dangerous, particularly if wooden decking is involved
- Look out for and look after hibernating wildlife.

Finally on an entirely different subject, we still have a couple of Emus, who strangely enough lay bottle green eggs this time of the year, exactly as they do in Australia even though they have never been in contact with any Australian birds. The Emus in Australia are laying in their summer but of course its winter for our birds – strange but true!!! If anyone would like to try an Emu Egg FOC or would like a blown decorative shell, then get in touch with me.

View Mike's amazing Emu photos on page 21.

GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT continued from page 20.....

More next month





Above: Mike Godfrey's Emu pictures



Above: Mike's beautiful Daphne

If anyone needs to contact me, then please contact me on 01409 253401 or 07798 647041 or by e-mail at:

mikecrinacott1@gmail.com.





Derril Water Solar Park Update 11....



Left: An overview of the site so far.

We are pleased to provide an update on the current developments at our site. Installation of the solar panels is actively underway, with the western area successfully completed. The structural work is mostly finished, apart from the compound and laydown areas, which will be addressed later as manpower levels decrease and the compound can be demobilised.

The Customer Substation (CSS) has been delivered and installed on its concrete base. Additionally, the construction of the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) substation walls and roof is complete, with ongoing work on the metering room.

Four Medium Voltage Stations (MVS) have been installed on their bases, with the remaining three expected to be completed in the coming weeks. We are also making headway on the installation of direct current (DC), strings, and low voltage (LV) cables and the CCTV outdoor cabinet bases.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is currently being performed, with an estimated four weeks required to complete the three drill





Above: The Customer substation & Distribution Network Operator substation.

Continued on page 23....

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 22

Derril Water Solar Park Update 11 continued

holes. These will allow cables to go beneath the public road, connecting the northern and southern sections of the site.



Left: Road cleaning & maintenance is ongoing.

We acknowledge that due to the ongoing work and current weather conditions, there has been a noticeable amount of mud brought onto the roads. We are in communication with our contractors to address this issue and are exploring measures to minimize the impact. We appreciate your understanding as we continue with the project.

Remember, Derril Water Solar Park is Ripple Energy's first exciting shared solar project in the UK. Members not only benefit from the clean energy that will be generated but actually own this project.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

30th Anniversary, 1st March 1995 - The internet search company Yahoo! was founded. Its search engine was launched on 5th March.
65th Anniversary, 10th March 1960 - The UK's first Top 50 record chart was published by the music trade magazine Record retailer (now Music Week).

90th Anniversary, **16 Mar 1935** – Driving tests were introduced in Britain. They were voluntary until 1st June. From that date anyone who had started to drive on or after 1st April 1934 had to pass the test.

If you have any concerns or need to report special events in the area that might be affected by our works, please reach out to:

<u>DerrilWater@RippleEnergy.</u>
<u>com.</u>

Learn more about the project here:

https://rippleenergy.com/ our-projects/derril-watersolar-park.



Another update next month......

British Summer Time



REMINDER!

British Summer Time starts on **30th March**. Clocks move forward by 1 hour at 1 am.

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 23

Pyworthy's Dirty Little Secret



By Dr. Reg Godwin BVSc., MRCVS of Hopworthy Moor

A few years ago, there was an article in the Pyworthy Post describing Derril Water as one of the most polluted tributaries of the River Tamar. As a result, local volunteers were recruited to act as citizen water samplers. I can not recall any follow up to this being published.

As a landowner who has Derril Water running along the boundary of two of his fields and also has a deeply buried sewage outlet pipe running beneath two of his fields, I have been concerned about the output of Derril sewaae work for а long time, especially since detergent foam in the stream is an almost constant feature. There website called is a appropriately Top of the Poops and Derril Water features prominently.

https://top-of-thepoops.org/waterway/south-westwater/derril-water



Above: outlet pipes mysteriously disappear underground!

Here are the statistics produced from South West Water's own figures. Prepare to be horrified!

Reported sewage overflow totals for Derril Water in 2023 (the latest available figures) declared that there were **202 raw sewage dumps** with a total duration of **3640 hours**.

To put that into perspective, all the sewage dumps add up to 151 days of 24hrs duration. That's five months of the year when raw sewage enters the stream, the equivalent of four days out of every week. How does that make you feel? Personally, I feel sick and outraged. How is the Tamar ever going to be cleaned up for salmon and trout with Derril Water pumping its untreated filth into the upper reaches of the Tamar?

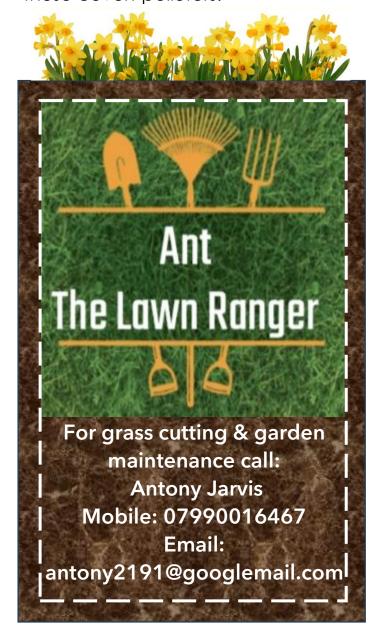
continued on page 25 ...

Pyworthy's Dirty Little Secret continued.....

When I first came to live at Hopworthy in 1979, my neighbouring farmer, Ron Symons, showed me an otter holt near the old railway bridge over the road at Hopworthy. I have never seen any signs of otter breeding activity since then. I wonder why? Because there are no fish, and only the occasional brave eel can survive for a short time. The truth is that Derril Sewage Works does not produce a clean effluent, even when it is working "properly". There is a settlement tank and aerators but no large areas for biological action to work on the effluent before it is discharged. The old concrete settlement tanks at the works now lie dry and crusted, while the sewage has been diverted to above ground tanks for "treatment". There is a field ditch running along the boundary of the works which is flowing even when there has been no rain for weeks. Is this receiving untreated discharge? It certainly smells like it. There is also an orange 100mm pipe which I call Trump Pipe because of the accumulated orange matter partly blocking it and discharging directly into the stream.

I have taken my own samples from upstream of the sewage works, downstream, from Trump Pipe and the ditch. These field will be independently analysed by my contacts in the water industry. One sample we tested from the manhole on my land revealed Nitrates and Phosphates off the scale. The very sensitive test also detected Metformin (a human diabetes medication) and,

hang on to your hats,.... Cocaine! How on earth is cocaine being found in the sewage from Pyworthy village? I will leave that one to your imagination. Meanwhile, I will report back when I have the analyses of the samples I took, but it doesn't need those results to demonstrate that something is desperately wrong with the disposal arrangements for sewage at Derril and our environment is suffering. THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. We have to take our protests to SWW. Dilution is still pollution. We being are comprehensively hoodwinked by these covert polluters.





Having just returned from a walk 'round the block', I've sat down and realised that spring is actually on the way! I did the same walk three days earlier and the number and species of flowers has increased no end. So many crocuses, daffodils and primroses that just weren't there three days ago! Those few warm days must have made all the difference.

February has been a quiet month at St Swithun's, I guess it usually is, especially when Easter falls late as it does this year. However, one or two things of note have occurred. On the first Sunday in the month, the 2nd, when we hold our All Age Family Service, we had six children in church which was such a surprise and pleasure. We have struggled to have any young families at all. The sad thing about this was, none of the families lived in the parish. I wish I knew why this was. Several people work really hard to produce activities for the children which are connected to the theme of the day. Please try to come along; OK, it may not be for you, but how will you know if you don't give it a try? The congregation really do enjoy it, so why wouldn't you? The next service is on Sunday March 2nd at 9.30am.

And now, something of an update on the church windows. A goodly number of the windows have had work done on them, mostly repairing cracks and holes, but also some of the paintwork needed redoing. However, while this was being done, it was noticed that the "shield" window in the chancel needed work doing on it quite urgently. The window is dated 1866 and I imagine very little restoration work has been carried out since. The tags and ties which attach the window to the horizontal rods had, for the most part, come adrift, leaving the window in a somewhat precarious position. I had hoped that this work would be carried out quickly, but, as I've said before, the wheels of the Diocese grind exceedingly slowly and, at the moment, I'm not sure when it will be done. Fairly soon, I hope.

Easter is late this year, as I've said – it is on April 20th, the latest it can actually be. Before we get there, several things take place in March. We have Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) on March 4th, followed by Ash Wednesday on the 5th. Then we are in Lent, a time when traditionally we give up something until Easter. My grandmother always gave up sweets of any sort, she just loved them! The 30th March is Mothering Sunday, we have a special Family orientated service that day; it would be lovely if we had a goodly number of families in church then as there will be flowers for children to present to their mums.

Easter is the most important time in the Church's year; it is the time when Jesus was arrested, tried and sentenced to death. He died on the cross but, and this most wonderful thing, conquered death and came alive again for a short while until he left us and went back to his Father in Heaven. This is what Christianity is all about, Jesus dying for us so that we could be saved from our sins. We should all remember this. Perhaps this Easter we could think of all the turmoil going on in our world and pray that peace can somehow be achieved. A lot to take in.

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 26



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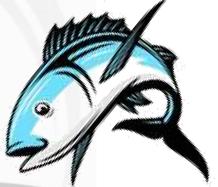








Evening with Rupert Kirkwood



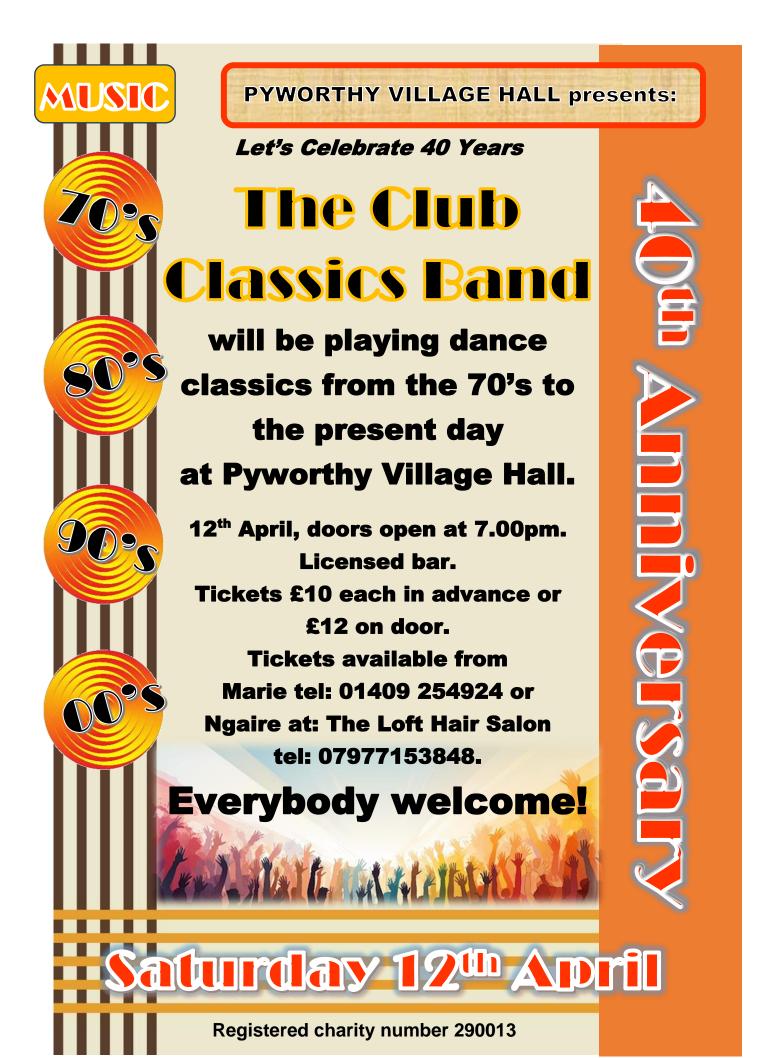
Friday 28th March at Pyworthy Village Hall

7.30pm for 8pm.
Entry £5 per person.
Light refreshments will be available.

Tickets can be booked in advance by telephoning Marie on: 01409 254924 or can also be purchased on the Night.

'Fins, Fur and Feathers... Wildlife Watching from My Kayak'.

As featured on "Winterwatch".





SATURDAY 12TH APRIL AFTERNOON

Let's celebrate together with a BRING & SHARE TEA from 2pm until 4pm in the Village Hall.

For details of evening celebrations see page 27.

Registered charity number 290013



Notice is Given of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Contact Janet Grant for more information Tel: 01409 259356.

The Church of St. Swithun's Pyworthy is having their Annual Vestry and Parochial Church meeting on the 17th March 2025 in the Church at 7.30pm, with a Eucharist before the meeting at 7.00pm.

All members of the Electoral Roll are welcome to attend and vote, and all parishioners are welcome to attend.

The Parochial Church Council is keen for more people of the parish to become involved in the life and running of this lovely church.

Come along and take part!

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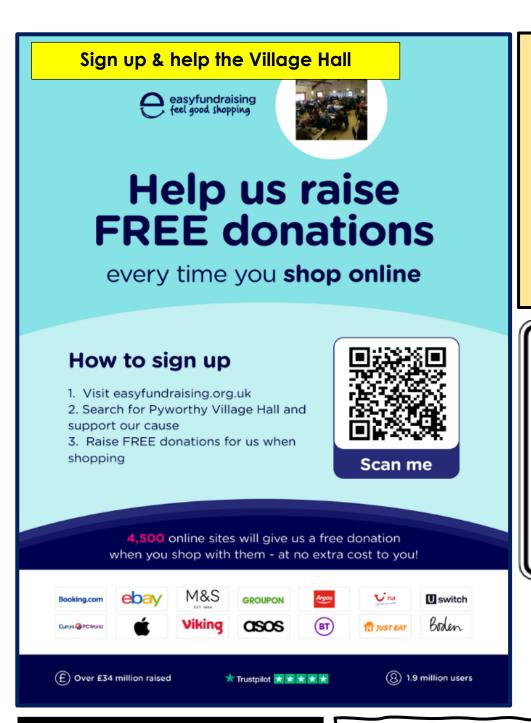
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Read online at: https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/

and view the paper in <u>full</u> <u>colour</u>.

(don't use a search engine)

SPEED LIMIT



Holsworthy Food Bank

Donations are always welcome to help those in need.

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.

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.

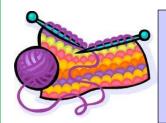
Benefice administrator:

Libbi York – email:

<u>Holsworthybenefice@icloud.com</u>

Tel: 07717750198.





Please note running on different days of the month!

Creative Craft Club

The afternoon craft club is going strong. This takes place in Pyworthy Village Hall on the

2nd & 4th Thursday of each month – 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

A donation of just £2 towards the hall is all it costs!

Come along and join us, just bring your own craft project to do & see what others are doing.

A great way to meet new people. We are a friendly bunch & love to chat & have a laugh.

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

Domestic Abuse Women's Aid:

Tel: 0808 2000 247

Domestic Abuse Men's Advice line:

Tel: 0808 8010 327

Childline: Tel: 0800 1111





Pyworthy Bin Collections



MARCH 2025 - <u>Pyworthy Village</u>, other villages may have a different collection schedule.

Black bag collection days are:

Friday 7th March Friday 21st March

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:

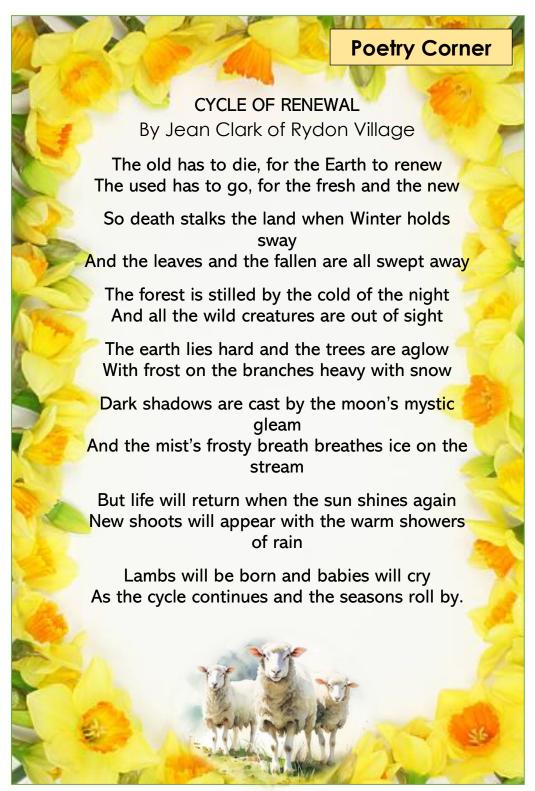
Monday 3rd March Monday 17th March Monday 31st March

For more information go to: www.torridge.gov.uk Or phone: 01237 428700

ActionFraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

0300 123 2040







Dates for your diary can be found on page 53 this month.

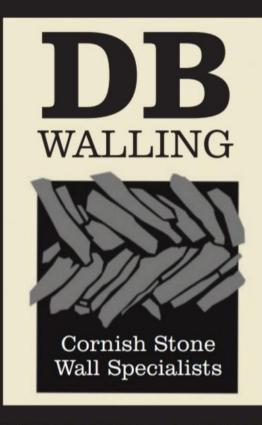
Friday 14th March
LUNAR ECLIPSE



Α total lunar eclipse will occur over the UK at the Moon's descending node of orbit on Friday, March 14. 2025. with an umbral magnitude of 1.1804. A lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon moves into the Earth's shadow. causing the Moon to be darkened.







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www.trigonfarm.co.uk

Call AI on Tel: 07988484069



St. Swithun's Church is open daily.
Holsworthy Food Bank drop off point is at the back of the church.



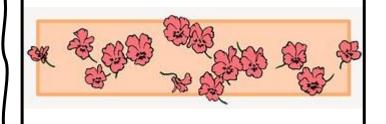


Phone:

0808 2000247 for free & confidential advice.

More information available online.

If in danger phone: 999





Pyworthy Poser Quiz for MARCH 2025

Your March Poser Quiz

Random Facts!



- 1. In which country was the celebrated film actor, Gary Grant born?
- 2. How many English Popes have there been? (bonus point, name him and when!)
- 3. Which is the smallest & lightest resident bird in UK?
- 4. What boardgame was invented by Charles Darrow in 1935?
- 5. An actor named Sean Wilson played what part in a Soap Opera?
- 6. Which is the oldest published Sunday Newspaper in UK?
- 7. On what date was the Battle of Trafalgar?
- 8. In which year did Morrisons (now Supermarket) commence trading?
- 9. What is the "nickname" of Lincoln City FC?
- 10. What is the most expensive "spice" available to Chefs?





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Holsworthy

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

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Pyworthy Post Deadline The PRINT deadline for the next Pyworthy Post is: Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 12 noon.

Please email your news as early as possible.
Thank you.

View Pyworthy
Post online in
colour. Search:
https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/



Bag it - Bin it

Sunrise, Sunset Times for the coming month:

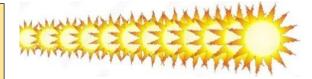
British Summer Time starts on the 30th March 2025. Clocks move forward by 1 hour.

1st March 2025 (UK, Exeter)

☆ Sunrise time: 6.57am GMT

* Sunset time: 17.55pm GMT

Length of day: 10 hrs 57 mins.



31st March 2025 (UK, Exeter)

⇔ Sunrise time: 06.52am GMT

* Sunset time: 19.45pm GMT

Length of day: 12 hrs 53 mins

Al and the Ministry of Misinformation

By Brian Meadows of Nofix-Nofee 🎢

I listened to the Prime Minister the other day, he was saying the UK should be an epicentre for AI, which I agree with. Then he said the most ridiculous thing that AI will help fix the potholes in the road and this type of misinformed talk only serves to confuse computer users into thinking AI can work wonders. In truth AI is being used by scammers and thieves more effectively than most businesses at this time. That will change but it's a few years away just yet. So, if you hear AI can make pigs fly or that Brad Pitt is in hospital and cannot afford the hospital fees, or a Nigerian Prince or Princess is madly in love with you, but can't afford the air fare to visit you, reflect on AI fixing potholes in the road - you may just see that flock of pigs overhead.



I was called to fix a computer which seemingly had been taken over by McAfee anti-virus software and no matter what the user did to try and avoid it - all that was presented on screen were warnings the system had 5 infections and needed clearing out. "Press here to continue". In fact, the system had 8 infections and all from a Russian scammer, how did I know that? The scammer was stupid enough to display his email address on the screen and not the McAfee website address. Why had this happened? the user

failed to notice the installed antivirus software had failed to start and the system was exposed to online attackers.

The moral here is when switching a computer on, check to make sure you are fully protected before accessing the internet, especially Social Media sites.

What's that you say? You have nothing of value to steal because you don't bank online or shop for groceries, you just communicate with a few emails and watch a few videos on TIKTOK.

Did you know that your email address and system IP address can be sold for about £10, and your full identity is worth between £50 and £500, depending on your perceived wealth. Big House, Big Car, Golf club membership, Foreign Holidays are all wealth indicators, and an empty house can be flagged up if booking a car hire for 2 weeks in Spain, or anywhere else for that matter!

Ah, but you have video cameras and security system with online links. A pair of pliers can stop that very quickly, especially as the black fibre optic cable can be accessed from outside the house and if your router is not fully secure it too can be switched off from a distance of 30 metres. NB: Routers can also be accessed through a printers direct WiFi connection if not secure. – Happy Holiday! Oh! Did I tell you about booking.com – No? well, maybe next time!

For free Telephone advice contact
Brian Meadows

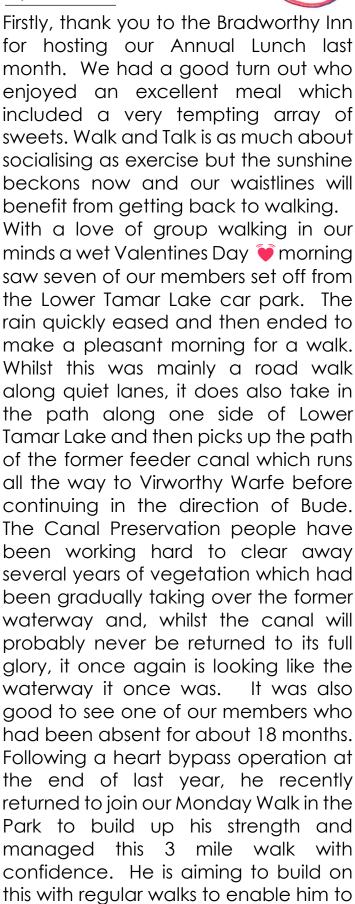
Tel: 01288 381061

Nofix-Nofee Computer Repairs Service

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 39

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group

By Gill Aston



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



get back to our more strenuous level 3 walks. A testament to the restorative powers of regular exercise, which is available to most of us.

Next month we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary. Anyone who was involved with that walk is very welcome to come along and join us meeting in The Manor Car Park, Holsworthy and heading out over the The Viaduct and out to Rydon Lane. Three of our regular walk leaders who were at that first walk and will be walking with us too. It is a testament to the benefits of walking that one of those walk leaders is now over 90 years old and still sets a good pace on our Monday Walk in the Park.

If you would like to join us at any time we walk on Mondays and Fridays. All walks start at 10.30 am and are **FREE**. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk.

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 contact numbers:
Gillian Aston 07854677784 or
Mike Jackson 01409 261196 or
Paul Davies 01409 253250.

Our walks programme is on page 41

Holsworthy Walk & Talk group report continued from page 40....

Our MARCH Programme of walks:



Level 2 & 3 walks are every Friday at 10.30am. All these walks aim to be completed in about 90 minutes.

MARCH Walks: Walk starting points as indicated below:

Friday 7th March – Level 2: DUNSDON NATURE RESERVE. Start from reserve car park. Level walk on canal bank and quiet lanes. No stiles. LEADERS: Mike Jackson. EX22 7JW.

Level 3: - DUNSDON NATURE RESERVE. Start from reserve car park. Canal bank walk, some rough ground and quiet lanes. **LEADERS:** Cheryl Collins & Jacqui Shapland.

Friday 14th March Level 2: PYWORTHY. Start from Village Hall car park. Lanes, tracks and fields. No stiles. Can be muddy. LEADERS: Gill Aston. EX22 7JW. Level 3: - BRADWORTHY. Start from The Square. Lanes, tracks, fields. Some inclines. Can be muddy. LEADERS: Paul Davies & Kim Harris. EX22 7SZ.

Friday 21st March - Level 2: CLAWTON.
Start from Parish Hall car park. On and off-road paths with some gentle inclines, no stiles. Can be muddy.
LEADERS: Jacqui Shapland. EX22 6PS.
Level 3 - GERMANSWEEK. Start from lay-by by the junction to Southweek.
Hard surface, rough tracks and fields.
Can be muddy. LEADERS: Eric Boundy & Paul Davies. EX21 5BG.



MARCH walks programme continued:

Friday 28th March - Level 2: HALIFAX WAY / HOLLACOMBE. Start by the war memorial near Anvil Corner. Hard tracks, quiet lanes and one short incline. LEADER: Mike Jackson. EX22 6NR.

Level 3 - BUDE - EFFORD DOWN. Start from Bude Tourist Information car park. Hard tracks, gentle slopes. Parking charges apply. LEADERS: Michael Heryet & Paul Davies. EX23 8LE.





Pyworthy Parish Council Meeting Report

"Pyworthy Parish Council met on Thursday 23 January for the first meeting of 2025 on what was a very chilly, damp evening.

The Parish Council has now agreed to take over management of the defibrillator in Derril, which will reduce high costs being charged on a separate defibrillator bank account.

Cllr Morrish from Devon County Council updated on plans for local government in Devon following the announcement from the Government to abolish District and County Councils and create new Unitary Councils, each serving a minimum of 500,000 residents. Exeter and Plymouth Councils are keen to go it alone, but neither have the minimum required number of residents to meet Government specification, so may seek to assimilate additional surrounding areas to reach the required numbers. The configuration of how new Unitary councils in Devon will look is not currently known. It is planned for new councils to be in place from 2027. A decision on whether the local council elections on 1 May 2025 will be delayed for one year to 2026 has not yet been announced at the time of writing. A resident had flagged issues with large vehicles damaging property boundaries at the top of the village by the old school. Councillors reiterated that residents should park considerately away from road considerately away from road

junctions and ensure that there is sufficient room for a fire engine to get past on narrow sections of road. Issues with dogs were raised by residents. A dog not on a lead had nearly caused a traffic accident and there were cases of dog fouling on public and private property that had not been cleared up by their owners. Residents are urged to keep their doas leads within village on environments and to clear up mess from their dogs. The Council owns a dog stencil and will be stencilling reminders to clear up after dogs in the worst affected areas.

Two grant applications from the Solar Fund were agreed for urgent works to stained glass windows in the parish church, £150 + VAT and £2,500 + VAT respectively.

The next meetings will be on Thursday's 20th March and 22nd May. Regards.

Simon Davies, Pyworthy Parish Clerk

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 on:
tel. 07989747416.
Email address:
pyworthy@yahoo.co.uk

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm.

John Sanders Park Trust 40025 DRAM



Our park is 100 years old this year!



The 2024 Lottery in aid of the Park in Pyworthy has now come to an end. A huge thank you must go out to all of you who supported our Park by buying Lottery tickets and we trust you will continue to support your Park by buying tickets for this new year of 2025.

Lottery 2025

You need to be in it, to win it! Give it a try this year.

If anyone would like to purchase a £10 lottery ticket ready for the next draw, please contact:

Jane Oliver on: 07500 834620 or Rob Moores on: 07748 981910.

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

> It will cost you just, £10 per ticket.

Volunteers:

We would also really welcome volunteers who may be able to give some time on Tuesday evenings in the summer to help tidy up and maintain the Park and Play Area. Please contact Rob or Jane if you can help us.



News about the 100 Year Anniversary of Pyworthy Park will be released in the near future. Watch this space!

The Pyworthy Annual Village Show will be held on Saturday 6th September 2025

The classes in the **Photographic** category are:

Photography category

Classes this year:

- Fungi
- Nature in the garden
- The sky at night
- A misty morning
- Farm machinery
- Water

Get ahead of the game, and snap away over the next few months, when photo opportunities arise.



Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day

The pancake has a very long history and features in cookery books as far back as 1439. In the UK, pancake races form an important part of the Shrove Tuesday celebrations – an opportunity for large numbers of people, often in fancy dress, to race down streets...

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins). A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the "Pancake Bell" and is still rung today.

Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, so the date varies from year to year and falls between February 3 and March 9. In 2025 Shrove

Tuesday will fall on 4th March.

The ingredients for pancakes can be seen to symbolise four points of significance at this time of year:

Eggs ~ Creation

Flour ~ The staff of life

Salt ~ Wholesomeness

Milk ~ Purity

Ingredients for making simple pancakes:

- 300ml milk
- 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil, plus a little extra for frying.

Whisk all the ingredients together in a bowl, pour enough into a hot, greased frying pan to cover base. Fry until golden brown on both sides. Add your favourite topping.



Useful Local Contacts Your Local Business & Services Directory

Advertise in the Contacts list for just £15 per year!

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Coarse FishingYeomadon Coarse Fishing 01409 253378
Computer Repairs Brian 07534804101
Dairy ServicesFresh Fields Dairy Services 01288 381529
Decorating & Property Maintenance Julian Lapham 07765626069
Driving Tuition Evelyn Sharman 01409 259848/07885352082
Dog Glooming Avril's Mobile Grooming Service, 07811 320914 or 01288 381795
Dog Exercise facility Woofworthy, Holsworthy, call Becky 07887094320
Double Glazing M.A.G. Double Glazing Repairs 07969 234161
Electrical Contractors Algo Electrical Contractors01409 254595
Electrical Contractor Mike Daniel 01288 381342/07977 596772
Estate Agents Kivells 01409 253888
Fruit, Veg, Flowers & more Trigon Farm, Derriton – AI, 07988484069
Funeral Directors Arthur W. Bryant Funeral Service 01409 253000
Funeral ServicesDenise Wellington Funeral Services 01288 359277
Foot Care Kate Lord: 07557379099 Email: katescompletefeet1@gmail.com
General Builder James Mansell - General Builder 07896945889
Gun ClubWest Devon Air Gun Club, Nigel Palmer, 01409 254133
Grass cutting & garden maintenance Antony Jarvis, 07990016467
Heating Engineer Greg 01409 478198
British Hedgehog Preservation SocietyBob Gilder, 01409-253791
Herbalist Diana Lee, Registered Medical Herbalist 01409 254450
Holiday Accommodation 01288 381272 email: jay@glebehousecottages.co.uk
Holsworthy NHS Dental Care 01409 255525
Holsworthy Golf Club01409 253177
Holsworthy Library
Holsworthy Medical Centre
Holsworthy Post office & Sorting Office 01409 253608/01409 253236
Holsworthy Rural Community Transport team 01409 259001
Holsworthy Walk & Talk GroupGill Aston 07854677784
John Sanders Park Trust Martin Brennan 01409 691096
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
Pyworthy Sports Club Tracey Langman 01409 254475
Pyworthy Village Hall Bookings: Marie Heard 01409 254924
Organic Farm, Trigon Farm selling fruit & veg etc phone Al on 07988484069
Renewable Energy/replacement windows Renew SW Ltd, 01409 253533
Round Baling Stan Hopper 01409 253412
Rubbish Removal & Light Removals Service Man with a Van - Nigel 07725564331
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Laptops for Schoolwork



Refurbished laptops that have been donated by generous customers, may be available to a child in need, for schoolwork.

Contact Brian Meadows: Tel: 01288 381061.

Read Brian's article on page 37.

Save Your Used Stamps for the Hedgehogs!



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

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<u>Power Outages in Pyworthy</u> (sorry this article just missed the deadline for the last edition)

By Mr. Philip A. Markus, resident of Pyworthy

Recently on the 15th of January, there was a power outage of many properties in Pyworthy for 2 hours and ten minutes. I started to go out and check with our neighbours, but he was out and two other people I saw wondering what was happening I told I would ring the National Grid.

When I did and nothing happened with any update after half an hour, I rang the NE again and they said that I was the only person who had rung them. I repeated to them that I had spoked to other people who had power outage. They said that they had noted that and would get an engineer to me as soon as possible. After another half an hour without any feedback I rang again, and they still said I was the only one calling them, so I told them chapter and verse again and they said an engineer has been dispatched to see what is wrong. They advised that anyone with a power outage should ring them also. I said that is rubbish and put the phone down. An engineer came as the power came back on and told me that a crow had landed on a vital piece of equipment blowing a bank of fuses. He had removed the crow and all would be back OK.

If problems occur in future the telephone contact number is:

National Grid is on 0800 032 0311

The moral of the event is – **DON'T** assume that somebody else will have reported the problem. Pick up the phone and report the problem immediately, yourself.



Forthcoming event:

Saturday 5th April at H.A.T.S. Holsworthy

The Mevagissey Male Choir will be appearing for 1 night only.

50 tickets are available for this event. Book at:

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/holsworthytheatre



Thank You!



Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is?

Well...Spring is springing, and the birds are now, hopefully, busy pairing up and seeking places to build their nests and raise their broods.

This month's **Nature Notes** features a familiar mammal, a wary bird, with eye-popping plumage and an edible plant all of which you may spot when around the parish during March and the months beyond; Henry VIII and the Romans also get a mention.

First up is Oryctolagus cuniculus, commonly known as the **rabbit**.

The Normans are credited with introducing rabbits, however a fragment of rabbit bone, found in 1964, was radiocarbon dated to 1AD suggesting the Romans were first. Rabbits are now so well established many consider them a pest.

From the Medieval period rabbits were valued for their meat and skin and became a profitable part of the rural economy. The first mention of a rabbit warren was on the Isles of Scilly in 1176.

Rabbits live in colonies in burrows and are most active at night straying no further than 140 metres from their burrows. They crop vegetation down to provide an open area in which to feed while using their keen sense of hearing and smell, along with their prominent eyes, to spot predators.

If predators threaten they thump a hind foot to warn of danger (like Thumper in Walt Disney's Bambi film) and as they run off the white underside of their tails also serve as an alert.



During the day, deep in their warrens, rabbits eat their soft, first droppings absorbing the nutrients contained. The second, hard and dark droppings are deposited above ground.

A sign you may be sharing your garden with rabbits are the appearance of shallow scrapes of exposed soil, **Continued on page 51**

Nature Note – March continued from page 50.....

scattered with droppings. These scrapes mark territory.

Nettles and elders may also indicate rabbit neighbours as these plants thrive near a warren growing in the soil enriched with nitrogen from the rabbits' faeces.

The saying: "breeding like rabbits" is true and refers to their prolific reproductive habits. Female rabbits, or Does (males are known as Bucks) can produce up to 20 Kittens (babies) a year and are able to reproduce from just four months old; however, only a quarter of rabbits survive more than a year; the rest dying from cold, wet, predation and disease.

Myxomatosis, a deadly viral disease, caused by a flea borne virus, was introduced deliberately to Britain in the 1950s to reduce the rabbit population. Controversially it killed 95% of Britain's rabbits leading to an unforeseen decline in rabbit predators: buzzards, foxes, stoats and weasels.

Rabbits have developed resistance, but the highly contagious and aggressive Myxoma virus reoccurs in cycles. Last year several rabbits in the Killatree area of Pyworthy were seen suffering from myxoma symptoms, possibly accounting for a drop in rabbit numbers in the area.

If walking on Dartmoor, you may spot black rabbits. These are likely to be the descendants of rabbits escaped from the warrens of manor houses where they were bred by Tudor nobles for their prized black fur used to decorate clothing. Records show black rabbits were raised in the royal warrens of Henry VIII.

Rabbit meat would have been served at Henry VIII's legendary banquets. The king, known for his large appetite, also enjoyed eating sorrel, highly regarded in Tudor times. Diced sorrel leaves are a main ingredient in a green sauce served with fish.

Rabbits also like sorrel, as pictured on the right.

Sorrel

Common Sorrel (Rumex acetosa) is a perennial, herbaceous plant, growing in grassland in rosette form. It has shiny, spear-shaped leaves (similar to small spinach leaves) with two basal lobes pointing backwards at the base of each leaf (not to be confused with Meadow Bindweed). In May and June sorrel grows to some 100 cm then in late summer its leaves (if not eaten by rabbits) turn crimson; then tiny flowers and fruit appear.

The word sorrel derives from the French word 'surele' meaning sour, describing sorrel's sharp taste often likened to lemon or apple peel. This acidity is referenced in the species name 'acetosa' that is derived from the Latin word 'acetum' meaning vinegar. The generic name 'Rumex' Latin comes from the 'rumo' meaning to suck. It is recorded that the Romans sucked sorrel leaves to assuage their thirst.

Continued on page 52

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Nature Note – March continued from page 51.....

As well as thirst quenching properties, sorrel is a diuretic and has also been used to treat sinusitis.

In parts of Ireland the leaves, treated like spinach, are boiled and eaten as a vegetable and in Lapland the juice of sorrel is used instead of rennet to curdle milk.

Sorrel is used as an ingredient in dishes such as soups, stews and quiches and the oxalic acid it contains led to its use removing ink and iron stains from linen.

Finally...the **Bullfinch** (Pyrrhula pyrrhula); meaning worm eating bird in Latin.



The wary bullfinch is a delightful bird to spot especially for the Japanese who consider the bird to be a symbol of good luck.

In Japan, on January 7th, the Usokae festival takes place when people exchange small, wooden bullfinches as a way of replacing the lies of the previous year for good luck in the year to come. This derives from a play on words as Uso means both bullfinch and lie in Japanese.

Bullfinches were not lucky in the past; they were persecuted as people believed the birds, listed as pests as far back as the 16th century, fed on fruit tree buds thereby reducing orchard vields.

Bounties were paid for culling birds in fruit growing areas where they were blamed for denuding whole orchards of buds. With increased understanding it is now known orchards can lose up to 50% of their buds without the overall harvest being affected.

Sadly, hundreds of thousands of bullfinches have been culled due to this misguided belief.

Henry VIII, yes, that man again, passed an Act of Parliament offering payment of a penny for every bullfinch killed. This equates to about 0.57 pence today.

Bullfinches are usually seen in mixed woodland, parks and larger gardens, often in pairs or loose flocks. They eat seeds and tree shoots plus insects in summer. In winter they dine on ash tree keys although ash tree die-back has reduced this food source.

There was a decline of nearly 50% in bullfinch numbers from 1967 to 2022 due largely to intensive farming methods. This decline continues and it wasn't until as late as 1998 they became a protected species. Jays, magpies, weasels and stoats are their natural bullfinch predators.

There are now estimated to be just 190,000 breeding pairs thereby placing the bullfinch on the BoCC (Birds Of Conservation Concern) Amber List.

Question: What is the collective noun for bullfinches?

The answer will be in next month's Nature Notes.

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 52





<u>Print deadline</u> for the next edition of Pyworthy Post is:

Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 12 noon prompt!

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 40 & 41. Also, members take a short walk in Stanhope Park on Mondays.

Saturday 1st March – St. David's Day also National Pig Day.

Tuesday 4th March – Strove Tuesday/Pancake Day.

Monday 10th March. Evelyn's Walking group be setting off from Thornbury Holiday Park in Woodacott, at 10am. New members are very welcome.

Monday 17th March – St. Patrick's Day/Annual Church meeting at 7.30pm.

Thursday 20th March – Pyworthy Parish Council meeting, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and Spring Equinox.

Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day.

Saturday 22nd March – The Goat Show at Holsworthy Memorial Hall at 2.30pm.

Friday 28th March – An Evening with Rupert Kirkwood, talk on his kayaking encounters plus much more.

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday/clocks go forward by 1 hour at 1.00am.

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 12th April – Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Pyworthy Village Hall – afternoon bring & share tea, followed by evening entertainment – see pages 24 & 27 for more information.

Wednesday 23rd April – Pyworthy Village Hall AGM at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Wednesday 22nd May - Pyworthy Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



A **BIG** Pyworthy Welcome goes to our Newest Residents!

We welcome to Killatree

Kirsty Rubery
Miles Rubery
Hermione Goldsmith
Corban Goldsmith
Matilda Goldsmith

And in Pyworthy Village:

Jordan Gerry & her son Charlie Greenaway.



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Mothering Sunday is on the 30th March this Year!

Mother's Day, also known as Mothering Sunday, is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday and usually falls in the second half of March or early April.

Mothering Sunday was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptised or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

These days an important part of Mother's Day is giving cards and gifts. Common Mother's Day gifts are cakes, flowers, chocolates, jewellery, and luxurious clothing. Some people do not give a physical gift but choose to treat their mother or grandmother to a special meal, beauty treatment or fun outing. Enjoy your day however you spend it.







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