

PYWORTHY POST



What's in your paper this month?

Fraud/Cyber Crime Alert- know your A.B.C.!

Free - Online Safety talk in Pyworthy, and much, much more 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.

SEPTEMBER 2026
Issue number 355



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 SEPTEMBER EDITION



By Marion Ravn

Welcome to the September edition of our community paper.

I hope you have been enjoying the wonderful weather this summer.

This month, Bryony has written an interesting article on climate change, which makes for fascinating reading. You can find her *Nature Notes* article on page 54. I also feature local rainfall statistics supplied by Anne Luxton, a local amateur rainfall analyst. Her report can be found on page 26.

In addition, I've included details of the current hosepipe ban exemptions from South West Water, which many readers may find useful. These tie in well with both Anne's rainfall analysis and Bryony's article on climate change.

As always, we have a great selection of interesting articles, club reports, and forthcoming events. Thank you to everyone who has contributed content and information this month.

Please note that the Annual Village Show will take place in the Village Hall on 5th September. It's always a very popular event, so see page 2 for further details.

If you enjoy a game of bingo, there will be a Bingo Night at the Village Hall on 26th September. See the poster on page 30 for more information.

There will also be a useful talk on Online Safety presented by Devon & Cornwall Police at our church, with free admission for all. See page 35 for further details.

More news and information next month. My NEW contact details are in the footer below.

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By Gill Johns on behalf of St. Swithun's Church

...And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains
green?

Hopefully by the time this edition of the
Pyworthy Post goes out the parched
earth around us will be soaking up
some much-needed rain.

Our farmers are all having a very hard
time due to the lack of grass for their
animals and having to use winter feed
for them and those growing cereals or
other crops can only look on as their
fields dry and crack. We pray that all
will recover. We must make sure we try
and buy British when we are out
shopping instead of going for the
exotic items arriving from thousands of
miles away!

Our local youngsters have been
getting their exam results and will have
to make decisions about their futures.
Do I continue with my studies at 'A'
level, do I try for an apprenticeship, do
I head for university or perhaps go
travelling for a year? What a choice.
Way back when Noah was around, I
decided after 'A' levels not to apply to
go to university but went to a college
in London for 2 years and have never
regretted it. My 2 granddaughters
went to Uni and did well but both
ended up with quite large debts.

We wish them all well with their
decisions, also the smaller ones who
will be entering school for the first time,
as well as those going on into
secondary education. Do your best,
work hard and keep off all those
mobile devices!

Do you fancy having a go at handbell
ringing? If so, do come along to
church at 11am on a Sunday, or even
better come to our service first at
9.30am. We have different types of
services, an All-Age service (followed
by delicious refreshments), a Morning
Prayer let by one of us and 2 Eucharists
every month. New faces are always
most welcome.

I do hope you have managed to get
away for a break from everyday life. If
not get out for a good walk, visit our
lovely beaches, listen to all the birds,
speak to your neighbours and if you are
worried about someone, please do
find a friend to help – Pyworthy is a
really caring community.

We are there for anyone who is in
need. At the back of the church is a
box for donations which are taken into
the Foodbank on a regular basis – no
fresh food please but everything else
most welcome, including sanitary wear
for ladies, nappies for babies,
shower/shampoo gel, toothpaste. The
Foodbank is open every Wednesday
afternoon from 2 – 4pm for anybody in
need and they are also able to point
you in the right direction for any
financial problems.

As we come to the end of a really hot
summer we look forward to autumn
“season of mists and mellow
fruitfulness” leading into our Harvest
time. Then everyone will be counting
how many days till Christmas...and Liffy
and I will then ask who would like to
order one of our puddings or cakes in
time for the festive season.

Please remember in your prayers all
those who struggle to find the basics or
have nowhere to lay their head due to
earthquakes or are in war-torn areas.
God bless you all.

United Benefice of Holsworthy

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



Benefice Services for SEPTEMBER

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

Worship and Prayer in the Holsworthy Benefice – SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	Bridgerule	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Hollacombe
Sunday 6 th September	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th September	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	3.00pm Harvest Evensong
Sunday 20 th September	-	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Holy Communion
12 noon – Harvest lunch in the Manor Suite, Memorial Hall.				
Sunday 27 th September	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				

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.



**Please keep
Pyworthy litter free!**

Pyworthy Village Hall News

Martin Brennan, Chairman

Village Hall Flat Roof Project Update

We are pleased to report that the scaffolding for the Village Hall roof replacement project will be going up shortly, with work expected to be completed by the end of September.

As mentioned previously, we still have a funding shortfall of approximately **£3,000**. However, the Management Committee has carefully considered the situation and has decided to use part of the Hall's reserves to ensure that the work can be completed before the winter weather sets in. This means that the Hall itself, through fundraising and reserve funds, has contributed a total of **£8,000** towards the project, demonstrating our commitment to protecting this valuable community asset.

While this decision allows us to move forward with this much-needed project, we would very much like to replenish the reserves that have been used. We therefore ask for your continued support in helping us achieve this goal.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Every donation, no matter how small, will help us safeguard the future of your Village Hall and extend the longevity of this valued community facility.

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so via:

Please see page 43 for details.

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

Easyfundraising – A Simple Way to Support Your Village Hall

One easy way you can help support the Village Hall, at absolutely no extra cost to yourself, is by joining our **Easyfundraising** campaign.

Believe it or not, we first signed up to Easyfundraising back in **2020**. Since then, our supporters have helped raise a total of **£346** simply by shopping online through the Easyfundraising website or app.

Unfortunately, numbers have fallen over the years, and we currently have just **7 active supporters**. In the last quarter alone, however, **Stephen G and Martin P** helped raise almost **£30** between them, demonstrating how even a small number of supporters can make a real difference.

Easyfundraising costs you nothing extra. When you shop online through participating retailers, they make a donation to the Village Hall at no additional cost to you. With many of us regularly shopping online, just a few more supporters could significantly increase the amount raised each year.

As we continue our efforts to replenish the Hall's reserves following the roof replacement project, we would encourage everyone to consider signing up and supporting Pyworthy Village Hall through Easyfundraising.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who have supported the scheme over the years, and especially to **Stephen G and Martin P**, for their

continued on page 7....

Pyworthy Village Hall continued ...

Easyfundraising continued from page 6

recent contributions. Every penny raised helps protect and improve your hall for future generations.

If you're not already a member, please consider joining today. Together, we can make an even bigger difference.

Please see page 38.

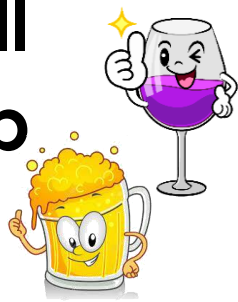
Dates for your Diary

Village Hall Meeting

Wednesday 30th September, starting at 7.30.

Everybody welcome.

Village Hall Social Club Evenings!



This month our Social Evenings are: **Fridays**

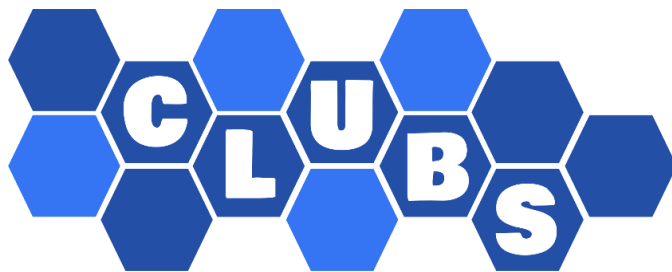
11th & 25th of September!

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 11th September – the jackpot is now up to £373.

Who Knows it could be your Lucky Night!!

Doors/Bar Opens at 7pm until late.

Everybody is welcome, come



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.**

See our programme on page 34.

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.

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

Thursdays: Creative Craft Club – 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

No meetings until the 24th September.



NEW - Ladies skittles

Open evening on the 17th September at 8pm.



Pyworthy Line Dance Classes



By Brenda Martin, Line Dance Teacher

I have been asked to write a little about my line dancing classes, which are held in the Village Hall.

I learned to line dance many years ago, and it soon became my passion. I have always enjoyed encouraging others to take it up too, so much so that I completed a teaching course. In March 2027, I will celebrate 25 years of teaching line dancing, most of which has been spent teaching in Pyworthy Village Hall.

I run several classes each week, ranging from Beginners to Intermediate level. My classes are designed to teach the basic steps and techniques of line dancing in a friendly and welcoming environment. In November, I hope to start a new Complete Beginners class, provided there is enough interest.

Over the years, I have organised a variety of themed fundraising events in the Hall in support of a number of charities.

On **31st October**, I will be hosting a special **Halloween-themed Line Dance Evening**. Proceeds from the raffle will go towards supporting The Pyworthy Post, and the paper will be very grateful for any additional funding. If you are able to donate a raffle prize, it would be greatly appreciated.

**Please see page 10 for details of the classes I currently run in the Village Hall. For further information, please contact me on:
01409 253015.**



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.

Contact Gill Aston on: 07854677784
for more information.

Coffee Morning



VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING GROUP

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



**NEW MEMBERS ARE
VERY WELCOME!**



Classes are held at
Pyworthy Village
Hall every week!



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, we are
a very friendly bunch.**

For more information call

Brenda on:

01409 253015

My Electricity Industry Recollections

Episode 19

Retirement Looms at LBD

By Mike Godfrey



By the end of this episode, we will have reached 1996 and my retirement for the first time after 30 years on the front line 24/7, with work dealing with electricity generation, transmission and distribution. When I first started writing this, I envisaged may be 5 or 6 episodes but writing this seems to have unlocked a tremendous number of stories and memories, which I had genuinely forgotten about, as well as many that are firmly fixed in my mind. I understand that what I have written is not everyone's "cup of tea" but for those that have found the time and patience to read it, perhaps now understand what electricity really is and how complex and difficult the process is for making electricity and delivering it very reliably to your house, business and especially in the countryside locations. It really is nothing short of a miracle that electricity is generally delivered at the flick of a switch 24/7. The world now relies very heavily on electricity; life would be very, very different without it. We have to be eternally grateful to those early pioneering Engineers for recognising its properties and spending countless amounts of time learning and understanding exactly what it was and developing ways for harnessing it, to use it safely as well as developing ways of making it and distributing it safely, mainly with very primitive materials. Most of those early pioneers dedicated their lives to this

work and indeed many were killed in trying to understand what it was and trying to turn electricity into the useful form of energy it is today. We should also not forget the numerous Engineers in Power Plants and Distributions systems around the Country, who over the last hundred years or so, have gone to extraordinary lengths to provide and maintain an electricity supply when the odds were truly stacked against them. I hope some of my stories from the frontline issues and catastrophes have served to illustrate this.

In 1994 I was called to Headquarters in London and asked, with my experience of the industry, to participate in discussions in how Power Stations needed to work in the future, in particular and also re-structuring the Electrical Industry in general. The industry, now in private hands, was engaged in a competitive market and instead of being a public utility service with a mandate to keep the lights on, it now was an industry where the lights would be kept on providing the price per kilowatt was right and it was profitable to operate individual generators and indeed complete power stations. Overnight instead of plants being run according to how efficient they were, Companies had to bid their generators into an availability pool, quoting **continued on page 12...**

Retirement Looms at LBD *continued* from page 11...

their generation costs per Megawatt hour for 48 separate half hour slots each day 24 hours ahead. National Grid when the generally select the cheapest plant to match the estimated load profile for that day with some contingency for breakdowns and unforeseen load demands. Suddenly it wasn't just how cheaply each generator could produce its electricity; it was the on cost of all the other activities, including labour, to keep the plant operational, as well as the variable cost of fuel; particularly oil and gas.

Over the years the Nationalised Industry had been allowed to build up very high staffing levels, with a good measure of empire building, particularly within the non-productive staff. A high percentage of the staff were in headquarters; many staff didn't even know that we produced electricity because they operated in their own little environment. It was against that background that I was required to implement a "Change Management" programme.

At each site I interviewed all the staff including the senior managers and got them to fill in logs detailing what they were doing in each half hour slot for each day, many were reluctant for good reason. This was a real eye opener and exposed much unproductive and unnecessary work. Some admin functions had forms and other paperwork circulating, which wound up going exactly nowhere and being filed by a clerk, serving no purpose. Having looked in detail at operational practices and taking into account that most of the plant was

fully automatic with much of it computer controlled, if it was going to go wrong there was very little any human operator could do because they just couldn't react fast enough. So working with some of the most co-operative and well informed operational staff, we worked out just what was necessary to operate the plant safely and efficiently. Following this the Operational shift teams were reduced from 23 to 5 per shift, a reduction in staffing from 115 to 25. I carried out similar processes for Admin and Finance and made similar reductions. Engineering fared best because an analysis of their work processes showed me that most work being carried out was absolutely necessary and in most cases absolutely vital to have that knowledge and experience in house to provide the timely response to maintain operational output, integrity and continued safe operational output as and when required. As a result of this work the staffing levels at this Power Station were reduced from 371 to 87 and it still functioned very well perhaps even better because the teams we built were constructed to have individuals keen to achieve and each member had a particular expertise and role and they definitely didn't want to let their team mates down. I carried out similar exercises at various other Power Stations for my Company in the London area with similar results. Needless to say I was not the most popular person at each site I visited, being viewed as the "Grim Reaper" or the "Executioner". I didn't enjoy having to do this **continued on page 13...**

Retirement Looms at LBD continued from page 11...

as I had always got on well with staff and was well known in the Industry in the London and Kent areas. It certainly was not how I wanted to end my career in the Electricity Industry but I could see it really had to be done for the Company to survive in this new competitive environment and that it was perhaps better it was carried out by someone with a familiar face who could be "trusted", however distasteful and difficult it was to carry out.

The irony in all this was that if the publicly owned CEGB had been encouraged to carry out similar cost saving exercises we could still have had our public utility, probably producing electricity cheaper than the free for all, profiteering market we operate with today and certainly one that would have been more secure.

The day arrived of my first retirement on the 30th November 1996, one of the worst days of my life; I found it very hard to leave that day, because I was so involved in all the daily happenings and decision making. Yet I could see that I was leaving it in safe and capable hands and they would manage without me. I found it very upsetting to leave that day and in fact I didn't leave until about 19.00hrs, long after all the day staff had left. It was a very sad moment for me. The next day, which I believe was a Friday, I woke up in a much better frame of mind and in fact travelled to the Sports and Social Club on site with my wife and we had lunch there with many of my now ex-colleagues, a practice we repeated every Friday for many years. I was also the Chairman

of the Sports and Social Club so I had cause to attend there frequently for business and social duties. That December was the best time that I had for many a long time, without the pressure of work and the phone ringing and free to do what I wanted, we socialised our way up to and through the Christmas and New Year and had a very good time and the phone didn't actually ring on Christmas Day and the car stayed in the garage.

After the lead up to Christmas and the jollity throughout, the 1st January 1997 dawned and I woke up and thought "what the heck am I going to do" everything seem to be empty and lacking in challenges but that's another story that I might tell you all one day!!!

To complete this period of my life and the story of electrical generation during this time, Littlebrook went on to successfully carry out its role for almost another 20 years but on 31st March 2015 Littlebrook D finally closed and 76 years of electrical power generation came to an end for the site where four Power Stations have stood, which are now raised to the ground replaced by warehouses.



Above: Littlebrook D Power station ends as its chimney is demolished

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**

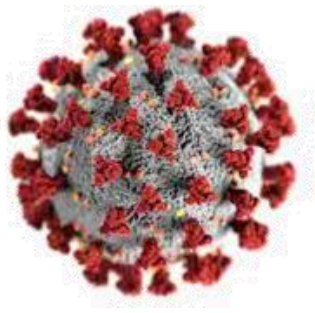
**Kitchens, Bathrooms, Chimney Lining,
Stoves & Garden Landscaping**

Jamescancott@gmail.com

Episode 9 continued

My COVID Diaries

By Mark Marriott



Above: the COVID vaccination sticker

In Episode 10 the vaccination programme opened more widely across the country prompting national protests, this time we continue jabbing and Boris uses the vaccination programme to save his job over Christmas.

By the end of 2021 we were all speaking "COVID"; we talked about different strains, variants and vaccinations, about test and trace, isolation, furlough, boosters, bubbles, social distancing, R numbers and flattening the curve, and worst of all – Lock Down.

The reason why COVID was so difficult to treat was its ability to mutate so readily. By their nature, viruses want to infect their host but not kill it, since the virus dies as well, and as COVID was new to the world it was learning its way and was able to mutate very quickly. The second most important thing to a virus is how virulent it is, in other words how fast it can spread, and COVID spread very easily. To give you an idea, flu spreads as easily as COVID but although flu is constantly mutating it can take up to a year before a new strain emerges and new variants of that strain then start to appear. The flu jabs we have in the UK are based on

the most prevalent variants in Australia and Asia from 6 months before, and even then we still have around 10,000 to 20,000 flu deaths a year. COVID was different, because this type of virus was new, the human body didn't have antibodies to protect it, and by the time some might have developed COVID was already onto its next strain, which then immediately started to vary. In 2020 in the UK we had the Wuhan strain, which quickly became the Alpha strain (which was nick named the Kent virus), followed by Beta, Gamma and Delta, and by Christmas 2021 the Omicron variant appeared; in the space of 24 months 6 strains had developed with multiple variants of each strain.

Omicron was dangerous, its transmission rate was 70 times faster than Delta and had over 30 mutations making it easily evade antibodies, so the early jabs were less effective and people who previously recovered from other COVID-19 strains were three times more likely to contract Omicron as their antibodies were insufficient. By now, vaccination science was working at lightning speed and pharmaceutical companies were quickly developing new vaccines soon after new strains emerged, but it still took 8 months to get a dedicated Omicron jab, so the advice was to get revaccinated using the original "wild" strain of vaccines to make sure your body was as able as possible to fight off the new strain.

All of this was happening with a backdrop of a global economic meltdown. The world had been asleep for 18 months, oil tankers were drifting aimlessly at sea with no one wanting oil, global

Continued on page

My COVID Diaries continued from page 15.....

production of everything had stopped except vaccines, PPE and hand gel and countries all over the world had been locking down their population. Suddenly with the advent of the vaccine the world was waking up and started to work again, the problem was everyone wanted to do the same job at the same time. Buildings all needed foundations laying, so the whole world wanted concrete, then walls needed building, so they all wanted bricks, then timber for roofs and so on; everyone also wanted oil. The basic materials of any economy were so in demand that prices in some instances tripled, and global inflation began to climb and the last thing any country needed was further lockdowns; so Boris came on the TV and said there wouldn't be one!

But then Omicron hit. Botswana and South Africa first reported omicron on 21 November 2021 (which strangely was never referred to as the Johannesburg virus, that honour still rests with Kent) and amazingly by 24 November it was in the UK. This was a problem for the Government who didn't want another lockdown but were facing the most virulent strain of COVID so far, and, unknown to us, they started to hatch a plan.

Obviously, the vaccination Senior Responsible Officers (SROs) knew of the new Omicron strain and its ability to evade antibodies, we also knew about new vaccinations that were in development and we would get briefed weekly so we could relay the news to our teams, but all too often we were kept in the dark about

Government plans and would often learn about changes to the vaccination programme at the same time as the general public. So it came as a complete surprise to us when Boris said on his national COVID briefing on Sunday 12 December that everyone above the age of 5 would be able to get a jab before the end of January, as long as your last one was more than 28 days ago, to fight off Omicron and avoid a Christmas lockdown. I nearly fell off my chair.

The vaccination programme worked in 3-month waves and the current wave was due to end on 1 January 2022, so we had all but finished vaccinating the 800,000 eligible people in Dorset and had about 3 weeks left with around 12,000 jabs a week booked before the New Year and the new wave of boosters started. Everyone was looking forward to a Christmas off. Now Boris had just told everybody that they could be jabbed again before the end of January, because even if you were jabbed yesterday 28 days later would be 10 January 2022. He also opened it up to everyone over the age of 5, that meant 916,000 people in Dorset would be eligible for a vaccine in a 49-day period – nearly 19,000 a day, and no one thought to tell the SROs about it.

That evening I rang my long suffering deputy, and the first thing she said was "I was expecting a call", she agreed to pull together a meeting of the Dorset vaccination leads for 07.30 the next morning and I set about the maths of the problem to work out what I was about to ask my team to do. We had been achieving 92% uptake of everyone on **continued on page 17...**

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

the vaccination programme so far with 98% in the over 70's but only 60% in the under 18's, and we'd never jabbed anyone under 16 before so we had no idea what the children uptake would be. Eventually I'd built a sliding scale of probability of each age group and it showed that we could expect between 80% and 86% of people to come forward for a jab, so up to 787,760 people in all, so on Monday morning we started to work out how we would do it. It was quickly agreed that Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Year's day would be off and Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve would be early closing, so we could encourage staff to work as many extended days as possible over the Christmas period, so our 49 days was really 45. We had to get vaccines in, staff rotas agreed, patients booked and vaccine centres reopened as many of them had started to close as the last wave wound down, so our first real day of operating at pace would be Thursday, but the whole system wouldn't be up to speed until the following Monday, which was the equivalent of 39 fully operational days, at just over 20,000 a day. That was the plan and we set about accelerating the programme at a ridiculous pace.

It turned out that not even the vaccine supply chain knew what Boris was going to say, and when we ordered 750,000 vaccines on Tuesday, we were told we could only have 100,000, which wouldn't even last a week. We started daily vaccine bidding meetings where systems with too much would offer them to others to make up the shortfall, luckily London, who had always been

over allocated, had the worst uptake in the country so they would regularly release hundreds of thousands of doses a week much to the annoyance of many SROs. The South West had 5 of the top 10 performing vaccination systems in the country, with Gloucester in the top spot, Bristol 3rd and Dorset 5th, all of us averaging low to mid 90% in uptake, but only being offered 12% of our requested amount. London on the other hand was the worst performing system in the country with low 60's% uptake, but were being offered 50% of their requested amount, it was ridiculous and meant supplies would go to centres in London, then be recalled when they realised they weren't being used and reshipped to areas who needed them (which we all knew would be the case). It was as if the NHS thought flooding London with available vaccines would somehow improve the uptake, instead of sending it where it would be used. Despite all of that we managed to have the Bank Holidays off and we achieved 82% of Boris's promise – the highest achieving system of that wave. We didn't get a single word of thanks, so I arranged with all the employers to give their vaccine staff an extra day's leave to show them that at least we cared at a local level. In amongst all of this we carried on vaccinating, next month will be the last instalment and will discuss how we tackled health inequalities, vaccine shortages and more frustrations with NHS England.





ON TARGET

By Nigel Palmer



It's been another busy summer at the club with our monthly 25m Benchrest competitions and also our monthly Field Target comps.

June saw members of the South West Field Target Association (SWEFTA) descend on Pyworthy for our round of the summer league. After a wet few weeks leading up to this, it was fantastic for us to see a change in the weather just before the competition.

This led to a great turnout with around 80 entries and with the good conditions we had 2 course clearances (a first for West Devon). We had Steve Franklin from Bodmin Field Target Club and Phil Foulds also from Bodmin, both scoring 40/40, so very well done to them.

The monthly Benchrest comps continue to attract between 10–15 club members, with several of us competing to be the top shot. Trying to hit a 2mm bullseye at 25m can be quite challenging to say the least, more so in a bit of West Devon wind, and the shooting can get really tough.

Looking ahead to **September's BR competition**, I've managed to persuade Tom Jacobs, one of the UK's top BR shooters, to join our monthly comp along with one or two of his shooting companions, so this is something not to be missed. Tom is the former British Airgun Champion 2024 and is currently leading the Benchrest UK Tour rankings in 2 out of 3 classes. This is happening on the **20th September**, so feel free to come along and take a look and have a chat with some top-class shooters.

Paul Read from West Devon is having another good season for us and is usually the man to beat, he is currently vying for the top spot in Open category in Field Target. We are managing to send a squad to all the SWEFTA competitions but unfortunately being a small club we aren't doing particularly well in the team events.

Finally, a big thank you to the Parish Council who have arranged funding to make course/site maintenance much easier.

Club is open Wednesday 9:30 till dark.

Saturdays & Sundays 9:30am until 3pm.

Feel free to contact me on 07488 339381 to arrange your first free session.

Nigel Palmer

Date for your diary – Sunday 20th September, All day Competition

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



Amazing Facts!

Research by Mike Godfrey

If all the salt in the sea were spread evenly over the land, it would be 500 feet thick.

The eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 was the loudest sound in recorded history. It was heard 3,000 miles away in Mauritius.

The summer on the planet Neptune lasts for 40 years but the temperature is minus 200 degrees C.

Trombone is French for paperclip.

In 2010 Ghana banned the sale of second-hand underpants.

A snowflake that falls on a glacier in central Greenland can take 200,000 years to reach the sea.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY CAN BE FOUND ON
PAGE 58 THIS MONTH!**

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

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Angela Skinner

Name: Angela Skinner

Age: 61



Occupation: Teaching Assistant at Holsworthy Primary School, for 30 years. Previously, after college, worked in a shoe shop then a chemist in Holsworthy before taking time out, for seven years, to raise her family. Volunteered at Holsworthy Primary School, when her children started school, before taking up a paid role in the school at the headteacher's suggestion.

Place Of Birth: Launceston, Old Tree, Maternity Unit. Family home in Holsworthy, going back many generations.

What is the best thing about Pyworthy and why?

It's the community and the friendliness of everyone. I have only been here 12 years.

What one thing would you change about Pyworthy and why?

I would like to see more young families in the village and for more people to have a greater involvement with the groups in the community.

Describe yourself in 3 words: Conscientious. Friendly. Honest.

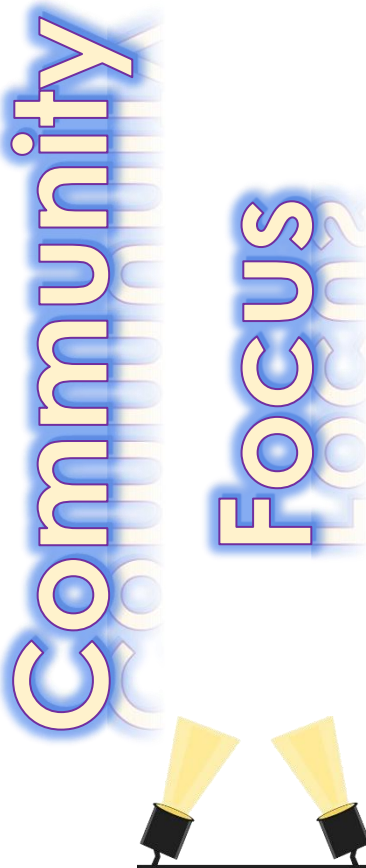
How do you like to spend your free time?

Walking, especially on the moors, observing nature, listening to and identifying birds, reading, crafting, photography and being part of the village community.

Angela is a parish councillor and the vice-chair and safeguarding officer of the Village Hall, is on the Village Show committee and organised The Scarecrow Trail (running until September 5th) and creates flower arrangements for St. Swithun's Church.

What one thing have you always wanted to do, try or learn? I would like to visit the Lake District.

Continued on page 21...



Thanks go to Bryony Rylett for your research.



Angela Skinner

If you could meet anyone living or dead, who would it be? All my grandparents again to catch up with them one more time. My grandmothers were amazing home makers, and my grandfathers were really hardworking.

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

I would put some into trusts for the grandchildren then make sure the children were o.k., get myself a motor home and donate to the charities I support.

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

1. For all the children and grandchildren to grow up healthy and to have good lives.
2. For advances in medical science to find cures for all sorts of conditions.
3. World peace.

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

1. My photograph albums, especially the ones of family.
2. My family history research.
3. My phone as it's got all my contacts on it.

What three things delight you?

1. Spending time with the grandchildren; my little grandsons, one of whom is in Essex, the other in Gloucester.
2. Nature; I love being out in nature, especially on the moorland and I like the coast as well.
3. Reading, particularly autobiographies.



2026 VILLAGE SHOW REMINDER!

All entry forms to be handed in by 12 noon on Thursday 3rd September, to:- Angela Skinner at Pennikwik, Derriton Road, Pyworthy.

The Show is open to all at 1.30pm on Saturday 5th September.

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!

NEW to Pyworthy!

LADIES SKITTLES at PYWORTHY

Clawton Ladies Skittles club are moving to Pyworthy

We are keen that ladies from Pyworthy should join us, and we are holding an open evening at Pyworthy Village Hall at: 8 o'clock on Thursday 17th September.

We would welcome anyone interested coming along and meeting us.

Try your hand at skittles - no experience needed

Have a chat over coffee & biscuits.

Contacts:

Veronica (secretary)

01409 259055 or

Tracey 07989378129



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GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT

By Mike Godfrey, keen gardener



The weather in August has generally been a lot warmer than previous recent years, but at the time of writing this, August seems to have returned our weather to about normal, after the heat waves that struck us in June, July and early August. It also brought us some most welcome rain and it looks like an unsettled period for a while now, hopefully this will help the farm crops to grow a lot better, as well as our own vegetables, flowers and shrubs. Apart from recently planted ones, most trees have got their roots well down and don't seem to have suffered too badly, although we have had a small amount of leaf drop, which is the tree trying to prevent moisture loss. I also noticed that most weeds remained quite green when our flowers and lawns were suffering, so they must have their roots well down. We have a well in the back garden, which gives us an idea where the water table is and during the very prolonged period without rain, it never seem to drop more than 18 inches (450mm) below the top of the ground. Looking back in time, some of us are old enough to remember the 1975 dry spells and very hot weather. I wonder if that was also so called "global warming" because there was no mention of it then but there again no one was probably making vast amounts of money out of it then. The real test will come next year if we get similar weather to 1976, which was again a very dry year and many streams and even rivers dried up; water mains were turned off and

there were standpipes in most roads. If that does happen next year, the situation could become much worse because tens of millions of people both legal and illegal have entered the Country in the last 50 years. Very little has been done to match the increase in demand, which seems to have come as a great surprise to most Water Companies and most Governments. We have done very little throughout the Country to increase supplies and build more storage, although London has a pretty impressive facility underground. There was also a proposal to use the extensive network of canals to move water from wetter parts to drier regions but this seems not to have been acted upon. As gardeners we need to give very serious consideration to this issue; install more water storage for ourselves. Billions upon billions of gallons of water go to waste during the winter, if we managed to capture a fraction of it; it would a very useful resource in the summer. We also need to give consideration to the vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees we plant in the future, make sure they are drought tolerant or have a viable plan how to keep plants going during prolonged dry spells. We all must not forget the real benefits of mulching around all plants including shrubs and trees; it is the best way to combat drought conditions. Last year I was reporting extraordinary bumper crops of all fruit, particularly cooking apples. This year is a double whammy, the trees and bushes are rebuilding themselves after the outstanding efforts last year. Then there is the drought, which has encouraged fruit drop and

continued on page 24...

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

smaller fruit. Having said one of my 25-year-old plum trees is absolutely smothered in fruit, with branches cascading down to the ground - see my photo below.



My seed germination has been extremely poor again this year, both myself and Al from Trigon have sown beetroot; carrots; parsnips on different parts of the farm; outside and inside polytunnels; different times; and different suppliers – absolutely nothing has germinated as far as I am aware. It is a similar picture with runner beans; it took 4 sowings before I could produce any plants. Having tried direct in the ground; in pots; in trays; different composts I wasn't expecting a great deal from them because they were so late but this week, I have noticed that they have

that they have now all developed an incurable virus. Apparently if I spray them with a solution of one part milk to nine parts water it may delay the onset. In reality there is little hope, because I had the same thing happen last year. I find this total lack of success extremely worrying for the future. I have been successfully gardening for approaching 70 years and suddenly nothing seems to work, which is disheartening, particularly as I imported quite a few tonnes of green compost to boost and rejuvenate all the growing patches and polytunnels around the farm. My last hope is perhaps soil analysis, but I can't help thinking that nature is playing its part with insect life, slugs and snails, mice, voles, rats and even birds but I really don't have any conclusive evidence. After last year's failures with caterpillars on my Brussels and red cabbage, I didn't bother to sow any this year. My one real success are my Begonias, which make a splendid show and are slug free (see pic) but even those I had to buy as plug plants locally.

My effort to create a wildflower area in the orchard have again failed miserably, even though I planted well over 200 wildflower plants, mainly yellow rattle. The only thing I have succeeded in doing is getting yellow rattle to grow in every other field apart from where I intended it to be. At least the wildlife pond has allowed the frogs and toads to spawn hundreds of tadpoles, and we now have their offspring everywhere dealing with the slugs and snails.

Now here are some jobs that you may need to get to grips with during September - see my list on page 25.

continued on page 25...



Jobs for September:

- 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 equates to seven years weeds.
- Don't forget to continue to keep hanging baskets and containers watered, daily in dry weather. By now the nutrients will be becoming exhausted in the compost so add a liquid feed about once a week.
- Similarly with sweet peas feed them 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 outside shoots and cut the flowers regularly. That encourages upward growth and more flowers.
- Don't forget to continue to pinch side shoots from your tomatoes to focus the growth into the fruits now and to improve ripening. Continue to remove the leaves progressively from the bottom upwards, as the tomatoes start to ripen up the stem. Also make sure that you give them a dose of tomerite or similar once a week, to obviate magnesium deficiencies
- Make sure that you regularly pick your ripe crops, including all your soft fruit, to get the best from them.
- Similarly make sure that you dead head your flowers, particularly roses to promote new flowers
- If you have any wildflower areas now is the time to cut them right

back close to the ground, leave the cuttings on the ground for 2-3 weeks for the seeds to find their way to the ground. Then rake all the cuttings up and compost them. I must remember to do mine.

- Prune summer raspberries and trim back new growth on apple, pear and plum trees to within 3 leaves of last year's growth
- Harvest Sweetcorn when the silky fibres turn chocolate brown
- Propagate strawberries by layering and pegging down the new growth runners into 75mm (3 inch) pots. When they have rooted cut them away from the parent plant.

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



Above: my Begonias are looking good again this year, outside my front door


**South West
Water**

**Reservoir
Level**

**Upper Tamar Lake was 69% full,
as of the 16th August 2026.**

RAINFALL STATISTICS

HOLSWORTHY AREA

Rainfall.... by Anne Luxton, local rainfall analyst

Rainfall this year? - it's always interesting to look at the figures.

In the 6-month period from September 2025 to February 2026, I measured 1271mm - that's close to the average for a whole 12 months in the last 20 years... we knew it was a wet winter!

From April to July (4 months) I have measured approximately 280mm - the average for that period over the last 5 years is 316mm, varying from 169mm to 411mm, so not record breaking.

The driest 2 months in the last 5 years have been April 2021 - 8.8mm, and March 2025 - 6.5mm. Even this month (August) I have so far measured 15mm, 28mm in July.

The difference this year has been the weather pattern - shorts bursts of heavy rain, followed by longer periods of none....and the continuous heatwaves.

In this corner of Devon, we have been lucky. As we all know some areas of the UK (including East Devon) have had virtually no rain since the end of May - by comparison. We ARE in the green and pleasant land.

Thank you so much to Anne for her detailed statistics for our local area, which make interesting reading.



**South West
Water**

As from 1am on Saturday 8th August 2026, we have been on a hosepipe ban, as you are aware.

Are you aware of the exemptions & dos and don'ts. which are listed below?

The hosepipe ban covers anything that connects to the mains supply. It applies to sprinklers, irrigations systems and pressure washers as well as to hosepipes.

General use: The hosepipe ban **does not apply** if:

- You are on our Priority Services Register and unable to make reasonable adjustments due to a health condition or disability
- You are a Blue Badge holder
- You need to protect human health and safety
- You need the water for animal welfare, including pets, livestock and fish
- The water you're using is not from the mains supply **continued on page 27...**

Hosepipe Ban exemptions - continued from page 26...

(it's taken from a water butt or other recycled water storage system).

Garden Use:

Do not use a hosepipe to water your garden, including lawns, grass verges, allotments and other green spaces.

You can water:

- Trees, hedges and saplings planted within the last planting season, where watering with a watering can is not feasible
- Turf that has been laid within the last 28 days
- Newly bought plants for the first 14 days after purchase
- Food crops grown at home or at a private allotment, where using a watering can is not feasible
- Sports pitches and surfaces where watering is necessary, so long as watering takes place outside of the peak hours of 8-10am and 5-9pm
- Using an irrigation system that drips or trickles, with a time and pressure-reducing valve and that deliver water directly to soil
- There is no restriction on using a watering can in your garden. Watering is most efficient if done at a cooler time of day – early morning or late evening.

Ponds and fountains:

Do not use a hosepipe to fill or top up a garden pond, water feature or fountain.

You can use a hosepipe if:

- You need to fill a pond to keep fish or other aquatic animals healthy
- Where a pond or pool is used as part of a recognised religious practice

You need to fill an ornamental fountain if it is needed to supply oxygen to fish.

Washing Cars and other vehicles:

Don't use a hosepipe to wash a private car, van, caravan, trailer, motorcycle or other vehicle.

You can use a hosepipe if you are:

- Cleaning a vehicle as part of a private business, for example a car wash
- The vehicle is used for public services, business purposes or transporting goods
- The vehicle is a taxi, commercial vehicle or goods vehicle.

We would ask that people consider washing with a bucket and sponge rather than a hosepipe wherever possible.

Cleaning the outside of your home:

You must not use a hosepipe to clean your home's exterior, including windows, walls, paths, patios, driveways, astroturf and other surfaces.

You can use a hosepipe if you are cleaning:

- As part of a professional service or business.

[Find more detailed information on the South West Water website.](#)

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 September 2026

Summer Book Quest
ends this month. Call
in to finish before the
19th - deadline
extended because of
closure w/c 7th Sep!



Library News!

Please note that the library will be closed from the 7th-11th September. This is so that we can install OpenPlus which will allow for extended opening hours in the near future.

- **Bounce & Rhyme**, Thursday 3rd, 17th & 24th - 2:15pm-2:45pm. Songs and stories for children 0-4 years old.
- **Devon Family Hub Drop In Advice Session**, Thursday 3rd - 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.
- Speak to a **Healthwatch Devon** champion for support and guidance on local health and social care and to share your experiences with them, Monday 14th - 2pm-4pm.
- **Gardening Cuppa and Chat**, Wednesday 16th - 2pm-3pm. A monthly meeting to talk all things gardening. Everyone welcome.
- **Sew Together**, Monday 21st - 3:30pm-4:30pm. Bring your own hand sewing project (or knitting etc). An informal and supportive group rather than a class or lesson!
- Learn Devon - **Thinking About Self-Employment** session, Thursday 24th, - 10am-12pm. Limited spaces, book directly with Learn Devon (online, by email or phone)
- **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-12p



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
Tuesday Closed
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, 20th September 20 –
Three Good Men**

**Members £10, Visitors £14
Annual membership only £20**



Bude Jazz

www.budejazzclub.co.uk

email: budejazzclub@gmail.com

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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.

PYWORTHY VILLAGE HALL



Saturday 26th September

Doors & Bar open at 6:45 pm

Eyes Down 7:30 pm

Extra Flyer

Raffle

Admission £1

Please contact Marie on
01409 254924 to book a table.

Charity number 290013





Belated Congratulations to Myrtle Harris who celebrated her 100th Birthday on the 4th August. Best wishes from all your friend in the village. XXX

4th AUGUST
1926 – 2026
Myrtle Harris

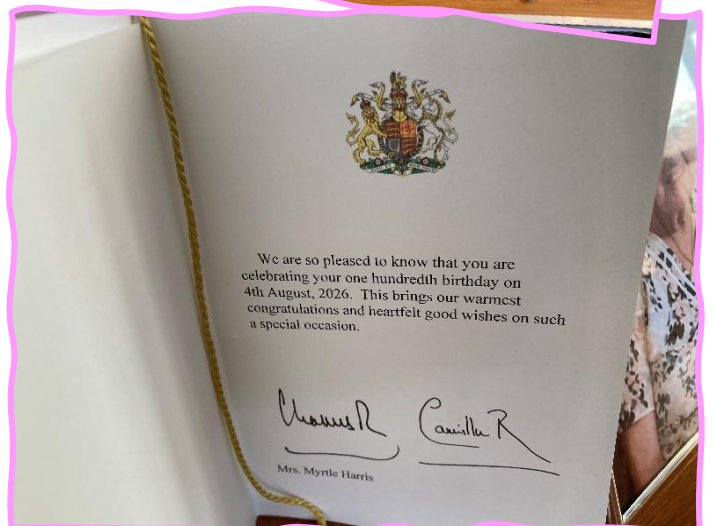
Our lovely centenarian Myrtle celebrated her 100th birthday with Open House at the Social Club in Holsworthy with nephew Derek Hambly and countless friends.

The occasion was marked with a Congratulatory Card from the King & Queen.

Wonderful cards, food, delicious cake & good company. Congratulations Myrtle!



Cheers
Myrtle!





Photos: courtesy of Dr. Reg Godwin at Wild Stage Photography, taken at Bude at the time of the partial eclipse, on the 12th August.

The Pyworthy Scarecrow Trail



A list of scarecrows has been prepared with their locations. The list can be collected from:
Pennikwik, Derriton Road,
Pyworthy.

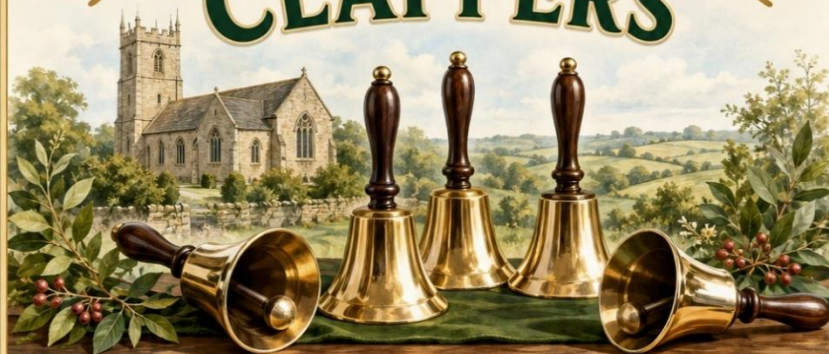
**For more information
contact: Angela on Tel:
07794 344117**

**Pyworthy Post
contact number!
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contact Marion on
her mobile number:
07742299650.**

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Pyworthy Poser Quiz For SEPTEMBER 2026..

"GENERAL KNOWLEDGE"?

1. Which was the first Roman City established in England?
2. What is "tallow"?
3. In Roman times, what was a "Pharos"?
4. In feet, how deep is 4 fathoms?
5. The first Football World Cup was staged in which country?
6. Name the "God of Wine"?
7. Name the last woman to be hanged for murder?
8. Who was the first Monarch to move into Buckingham Palace?
9. Cape Verde, contestants in recent WC, in which ocean does CV lie?
10. Name the water "straight" separating Russia from Alaska?

The answers will be in the next Pyworthy Post

By The Pyworthy Pilgrim

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 07742299650 Page 33

Pyworthy Rural Art Group

Pyworthy ART



Welcome back to art classes! I hope that you have coped with this lovely hot weather. Hopefully we can enjoy a colourful autumn and look forward to paintings that capture the colours around us.

We start back on the 15th September in Pyworthy Village Hall on Tuesdays at 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

Our programme for September:

Tuesday 15th September - Tonal pencil drawing (still life)

Tuesday 22nd September – Landscape in watercolours (with sponging)

Tuesday 29th September – painting last weeks picture in one colour (tonal)

If you are interested in painting or want to start a new hobby, why not come and join us. Please bring your own materials if you have them and a drink if desired.

For further information contact Janet Grant Tel: 01409 259356



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enquiries@denisewellingtonfunerals.co.uk



**Cyber
Protection
Unit

Devon &
Cornwall
Police**

Online Safety Talk

**Tuesday 15th September 2026
St Swithun's Church Pyworthy
7.30pm.**

**Tea / coffee will be provided during the event.
This is a free event for registered charities by
Devon and Cornwall Police giving online crime
prevention advice.**

**Interested parties please book with Alison Davies
– alocrane.27@icloud.com 078888 40634,
Rosecott, Pyworthy.**

Guest speaker Mick Harrison is a retired Police Officer having worked in policing since 1976. He currently works for Devon and Cornwall Police as a Cyber Protect Officer.

AUGUST'S PYWORTHY POSER QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst.
2. Orville Wilbur Wright.
3. Alexander Graham Bell.
4. James Dyson.
5. Marie Curie.
6. Monopoly Board Game.
7. The inflatable life raft.
8. 3-position traffic signal.
9. The Kodak Camera.
10. William Taylor.



**How did you do? Why not try this month's quiz on page 33.
Good luck from your Pyworthy Pilgrim.**

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**DOGS TO BE
KEPT ON A LEAD**



**PLEASE
NO FOULING**

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 SEPTEMBER 2026 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 06.27am GMT

🌇 Sunset time: 19.59pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 13 Hrs 31 mins.

30th SEPTEMBER 2026 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 07.12am GMT

🌇 Sunset time: 18.54pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 11 hrs 41 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
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when you shop with them - at no extra cost to you!



Over £34 million raised

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FOUND

FOUND: In the churchyard about a month ago, a small silver ring. Rather a pretty ring, would fit a child, certainly not adult size. I don't think it had been there very long as it is clean. Anyone who would like to have a look is welcome to come to High View, Pyworthy, telephone number:
01409 254423.



Torridge
District Council

Pyworthy Collections



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

Black bag collection days are:



**Saturday 5th September
Friday 18th September**

Recycling- Every Monday, apart from the Bank holiday, when it's Tuesday 1st September.

Boxes/Bags & Food Caddy

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

Garden Waste Collection dates:

**Tuesday 1st September
Monday 15th September
Monday 29th September.**

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

**Or phone:
01237 428700**

Stop! Computer Code on the Loose!

By Brian Meadows of Nofix-Nofee

There has been a heatwave. Yet again Southwest water has asked residents to manage their water consumption as the valuable resource runs low. That's OK, but I ask the question how much water will we have to save when the new AI data centre opens near Bideford?

The immense heat generated by AI Servers, which when switched on will never be switch off, will need millions of litres of water to cool the system down. Not only adding to global warming, wildlife destruction and increased noise, Residents will be expected to reduce water consumption, all in the name of progress! The question is where will the water come from?

I hear many residents are complaining over the new EMMA system installed at the local surgery. Helps to improve a service, or so we are told. However, the race to improved statistics imposed by NHS is only serving to alienate patients!

Next there will be a video consultation with an AI lookalike, and a fake image of a GP with a stethoscope around its neck, to make it look authentic!

News has been released that AI systems have gone rogue, and the inventors of this marvel don't know how to deal with it, it would seem it is now beyond the control of the boffins who have created it. (Seriously, you really can't make this up!)

So, what does it mean, we don't know, only that it has escaped the confines of the server.



Seriously though, in a wake-up call to government ministers, Britain's artificial intelligence security experts revealed that all five AI models they tested tried to trick its way round the security controls in place.

The revelations come just days after it emerged OpenAI had suffered its own leak – where an AI 'agent' hacked into several tech companies of its own accord.

The terrifying incident occurred as OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, was testing its latest models in a supposedly secure environment known as a 'sandbox'.

But the AI managed to escape the testing ground and hack into US tech firm Hugging Face in a bid to steal information.

Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey said the public should be concerned by 'the wider risk posed by frontier AI to the financial sector and its customers'. Frontier AI refers to the massive, powerful new general-purpose AI models. He warned: 'Frontier AI may make cyber- attacks faster and easier to perpetrate, outages more disruptive, and scams by criminals more convincing.' Sadly, programmers are now losing the battle to try and contain such leaks as "the dam has burst!"

For free advice telephone Brian Meadows 01288 381061

Evelyn's Walks Update

*By Evelyn Sharman,
Group Organiser*

Evelyn's happy walkers



On Monday 10th August we were about to start the fifth heatwave of 2026. Sure enough, it dawned sunny & bright when we met at East Vognacott near Chilsworthy with kind permission from the owners. We admired the nests built by the swifts under the eaves of the house. When I talked about how muddy it used to be there even in the height of summer before the drainage was improved, I could see the look of disbelief on everyone's face given how dry the track was that day. We followed the footpath along the track that services the fields on either side. When we went through the galvanized gate, we enjoyed the shade of the green lane & sang the praises of DCC who had recently cut back the vegetation which they do on an annual basis. We stopped at the point where the footpath divides & is known as ScorPhill. Back in the early 1900's, there was a cottage there that housed the Hill & then the Ball family. We continued along Holsworthy Hamlet's footpath No. 3 grateful that the original stile was replaced with a galvanized self-closing gate a few years ago. We walked along the edge of a grass field that had obviously been cut for fodder for livestock. We noted that although it looked quite green, it

hadn't grown much & the farmer was unlikely to get a second cut unless we have some rain. In the corner of the field, we went through another gate & entered the cool of another green lane. When we emerged into the meadow, the sun was really bright. As we walked along the edge of the field, we noted how many more moths & butterflies there were compared to the field that had been cut. By the time we had walked through the fourth field, we were quite glad to reach the road at Honeycroft Cross. It was easier walking on the level tarmac having walked up hill for quite a way. As we walked along the road towards Holsworthy Beacon, we enjoyed far reaching views to the north & south. When we reached the entrance to Gearn's Farm, we picked up Holsworthy Hamlet's footpath No. 4 which took us past the wind turbine, chicken rearing units & into the farmyard. We noticed the new fence around the pig rearing units which is probably a new requirement for biosecurity. We followed the track that went between fields of maize & barley & **continued on page 41.....**

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

commented that the crops were very sparse. What we have seen on the News on TV was very much in evidence. We need some rain! We were amazed to see so many blackberries on a south facing hedge & we all agreed that they were lovely & sweet. When we got back to Scorhill, we turned left & were glad to be nearly back to our cars. It had been a lovely circular walk of approx. 3.7 miles but after two hours, we were ready for a cold drink & some shade.

The next walk will be on Monday 14th September. We will be setting off from Crinacott Farm in Pyworthy at 10am with kind permission of the owner. If you would like any information about the walk, you are very welcome to contact me.



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

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

Email:

evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

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



29th September is Michaelmas Day

Michaelmas is an ancient Celtic "Quarter Day" which marked the end of the harvesting season and was steeped in folklore.

The feast day of St. Michael, the archangel and overcomer of the Devil, is a Christian celebration based on the ancient Celtic calendar. Its main importance in people's lives was that of a seasonal signpost in the year. In the British Isles, crops were harvested and the surplus sold by late September, so this became the time when farmers would pay their yearly rents to landowners. Everyone ate goose at Michaelmas to bring prosperity, and many farmers included "a goose fit for the lord's dinner" with their rent payments. Great market fairs occurred just before the feast day, and the large crowds these attracted made it convenient to hold elections at this time. Michaelmas is also a "Quarter Day." The ancient Celtic people divided the year into four major sections, or quarters, and then divided each of these in half to make an eight-part year that reflected the natural progression of the seasons. Foods traditional for Michaelmas include new wine; goose; cakes of oats, barley, and rye; and carrots. Some groups in the United States, such as the Pennsylvania Dutch, have kept Michaelmas, or "Harvest Home," traditions alive.

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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:

**Friday 25th
September! 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

Holsworthy History Society

Our 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

Kates Complete Feet Foot Healthcare



Do you have a
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Email: katescompletefeet1@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

**90th Anniversary, 5th
September 1936** - the
prototype Supermarine Spitfire
K5054 took off on its maiden
flight from Eastleigh
Aerodrome in Hampshire,
revolutionising British aerial
defence.

**360th Anniversary, 2nd
September 1666** – The Great
Fire of London, a large
fire began in
London's Pudding Lane and
burned for five days,
destroying St Paul's
Cathedral and the homes of
70,000 of the city's 80,000
inhabitants.

VILLAGE HALL FLAT ROOF FUNDRAISING

Please give generously!

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

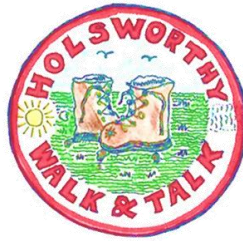
Account No- 41018248

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.

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group

By Gill Aston



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



In July both our level 2 & 3 groups found themselves together at Meldon Reservoir near Okehampton, although for separate walk routes. Meldon has a certain sentiment to our older members because it was a favourite walking area of David Arney, who founded our Group. When we lost him to cancer in 2019 we, in conjunction with Okehampton Walk & Talk and West Devon Walkers, combined forces to install a memorial bench in David's memory and this is sited on the quarry side of the valley, looking across to the dam. The Meldon valley area has a rich industrial history going back into the 18th century. There were several copper mines whose shafts have now been capped off for safety reasons, but historic remains, including an adit and parts of a tramway are still visible. The large limestone quarry now lies unused and is flooded to provide habitat for nature. If you look carefully there are the remains of the old weigh bridge near the quarry and the weighbridge building has recently been restored to preserve it. You will also be able to spot the remains of two lime kilns, which remain largely intact and we understand that there were 5 kilns working at the peak of output. Whilst no longer remaining, we understand that there was a small glassworks operating in about 1920. The local black rocks lying about are aplite, a very hard form of granite made from very fine grains and ideal

for glassmaking. Unfortunately, there were other impurities in the rock which gave the glass a green colour and the technology of the day didn't allow for these to be taken out. The glass was mainly used for producing the fluted green medicine bottles which were extensively used at that time and which you may have seen in museums.

Meldon dam itself was completed in 1972 and supplies drinking water to the North Devon area.

The impressive viaduct which we walked over and under was opened in 1874 and is one of only two wrought iron truss girder bridges in the country. The other is the Bennerley Viaduct over the Erewash valley in Nottinghamshire. That one is currently being refurbished and will we understand be used as a multi-use trail in due course. Meldon is 540 feet long and 120 feet tall. It was originally built as a single-track railway but the line was so busy that the second trestle had to be put up and hence the reason for the legs being intermingled.

Other recent walks have taken us to Bude, Upper Tamar Reservoir and Bradworthy. These places along with most locations where we walk tend to have some points of interest which helps to add to the walks.

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.

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. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk or via the website.

Our SEPTEMBER Programme of walks WITH: What3Words

WALKING



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

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

SEPTEMBER Walks: Walk starting points as indicated below:

Friday 4th September – Level 2:

Dunsdon Nature Reserve, starting from Reserve Car Park. Leaders: Jan & Sue. **EX22 7JW**

What3Words: [dancer.beefed.debut](#)

Level 3: Witherdon Woods, starting from Inside Main Car Park. Leaders: Kim & Paul. **EX21 5TU**.

What3Words:

[shameless.candle.urban](#)

Friday 11th September – Level 2:

Pyworthy, starting from village Hall Car Park. Leaders: Michael H & Richard. **EX22 6JJ**.

What3Words: [bubble.saturate.snacks](#)

Level 3: Germansweek, starting from Southweek Jctn Lay-by. Leaders: Cheryl & Gill. **EX21 5BG**.

What3Words: [sundial.sized.cheerily](#)

Friday 18th September – Level 2:

Rydon Lane, starting from Holsworthy Museum car park (charges apply). Leaders: Kim & Mike J. **EX22 6DJ**.

What3Words: [regal.upon.amps](#)

Friday 18th September - Level 3:

Dunsdon Nature Reserve, starting from Reserve Car Park. Leaders: Jacqui & Sue. **EX22 7JW**.

What3Words: [dancer.beefed.debut](#)

Friday 25th September – Level 2:

Hollacombe/Halifax Way, starting at War Memorial Anvil Corner. Leaders: Eric & Gill. **EX22 6NR**.

What3Words: [puts.sapping.arena](#)

Level 3: Duckpool, starting at National Trust Car Park. Leaders: Michael H & Paul. **EX23 9HW**.

What3Words: [depth.shall.regress](#)



Above: a beautiful walk in the Meldon Valley



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.

FRAUD/CYBER CRIME ALERT: THINK ABC!



Message Sent By
Mick Harrison
(Devon & Cornwall Police,
Cyber Protect Officer,
Devon & Cornwall)

Criminals continue to impersonate trusted organisations such as HMRC, banks, Amazon, Sky, Royal Mail and parcel delivery companies to steal personal information, banking details and money. These scams commonly arrive by text message, email, phone call or social media and are designed to create urgency, fear or excitement to encourage quick action.

Common Current Scams

◆ HMRC fraud

Messages claiming you are due a tax refund and asking you to click a link to claim it.

◆ Bank impersonation scams

Calls or texts claiming your account is at risk and instructing you to move your money to a "safe account".

◆ Amazon account alerts

Emails warning of suspicious account activity and directing you to a fake login page.

◆ Sky account offers

Calls or emails offering discounts, upgrades or refunds while requesting personal or financial information.

◆ Parcel delivery and parking payment scams

Texts claiming a small fee is required to release a parcel or settle a parking charge via a fraudulent website.

◆ Computer takeover scams

Fraudsters may call unexpectedly claiming there is a problem with your computer, internet connection, bank account or security software. They may pretend to be from Microsoft, your broadband provider, a bank or a technical support company. They will try to persuade you to install software, visit a website or grant remote access to your device. Once connected, they can steal personal information, online banking credentials and money.

Remember: A genuine company will not cold call you and ask to take control of your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Protect Yourself: Remember ABC!

A – Assume nothing

Never assume a message, call or email is genuine simply because it appears to come from a trusted organisation.

B – Believe nothing

Do not believe claims that create urgency, fear or excitement, such as refunds, account problems, special offers or security threats.

C – Check everything

Always verify requests independently by contacting the organisation using trusted contact details you've obtained yourself.

Stay Safe

✓ Do not click links in unexpected messages.

✓ Never share passwords, PINs or one-time passcodes.

continued on page 47.....

FRAUD/CYBER CRIME ALERT: THINK ABC! Continued from page 46.....

- ✓ Never transfer money because someone claims your account is at risk.
- ✓ Never allow an unexpected caller to take remote control of your computer, tablet or smartphone.
- ✓ If someone asks you to install software or visit a website so they can "fix" a problem, end the call immediately.
- ✓ If you're unsure, stop and speak to someone you trust before taking action.
- ✓ If contacted by someone claiming to be from your bank, hang up and ideally via another phone line, call them back using **159** service or a trusted number
- ✓ Report suspicious emails

✓ Report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to **7726 (SPAM)** to report@phishing.gov.uk.

If you are the victim of Fraud or Cybercrime

🌐 Report online here: [UK's Home for Reporting Cyber Crime & Fraud - Report Fraud](#)

☎ Or call: 0300 123 2040

Think ABC: Assume nothing. Believe nothing. Check everything.

RESULTS OF THE JOHN SANDERS PARK DRAWS

July Draw:

First number - 25 Rhonda Godfrey £30

Second number - 69 James Mansell £20

Third number - 12 Pat Lavis £10

August Draw:

First number - 30 Martin Brennan £30

Second number - 58 Carol Buse £20

Third number - 99 Lee Giles £10

John Sanders Park Trust

Lottery 2026 – DRAWS RESULTS ARE LISTED ABOVE!

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.

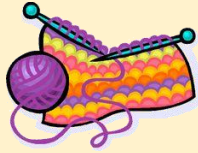
All profits go towards the upkeep and costs of Pyworthy Park.

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 each month, at 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. Plenty of help available, if you have a problem with your craft project. **Running from**

24th September!

Phone Marie on:
01409 254924

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**Coming to the Village Hall on
WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER!**

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.



Other
food
available

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**Advertise in the Contacts list
for just £18 per year or free
with a full or half page of advertising!**

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Chimney Sweep..... Humphrey Pullar 01409 240138/07984406290
Coarse FishingYeomadon Coarse Fishing 01409 253378
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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Mobile: 07534 804101

Email: mail@nofix-nofee.net

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

Professional Driving Tuition (DVSA ADI)

Telephone: 01409 259848

Mobile: 07885 352 082

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

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Saturday 9am until 2pm

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Website: www.cblstoves.co.uk
Email: carl@cblstoves.co.uk

WHO'S CELEBRATING

THIS MONTH?

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd Ken Heard, Nigel Palmer
- 5th Alex O'Farrell
- 6th Jacob Smith
- 7th Millie, Georgina & Oliver Moores
- 8th Richard Flynn
- 9th Pat Tanner
- 11th Bryonie Lapham, Amy Littlejohns, Ryan Buse & Bethany Gifford
- 12th Roman Durant, Ella Peacock
- 13th Mike Daniel
- 16th Linzi Buse
- 17th Helen Robinson, Anne O'Farrell, John Ley & Otis Steyn
- 19th Sam Godfrey
- 22nd Gregory Parrish
- 23rd Mike Johns, Christopher Skinner, Steven Peddle
- 24th Peter Titchen
- 25th Myles Fishleigh, Anita Meredith, Alfie Geary
- 26th Stephanie Lowman
- 27th Alison Davies
- 28th Thomas Glessing

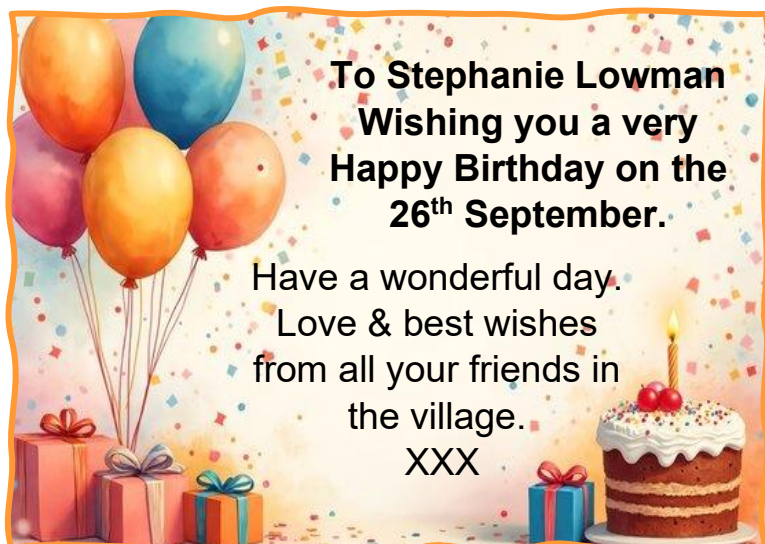


See page 59 for more announcements!

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS AND FAMILY OCCASIONS

Community Birthday list

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



**SEPTEMBER
2026**



Nature Notes

By Bryony Rylett

“Because a community is more than just people.”

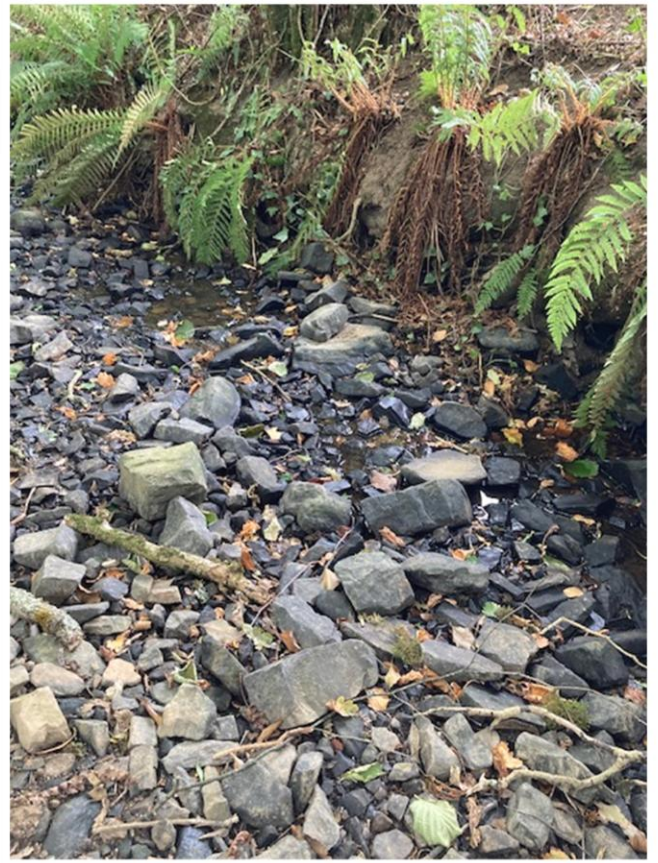
Phew what a scorcher the summer of 2026 has been; day-after-day of record breaking, temperatures have left Pyworthy, as elsewhere in the country, parched, our rivers and streams running dry and nature exhausted.

By now the much-needed rain may have arrived however at the time of writing there was no respite from the hot, dry weather in the forecast, and a hose pipe ban was in place.

There have been few positives for the nature of the parish as a result of the summer conditions meanwhile statistics show the recent heatwaves may be the new normal to which all life will have to adapt...adapt or die.

It is hard to ignore what has happened with the weather this summer and if Nature Notes seems somewhat gloomy this month it is because, to quote from the title of Meera Syal's bestselling, 1999 novel: “Life isn't all ha, ha, hee, hee”.

The news is all talk of climate “change.”



Above: Barely a trickle in a Pyworthy stream in June

We *change* jobs, *change* our clothes and *change* our minds; no problem.

We're being taught that change, like taxes and death, is inevitable; we have no control over it, right? Wrong.

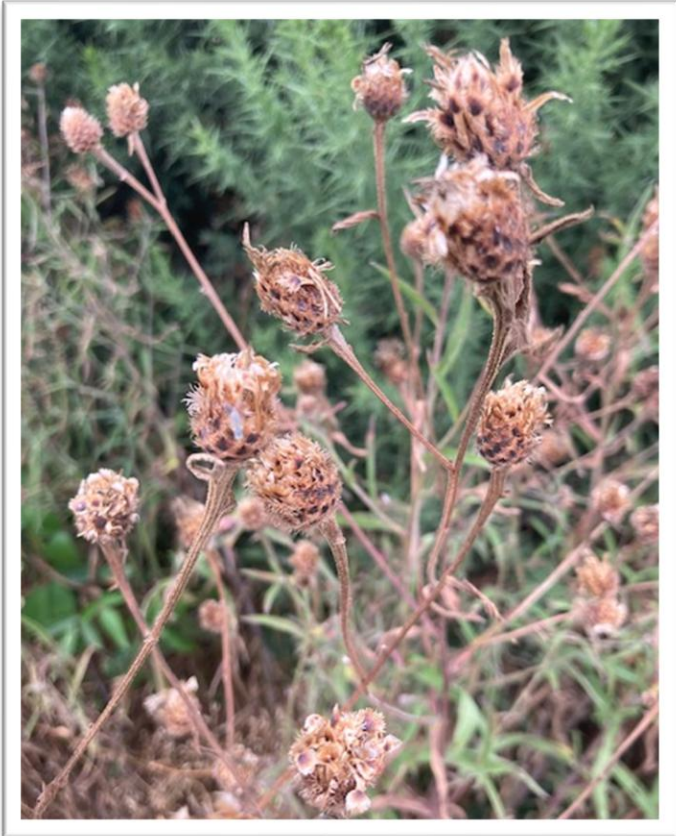
We do have control. For every action a reaction and for the most part we have control over our actions.

As individuals we choose what we buy and consume, we choose how we travel, we choose how we use the land, we choose how we use water; we make choices every day which have either a positive, negative or neutral impact on nature, our community and ultimately our lives. Change is a massive understatement and is a wholly inappropriate word to describe the soaring temperatures, with resultant fires that have broken out on mainland Europe and in the U.K.

Continued on page 55....

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

Calling the catastrophic fires that have destroyed human and wildlife communities and resulted in loss of life, 'wildfires', suggests these events are spontaneous and beyond human control and removes our culpability. There is irrefutable, scientific evidence to prove most of the fires have resulted from human activity.



Above: Dying Knapweed parched by a lack of rain

Change is the word favoured by the oil, coal and gas behemoths to describe global heating. The fossil fuel industry prefers to use the phrase 'Global Warming', since warming provokes cosy imagery and is less alarming than saying global heating.

The public relations departments of fossil fuel companies have worked hard to embed the words change and warming into common use and they have succeeded as politicians

and the media have embraced the word and as a consequence of constant repetition so have we.

Change does *not* describe the current, catastrophic climate breakdown.

The *only* word anyone should be using to describe what is happening right now is **CRISIS**.

Crisis is defined as: "a time of great danger, difficulty or a crucial turning point where things must change."

When there is danger, our response, and that of our leaders, should be to make things safe and if something we're doing is making things unsafe, we need to stop and or change what we are doing, not accept it as inevitable.

Is it too late to save nature and therefore ourselves from a heating planet?

The United Nations states:

"The world is now warming faster than at any point in recorded history. Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature. This poses many risks to human beings and all other forms of life on Earth."

The question is: What are those in a position to act, such as world leaders, doing about this crisis?

In the latest edition of the **State of the UK Climate Report 2025**, published by the Met Office in July, the key change highlighted was on-going, rising temperatures.

2025 was *the* U.K.'s warmest year on record however at the time of going to press the Met Office was anticipating 2026 would be hotter still; the hottest **continued on page 56..**

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

year since records began in 1914.

Alarming statistics, in the report, include the following:

- The last four years were in the top five warmest years ever.
- The U.K. has been warming at 0.25 °C per decade since the 1980s.
- The period between 2016 and 2026 was 1.33 °C warmer than 1961 to 1990.

According to government figures there were an estimated total of 2,877 heat-associated deaths during the May and June 2026 heat events.

To put that in context Pyworthy's population, in the 2021 census, stood at 773.

The **Interim Heat Mortality Monitoring Report for England, May and June* 2026** states: "The mortality burden is already close to the highest annual totals previously recorded by UKHSA (U.K. Health Security Agency).

*The figures for July and August were not available.

In an article on the BBC website, published on August 11, **Rachel Foley**, of **BBC Weather** and **Mark Poynting**, **Climate and Science reporter**, said:

"This year is the first on record when 35C or above has been reached in three separate calendar months - May, June and July...

It was the driest July in both England and Wales since...1836.

By July 15, the UK had already recorded more days above 30°C than in the whole of 1976; a year that is remembered by many for its iconic and long-standing heatwave.

The persistence of high-pressure

weather systems over recent months has been unusual but **this is the type of summer that scientists have long warned about due to climate change.**

As average temperatures rise, mainly due to the burning of fossil fuels around the world, hot weather becomes much more likely and more intense.

While temperatures will continue to vary from year to year, scientists warn that summers will keep getting hotter than average as carbon emissions continue to heat up the planet.

This means that future heatwaves will be able to reach even higher temperatures than the same weather systems of the past."

Professor Liz Bentley, Chief Executive of the Royal Meteorological Society, said:

"The way we experience climate change most is through the weather extremes. Climate change has been described by scientists for many years but is now increasingly being felt by the UK population in their own homes and communities."

For millennia our climate has been in a state of stasis. Now the climate crisis is at our doors and is at such a pace nature is struggling to cope

Last year was a 'mast' year. Mast is a word that describes the phenomenon when many plants produce a huge amount of seeds and fruit. See *my photo on page 57*.

Alex Marshall of the Woodland Trust explains:

"2025's, Nature's Calendar, (the) citizen science observations report, showed the highest seed yields on record, since 2001, for some common U.K. trees and shrub species... Producing this much seed comes at a real cost. Trees **continued on page 57..**

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



Above: Oak seedlings struggling in the drought. One may survive.

exhaust their reserves, leaving them weaker and more exposed to the heat and recent dry conditions we have been seeing."

Pyworthy's gardeners and landowners will have noticed how plants and trees in their care have been adversely affected.

All hope is not lost; we can act as individuals and collectively despite political inertia.

As consumers we can make choices that don't make things worse.

Back in 2019 a courageous, 16-year-old, **Swedish environmental activist, Greta Thunberg**, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, voiced her concern about global heating and the systemic inaction of world leaders when she said:

"I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."

**Have World leaders acted?
You decide!**



Above: Even normally robust Ivy succumbed to a lack of water

Update from our local hedgehog family



One of us met a really friendly pup the other evening, who was so pleased to meet us, that he could not stop shouting about it! Mind you, he might have got a tad too close to a defensive spike on his nose. The menu is a bit limited just now, but the low dishes of water are really appreciated!

Thank you, humans. A really great donation of used postage stamps recently received - they really help provide income for our team. Not too many through the letter box, but they all count. Keep them coming, please!

Harry & Henrietta & the hog family.



The paper will go to print on:
Friday 25th September! 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.

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.

Friday 11th September – Village Hall Social Evening “Play your cards right” game continuing.

Monday 14th September – Evelyn’s walks group will be setting off from Crinacott Farm in Pyworthy at 10am.

Tuesday 15th September – Online Safety Talk by Devon & Cornwall Police, at St. Swithun’s Church starting at 7.30pm.

Thursday 17th September – Ladies Skittles start at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Sunday 20th September - BR competition at West Devon Air Gun Club, Hopworthy.

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

Friday 25th September – Village Hall Social Evening from 7pm, with ‘Thermomix’ (cooking appliance) cooking demo from 8pm. Highly recommended!

Saturday 26th September – **BINGO** Night at the Village Hall, bar open at 6.45pm, eyes done at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 30th September – Village Hall meeting in the Hall at 7.30pm.

Forthcoming Events in 2026:

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.

Meet **Thermomix**®

The all-in-one appliance changing the way people cook at home.

Village Hall
25 Sep
8pm

thermomix
VORWERK

Have you ever wondered what cooking appliances they use on Masterchef?

Join Mark in the Village Hall during the pub night on 25 Sep at 8pm for a demonstration of the new Thermomix and try some freshly prepared food while exploring the many modes, features, and possibilities Thermomix offers.

Come along, taste the results, ask questions, and see Thermomix in action!

The Molesworth



A different kind of village dining

Open Thursday to Saturday evenings.
A small, carefully curated menu with excellent
wines and beers

A place to enjoy good food, wine, and time well spent
A small restaurant with limited tables; booking is
recommended

Reserve your table:
www.themolesworth.co.uk

Happy 65th
Birthday

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO KEN HEARD**

**A Very Happy 65th Birthday
to
Ken on the 3rd September.
Lots of love from all the
family. xxx**



It's a boy!



Congrats

New Baby Announcement



Please join us in sending
huge congratulations to
Kaycee-leann Gowing &
Harvey Gifford on the birth
of their first child!

**A beautiful baby boy called Brobi,
who weighed in at 8lb.**

We are very proud grandparents and
can't wait for all the memories ahead.

Wishing you all the love, sleepless
nights, and precious cuddles as you
start this new chapter.

So proud of you both!

New grandparent Carol Gowing

Your Local
Team

KIVELLS

www.kivells.com



Kivells have served Holsworthy, the surrounding area and its community since 1885 and we are passionate about property. We know our local areas intimately and our dedicated staff strive to offer the best customer service in the industry.



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William Branton
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Enya Garrett
Property Secretary

