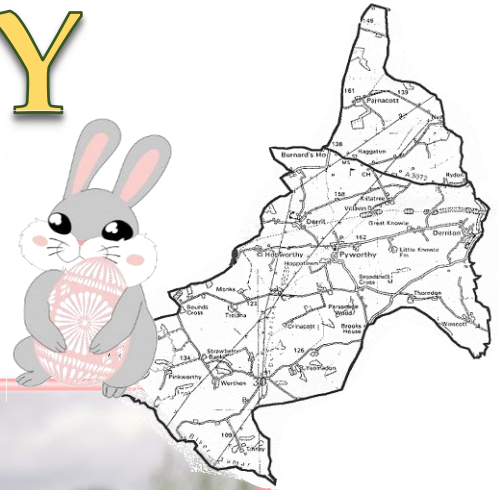


PYWORTHY POST



Left: the beautifully kept tulip beds at Trigon Farm this spring. Lots of exciting tuition and activities available. See page 34 for details.



What's in your paper this month?

Lots of local events & news, please 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.

April 2026
Issue number 350

PYWORTHY COUNTRY SHOW



“Show with a View”

13th & 14th June 2026

**Derriton Road, Pyworthy
EX22 6JY**

Featuring:

- ❖ **Auto Jumble**
- ❖ **Classic Motorbikes**
- ❖ **Classic Cars**
- ❖ **Trade**
- ❖ **Stationary Engines**
- ❖ **Tractors**
- ❖ **Horticultural**
- ❖ **Food & Bar**
- ❖ **Tractor Run**

**For more information phone Eileen on: 07546060660 or
email: gentillia26@gmail.com**



**Supporting
Parkinson's Devon**

Donations can be made on the gate.

Welcome to the APRIL EDITION



By Marion Ravn

It's the Easter edition of our community paper already! It really doesn't seem possible.

Lots happening in Pyworthy again this month. The Curry and Chilli Night held in the Village Hall last month was a great success. Support is now needed for Brenda's Community Line Dance Party on Saturday 11th April. Proceeds made on the chocolate raffle will be going towards the cost of printing the **Pyworthy Post**. A very worthy cause indeed. Please buy lots of tickets.

Our Church is holding a family service on the 5th April, which includes a craft session and Easter egg hunt. A tabletop sale on the 26th April in the Village Hall & their Parochial Church meeting is on the 30th April at 7pm at the church. More details throughout the paper.

The John Sanders Park team would like your thoughts on the purchase of new play equipment. Have your say – contact details are on page 31. Also, on the same page Liffy Lowes is ask for sponsorship. She is going to abseil off the cliff at Hartland Point next month. A big thank you once again to all those people who make the paper possible every month. A real team effort.

Until next month. Keep safe and well. Have a fabulous Easter.

Please keep the news & reports coming in.

Email: pyworthy@post.com



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CHURCH NEWS



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

I started writing this latest edition of Church News on Mothering Sunday when lovely bunches of flowers were presented to everyone at the service. The 4 children present showed off their wonderful creations which they had been working on under the excellent guidance of Amanda and their Mum & Dad. We were then treated to refreshments after the service.

This year March has had glorious displays of primroses and daffodils brightening the hedgerows and gardens. It's wonderful how sunshine can raise the spirits although I can see clouds ahead – no Beast from the East I hope!

We are currently halfway through Lent and looking ahead to Palm Sunday when Christ rode triumphantly into Jerusalem for the last time to face the death that he knew lay ahead, to be followed by him rising from the dead to the joy of all those who followed him. The evening before Mothering Sunday there was a reflective, thought-provoking short service in the church following the Stations of the Cross, stopping at each one as we went around.

There will be a short service on Good Friday at 2pm, a time for prayer and contemplation on Christ's final hours and death on the cross. Do come along for this thoughtful service.

Our **Easter Sunday** service this year is an afternoon one at 3pm with craft to

do for the children, and an Easter Egg Hunt with all ages being welcome to chase after the hidden chocolate, we oldies included!



Fundraising is an ever important of our church life, with a lot of work needing to be done, especially after the flood as mentioned by Liffy last month. Liffy is being very brave and would welcome your sponsorship for her Abseil down the cliffs at Hartland on 6th May. There is also a tabletop sale at the Village Hall on **Sunday 26th April from 2-4pm**. Have you booked your table? If not please give Churchwarden Ali Davies a call. Mobile number: 07888840634.

Thanks go, as ever, to our church cleaners, flower arrangers, those who open and close the church every day, not to mention Rob who is back at the grass cutting and keeping our churchyard looking beautiful and welcoming for anyone wishing to spend a few quiet moments near their loved ones.

Do you ever wonder how many people it takes to keep the church open, or how much it costs? The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place in St Swithun's at **7pm on Thursday 30th April**. Every Parishioner is very welcome. Do come along, now is your chance to put any questions you may have.

Finally, may this Easter bring you all the hope and joy that the risen Lord promises us.

United Benefice of Holsworthy

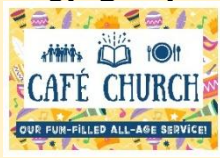
Rector: Revd Alison Hardy, Churchwarden: Alison Davies & Liffy Lowes



Benefice Services for March

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

Worship and Prayer in the Holsworthy Benefice – MARCH 2026

Date	Bridgerule	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Hollacombe
Sunday 4 th April - Easter Day	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Family Service with Easter egg hunt	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th April	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	3.00pm Evensong
Sunday 19 th April		-	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th April	11.00am All Age Sung Eucharist	11.00am at the church of St. Peter & 	9.30am Morning Prayer	-
	9.30am – Pancrasweek – All Age Service			
	11.00am - Benefice service at Holsworthy Church			

Pyworthy Church is open daily. We have a collection box for the Holsworthy Food Bank at the back of the church for donations.

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 our beautiful graveyard clean. Please pick up after your dog.



Pyworthy Village Hall News

Martin Brennan, Chairman

Village Hall Annual General Meeting

Just a reminder, our AGM this year will be held on Wednesday 22nd April. The Village Hall plays an integral role in community life, and its future depends on the ideas, support, and involvement of local residents.

We warmly invite everyone in the community to attend this year's AGM. This is your opportunity to:

- Share ideas for the future and long-term sustainability of the hall
- Have your say on how the hall is run and developed
- Meet others who care about keeping the hall thriving for generations to come

Whether you use the hall regularly or simply want to see it continue as a vibrant community hub, your voice matters. The more people who attend, the stronger and more representative our plans for the future will be.

All are welcome – we hope to see you there.

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

Nominations are therefore invited for the following positions: -

**Chairman,
Secretary,
Treasurer,**

Please forward all nominations to Janet Grant via email: -

artyjan43@gmail.com

Or complete the nomination form on page 21, and drop it through the Village Hall letterbox by no later than **Monday 20th April.**

Live Music at the Village Hall

 **Friday 1 May 2026**

We're delighted to welcome **Crazy Mama** back to the Village Hall!

Crazy Mama are a fantastic live band playing well-loved hits from the **1960s, 70s, and 80s**, guaranteed to get toes tapping and the dance floor moving. They were a huge hit last time, and we're proud to have them returning for another great night of live music.

Come along and enjoy:

- A lively evening of classic tunes
- A great atmosphere with friends and neighbours
- Supporting live music right here in our community
- Licensed Bar.
- Tickets £10.00 Available on the Door
- Doors/Bar opens at 7.30pm till late.

Don't miss it – we look forward to seeing you there!

[See Page 32 for further details.](#)

Curry Night

Lovely to see so many of you at our curry night last Friday!

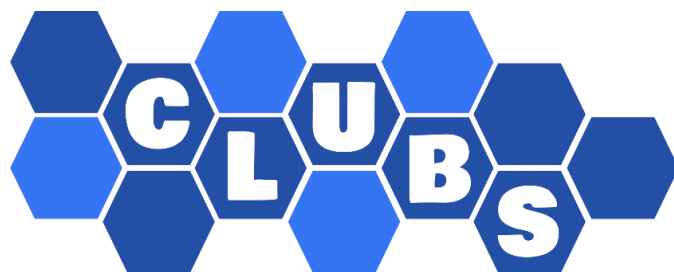
A huge thank-you to Marie and her helpers for organising such a wonderful evening, and of course to Simon for his fantastic cooking.

Here's too many, many more nights like it!

Potters Fish n Things

Next visit will be on Tuesday 21st April.

“We would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter! We hope you enjoy a joyful, peaceful holiday filled with plenty of sunshine and smiles.”



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

Village Hall Social Club Evening!



This month our Social Evening is: **Friday the 10th April**

Don't forget to come along and join us for Beer or whatever takes your fancy and perhaps have a go at our next 'Play Your Cards Right' - sessions are still on going.

Why not come and join us for a friendly chat and a drink. Who Knows it could Be your Lucky Night!!

Doors/Bar Opens at 7pm until late.

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

Mondays: Line Dancing Club:

Complete Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm

Beginners/Improvers,

6.30pm – 7.30pm

Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Rural Art Group,

2.30pm – 4.30pm.

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.

Dates for your Diary



Village Hall Meeting

Our next meeting will be the AGM.

Wednesday 22nd April 2026 starting at 7.30.

Everybody welcome.

See page 35 for easyfundraising. How you can help our Village Hall, while you shop online.

WHO'S CELEBRATING

THIS MONTH?



BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

- 1st Susanne Kiff
- 4th Madge Evans, Jocelyn Symons & Reuben Hopper
- 5th John McDougall
- 6th Martyn Lawrence, Sarah Burnard
- 7th Charlie Meredith
- 15th Steven Hackett
- 17th John Burnard, Andrew Parsons, Claudia Curnow
- 18th Andrew Parrish, Michael Steyn
- 19th Thomas Lees
- 20th Chloe Foote, Rob Francis
- 21st Irene Sharp
- 22nd Kieran Hopper
- 23rd Bronte Littlejohns
- 24th Kirsty Godfrey
- 26th Liffy Lowes, Avril Glessing, Ben Chandler-Galt, Audrey Davis
- 27th Nick Lock
- 28th Jack Foote, Helen Daniel, Paula Lawman
- 29th Emma Durant & Jules Hill
- 30th Monica Gelder, Chris Samuels

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS AND FAMILY OCCASIONS

Community Birthday list

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



We have no special announcements this month, but a very Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their birthday in April.



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!**

My Electricity Industry Recollections

Episode 15

I move on to a new Engineering Experience

By Mike Godfrey



It is now 1979 and I have moved on from Kingsnorth Power Station to the newest Power Station in the Industry at Littlebrook near the Dartford Tunnel in Kent. In fact, it was so new that it was still being built and hadn't even generated any electricity yet. This Power Station was the fourth to be built on this site and was known as Littlebrook D, LBD for short. The previous Stations on the site dated from 1939. The A Station run from 1939 to 1973 with a total capacity of 120,000kw and was a big asset to London's electricity supplies during WW2; the B Station ran from 1949 to 1975 and also had a total capacity of 120,000kw and was planned to be built starting in 1939 but the start was delayed until 1945 by WW2. By this time it was desperately needed because the demand for electricity was rising rapidly; the C Station ran from 1952 to 1981 with a capacity 240,000kw and was part of a multitude of Power Stations built around the early 1950's to cope with rapidly rising demand for electricity as well to replace many worn out power plants, many of which dated from the 1920's and 30's. The first three Power Stations were fuelled by Coal from British coal fields, and which arrived at our local jetty in the Thames estuary. The B and C Stations were later converted to Oil firing in the early 1970's, just in time for the rapid rise in the cost of oil, a big mistake which affected the life of the Stations and

cast a shadow over the construction of the D Station. However, the construction was too far advanced to stop or delay the completion. With the future industrial unrest in the Country, it proved to be a wise decision to build and commission all three machines. When I joined the industry in 1963 there were 231 Power Stations many of which had total output capacities of less than 10,000kw and were very prone to breaking down. Finally, there was the D Station which ran from 1981 to 2015 with an initial output capacity of 3 x 660,000kw, totalling 1,980,000kw. Following operational tests this was upgraded to 3 x 748,000kw, mainly as a result of the Miners strike in 1983, giving it a total capacity of 2,244,000kw, over 4 times bigger than the combined output of the A, B and C Stations and the largest in the Country at that time. However, Drax Power Station in Yorkshire had a final capacity of 3,960,000kw, although this was officially two Power Stations Drax A and B. Drax is the last of the superpower Stations still in service, although it has been converted to burn woodchip and is swallowing Canadian forests at an incredible rate.

Joining Littlebrook was a major leap forward in technology of some 10-15 years

continued on page 11...

I move on to a new Engineering Experience

but nevertheless because of the time taken to specify, design, order, deliver, install and commission the plant and equipment, the reality was that it was still about 10 years behind the forefront of technology by 1981, when the first machine was commissioned and became operational. This Station had computer technology but not like you would recognise today. The control and data logging had hybrid forms of computer and occupied separate rooms with high levels of cooling. These computers were in panels 2 metres high and probably 50 metres long and had about 1/100th of the computing power of your mobile phone. There were also 6kw Inverters providing emergency AC backup supplies from large battery banks. Nowadays 6kw Inverters are commonplace and are installed in many domestic situations working in conjunction with PV panels and possibly batteries. The 6kw Inverters at Littlebrook were in panels 2 metres high and 6 metres long and frequently broke down. I was charged with the task of finding out why they were so unreliable and modifying them to overcome these issues. Inverters didn't sit comfortably in the fields of Electrical or Instrument Engineering. Nevertheless, I took it on and I quickly found that there was no suitable test equipment that was fast enough to see the faults or handle the higher electronic voltages switched by the new-fangled Thyristors. So I had to set about designing and building my own test gear, consisting of electrical barriers that converted the high voltages to equivalent lower voltages



Above: Littlebrook A, B and C stations

that could be seen on Storage Oscilloscopes and very high-speed multichannel paper recorders. For each fault diagnosis the recorder would spew out about 10m of paper. I would then have to study the recordings made on the 6 channels of activity to try and identify the faulty component or action. Usually on the floor on my hands and knees so I could lay out the paper record flat.

Having spent nearly 10 years in a large-scale power plant that was constantly breaking down, mostly on the front line, including from the first week I started there and even being called out on the first Sunday to fault find and repair plant that I didn't even know existed. It was in severe contrast that my start at Littlebrook was far more relaxed, mainly because the site was still being built and not making electricity. I came from Kingsnorth all fired up to get stuck into the barrage of issues, but it just wasn't like that. We were given plenty of time to familiarise ourselves with the plant and the way it operated. It was around 2 years before the first Unit became operational, so we were given time to absorb the circuitry from the microamp control circuits right through to **continued on page 12...**

I move on to a new Engineering Experience

the generator outputs carrying tens of thousands of Amps. In fact during this time, I gave a lecture to the Institution of Electrical Engineers, based at Savoy Place in London. The home of the highest level of Electrical Engineering in the Country, as it still is today. This was also the site of my presentation by Lord Hinton, as the best theoretical and practical apprentice some 10 years earlier. My talk was entitled "milliamps to Megawatts", which attempted to capture the spirit of the newest Power Station in the Country and the technology involved. The pre-operational period of nearly two years enabled us to really absorb the information we needed to operate and maintain the plant. It also enabled the information we had absorbed to be translated into Work Instructions and other useful documents to create a structured Work Management system for the Maintenance Teams.

Next time the Power Station becomes live with the commissioning of the first Unit and we go into action.

Domestic Abuse Helpline



Phone:



0808 2000247 for free & confidential advice.

More information available online.

If in danger phone: 999

Dog Sitter Wanted

Meet Lisa, the cutest dog in Devon, in my eyes anyway. She's a 1-year-old long haired Jack Russel terrier, very sweet natured but quite disobedient on the beach when she refuses to come home - what you might expect from a spirited terrier. When I took her on, I had less commitments and it was always my intention to give her 100% of my time, which has become virtually impossible. Work commitments have arisen throughout the year which means I have been returning her to her breeder when I'm away due to work or holidays abroad. She loves going back to her breeder on a working farm where she can meet up again with her mother, grandad and various other playmates. But she inevitably spends a lot of time in a large cage, and this bothers me. I'm looking for a local doggie auntie to look after whenever I'm away. You may have had a small dog in the past or have a friendly one now and be prepared to look after my fur buddy. In return, I can offer a daily rate or exchange the time by looking after your dog when you are away. We can work something out, but the main thing for me is that my best friend is happy when I'm not around.

Please email:

rlggodwin@gmail.com with DOG

SITTER in the subject box.

**Many thanks, Reg Godwin,
Hopworthy Moor.**

Devon CPRE response to DEFRA Land Use Framework and launch of 'This is Our Green Land' campaign

Our farmland is facing a 'land crunch' as solar, housing and other demands compete for space. Yesterday (Wednesday 18 March), the government published England's first Land Use Framework, which it claims will play a central role in delivering food security, clean energy, nature restoration and new homes over the coming decades.

Devon CPRE's response to DEFRA's Land Use Framework.

Devon CPRE Chairman, Steve Crowther says:

"Devon CPRE was warning farming communities throughout last year that the government was planning to decimate our farmland, and the Land Use Framework they have just published confirms it. 10% of land is to be taken – 1% to go under solar and wind energy developments, and a further 9% for re-wilding, nature and habitat creation. That's a total of more than 2 million acres of farmland earmarked, before you add in the 400,000 acres scheduled to go under housing.

The Secretary of State says that there will be enough farmland left to 'maintain domestic food production'. But with our food self-sufficiency at 58% overall, a rapidly expanding population and escalating global insecurity, 'maintaining' is not what we

need. We urgently need a radical overhaul of our attitude to farming and food supply, to prioritise homegrown food production.

Here in Devon, we have some of the finest land for livestock production anywhere in the world. Yet both here and in the East Anglian breadbasket, we are being inundated with developers' applications to build ever-bigger solar arrays, to 'farm' the subsidies that the government uses to make solar more lucrative than growing food.

All of our solar energy needs by 2050 could be delivered through a focused programme of rooftop conversion and use of brownfield and public land; but while the government makes it more profitable to grab cheap farmland instead, that's where the speculators will build. Meanwhile, the cherished landscapes on which Devon's largest economic driver – tourism – depends are threatened with disappearing under black glass and steel.

This is our 'Green Land' – hands off."

Devon CPRE's new campaign to rally people power.

The publication of DEFRA's Land Use Framework coincides with Devon CPRE's newest campaign to rally people power, drawing inspiration from President Trump's imperial ambitions: **"This Is Our Green Land – Mega Solar and Mega Batteries, KEEP OFF!"**

The campaign is in response to the next phase in the formation of a North Devon and **continued on page 14...**

Devon CPRE campaign continued from page 13.

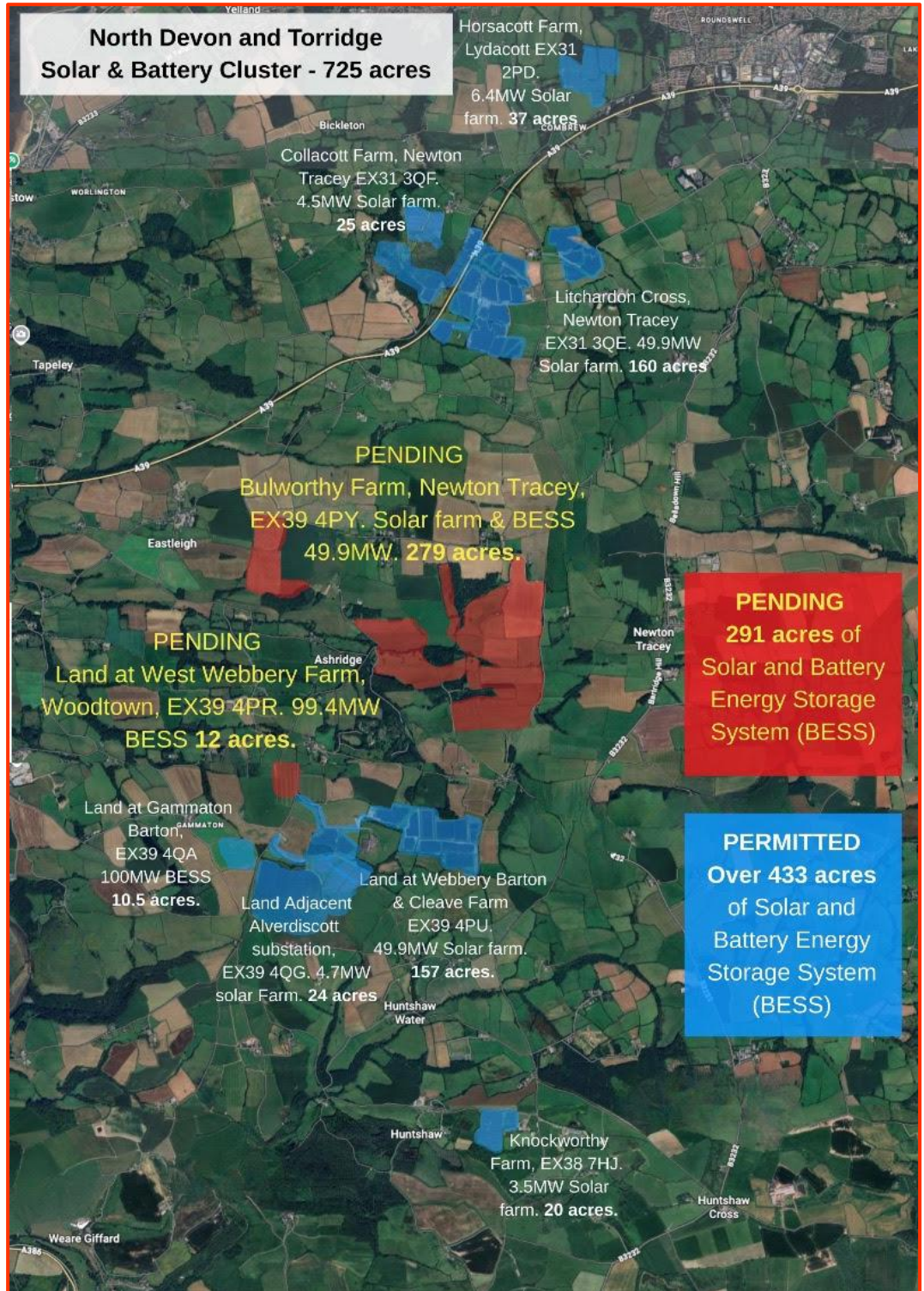
Torrige Solar and Battery Cluster (see attached map) in the few square miles around the Alverdiscott grid node, which Devon CPRE is calling the Alverdiscott Solar Cluster for campaign purposes.

Over the past few years, six projects have been given planning permission there, totalling 433 acres, including the hitherto largest solar farm in the county, at Litchardon Cross. Two new proposals at Bulworthy Farm (279 acres of solar) and West Webbery Farm (12 acres for battery containers) would increase the land grab to a total of 725 acres in an area of only 11 square miles.

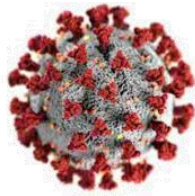
The Alverdiscott Solar Cluster is all locally decided, in small chunks. So Devon CPRE has launched this new campaign for residents to rally around. The aim of the ***This Is Our Green Land*** campaign is to demonstrate to politicians locally and nationally that Devon's lush, productive farmland and iconic landscape is not to be colonised by offshore developers chasing government subsidies.

The dedicated petition site is DevonCPRE.org.uk

By Sharon Goble
Devon CPRE 's
Media contact.



Above: a map of the North Devon and Torrige Solar and Battery Cluster



Somerset hospital closed to new patients to halt spread of coronavirus

Weston general hospital also shuts A&E department after 'spike' in infections

- [Coronavirus - latest updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)



News of the hospital closure spreads across the country

In Part 5 we learned how the hospital was forced to shut even though we had met all the goals set by Public Health England, this time we'll learn how we managed (or even muddled) our way through the closure.

It was Sunday night, 24th May 2020, and I was still at home when the decision to close was made, so I had to rely on my team in Weston while I drove up; I rang the duty manager and asked them to call a meeting immediately with the consultant in charge of A&E, the outpatients manager, the estates and facilities manager, the regional ambulance controller, the regional community hospital director and clinical leads for as many services as we could gather. By 10PM about 25 people met on a call, with me chairing at 70mph (honest) on the M5, and we began to

plan how to shut a hospital. The doors at A&E would shut at 8am, the waiting list team would come in to work at 7am and begin calling the 1000 patients who had appointments on Monday and once they'd cleared those, they would start calling the 1000 booked for Tuesday and so on. We agreed on a diversion for all ambulance conveyances to be taken to Bristol, Taunton, Bath and Yeovil rather than Weston and we agreed a discharge plan for all negative COVID patients to either a different hospital, a care home or if we could, their own home. The communications lead prepared statements for the radio, TV, local press and social media asking people not to come to the hospital. Even the army were called to set up an emergency field hospital in the car park in case of any urgent cases that couldn't travel to the nominated emergency care diversions. By 6am on Monday morning the hospital was in total lockdown and the team of managers and clinical leaders that made this happen overnight were still at work.

That evening at 5pm the national calls continued unabated but now the number of experts had reduced to about 20 and was soon to dwindle to two or three; strangely the 20 on the call on Monday seemed only to be interested in if the hospital had shut, not how we had shut it, how hard the team had worked or how the public had engaged with us for that first day and I found it quite insulting, considering most of those on the call didn't want me to leave the night before so they could question how the hospital "hadn't followed" their directives. **continued on page 16...**

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

Now began the process of understanding the conditions to reopen the hospital and I got the horrible feeling that the national teams were literally making it up as they went along. The first condition was to remain closed for two incubation periods or 28 days, that meant until the 21st of June which was a Sunday, so we made preparations to open on the 23rd of June, a Tuesday, which gave us one day to fully staff the hospital before reopening. Of course, with Public Health England (PHE) being in charge of the rules and Weston now not their most popular hospital it was never going to be that easy and on the call on Tuesday, the second day of the closure, we presented a plan to reopen on the 23rd of June. But not to be outdone so easily, PHE immediately changed the goal posts and insisted that all 2700 staff had to be tested and that safe staffing had to be achieved when 80% of people proved negative, they told us this at 10am on Wednesday, the third day after the closure. That evening at the meeting we announced that the ambulance service would be setting up a swabbing station in the hospital car park the next day and all staff would be swabbed by Friday, we had booked 3000 test slots in the lab for Saturday so that we could expedite the results which were still taking over 5 days to be returned.

On the call on Thursday we were pleased to report that over 1200 staff had been tested and we were on track to complete the tests by Friday,

so PHE changed the goal posts again and decided that all staff needed testing twice, 14 days apart, and both results needed to be negative in 80% of the staff for us to be safely staffed. On the call on Friday we reported that 2700 staff were now tested and the results expected after the weekend and that a repeat exercise had already been booked for exactly two weeks' time, the call ended with the decision to not continue calls over the weekend, we thought that PHE were finally stumped and couldn't make up something else for the staff to do. On the call on Monday after the weekend, we happily reported that all staff had been tested and all results had been received and only around 50 staff tested positive who were now isolating at home, we also reported on plans to discharge all the remaining non-COVID patients by the end of the week. However, having had a weekend to think about it, PHE changed the goal posts again and said that even positive patients had to test negative or be transferred before we could reopen and that the whole hospital including non-patient spaces had to have an infection control supervised clean before the space could reopen. Now, I'm not normally into conspiracy theories but it really did feel like they were doing everything they could to prevent us from reopening. So, on Tuesday afternoon after the latest made-up conditions were given to us, we held a meeting with all the heads of department to work out how we could clean the entire hospital by the 23rd of June; the Estates Manager brought floor plans of the entire site and we were

continued on page 17...

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

beginning to realise how big the task would be. On Wednesday I walked the entire site again (for about the fifth time) with the estates and facilities manager, the infection control lead and the head of cleaning; we looked at every space sometimes full of clutter and sometimes clear and we divided the hospital into 36 geographical spaces that we estimated would take the same time as each other to clean, for example the restaurant and kitchen would take about the same time to clean as three wards or the whole of A&E would take the same time as Out Patients. Because the spaces we'd identified didn't relate to the normal way of running the hospital we allocated COVID sector leaders for each space, for example the corridors outside wards would normally be the domain of the estates team and the wards would be run by the nursing teams, but the COVID cleaning space contained both wards and corridors and sometimes offices and public spaces like toilets. Each COVID sector lead was given an infection control nurse, a cleaner and workforce manager and each had to report to the programme manager when their sector had been certified clean and 80% of the workforce tested negative. By Thursday of the 2nd week we had a plan still to reopen on the 23rd of June that met the latest PHE conditions, and we reported our progress that evening.

Not wanting to be left out PHE changed their conditions again and asked for the entire plan in writing for

them to ratify, at which point the Chief Exec stepped in and told them they were overstepping their jurisdiction which I think led to some heated debate on a national CEO call on Friday which somehow Weston won and our plan was allowed to proceed, finally. The following week all our staff were tested for a second time, patients continued to be discharged and tested and cleaning in areas with no patients began, the whole hospital was now involved in the reopening plan and even consultants were cleaning their offices. With just one week to go before we reopened, all staff tests had come back and just over 150 staff had proved positive which gave us well over the 80% staffing limit (and incidentally well under the background infection rate for the country), all patients had been tested and those with a negative test were starting to be discharged and those with the positive tests were being moved to COVID spaces in other hospitals to allow us to reopen because our closure was also causing undue pressure across the whole system. But just as we thought we had prepared as best we could to reopen, PHE declared that all patients had to test negative twice before we could discharge them, so we immediately set about swabbing the remaining patients a second time and expediting their tests through the lab. By Friday of the week before we were due to reopen all second tests had been returned and those who remained positive other hospitals and those who were negative were discharged; we reported on the close of week call that we would reopen the whole **continued on page 18...**

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

hospital on the 23rd of June exactly as planned, but this time NHS England stepped in and told us our plan wouldn't work and we had to open the hospital in stages, starting with A&E first. This made no sense at all, to open A&E we needed to open the major injuries unit, the minor injuries unit, the ambulance receiving bay, the imaging centre, the acute medical wards, the acute surgical wards, two theatres, pharmacy, physio, even the canteen and kitchens and to support this stores needed to reopen, car parking, porters, cleaners, estates teams and security, not to mention communications to deal with the press who were starting to gather at the front door. This meant that about 70% of the hospital had to be open just to take ambulances so we might as well have opened fully as planned, but NHS England were still in grip mode and refused to allow us to open all at once so instead we opened A&E on the 23rd and the rest of the hospital on the 25th, just two days later than the original plan despite the seemingly endless hurdles put in our way. At that point it was the proudest thing I think I'd done in the NHS and I will be forever thankful to the team who worked ceaselessly and without complaint to make it happen, despite the seemingly pointless barriers put in our way.

Next time: I bring it home and how the public supported the NHS.



NEW Banking Hub NOW open

A new banking hub had recently opened in Bude in the permanent location at:

1 The Depot, Lansdown Road, Bude.

Customers from all major banks can visit the hub any weekday between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

Services will include regular cash transactions including withdrawals and deposits as well as checking balances or paying bills. It also provides a banking service where customers can talk to their own bank in a private space about more complicated issues on the day their bank is in the hub.

Monday TSB

Tuesday Nat. West.

Wednesday Barclays

Thursday Barclays

Friday Lloyds



Banking Hub!

Pyworthy MOT Ltd



Typical opening hours depending on school times and holidays.

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

For all your servicing and general repairs, MOTs and MOT work. M.O.T.s can be booked 30 days in advance of expiry, so booking early can catch and give time to repair, unknown faults and problems.

Call Simon - Tel: 01409 254275

Courtesy car available.



MARCH'S PYWORTHY POSER QUIZ

ANSWERS:

1. West Bromwich Albion.
2. Exeter (surprisingly).
3. Admiral of the Fleet.
4. The Tan Hill Inn, Richmond, Swaledale, Yorkshire Dales (1,732 ft above sea level).
5. Ben Nevis, Nr. Fort William (4,413ft).
6. Kuwait dinar (1GBP = 0.414799 Kuwaiti dinar).
7. High Willhays, Dartmoor (2,039 ft/621m).
8. Mt. Everest (8,849m).
9. Mauna Koa (10,200m in Pacific).
10. Telegraph Hill, St. Marys, 167ft (51m).

How did you do? Why not try this month's quiz on page 49.

Good luck from your Pyworthy Pilgrim.

In the Spotlight



Alison Davies

Name: Alison Davies

Age: 53

Occupation: On leaving school, moved to London to join the Metropolitan Police but worked in retail management, with McDonalds & Harrods, until she reached the minimum MPS entry age of 23. Retired, reluctantly, due to ill health after 27 years service. Specialised in rape and serious offences against children cases. Last role was as a Custody Inspector in Holborn & Islington. Now teaching officers, part-time, at Devon & Cornwall Police H.Q. at Middlemoor, Exeter. Volunteer Church Warden at St. Swithun's Church.

Place Of Birth: Burton-On-Trent. Moved, together with husband Simon, from Leighton Buzzard to Pyworthy some three years choosing the area because of family connections and for St. Swithun's Church with its bell ringing opportunity.

What is the best thing about Pyworthy and why?

The community around the church and how friendly and welcoming it is.

What one thing would you change about Pyworthy and why?

I wish more people would come to church.

Describe yourself in 3 words:

Dedicated, loyal, hardworking.

How do you like to spend your free time?

With my husband, my dogs, taking trips out, bell ringing, doing D.I.Y., spending time in my small pottery studio, painting, drawing and sewing.

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

"To own a narrow boat, to achieve Grade 8 Piano (currently at Grade 6).

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

"Jesus; I think we would have some fascinating conversations. I would have questions for him about suffering."

Continued on page 21...

Community
Focus



Thanks go to Bryony Rylett for your research.



Alison Davies



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

Donate it and pay the mortgage off.

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

1. Relief for those people in the village who are ill because of pain; mental and physical.
2. Bring families back together again.
3. Ensure everyone has enough money to live comfortably.

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

1. The dogs.
2. My piano.
3. A Cinderella doll from my childhood.

What Three Things delight you?

1. Flowers, the smell of freshly made coffee and cut grass. Birds.

The Village Hall Committee Nomination Form can be found below.

Register your nominations with Janet Grant via email: - artyjan43@gmail.com

Or complete the nomination form below and drop it through the Village Hall letterbox by no later than Monday 21st April.

Thank you. Martin Brennan, Chairman.



Pyworthy Village Hall Committee Nomination Form – see page 5.

I nominate: for the position of
Chairman / Treasurer / Secretary.

I nominate: for the position of
Chairman / Treasurer / Secretary.

I nominate: for the position of
Chairman / Treasurer / Secretary.

Signed: Dated:

Please print name:

Address

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 07531 186466 or 01409 253509.

Training will be given!


**Barn Dance
and
Pasty Supper
Music by Fiddlefit**
Saturday 18th April
at Bradford & Cookbury
Village Hall EX22 7AB
7pm - 11pm
£15 a ticket
Cash Bar
Tickets available at Ruby & Elm, Holsworthy
Thurs-Sat. or call 07346 501377
or visit Facebook at...
Stop Beacon Solar




Glebe House Cottages
Est. 1985

Glebe House Cottages, Bridgerule
www.glebehousecottages.co.uk
Telephone: 01288 381272

Accommodation

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

Beautiful 5 acre site with a huge amount of facilities for all ages including:

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

10% discount for friends & families of local residents.



Party Venue

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

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



GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT



By Mike Godfrey, keen gardener

This year was somewhat different to previous ones because my sudden surge of enthusiasm, which normally occurs around the 1st of March is totally missing this year. Not even the glorious display of spring flowers, which normally serves to bolster my enthusiasm even further has failed to trigger my flush of real interest, which I have genuinely experienced every year for well over 60 years now. I think my complete lack of interest is due to a number of factors but mainly the incessant rainfall throughout the winter, rendering the ground unworkable. However, the last few days have seen a transformation in our garden, orchard, polytunnels and even the woodlands, although I never really lost my interest in the woodlands right through winter. One of my favourite times in the winter and early springtime is to walk through the woodlands, because the undergrowth has all died back and you can walk freely amongst the trees and see many different perspectives that you don't see from the pathways and when the leaves are on the trees. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to do this because the ground has been far too wet. I believe that this is another factor why my enthusiasm has not been great. Although we are coming to the time to sow seeds, I don't think the time is right because the ground is still too cold and wet. Nevertheless, I can start preparing my polytunnels, although I am planning to "rest" and treat some of the polytunnels as well as renew the



Above the Crinacott Farm spring daffodils

covers on the two biggest ones, a bit of a daunting prospect. This will need additional bodies to help cover the frames and to secure the covers properly. It needs low wind speed and to be overcast but preferably dry. Takes a bit of planning, organisation and luck to achieve this but we have done it numerous times, right back to the days of the Ostrich shelters. Unfortunately, my electrical work planned for this year, and the accompanying Government bureaucratic paperwork is going to limit the time that I can spend on the garden and farm work, so I am hoping very much to recruit some regular weekly help to try and keep on top of things as well as progress some of the planned projects.

My Orchard is currently stacked wood pruned from fruit trees but can't easily be removed because the ground is still too soft, although it is definitely improving now with the recent dry spell. I have something in the order of 60 trees to be pruned each year and about 25 fruit bushes and I am currently running about 4 weeks behind schedule. The first of my wildlife ponds is teeming with life, hopefully I

continued on page 24...

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

can start on some more this year, although I am not having too much success with my wildflower project. My wildflower meadow is looking a bit scruffy at the moment, particularly with all the tree pruning's scattered around, as it awakes from its winter slumbers, but I can see signs of life and no doubt another month or two will see it thriving and encouraging the insect life. I have ordered some wildflower plug plants, but they have yet to be delivered. I have overwintered two underweight hedgehogs, which are now looking very healthy and possibly overweight. I am currently building two hedgehog lodges because the ones you can buy appear to be far too small for these brutes. Hopefully they will have a good life wandering around the garden, orchard and adjacent woodland.

The best months of the year are now in sight; I just hope the weather behaves itself to really create a truly magical time. It is very uplifting to see the spring flowers popping their heads up and providing a colourful and fresh-looking vista.



23 Mar 2026 10:47:5
Devon
Englan

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

- Keep on top of weeds and knock them down with your otherwise they will outgrow and smother your seedlings and plug plants
- Tidy up your borders when they dry out a bit
- Clean pots and trays
- Clean greenhouses, polytunnels and cold frames, make sure that they are well ventilated on warmer days
- There is still time to select and buy your seeds
- Plant onion sets and shallots
- Set seed potatoes in egg containers or similar for chitting
- Clean gutters and drainage gully's
- Clean pathways and patios of moss and other debris, as these can become very slippery and quite dangerous, particularly if wooden decking is involved
- Prepare your seed beds as the drier weather allows and the ground warms
- Carry out maintenance on your mower as specified by the Manufacturer, including sharpening and adjusting the cutting blade if required.
- If conditions allow aerate lawns and other grassed areas, it might even be possible to mow if the drier weather persists but keep the mower on its highest setting
- Sow salad crop seeds in pots or trays if you have somewhere warm, light and airy to keep them, which is frost free.
- You can also sow vegetable and some flower seeds in pots or divided trays **continued on page 25**

GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT
continued from page 24.....

to get a head start. Courgettes, leeks, parsnips, sweet corn, runner and other beans as well as flowers like sweet peas and other annuals.

- Cover delicate plants with straw or fleece until the risk of frost has disappeared
- Look out for signs of hedgehogs and put out some water and hedgehog or dog food
- If you have a suitable area try and create a small wildlife pond, it will do wonders for the insect and other wildlife in your garden
- If you can leave some dandelions to flower as they provide a good food source for bees and other pollinators this time of the year as there is not much else around.

I have included some spring flower pictures, which I hope will brighten up your day a bit. They provide a most attractive blaze of colour, heralding spring following those dull winter months. Many of which can emit a wonderful fragrance.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter – Happy gardening.

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



Mike Godfrey's orchard surrounded by an array of beautiful Daffodils



 **CRIMESTOPPERS**
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
0300 123 2040

Dates for your diary are on page 58 this month.


Easter

EGG HUNT

Easter Service, including an Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Craft activities will take place in Pyworthy Church at 3.00pm on Sunday 5th April.



Pyworthy Parish Council Meeting Summary – 19th March 2026

Councillors met on 19 March for the last meeting of the 2024/5 municipal year before the Annual Meeting in May. It was reported that the new Parish noticeboard is now erected in Derril, meaning that residents here can see parish notices without travelling into Pyworthy.

Under correspondence, concerns were raised about illegal activity at a property in the village. The police are aware and dealing with the individuals concerned. Concerns were raised by a resident about unauthorised development, with caravans permanently sited in a rural location and this has been reported to Torridge Planning for investigation.

Councillors considered three planning applications and voted to support all three: they supported a variation in planning conditions to a development previously given planning permission; they supported a retrospective application for a change of land use to accommodate a package treatment plant at a location near Bounds Cross; they supported extension of a garage at Oaklands Farm.

Volunteers are sought to be trained to help run a Speedwatch campaign in the village. If anyone would like to help with Speedwatch, please contact the Clerk. Once again, parking was raised as an issue. It was noted that there seem to be lots of additional cars now parking in the centre of the village where the roads are quite narrow. Residents are asked to ensure that parked cars leave enough room for emergency vehicles to pass.

Simon Davies, Clerk to Pyworthy Parish Council.

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

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you'd like to be part of
Pyworthy's Speedwatch
team, please contact

Simon Davies on:
07989747416.

Email address:

pyworthy@yahoo.co.uk



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

**The date of the next meeting will
be Thursday 21st May at 7.30pm.**



Potters Fish n Things

Just to let you all know that Olly will be at the Hall on the **Third Tuesday of each month this year.** The first evening of 2026, will be **Tuesday 21st April.**

For further details see page 44.

Please keep saving your used stamps for the B.H.P.S! See page 47 for info.



Poetry Corner

Wishing You the Happiest Easter

The Easter spirit lingers on,
Announcing a fresh start,
Of blooming flowers, chirping birds,
And a renewed beating heart.

The season of Easter brings with it
A sense of hope and peace,
A chance to celebrate new life,
And blessings that never cease.

Easter reminds us to spread love,
And kindness all around,
To share our joy with those in need,
And keep hope alive and sound.

Wishing you the happiest Easter.



EVELYN SHARMAN

Professional Driving Tuition (DVSA ADI)

Telephone: 01409 259848

Mobile: 07885 352 082

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com



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 - APRIL 2026



Library News!

- **Bounce & Rhyme**, Thursday 2nd, 23rd, 30th - 2:15pm-2:45pm. Songs and stories for children 0-4 years old. Term time only.
- **Easter Holiday Events for Children. Craft Activity**, Wednesday 8th - 11am-4pm. **Board Games & Biscuits**, Thursday 9th - 11am-4pm. **Eggbox Sow 'n' Grow**, Wednesday 15th - 11am-4pm. **Lego Challenge**, Thursday 16th - 11am-4pm.
- **Gardening Cuppa and Chat**, Wednesday 15th March - 2pm-3pm. A monthly meeting to talk all things gardening. Everyone welcome - experienced gardeners eager to share seasoned successes and newbies after some helpful hints.
- **Sew Together**, Monday 20th - 3:30pm-4:30pm. Bring your own hand sewing project (or, we have some supplies to get you started). An informal and supportive group rather than a class or lesson!
- **Jo in the Water (film screening)**, Thursday 23rd - 6:30pm. A compelling documentary made in Devon about a local sea swimmer turned reluctant activist, taking on one of the UK's biggest water companies. Book via TicketSource.
- Lloyds Bank Community Banking, every other Monday 2-4.
By appointment only - call 02077143681 to book direct with Lloyds.
- **Self Service Baby Weigh**. Every Thursday - 1pm-4pm.
- **Lego and games** for children. Every Saturday - 10am-12pm
Free hot drinks available during opening hours.
Most events are free or low cost but donations always welcome.



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.





Shapland Accountancy

We are a local long established family run firm with over 40 years experience. We provide Accountancy & Bookkeeping Services throughout Devon and Cornwall.

From small to large companies, Sole Traders, Partnerships, Limited Companies whatever you need, we can help.

Bookkeeping, Tax returns, Payroll, VAT or just advice, contact us to see what we can do for you.

Email Us: admin@shaplandaccountancy.co.uk



Bude Jazz Club

The Falcon Hotel, Bude.
EX23 8SD

Forthcoming Event this month.

Sunday evening – 7.30pm – 10.00pm.

29th March - Wriggle Valley Jazz Band

12th April – The Drat Pack

26th April – The Transatlantic Hot Club

Members £10, Visitors £14

Annual membership only £20



Bude Jazz

www.budejazzclub.co.uk

email: budejazzclub@gmail.com

No Transport? Need a pickme-up?

Ring & Ride

- Door-to-door service for all ages
- Wheelchair & scooter accessible

Cars for Care

- Door-to-door service
- Times to suit your appointments
- 45/50p per mile

Here for Hire

- Mini Bus Hire for Community Groups & Charities
- £100/day - £65/evening
- Self drive (experience of driving a larger vehicle)

Call
01409 259001

office@holsworthy ruraltransport.co.uk

The Carroll Suite, Holsworthy Memorial Hall,
Holsworthy EX22 6DJ



STOP BEACON SOLAR

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
**THE COMMUNITY PLANNING ALLIANCE
DAY OF ACTION**

**PLEASE JOIN OUR
GUIDED FUNDRAISING WALK
AROUND SECTIONS OF THE
PROPOSED SOLAR GENERATING
STATION SITE
(APPROX 4KM DISTANCE)**

SATURDAY APRIL 18TH

**WALK COMMENCES 10AM
THORNBURY HOLIDAY PARK
THORNBURY WOODACOTT**

**COME AND EXPERIENCE SOME OF OUR
BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE AND WILDLIFE
HABITAT THAT WILL BE DESTROYED IF THIS
VAST DEVELOPMENT GOES AHEAD**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AFTERWARDS

Please register your participation by simply visiting our website
www.stopbeaconsolar.com and clicking on the link.

You can contribute to our fundraising campaign either by making an individual
donation or by sponsorship.

Full details and a sponsorship form can be found on the website

The route is predominantly off road so please wear appropriate footwear.
Unfortunately due to grazing livestock, no dogs allowed

STOP BEACON SOLAR

Email: stopbeaconsolar@outlook.com
Telephone: 07346 501 377
www.stopbeaconsolar.com



Spring Community Event

LINEDANCE PARTY

Saturday 11th April

7.00pm to 10.30pm.

Entry £6 per person.

Bring your own drinks & nibbles.

Everybody invited!

Chocolate raffle to raise funds for

The Pyworthy Post!





PLAY TIME

The John Saunders Park Trust would like your views. Can you help?

We need your views of what you would like to see in Pyworthy Park.

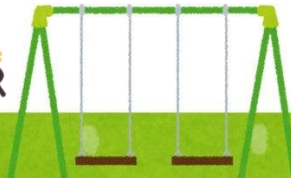


What type of equipment would you like to add to the play area? Have you seen something elsewhere and thought “I wish we had something like that?”. Well, let us know, now is your chance.

We want to know what sort of things appeal and to what age groups we should cater for so it’s up to you.

Let me know any ideas by text, or WhatsApp, if you have pictures by the end of April please to 07771 684 294.

Thanks Andrew



LIFFY’S TOWER ABSEIL

Some of you by now will know that I intend to abseil down one of the cliffs at Hartland to raise money to help repair our church. I would be so very grateful if you felt you could sponsor my trip. It is taking place on Wednesday May 6th. I have abseiled before and found it a lot less stressful than I thought it might be, the worst bit is going over the cliff at the top, once that is done its plain sailing, hopefully not literally! Please help.

Liffy



Liffy is looking for sponsorship for her challenge, can you help?

**Donations can be transferred by BACS. The account details are:
PCC Pyworthy
Account number: 30091365
Sort code: 50-00-00**

Or put your donation in an envelope & deliver to High View, Derriton Road, Pyworthy. Thank you.

**PYWORTHY VILLAGE HALL
PRESENTS**

CRAZY MAMA



**FRIDAY 1ST MAY
DOORS OPEN 7:30
LICENSED BAR**

**£10 ENTRY
TO INCLUDE
LUCKY DIP DRAW**

EVERYONE WELCOME

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 290013

M.A.G Double Glazing Repairs

- ❖ Replacement of misty or broken glass units
- ❖ Replacement of hinges, handles, locks & seals
- ❖ Letter boxes and cat flaps installed
- ❖ Installation of fascias, soffits & guttering

Over 15 years' experience



Call MARK for friendly advice and a
NO obligation quotation.

Tel: 07969 234161

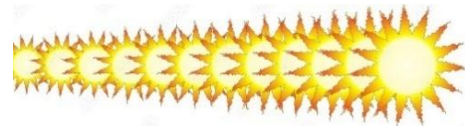


Reminder

Our second Village Show meeting
will be held on Tuesday the
28th April, starting at 6.45pm.

Please feel welcome to join us.

Sunrise, Sunset Times for the coming month:



1st April 2026 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 06.50am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 19.46pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 12 hrs 56 mins.

30th April 2026 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 05.50am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 20.33pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 14 hrs 42 mins

Trigon Farm, Derriton, Holsworthy. EX22 6JU

Join us for a series of inspiring workshops and experiences rooted in nature, food and flowers:

www.trigonfarm.co.uk

Call Al on Tel:
07988484069

- **Mastering Sourdough: Pizza, Bread & Focaccia — 11 April**
- Guided Farm Tour — 10 May
- Summer Solstice Feast — 20 June
- Flower Arranging Workshop – 21 June
- Tomato Feast — 23 August
- Preservation Course – 6 September
- Autumn Harvest Feast — 27 September
- Dried Flowers Panel Workshop – 3 October
- Dried Flowers Wreath Workshop – 10 October



We also host private bookings and themed gatherings, including small weddings, hen dos, birthdays and bespoke group farm. Seasonal bouquets of flowers, funeral sheafs and wreaths, wedding flowers available from April. PYO and DIY flowers from May.

Opening hours:
Tuesdays, 9.00am till 6.00pm.
Other days by appointment.

Line Dancing!



New dancers always welcome!

For more information call Brenda
on: 01409 253015

Line Dancing Classes

Our Line dancing classes are held

on: **Mondays** in

Pyworthy Village Hall.

Complete Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm.

Beginners/Improvers:

6.30pm – 7.30pm &

Intermediate level:

7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Intermediate level,

7.30pm – 9.30pm.

All classes cost just £5.

Come and join us!

Sign up today & help raise funds for our Village Hall – while shopping online!

easyfundraising
feel good shopping



Help us raise
FREE donations
every time you shop online

How to sign up

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



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



Over £34 million raised

Trustpilot

1.9 million users

 **Torridge**
District Council

Please ensure your black bags,
recycling and garden waste bins
are presented by

6:00 AM

For more information and
collection dates visit
www.torridge.gov.uk



CHURCH OF ST SWITHUN'S PYWORTHY

Higher Village, Holsworthy EX226ST

Fundraising event for building works.

Tabletop sale **Sunday 26th April 2pm-4pm**. Stalls in place by 1pm.

Village Hall, Pyworthy

Stall fees £5 per table.

Cakes, jams, biscuits etc welcome on the day.

Quality used items and books also welcome on the day.

**For tables speak to Alison Davies – Church Warden, Rosecott,
Lower Village, Pyworthy. Mobile: 07888840634**



Treat your family to some delicious Easter cookies this year, they're sure to go down a treat!

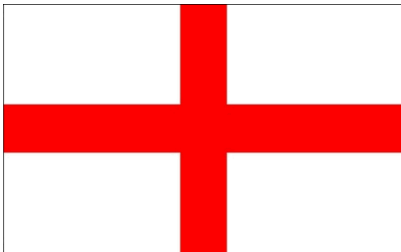
Recipe for Easy Crème Egg Cookies

Ingredients

- 55 g pecan nuts roughly chopped
- 100 g dark chocolate chopped into chips sized pieces
- 110 g soft brown sugar
- 100 g caster sugar
- 110 g porridge oats
- 165 g plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 egg beaten
- 125 g butter melted
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 13 mini Creme Eggs halved

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 175°C.
2. Line 2 – 3 large baking sheets with baking paper.
3. Place all the dry ingredients into a large bowl and mix well.
4. Then add the beaten egg, melted butter and vanilla extract and mix with a wooden spoon to form a dough.
5. Form large walnut sized pieces of dough (either with your hands or use 2 teaspoons), place on baking tray 5 cm apart and top with half a mini Creme Egg, sunny side up!
6. Place in oven and bake for 12 – 14 minutes or until golden.
7. Allow to cool for a few minutes on the trays before transferring to a couple of cooling racks. Enjoy!



St. George's Day – 23rd of April

St. George is the patron Saint of England.

St. George's Day used to be a national holiday in England. It is now an observance that is celebrated with parades, dancing, and other activities. Flags with the image of St. George's cross are flown on some buildings. Especially pubs, and a few people wear a red rose on their lapel. Church services on the Sunday closest to April 23rd often include the hymn "Jerusalem", written by the poet William Blake.

St. George was born sometime around the year 280 in what is now Turkey. He was a soldier and rose through the ranks of the Roman army, eventually becoming a personal guard to the Emperor Diocletian. He was executed for being a Christian on April 23rd, 303, and is buried in the town of Lod in Israel.



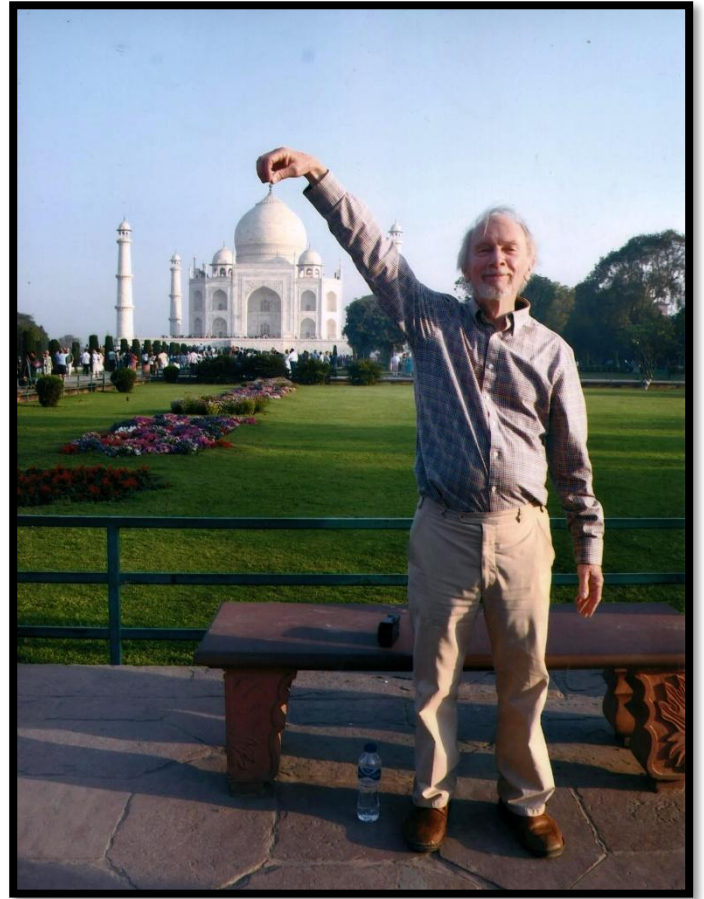
Reg Godwin – Official Photographer at N. Devon & Bude Literary Festival

Local vet, writer, conservationist and photographer Dr. Reg Godwin of Hopworthy has been chosen to be the official photographer for North Coast Arts for the Bude Literary Festival running from 13th to 16th May inclusive. There will be something for everyone with 89 events planned over the four days. Brochures are available from Bude library and Spencer Thorn in Bude. The publicity website and ticket link is:

<https://wegottickets.com/budeliteraryfestival>

Reg said, "I have been working with North Coast Arts since the middle of last year, photographing their acts, as diverse as a Beatles tribute band, open-air Shakespeare productions, the Poet Laureate and sixties performer Andy Fairweather Low, who is using some of my images in his PR."

"I specialise in using a small unobtrusive hand-held camera with a large zoom capability to get right up close to artistes without sticking a large telephoto lens in the performer's faces. I make full use of available stage lighting and never use flash, which I find much too harsh and unnatural. For stage work you have to shoot very large numbers of images because a lot will be wasted through movement blur at the low ambient light levels. My record at one event was shooting 500 images and they all have to be examined and edited afterwards. I also photograph wildlife, particularly birds, and I have combined both



Above: Reg on pictured on his recent visit to northern India

interests into the business name Wild Stage Photography. Currently, all my work is charitable but there are commercial possibilities on the horizon if demand continues."

Reg has recently returned from a touring holiday in northern India where he shot many wildlife and street images. He was profoundly affected by the contrast between wealth and poverty, particularly with the child beggars who surround tourists and make them feel guilty for the good fortune of being born in the West. He hopes to win a bursary from the Royal Photographic Society to return to India and do a photographic project on the plight of poor children and homeless refugees in the big cities.

Torridge District Council, Refuse Dept.
CHANGES TO RECYCLING

Torridge District Council is introducing important changes to its recycling services from **1st April 2026** as part of its ongoing commitment to improving safety and expanding the range of materials residents can recycle.

From this date, **cartons (Tetra Paks) will be accepted as part of the district's kerbside recycling service**, in line with simpler recycling requirements.

This includes items such as juice cartons, long-life milk containers, soup cartons and other liquid food packaging.

Residents should place **cartons in their brown recycling bag**, with caps left on, as they can be recycled together. **At the same time, the Council will NO longer accept batteries** in its weekly kerbside recycling collections.

This change is essential to address the serious fire risks and environmental hazards posed when batteries are mixed with general recycling materials.

Batteries can ignite if damaged or exposed to certain conditions during the recycling process, creating a significant fire hazard for collection crews, recycling facilities and the wider community.

They also contain chemicals that can leak and contaminate other recyclable materials, making them unsafe and unsuitable for standard recycling streams.

Although batteries cannot go in your recycling bin, they can, and should, be recycled safely at dedicated collection points. More information can be obtained on the T.D.C. website.



Torridge
District Council



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

Black bag collection days are:

**SATURDAY 4th April
Friday 17th April**

Recycling- Every Monday, apart from Easter collections on Tuesday 7th April.

Boxes/Bags & Food Caddy

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

Garden Waste Collection dates:

**Monday 13th April
Monday 27th April**

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

**Or phone:
01237 428700**



AI Can and Does Make Mistakes

By Brian Meadows of Nofix-Nofee

The race to push AI into everyday use is beginning to have repercussions, errors are being made, not only by the AI model, but by the originating programmers. After all a machine can only respond to a program code, at least at the moment. That will change in time! There is evidence of too much reliance is being adopted on systems which have not been fully tested with the attitude of learn as you go, (Fix bugs as they appear) being the development mantra of many software companies. This find and fix attitude has been in place for decades and as all scholars know a simple comma in the wrong place can change the total meaning of a sentence, so too in programming and as most programs are written in American English, mistakes follow with incorrect output.

One may say, "It can't happen in reality", maybe-maybe not! But just imagine if an incorrectly read chart or report with the omission of certain data is used in a diagnosis how many "down line" mistakes can be repeated causing severe damage, losses or even worse!

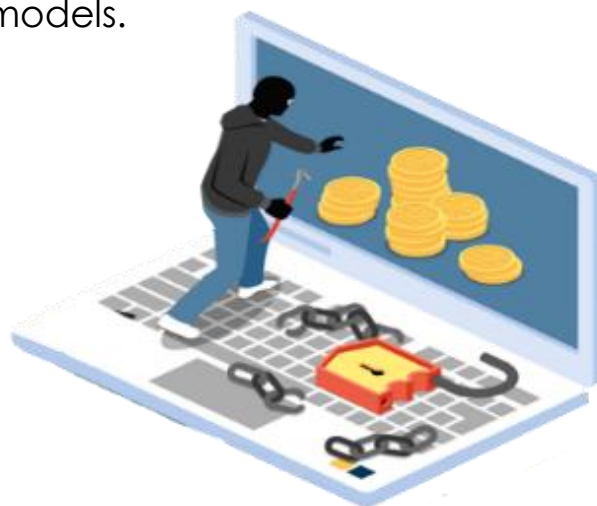
Recently several thousand pounds were transferred between banks because of an AI/ human error. Scans have been misread or not reported on and an attitude of the system can't be wrong can be adopted. Many people will remember in the early years of computerisation. "The computer says this and it must be right" attitude, did not mean it is correct, especially in dispute with a missing or incorrect service and if you haven't experienced

it as yet, you soon will.

The worry here is that it will all happen again until managers realise the AI system has weaknesses and that weakness is often supported by weak management!

AI-generated caricatures are everywhere right now. You upload a photo, and seconds later you have a cartoon version of yourself. Harmless fun? Maybe. But before you jump in, it's worth asking: where does that photo go, how is it stored and who has access to it?

Some platforms behind these viral tools collect more data than you realise. Your photo could be stored, reused, or even used to train future AI models.



Instagram fake login traps and subscription scams are fuelling dark-web fraud. They are now more convincing than ever. You receive a message saying your account violated a rule or needs verification. You click, log in and hand your password directly to a scammer.

Streaming subscription deals look tempting, but most are scams, many are tied to stolen accounts being sold by thieves. These scams not only cost you money, they use malware software for other payment fraud and identity theft. **Continued on page 40.....**

AI can and does make mistakes continued from page 39....

Avoiding unofficial subscription sellers. Use unique passwords for every service. Monitor your payment statements and enable security alerts on your accounts.

This can be a nuisance but consider this. Five local users have lost over £100,000 to online scams. New data shows that criminals stole over £629.3 million in the first half of 2025!

**For computer help and advice, Tel:
Brian Meadows
01288 381061.**

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



**Happy
Easter**

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.**



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Evelyn's Walks Update

By Evelyn Sharman,
Group Organiser



On Monday 9th March, nine of us met at Thornbury Holiday Park with kind permission of Lisa, Paul and young Albert who is growing up fast. Given how much rain we have had in recent months, we decided to stay on the lanes rather than venture along any footpaths. We turned left out of the gate and when we reached Woodacott Cross (I call it Five Ways), we followed the signs for Shebbear. Ordinarily, we would have enjoyed far reaching views towards Dartmoor. Unfortunately, the cloud was very low and it started to mizzle contrary to the weather forecast that we had all seen. I pointed out the footpath signs along the way and reminisced about previous walks. We talked about the history of the original Village School that subsequently became the Village Hall, and some local people can still recall attending functions there. It's sad to see it looking so dilapidated and we hope that one day the site can be brought back to life. We didn't go into St. Peter's Church, but we talked about the restoration of Elizabeth John's tomb that took place a few years ago. It dates back to 1702 and is a Grade II listed monument. Given the age of the headstones, the inscriptions have become quite difficult to decipher but there is an index and transcriptions in the Church for anyone who is interested. We followed the lane keeping "silage bale corner" on our right which took us down the hill, up the other side and

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

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

Email:

evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

then down again to where the Wild Service tree that was planted a few years ago is doing well. We took a moment to get our breath back and enjoy the bird song. Thankfully, the lane known as Thorne Lane was a steady incline after what I would describe as "serious hills" and not for the faint hearted! As we approached Cranapool Cross, we could have ventured along the footpath on the left, but it looked very wet. Having said that, it was surprising how slippery it was along the lane towards Branches Cross. Even the tarmac is going green in places. Be careful! By staying on the lane ahead, we emerged at Woodacott Cross and in turning right, it was just a short stroll back to the entrance of Thornbury Holiday Park. This created a circular walk of approx. 3.2 miles. Looking at my diary, we walked this route in April last year and it was noticeable how many more spring flowers we saw last time. The weather forecast says that we are going to enjoy a few warm days without rain so I'm sure this will encourage the primroses and celandines to make an appearance and brighten up the hedgerows. The **next walk** will be on Monday 13th April. We will set off from the Village Hall car park in Bridgerule at 10am. If you would like any more information about the route, you are very welcome to contact me in advance.

Evelyn's Walks Update continued from page 41...

The next walk is on Monday 13th April, setting off at 10.00am from Bridgerule Village Hall. Why not come along and join them?



Right: Evelyn's walkers near Woodacott Cross on their walk in March.



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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 24th April 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>

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Holsworthy History Society

The Holsworthy History Society met on Thursday 12th March and was delighted with a talk from Mark Shepherd – Vet Practice through the Years. Mark gave an incredible insight into the local vet practice from the late 1800's until the present time. He delighted the Society with tales of dead cockatiels – something akin to the Monty Python Dead Parrot sketch – and how, before penicillin and modern treatments, early medicines were mixed up in the surgery. He mentioned the names of vets who practiced in the middle of the 20th century, names remembered by many of the members of the History Society. Mark also brought with him many implements used in the past which looked as if they had come out of a medieval torture chamber.

This was a most fascinating talk which was greatly enjoyed by the Society's members.

The Society will **next meet at 7.00pm on Thursday 9th April** in the Manor Suite of the Holsworthy Memorial Hall when Keith Denby will be giving the presentation – Shipwrecks off the North Devon Coast.

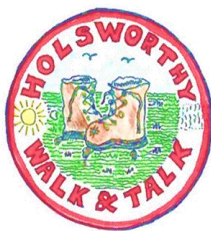
All are welcome, membership for the year is £25 payable by either cash, cheque or BACS (preferable) or £5 for visitors.

For more information about the History Society contact:

holsworthyhistorysociety@gmail.com

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group

By Gill Aston



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



Due to continuing forestry works we changed the venue of our scheduled Witherdon Woods walk to Upper Tamar Lake. The walk was dry both overhead and underfoot but there was a very cold wind blowing across the Lake. We decided to walk round the Lake in an anticlockwise direction so that the wind was behind us for most of the second half of the walk. Even though the sun made an appearance towards the end of the walk hats and gloves were sensibly in evidence.

The following week 16 brave souls met at the north end of Roadford Lake for our Germansweek walk. Our photo was taken during a brief sunny spell n between the rain, snow and sleet! The conditions underfoot on our usual route were particularly wet so our route was diverted to include more roadwork on this occasion giving us the opportunity to look at different scenery. Not surprisingly both Tamar Lake and Roadford Lake were looking particularly full!

Our March walk at Dunsdon Nature Reserve for one of our Level 2 walks was not as originally intended. We usually start by walking across the Nature Reserve to look at the variety of plants and butterflies which call the rare culm grassland their home. Unfortunately, all the recent rains made the route across the reserve impassable, even for people wearing wellies and so we opted for a road walk instead. There are very quiet lanes in that area, and we managed



Our Germansweek walkers



Our Upper Tamar Lake walkers

a circuit of the reserve during which time we saw only one vehicle *en route*, which was the postman, who we met several times.

Our next programme of walks optimistically includes field-based routes and Meldon Bluebells, so we are looking forward to those.

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. Walks start at 10.30 and are **FREE**. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk.

Our April programme is on page 45...

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

Our APRIL Programme of walks:

WALKING



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

APRIL Walks: Walk starting points as indicated below:

Friday 3rd April – Level 2: Halwill Junction/Chilla, starting at Parish Hall car park. Leaders Richard & Paul. **EX21 5XW.**

Level 3: Halwill Junction, starting at Parish Hall car park. Leaders Jan & Jacqui. **EX21 5XW.**

Friday 10th April - Level 2: Rydon Lane, starting at Holsworthy Museum car park. Leaders: Richard & Michael, **EX22 6DJ.**

Level 3: Buckland Filleigh, starting at Village Hall car park. Leaders: Gill & Kim. **EX21 5HZ.**

Friday 17th April - Level 2: Bradworthy, starting at The Square. Leaders: Mike & Barbara. **EX22 7TD.**

Level 3: - Highampton, starting at: Windmilland Cross. Leaders: John & Gill. **EX21 5JH.**

Friday 24th April - Level 2: Upper Tamar Lake, starting at: Upper Tamar car park. Leaders: Michael & Cheryl. **EX23 9SB.**

Level 3: Meldon Bluebells, starting at: Meldon Reservoir car park. Leaders: Barbara & Eric. **EX20 4LU.**



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.**

**Update from
our local
hedgehog
family**



Did some humans happen to mention rain, recently? We've all nipped out briefly and recently for a quick snack and a slurp from numerous puddles. But April (in your language) means warmer nights so we can regain bodyweight again and do you all a very good turn in exchange! It gets really tiring living off body fat for months. Lovely to be active again on our moonlight treks around the parish. The battle re: slugs, snails and nasties starts once again.

We're happy if you are happy!
Harry, Henrietta and the hogs.

See page 47 – how to help hedgehogs by saving your used postage stamps.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

40th Anniversary – 7th April 1986 –

British home computer pioneer Sir Clive Sinclair sold his entire computer product range and the Sinclair brand name to Amstrad for £5 million (\$6.73 million).

40th Anniversary – April 26th

1986: The Chernobyl nuclear disaster occurred, releasing massive amount of radiation and prompting long-term evacuations.

65th Anniversary 12th April

1961 Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space, marking a milestone in space exploration.

75th Anniversary 17th April 1951 – The Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first national park.



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John Sanders Park Trust

Lottery 2026

Happy Easter!

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 hopefully take place in April. 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.

Richard Thompson, secretary for the John Sanders Park Trust.

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

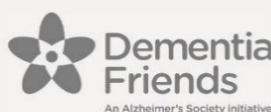


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Creative Craft Club

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.

Phone Marie on:
01409 254924

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Coming to the Village Hall on
TUESDAY 21st APRIL!

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 TUESDAY of each month, for the foreseeable future.

To pre order, head to their website:

www.pottersfishnthings.co.uk

OR alternately just turn up on the night.



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food
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Electrical Contractors..... Algo Electrical Contractors01409 254595
Electrical Contractor Mike Daniel 01288 381342/07977 596772
Estate Agents Kivells 01409 253888
Fruit, Veg, Flowers & more Trigon Farm, Derriton – Al, 07988484069
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
Heating Engineer Greg 01409 478198
British Hedgehog Preservation Society.....Bob Gelder, 01409-253791
Herbalist Diana Lee, Registered Medical Herbalist 01409 254450
Holiday Accommodation ... 01288 381272 email: jay@glebehousecottages.co.uk
Holsworthy NHS Dental Care 01409 255525
Holsworthy Golf 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
Organic Farm, Trigon Farm selling fruit & veg etc phone Al on 07988484069
Renewable Energy/replacement windows Renew SW Ltd, 01409 253533
Round Baling Stan Hopper 01409 253412
Stove SupplierCBL Stoves, call Carl on 01288381852 www.cblstoves.co.uk
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Torridge District Council www.torridge.gov.uk 01237 428700
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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

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Sunnymead, Pyworthy.**

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Pyworthy Poser Quiz for APRIL 2026..

1. Golfer Rory McIlroy's second Christian Name: is it Michael, Daniel, James or Patrick?
2. The King's Christian names are?
3. And Queen Camilla's 2nd Christian name is?
4. What is the name of the Championship Golfer of the Year 2025?
5. Sir Keir Starmer's middle name?
6. Nigel Farage's middle name?
7. Name the Speaker in the House of Commons?
8. Name the most populated city in the world?
9. Name the first 'Book' in the New Testament?
10. Name the healthiest vegetable to eat every day?



The answers will be in the next Pyworthy Post

By The Pyworthy Pilgrim

Pyworthy Rural Art Group Pyworthy ART



It's April where is the year going? It only seems like yesterday that I was doing this for the March issue. Well, the good news is that spring is definitely here, and we can look forward to summer's warmer day and lighter nights.

The art group is doing well with some good work being produced. Why not coming and join us in the Pyworthy Village Hall on a Tuesday afternoon 2.30pm until 4.30pm. All abilities welcome.

The programme for APRIL:

Tuesday 7th April – There will be **NO** meeting on Easter Tuesday 7th April.

Tuesday 14th April – mixed media – painting collage/string /paper/ material etc.

Tuesday 21st April – second week of collage

Tuesday 28th April – abstract with flowers.

**For further information contact
Janet Grant Tel: 01409 259356**



**APRIL
2026**



Nature Notes

By Bryony Rylett

“Because a community is more than just people.”

It is said familiarity breeds contempt and it would be easy to take for granted the subjects of this month's Nature Notes as both are conspicuous and relatively numerous.

In April, **Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)** burst into flower, carpeting the woodland floors, hedges and ditches of Pyworthy and surrounding parishes, while busy **Wood Pigeons (*Columba palumbus*)** flap and glide above.

Bluebells are members of the Asparagaceae family and are native flowers blooming from mid-April to late May. Half the world's bluebells are found in the U.K. and Ireland.

The bell-shaped flowers of native bluebells are deep, violet blue in colour, have six petals and upturned tips. They smell sweet and nod or droop from one side of the flowering stem; this form is known as inflorescence. The pollen inside the bell is creamy white.

Non-native, **Spanish Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*)** are similar but with taller, upright, non-drooping



Above: The Common Bluebell

flowers produced all-round the stem. The flowers are paler blue and more open.

Native blue bells can also be white or pink in colour. **Hybridized Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides x massartiana*)** develop from native and Spanish bluebells.

Bluebells spend the majority of their time underground, as bulbs, until clumps of smooth and hairless, narrow, green leaves, up to 45cm in height, thrust above ground in March. They are a valuable source of early nectar for bees, hoverflies and butterflies as they flower before many other native plants.

Bees, particularly Bumblebees, too big to enter the narrow bells, will 'steal' bluebell nectar by making a hole in the bottom of flowers.

Continued on page 55....

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

Bluebells are known by many colloquial names including: Cuckoo's Boots, Lady's Nightcap, Fairies Thimbles and Dead Men's Bells and in common with many ancient, native species of plants there is much mythology and symbolism associated with them.

Bluebells symbolise humility, constancy, gratitude and everlasting love.

If you turn a bluebell flower inside out without tearing it you will win the heart of your love while wearers of bluebell wreaths cannot lie.

Bluebell woods are believed to be imbued with fairy enchantment and are used by fairies to trap humans.

Fairies summon kin to gatherings by ringing bluebells but if a mortal hears the sound, the call is fatal and if you pick a bluebell, you will be led astray by fairies and will wander, lost, evermore.

An Irish folktale tells of one Cassie Doherty who broke the stalks of bluebells while picking flowers from a fairy hill. She went to bed and woke up the next morning without hair. Her hair eventually grew back but was never the same colour.

In the Encyclopaedia of Folklore & The Occult Science Vol. 2 (1852) authors Cora Linn Daniels & C.M. Stevens state that anyone seeking luck should, after picking a bluebell say: "Bluebell, bluebell, bring me some luck before tomorrow night," then slip the flower into their shoe.

In addition to being protected by fairies, the Common Bluebell is protected, in the U.K., by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) that

prohibits landowners from removing bluebells on their land for sale and making it a criminal offence to remove bulbs.

This legislation was toughened up in 1998, under Schedule 8 of the Act, making the trade in common bluebell bulbs or seeds an offence.

Colonies of bluebells are slow growing taking five to seven years to seed and flower and plants take years to recover if trampled as the plant cannot then effectively photosynthesise.

In the past, bluebell sap was used to bind book pages, to glue feathers onto arrows and during the first Elizabethan period bulbs were crushed to make starch to stiffen the ruffs of collars and sleeves.

Due to its toxicity, it has little use in modern medicine although there is on-going research into how the flowers could combat cancer and into its effectiveness as an animal and insect repellent.

Monks in the 13th century treated snakebites and leprosy with sap from the bulbs although this may have been a 'kill or cure' remedy due to its toxicity.

Through the century's writers, poets and artists have been inspired by bluebells including the Brontes, Oscar Wilde, Wordsworth and Percy Bysshe Shelly.

Gerald Manley-Hopkins wrote in his journal on May 18th, 1870: "I do not think I have ever seen anything more beautiful than the bluebell I have been looking at. I know the beauty of our Lord by it. Its inscape is full of strength and grace."

In the same woods where bluebells grow

continued on page 56.

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

Wood Pigeons (Columba plumbus)

may be present, roosting, feeding, nesting and scaring the bejesus out of folk as they take sudden flight crashing through hedging and trees so violently it's a wonder they survive.



Above: A local Wood Pigeon

Wood pigeons, members of the Columbidae family of pigeons and doves, are typically farmland birds but have adapted well to urban living where, unlike their country cousins, they are tame and approachable.

'Woodys' are the largest and most common pigeon familiar by their cooing call: "hooohooo hoo hoo-hoo" and the sound of their wings during their display flight consisting of an ascending 'flap, flap, flap' of wings followed by a gliding descent.

Wood pigeons are variously described as "hapless and clumsy", "bulky and plodding" but there is much to admire about this bird with its "cheerful...slightly vacant expression" not least their fidelity and parenting skills.

Birds weigh between 480-550g, measure 38-43cm in length and have a 75-80cm wingspan. Both sexes share plumage colours.

There are estimated to be 5.2 million

pairs in the U.K.: not enough to avoid a place on the Amber list of endangered U.K. birds.

Native British numbers are boosted by birds migrating from the continent.

Wood Pigeons pair for life. Together they take a week to build their rickety nests, variously described as "terrible" and "undersized", with the male transporting the twigs and the female arranging them.

The young or 'squabs' are fed with 'pigeon milk', a regurgitated, milky substance stored in the crops of the parent birds, but many do not reach maturity as they often leave the nest before they are ready to fledge resulting in many tragic endings.

Wood Pigeons are able to suck up water to drink. They do not have to tilt their heads back to take in water like most other birds.

During WW1 many pigeons carrying military communications and life-saving messages were accidentally shot. To combat this problem the Natural History Museum created a 'Don't Shoot The Messenger' display of native, taxidermied pigeons and doves so people could learn to tell the difference between urban, feral pigeons, Wood Pigeons, Rock Doves, Collared Doves and Turtle Doves.

Wood pigeons are known by various regional names including: Culver, Cushats, Cushy-Do, Quist, ZooZoo, Stoggies and poetically, in the Welsh language, as Cooc's Bach, meaning Little Coos and are symbols of peace, tranquillity, freedom and nostalgia.

See Bryony's article on our community litter problem, on page 57

LITTER * LITTER * LITTER!

This column highlights the flora and fauna of Pyworthy and surrounding parishes however there are people who choose to spoil our environment with their rubbish; it is obvious some are habitual litterers.

Littering is defined as: "materials that are improperly discarded". You don't have to look far in Pyworthy to see examples of this.

Last month over 400,000 volunteers took part in the U.K.'s biggest mass action environmental campaign, the annual **Great British Spring Clean** (March 13th-29th) organised by Keep Britain Tidy.

Litter picking isn't confined to this campaign; thousands pick litter, in their communities, all year round.

Britain is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Our biodiversity is declining faster now than at any time in human history.

Clean Devon (cleandevon.org) says: "This startling and bleak outlook is not helped by an unrelenting stream of litter, including rubbish tossed thoughtlessly* from vehicles."

(*Littering is not thoughtless; it is nearly always a conscious decision.)

"Estimates suggest vehicle litter alone...kills 3 million small animals every year.

As any litter picker knows, most roadside litter contains the remains of many different small animals and invertebrates, and where uncollected, this litter has the potential to keep trapping more and more helpless creatures.

Bags of rubbish or fast-food packaging can also attract larger scavenging animals and birds, including foxes and hedgehogs, to the roadside where the risks of choking, injury, poisoning, or being hit by traffic increase significantly.

It is estimated that 2 million pieces of rubbish are dropped every day in the UK because of a 'cultural indifference' linked to lack of personal responsibility, respect for place, people, or the environment."

Sometimes it looks as if a large percentage of that litter is dropped alongside the roads of Pyworthy.

Based on the rubbish regularly picked in Pyworthy the 'Top 10 of The (Litter) Picks' are (empty): Pepsi Max cans, Monster drink cans, Costa cups with lids, Lucozade, 'spring' still and carbonated water bottles, Haribo sweet bags, plastic, chilled snack containers, pre-packed sandwich wrappers, crisp packets, 'Lost Mary': vapes and packaging.

None of this litter occurs naturally; someone buys and litters these products.

Is it you? If the answer is yes, stop!

Most of these items can be properly and easily disposed of by putting them out for your weekly recycling collection or taking them to a recycling bank or retailer at little or no inconvenience.

**Whether you live in the parish or are just passing through,
please keep your rubbish with you.**



The paper will go to print on:
Friday 24th April! 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.

Wednesday 1st April – April Fool's Day

Wednesday 1st April - Thursday 9th April – Jewish festival of Passover.

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday

Monday 6th April – Easter Monday/Bank holiday

Thursday 9th April – Unicorn Day & Holsworthy History Society talk at 7.00pm, on Shipwrecks off the North Devon coast. See page 43.

Friday 10th April – Village Hall Social Club Night

Saturday 11th April – Village Social event in Village Hall (evening), organised by Brenda.

Saturday 11th April - Mastering Sourdough: Pizza, Bread & Focaccia at Trigon Farm.

Monday 13th April – Evelyn's Walks group, setting off from Bridgerule Village Hall at 10.00.

Friday 17th April – International Haiku Poetry Day & Bat Appreciation Day

Saturday 18th April – World Heritage Day. Guided Walk, 10am at Thornbury Holiday Park in aid of Beacon Solar - see page 27 also, Barn Dance & Pasty Supper, evening, See page 22.

Wednesday 22nd April – **AGM meeting for Village Hall**, also Earth Day

Thursday 23rd April - St. George's Day

Sunday 26th April – Tabletop sale in the Village Hall, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, stalls available see page 35.

Thursday 30th April – Annual Parochial Church Meeting 7.00pm.

Forthcoming Events in 2026:

Friday 1st May - CRAZY MAMA will be entertaining at the Village Hall.

Thursday 21st May – Pyworthy Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Saturday & Sunday 13th and 14th June – Pyworthy country Show, more details to follow.

Saturday 4th July – Children's Craft Session in the Village Hall.

Sunday 5th July - An afternoon with ALL@C UKULELE BAND in the Village Hall.

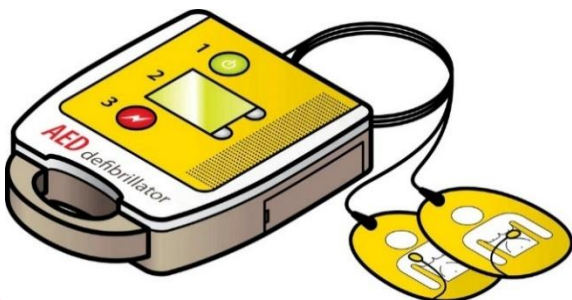
Saturday 17th October – a fun CASINO NIGHT in the Village Hall.

Saturday 24th October – Children's Halloween Craft Session 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.

Places are limited, so email Mary asap.



A defibrillator TRAINING session has been booked for the 28th May, in Pyworthy Village Hall.....

Anyone interested in free CPR and the defibrillator training session, run by Devon Air Ambulance, is asked to email Mary Laxton at:

mary711devon@hotmail.co.uk



children's Easter Craft Session

Our Craft Session was a Winner with the Children!

By Amanda Witts, organiser

First of all, a big thank you to all those who helped me on the Children's Craft afternoon.

We had 15 children and 14 adults attend. The children create some beautiful crafts, painting some Easter bunnies, eggs and rabbits. Sticking on gems, character stickers onto egg shapes and wreaths, and lovely colouring activities. We all enjoyed the very scrumptious refreshments as well.

There will be crafts and an Easter Egg Hunt as part on the Easter Sunday service at St. Swithun's Church on 5th April at 3pm.
Best wishes Amanda



The artwork will decorate our church on Easter Sunday when there will be a family service for all, starting at 3pm.



Your Local Team



“ 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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