

PYWORTHY POST



A few of the produce & crafts exhibited at this year's Village Show. More photos inside.



What's in your paper this month?

New mini-series "My COVID Diaries" starts this month.

Reports on The Village Show & 100 Year celebrations in the park.

Forthcoming local events, plus much, much more turn the page and come inside.

Read online at:

<http://www.bit.ly/postpy> or

<https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/>

and view the paper in full colour.



October 2025
Issue number 344



**Pyworthy
Village Hall
presents:**

**THE MAKING OF
WAR HORSE**

**THIS
MONTH**

Not to be missed!

**Friday 3rd October at
Pyworthy Village Hall.
7.00pm for 7.30pm
Entry £5 per person.**

Light refreshments will be available.

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

**THE MAKING OF WAR HORSE AND OTHER FILMS
ON DARTMOOR**

Dive into the magic of filmmaking on Dartmoor with our next
speaker Paul Rendell.

Discover behind-the-scenes secrets from the making of War Horse (2010) and
other iconic productions like Down to Earth, Gold Digger, and Revolution (1985).

Our speaker, Paul Rendell (aka 'Dartmoor Paul'), will share his unique
experiences, including his role as an extra in Revolution.

All proceeds in aid of Pyworthy Village Hall.

Welcome to the OCTOBER Edition



By Marion Ravn

Well, September has flashed by, and here we are back into autumn once again.

Don't despair, there's lots going on in Pyworthy to keep you all busy. On Friday the 3rd October there will be an interesting talk about films shot on Dartmoor, including the well-known "War Horse".

The Village Show was a great success again this year, there is a full report and photos on pages 30 & 31.

If you're planning ahead for Christmas Gill & Liffy are taking orders for their excellent Christmas cakes & puddings, which are made to traditional recipes. On the 29th November we have our Christmas Fair, which is always a popular village event, see page 32. Our village park celebrated it's 100-year anniversary with traditional games and a BBQ; there is a report on page 46.

We have a new mini series starting in this edition written by Mark Marriott. Mark is also standing for election to the Torridge District Council this month. You can read more about him on page 22.

There are lots more great articles and reports to enjoy.

Keep the news and articles coming in.

Email: pyworthy@post.com

Reminder:

Clocks go back on the 26th October.



**Set your clocks
BACK
one hour
before
going to bed
tonight.**

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CHURCH NEWS

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



Summer has definitely gone but there are, at the moment, many swallows still flying around getting ready for the long flight to Africa. Are we ready for the colder weather? Do we know our neighbours well enough to make sure they will be warm enough and have enough in their cupboards?

We have very generous people in Pyworthy who leave donations for the Holsworthy Foodbank in a box at the back of the church which then get taken in to the Foodbank at the rear of the Memorial Hall in Holsworthy where it gets weighed and we let the Pyworthy Post know what weight of donations has been taken in – I took in 9.75kg last week! A huge thank you to all of you who contributed. The Foodbank is open every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4pm for anyone in need together with a cuppa. They can also put anyone in touch with someone to help with financial problems. I used to help out at the Foodbank (until Covid) and know there are also items that we would not necessarily think of donating, such as babies nappies, toilet rolls, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, ladies sanitary items – they are quite expensive these days but are a necessity to young mums and so many young families struggling to make ends meet. Very welcome donations any time of the year. When Christmas gets nearer the Foodbank

will be very grateful for fun food items for children in particular, for instance chocolate Father Christmases.

October sees our Harvest time with Harvest Festival being celebrated in St Swithun's on Sunday 5th October at 09.30am. Donations will be very gratefully received – tins, jars, packets please as they will all go into the Foodbank who cannot take fresh/perishable foods.

Do please come along and celebrate the bringing in of the harvest.

Our farmers all over this country have faced so many problems this year, from flooding washing away newly planted crops to drought leading to not enough grass for the animals. I hate to see so much in our supermarkets flown in thousands of miles. Again, I hark back to my childhood when we all ate what was in season, very unwillingly some of the time when it was marrow or swede! You did eat all that was on your plate however otherwise it would reappear cold at the next mealtime.

While we moan about problems in this country, we know they pale into insignificance when compared to so many parts of the world. We have homes, somewhere to lay our heads, green fields to look out on, clean water to drink, schools to teach our children and churches to sit in and offer a silent prayer. There is a pebble pool in church for you to take a pebble, say a prayer for a loved one or someone who is sick or in need of help and put the pebble in the bowl of water.

St Swithun's is a place of welcome to all of you – please do come along to a service, we do not bite, we are a friendly local bunch who enjoy worshipping together and doing our best at singing hymns!

United Benefice of Holsworthy

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



Benefice Services for OCTOBER

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

Worship and Prayer in the Holsworthy Benefice – OCTOBER 2025

Date	Bridgerule	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Hollacombe
Sunday 5 th October	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Harvest Festival/ Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th October	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	3.00pm Evensong
Sunday 19 th October	-	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th October	11.00am Sung Eucharist	11.00am 	9.30am Morning Prayer	-
	9.30pm – All Age Service at Pancrasweek			
Sunday 2 nd November				9.30am Holy Communion

Hollacombe Church

Advanced Notice

Sunday 30th November

Advent Carol Service at 3.00pm.

Saturday 27th December Traditional
Carol Service at 2.30pm, plus seasonal
refreshments.

Pyworthy Church

Sunday 5th October Harvest Service
at 9.30am

Sunday 7th December our family
Christingle Service at 4.00pm.

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.

Pyworthy Village Hall News

Martin Brennan, Chairman

Village Hall Show

I just wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you, to Angela and her Team, for all the hard work and dedication that went into organising this year's Village Show. It was a truly wonderful event that brought the whole community together, and it was clear that a huge amount of effort went into making it such a success.

From the vibrant displays to the engaging activities and the warm atmosphere, everything was so thoughtfully planned and beautifully executed. It's events like these that remind us of the strength and spirit of our village, and we're incredibly lucky to have such committed individuals making it all happen.

Thank you once again for your time, energy, and enthusiasm. It was a day to remember!



Potters Fish n Things

Just to let you all know Olly will be reverting to his old timetable which is the **Third Tuesday of each month**. This will take effect from **Tuesday 21st October**. For further details see page 33.

**See page 34 for easyfundraising.
How you can help our Village Hall,
while you shop online.**

The Making of War Horse Friday 3rd October 2025

This fascinating talk by Paul Rendell (aka Dartmoor Paul) will explore:

- Behind-the-scenes insights into the filming of *War Horse* (2010).
- Tricks and techniques used during production.
- Other iconic films and TV shows shot in the region, including *Down to Earth*, *Gold Digger*, and *Revolution*.
- Paul will also share stories from his books and his experiences growing up exploring Dartmoor.

Please come along and support this magical evening with all proceeds in aid of our Village Hall.

You can still book your tickets by phoning Marie on 01409 254924. For further details see page 2.



Not The Cowboys

Due to popular demand all tickets have been sold, and apologies to those who have missed out!

New 1940's Style Dance Classes now available - Thursdays 7 – 9pm. Ideal for beginners. (see details below)

Swing Republic SW

October Class Pass

Available from Thursday 25th September 2025

£40 for 10 hours of Lindy Hop classes

Discover stylish 1940s dancing

More beginner moves

Build your confidence for social dancing



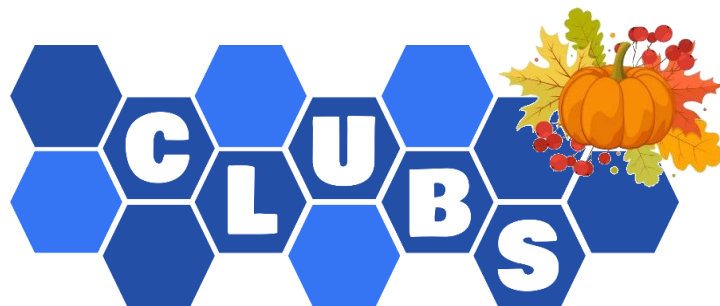
Thursday evenings 7 - 9pm

(£10 for 2 hours drop in cash on door)

Pyworthy Village Hall EX22 6JJ

Plenty of free parking

Join our friendly Swing Republic SW Facebook group for updates and to keep in touch



Village Hall Pub Nights!



This month our Social Evenings are:

Fridays the 10th & 24th
October!

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'
session on **Friday the 10th**. We
look forward to seeing you all.

**Doors/Bar Opens
at 7pm until late.**

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



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

Mondays: Line Dancing Club:

Complete Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm

Beginners/Improvers,

6.30pm – 7.30pm

Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Rural Art Group,
2.30pm – 4.30pm.

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,
from 11.10am. Everybody welcome!

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

Thursdays: **NEW** Lindy Hop Dance
class for beginners 7.00pm – 9.00pm.
(1940's style dancing).

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

Upcoming Events at the Village Hall

Dates for your Diary!

Friday 3rd October 2025

An evening with **Paul Rendell** detailing the making of "**War Horse**" and many other films made on **Dartmoor**.

Saturday 1st November 2025

Live music event "**Not the Cowboys**" A rip roaring party band are coming to Pyworthy.

Friday 19th December 2025

A pre-Christmas party with "**Joy Machine**" playing music from the 60s to modern day Pop.

ENTERTAINMENT

Watch this Space
Further details
to follow!

Pyworthy Veterans to Gather for Remembrance

**Sunday 9th November
at 7:30 PM in the
Village Hall.**

The evening will be a celebration of remembrance, and a time to raise a glass to "Absent Friends."

If you are a Pyworthy veteran and would like to attend, please email Sue (Veteran) at:

susan.every2000@gmail.com

for more details.

We hope to see you there for this significant evening.

Simon Davies
Pyworthy Parish Council

NOT THE COWBOYS

A 'RIP-ROARING PARTY BAND'

WILL BE AT
PYWORTHY VILLAGE HALL
ON SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER



DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM
LICENSED BAR
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

TICKETS £10 EACH
AVAILABLE NOW FROM MARIE 01409 254824
OR ANGELA 07794344117

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 280013

Dates for your Diary

Village Hall Meeting

Our next meeting is on
**Wednesday
12th November
at 7.30pm.**

Join

Gill's Golden Gang

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

Held at:

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

Thursdays: **Pyworthy**
Village Hall
10.00am to 11.00am.

Halwill Baptist Chapel
Hall
12.45pm to 1.45pm.

**Contact Gill Aston on: 07854677784
for more information.**

Coffee Morning



VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING GROUP

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

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

**For more information phone:
Brenda on: 01409 253015 or
Marie on: 01409 254924.**

Now held in the main Village Hall.



**NEW MEMBERS ARE
VERY WELCOME!**

My Electricity Industry Recollections

Episode 9

My Experiences as a NDT and Grid Engineer

By Mike Godfrey



I finished my training at Acton Lane in I believe September 1969, without any real formality with a brief chat with the Station Manager and a presentation of my Apprenticeship documents. The field was open to me, but I didn't really know which branch of the CEGB to apply for, which I saw as a weakness in their training system. Although there was a certain amount of experience provided, I believe it would be more beneficial for both the Company and the individual to gain a more in-depth experience of each branch before opting for a career path. While I was trying to make up my mind I took a job with the Non-destructive Testing department (NDT). This was based at Croydon Power Station took me to virtually every Power Station in the South East, including many of the next plants to be developed in the early 1960's with 120,000kw machines. However, this job failed to get me any experience in the newer plant that was being built in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The job did give me quite a range of testing experience on a wide range of plant. I was called to Battersea one day because they thought that they had dropped a very large spanner down a turbine steam supply pipe. I had an early form of portable camera called a Vidicon. I lowered down the steam pipe some way looking for the spanner when the screen suddenly went blank. They hadn't drained the water out of the

bottom of the pipe and I had lowered the very expensive camera into water and wrote it off. Not one of my better days. I also spent a lot of time carrying out ultrasonic and radiological testing which allows you to see inside solid metal to check for cracks that are developing or imperfect welds. This required me to climb inside boiler drums, which were some 200 feet long, about 6 foot in diameter and 6 inches thick, with just a small inspection hole at one end. I climbed through the entrance with another couple of chaps following behind to do the test work. It felt very claustrophobic, and the metal was still quite warm from the previous boiler activity. When we came to climb out through this very small aperture the first chap struggled a bit, as we had all expanded as we were now all quite warm. The next chap to exit, who was a bit portly, started to panic a bit seeing the struggles of his colleague, which made the situation worse, and he promptly got wedged firmly in the hole, even with those outside pulling and me pushing. Needless to say it really didn't improve my claustrophobic thoughts as this was my only way out. I thought that I might have to be in there for days with no food or drink and no means of

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My Experiences as a NDT and Grid Engineer continued

until he had cooled down. The safety officer then employed an old trick to take his mind of the situation. Without warning with me pushing and the others pulling, he stuck two fingers up his nose, the pain and distraction worked, and he came out like a cork out of a bottle. Needless to say I was quite pleased to see daylight and get some fresh air and didn't waste too much time getting out.

Whilst this job helped me gain experience in a range of relatively modern power plants, I wasn't really getting any nearer the new technology and the plant being built, which was the future. After about 6 months I decided to take a post with the Grid Transmission department and was appointed as an Overhead Line Engineer alongside another Engineer, covering most of the transmission lines in Kent, including the Thames crossing Grid Towers, standing at 630 feet. It used to take me about 20 minutes to climb to the top. To inspect it, the electric power was turned off on one side and the line earthed with massive cables. We could then climb out on the arm and down inside the 8 insulators carrying the enormous weight of the cables spanning the river Thames between Northfleet in Kent and Thurrock in Essex.

In those days you only had a thick webbing belt (called a Linesman's Belt) with just one lanyard. This offered little protection against falls because with only one lanyard you couldn't attach it when you were climbing or moving around. It was only of any use when you were working in one position for a while. Even then if you fell off

off there was a better than evens chance that you would break your back with just a belt to hold you. Early on in the job the weather turned very cold and icy and we were issued with Duffle coats and sea boot socks, as if they were going to keep us warm. We were all very cold but were having to climb towers to carryout repairs and investigate faults. It was so cold that your fingers and hands were quite numb and as you moved around the tower you had to look to see whether your hands were attached to the metalwork and that your feet were in the correct position as you couldn't feel anything. That was a hard few months.

A Transmission line from Northfleet to Canterbury had been out of service for a gang of East London painters to de-rust and paint all the metal structures. A truly awful job, as you have to balance with nowhere to hold to and with wet paint everywhere. The previous Overhead Line Engineer had never climbed the towers relying on the "honesty" of the contractors. My colleague (Tim) and I did the climb the towers, despite the protestations of the contractors that we didn't need to. When we got almost to the top we could see why, because they had only painted what you could see from the ground. The surfaces that had the worse rust and really needed treating hadn't been touched. The mood of the contractors changed markedly, and we were threatened quite severely to say the least, so much so that we had to lock ourselves in the Substation and phone the Police to rescue us and get them arrested. Needless to say, a different gang finished the job

continued on page 12...

My Experiences as a NDT and Grid Engineer continued

properly. I believe that the East London Boss of the original gang, who was a real hard nut, dealt with them appropriately.



Above: the 400 KV Thames Crossing tower in Kent

On another occasion I was climbing a newly built tower for a 400kV line again going to Canterbury. Having said previously that it was not possible to attach the one safety lanyard whilst climbing, I encountered a slight problem at about 200 feet in the air. All grid towers have bolts set at right angles on two diagonally opposite corners. These are used access the circuit on the same circuit on the same side. The bolts provide a climbing arrangement for your feet as well as your hands. The tower had been newly built and signed off as complete. To climb the tower, you push with your legs and pull with your arms and hands. At about 200 feet I pulled forcefully with my right hand only for the bolt to come out in my hand. The force I had imparted to the now unattached bolt threw me backwards in a twisting motion, also taking my right foot off of its bolt. I

found myself looking out to the Kent countryside, which at that time I didn't have too much time to admire. I was basically hanging on by one foot and my left hand with my wrist twisted at an awkward angle. It is amazing what adrenalin and the will to live can do, because I somehow managed swing myself back to face the tower again, with the loose step bolt still in my right hand. Needless to say when I got back to the ground, I had few fairly harsh words to say to all involved and probably to quite a few that weren't involved so that they didn't make the same mistake.

One of the jobs of note that I got involved in was to inspect the spacers that are fitted at intervals in the span of the line between towers. This involved climbing down a ladder to get on the line at the bottom of the insulator, then climbing out backwards to sit astride the line a colleague would follow and also sit on the line facing me. A trolley would be winched up between us, we would have to open the sides and it would be winched up further, so that we could close the sides and the trolley guide wheels would be lowered onto the wires. We would then detach the winch wire and climb down into the trolley. (See the photo of me sitting backwards on the line and my colleague getting ready to get in the trolley this is on page 13). We attached lanyards to the cables that we were inspecting but I don't know what would have happened if the trolley came off the wires and fell because we would have been left hanging in mid-air!! Once in the trolley the ground crew would pull us along with a rope

continued on page 13...

My Experiences as a NDT and Grid Engineer continued

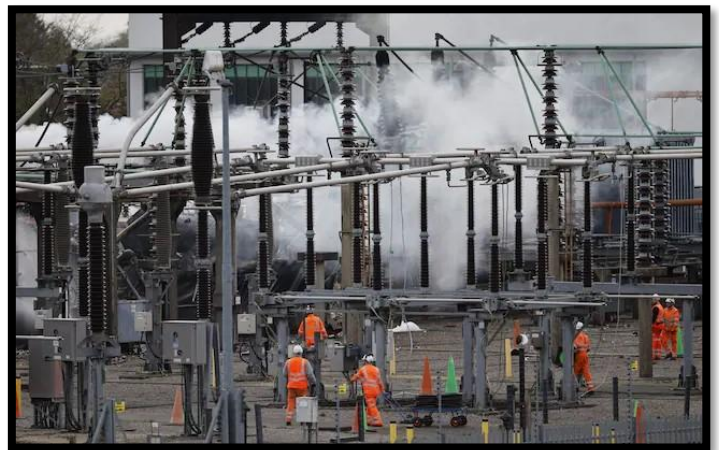
so that we could inspect each spacer and change it if necessary. This had to be repeated three times between each two towers. Nowadays the inspection work is mainly done from a helicopter using cameras, but any repair work would still probably need the trolley.



Above: Mike Godfrey sitting on an overhead line about 1970

I was also involved briefly in the experimental forerunner of the DC links that now cross between us and Europe in many places. This one ran between Kingsnorth Power Station near Rochester in Kent and Croydon and Acton Lane in North West London. This enabled more power to be fed into London without need to upgrade all the switchgear. I was also involved briefly in experiments with infra-red cameras in helicopters to inspect the overhead lines for hot spots and other damage. This was to try and replace the linesmen who had to walk for miles inspecting the lines with just a pair of binoculars and a note pad. Helicopters are now used routinely for this work.

Next time I have more stories of working on the Grid system and I change horses to start work on the newly built Kingsnorth Power Station and get involved in the new technology and commissioning these massive machines as well as trying to keep the already commissioned machines generating electricity against a background of desperation to supply the ever increasing demand for power, this was to be the most challenging period in my career.



Above: Heathrow grid substation on fire. This is an example of how dangerous high voltage substations can be, if you get things wrong, mistakes can be very costly both to human life and financially.

**Happy
Grandparents
Day!**

To Marion &
Terry Ravn



Wishing the best Grandma and Grandad, a very Happy Grandparents Day!
Love from all your grandchildren, we hope you enjoy your special day. 😊 xx

Evelyn's Walks Update

By Evelyn Sharman,
Group Organiser



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

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848 Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

On Monday 8th September, we repeated the route that we had last done in Halwill in October 2021. We have walked other routes in Halwill & Halwill Junction since then, but it had effectively been four years since last walking this route. We parked near the Church of St. Peter & St. James & walked down the lane to Horsebridge. There is in fact more than one old stone bridge at this point & upon close inspection, the inscription dates one of them as going back to 1930. We turned left & walked up the hill & around a right-hand bend before joining the footpath on the right-hand side. This took us across a grassy field & we were watched with interest by a horse & pony in an adjacent paddock. Previously, there had been an Appaloosa so maybe the property has new owners. At the bottom of the hill, we crossed the route of the old railway & the River Carey. It was a bit of a clamber up the other side & it wasn't slippery as such, but the carpet of acorns added an extra challenge to the climb. By this stage, we had all warmed up & were quietly regretting wearing so many layers. We enjoyed a breather whilst soaking up the glorious view & tranquility in the morning sunshine. The footpath became the entrance drive for a few properties at Blagaton. We then turned right along the lane. When we reached the T-junction at Quoditch Cross, we discussed whether to take the short cut back to the cars along the road via Horsebridge (one mile) or whether to turn left & follow the footpath through Langaforde Farm. The consensus of opinion was the latter & I assured everyone that we would know that we were nearly back when we could see the Church tower. Interestingly, it wasn't evident at all as the trees must have grown taller with the passage of time. Just as we were negotiating our way around a field of turnips, the heavens opened & then we had hail. You wouldn't believe how wet we got in such a short space of time. I had envisaged visiting the Church but the prospect of returning home & putting on dry clothes was the preference. I may have put a few people off joining me on a walk for evermore after that soaking.

The next walk which will be on Monday 13th October, setting off from Clawton Village Hall at 10am. You are very welcome to contact me in advance if you would like any information about the distance, terrain etc but please don't ask me to predict the weather.

Evelyn Sharman

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 14



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.

SEPTEMBER'S PYWORTHY POSER QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Tiny marsupial resident to S.W. Australia.
2. The tower at Pyworthy only has three pinnacles as opposed to Holsworthy's four.
3. Commodore.
4. Brighton & Hove Albion (now known as The Seagulls - of which there is no bird. Gull, Herring Gull, and numerous others, but not **Seagull!**)
5. 54.5% a.b.v.
6. Trad Jazz Musicians.
7. Royal North Devon.
8. Six. St. Mary's; Tresco; St. Martins; Bryher, St. Agnes & (at high tide) Gugh (cut off from St. Agnes).
9. Falmouth.
10. 365.25 days. (Leap Year every 4yrs when the last two numbers are divisible by 4).

**How did you do? Why not try this month's quiz on page 35.
Pyworthy Pilgrim.**

In the Spotlight



Roger Stanbury

Name: Roger Stanbury

Age: 73

Occupation: Agricultural Contractor (silage, baling, digging, hedge trimming etc) since 1988.

Place Of Birth: Whitstone, East Cornwall. Lived in Pyworthy for over 40 years.

What is the best thing about Pyworthy and why?

It's a nice little village although it's lost some of its amenities. I know a lot of people, my sister lives there and I have friends there.

What one thing would you change about Pyworthy and why?

I would like to have the pub as it was before; a place to meet friends and have a drink and a sandwich.

Describe yourself in 3 words:

Helpful, I always try and help people out; hard-working, practical.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Going out on my motorbikes. I go out with my two mates, explore the countryside and find a nice pub with a carvery. (Roger has recently joined the Pyworthy Men's Skittles Team. He previously played for Chilsworthy).

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

Go skiing; that's one thing I've always wanted to try. I'd go to the Alps.

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

The late Princess Diana.

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

Buy another property with more ground, a nice bungalow on it, out in the countryside with about 30 acres.

Continued on page 17





Roger Stanbury

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

1. I would wish for a more peaceful world.
2. I'd wish my family, son and granddaughter, lived nearer.
3. For better health for myself. I would like to sort my knee out.

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

1. My pets - cat and dog
2. Passport and phone
3. Photo albums because you can't replace those.

Pyworthy Rural Art Group

Pyworthy ART



As I write this it's raining heavily outside, and we are told that it's going to be very windy. Autumn is on the way! This is going to give us hopefully some lovely autumnal colours, as the trees begin to lose their leaves. So, don't put your camera away, take some nice photos to give you inspiration in your future artworks.

The classes have started back with lots on painting skills to learn. Why not come along and join us?

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

All abilities welcome.

The programme for OCTOBER:

Tuesday 7th October - Landscape in watercolours – re: a sketch book

Tuesday 14th October – Butterflies in Gouache

Tuesday 21st October – Still Life (Harvest) Acrylic

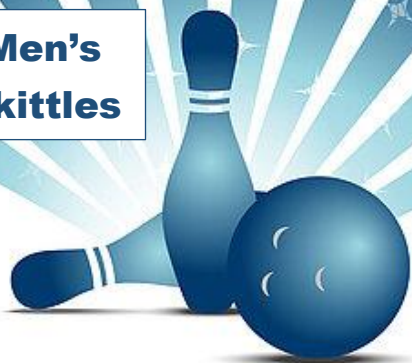
Tuesday 28th October – Silver Birch trees in a wood using masking fluid and watercolours.

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

For further information contact Janet Grant

Tel: 01409 259356

Men's Skittles



Men's Skittles!

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

Andrew on 07531186466 or 01409 253509.

Training will be given!



Music Lessons

- ☺ Piano ☺ Clarinet
☺ Electronic Keyboard ☺ Guitar
or ☺ Flute

Qualified experienced teacher

Contact: Rose Sullivan

Email: rosamundsullivan@gmail.com

Tel: 01409 255487



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- ❖ Heated outdoor swimming pool
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- ❖ 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



Unlike last year July and August were pretty warm with just sufficient rain, September has not produced the "Indian Summer" that we had last year, more like a monsoon with high winds. Although if I remember rightly September did turn colder, wet and windier in it last week to tell us that it was really Autumn. Hopefully you are still harvesting your garden produce, although judging by the turn out for the vegetables at the Village Annual Show the number of entries seemed to be lower than normal and those that were submitted appeared to be smaller than in the past. I think that the warmer July and August encouraged the vegetables to grow faster and hence get harvested and used up before the show date. Perhaps we should consider moving the show a week or two earlier if we have the same weather next year. On the other hand, the fruit seems to have done exceptionally well. Cider apple growers are reporting crops some 35% above normal. From my own experience some of our Katy eating apple and Bramley cooking apple trees are just laden to the ground with branches with about 100 apples on, equating to about 1000 apples on some trees. I would estimate our crops to be well over 100% more than normal and probably 200-300% better than last year. If anyone wants any Bramley cooking apples or Katy eating apples, then just let me know and I will drop them round to you or you can collect them from Crinacott if you so wish. One of

the pictures shows a large wheel barrow full of Bramley Apples. I have picked 5 barrows full just like this one and the two trees still seem to be well loaded – perhaps they are re-growing as I pick them or am I in some nightmarish dream, where I am destined to pick apples forever.



Hopefully you are still harvesting your garden produce, be it cut flowers or vegetables, particularly if you have a greenhouse or polytunnel. Once again, our inside vegetables have been a very mixed bag this year; tomatoes have done very well as have the first sowing of carrots. Runner Beans were probably 10% of usual and potatoes probably about 50% and as for the rest of it disastrous. I am beginning to believe that my green fingers are turning brown after all these years of successful gardening. I am truly struggling to understand what is going wrong. The

continued on page 20

poor germination I have previously put down to mice and/or then sparrows nipping off the emerging leaves, I am now beginning to believe that it could be woodlice. I have never experienced them doing so much plant damage and have always believed them to be relatively harmless. The more I look around at leaf damage and the likely culprits, then aside from slugs, snails and caterpillars I think that woodlice are definitely shaping up to be the primary suspect for seed damage, they are even eating into the growing beetroot. I am looking at some serious and thorough deep cleaning and fumigation of my polytunnels over the winter period. It is a real pity that the original form of Jeyes fluid is no longer available, nevertheless in desperation, I will give it a go, particularly as I have experienced virus affecting my runner beans and potatoes for the first time. At least my plan to grow only begonias this year seems to have paid off. They have produced a really good floral display, free from slug damage and reasonably unaffected by the weather. I can thoroughly recommend them, and they will flower all summer, right into the autumn until the first hard frost. Before we go to jobs for the month ahead, I'll show you the photos of my Begonias throughout the summer season. As you can see from the pictures my pots are still giving plenty of colour.



Begonias flower throughout the season



Above: Begonias in July, looking good



Above: Begonias in August, still beautiful



Above: Begonias in September – still amazing!

Jobs for the month ahead are on
page 21.....

continued on page 21

Just in case you are looking for something to do, here are some jobs that you may need to get to grips with during October:



- As always, keep weeds under control; don't let them get on top of you. Don't forget the good old Hoe or if necessary, the strimmer to stop weeds going to seed. Remember one year's seeds equates to seven years weeds.
- Make sure that you regularly pick your ripe crops, including all your soft fruit, to get the best from them.
- Towards the end this month it will be preferable to pick all the unripe tomatoes and ripen them off on a windowsill.
- The next month or two are ideal times for selecting and planting new fruit trees but be sure that you select a variety that is compatible with this area and is either self-pollinating or there are other compatible pollinators in the immediate area.
- This time of the year is also the best time to start planting bulbs. They look best if they are cast over the ground where you intend them to be planted. Wherever they fall, this is where they are planted. This gives the best effect. Bulbs should be planted about 6in (150mm) deep. If you want Hyacinths in time for Christmas, they are best planted now in multipurpose compost or perhaps purpose made bulb vases.
- Make sure that you continue to dead head your flowers to keep many plants flowering while the weather permits, roses that have

- finished flowering, should be trimmed back by about half their height to prevent damage root damage due to wind rock during autumn and Winter.
- Help pollinators by planting late flowering perennials such as Rudbeckias; helieniums; aster and sedums to provide a source of nectar and pollen before winter sets in.
- Prepare the ground and plant onions 5-10 cms apart, at a depth that leaves the tip just showing above ground. Cover with fleece to protect them and prevent birds from pulling them out.

Just a reminder, it is that time of the year and as usual I have quite a few mainly Bramley cooking apples and Katy eating apples, which are ready right now and are free. Contact me on the mobile number below to arrange collection. Please bring a bag or box to collect. If it is difficult to come down to the farm let me know and I will arrange a delivery.

If anyone needs to contact me,
mikecrinacott1@gmail.com.

Eating Apples &

Free Apples

cooking Apples



Please contact Mike Godfrey on 01409 253401 or 07798 647041 or by e-mail at mikecrinacott1@gmail.com.

Vote Independent, Torridge District By-Election

Mark Marriott

Vote | 23 October



**Your Independent
Candidate for Milton &
Tamarside,
Torridge District Council**

Want to know more? Talk to Mark:

**mark@strawberrybankdevon.co.uk
07511823996**

Mark is an ex-Commander who served 20 years in the Royal Navy, then 15 years improving and running services in the NHS; he was the Chief Operating Officer of Weston General Hospital and in charge of Dorset's COVID 19 vaccination programme. He now runs a business on the edge of Pyworthy with holiday lets and a small farm. Having been a public servant for 35 years, he is committed to ensuring that local government works for you, not the other way round.

"Keeping Torridge Independent means we can continue to work for you without the interference of national politics. We all know how the main political parties are behaving, and the only way to keep local government honest is by making sure it's independent". Mark Marriott

Vote Independent to create a community we can be proud of:

- ✓ **fight against large scale solar on productive farmland - there are better ways to go green than to destroy our countryside**
- ✓ **more small-scale residential developments of affordable housing for our youngsters**
- ✓ **support Ward Members who are disadvantaged by local government decisions**
- ✓ **create rural job opportunities**

Vote for Mark Marriott to keep Torridge Independent

For more information go to address, or scan the QR code

www.torridge.gov.uk/article/20144/District-Council-Vacancies



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- ❖ Replacement of hinges, handles, locks & seals
- ❖ Letter boxes and cat flaps installed
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Telephone: 01409 259848

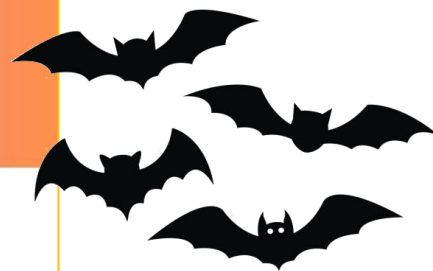
Mobile: 07885 352 082

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com



WHAT'S ON AT HOLSWORTHY LIBRARY - OCTOBER 2025

- **Bounce & Rhyme**, Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd - 2:15pm-2:45pm
- **Lloyds Bank Community Banking**, Monday 13th & 27th - 2pm-4pm. Free drop in sessions.
- **Family History Session for Families!** Saturday 4th - 10:30am-12:30pm. Limited places, please book with library staff
- **Using Email on Your Mobile Device**, Monday 6th - 2:30pm-4:30pm. Free (please book via Learn Devon on 01392 384094).
- **Effective Dog Communication**: Talk with Rebecca Hanlon, Thursday 9th - 7pm. Free to attend but please book via Eventbrite or with library staff. Donations welcome on the night.
- **Travel Planning With Your Mobile Device**, Monday 20th - 2:30pm-4:30pm. Free (please book via Learn Devon on 01392 384094)
- **Gardening Cuppa & Chat**, Wednesday 29th - 2pm-3pm. Everyone welcome.
- **Half Term Children's Book Sale**, Saturday 25th-Saturday 1st Oct.
Bring your sow & grow pumpkin in - Monday 27th 2pm-5pm
Board Games, Biscuits and Craft - Wednesday 29th - 11am-4pm
Lego Challenge Day - Thursday 30th 11am-4pm
- **Fancy Dress Swap Clothes Rail** - all month during opening hours.
- **Lego and games** for children. Every Saturday - 10am-12:00pm



**School
Half Term
Activities**



Library News!

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

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



Winter Fuel Payment Scam Warning



Devon and Cornwall
ALERT



Winter Fuel Payment Scam Warning

Winter Fuel Payment fraud, or Winter Fuel Payment scams, are a type of "Phishing" scam where criminals attempt to trick individuals, particularly older and vulnerable people, into giving up their personal and financial information. The scam typically involves fraudsters sending fake text messages, emails, or making phone calls that claim to be from a government department like the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) or HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). The messages often state that the recipient needs to "apply" for a Winter Fuel Payment or that they haven't submitted their application. They include a link to a fake government website where the individual is asked to enter personal details, including bank account information, in order to "claim" the payment.

Why It's a Scam

The key thing to remember is that in the UK, the Winter Fuel Payment for the vast majority of people is automatically paid to eligible individual. The government will never contact you by text, email, or phone to ask for your bank details or other personal information, in order to "process" your payment.

How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

The general public, and especially those who are eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, can take several steps to protect themselves from these scams:

- Be aware of the process. The most important thing to know is that if you are eligible for the payment, it will be sent to you automatically. You do not need to apply or provide your details.
- Do not click on links in suspicious messages. If you receive a text or email claiming to be about a Winter Fuel Payment, do not click on any links. These links lead to fraudulent websites designed to steal your information.
- Look for red flags. Scammers often create a sense of urgency, using phrases like "act now" or "deadline approaching."
- Are there spelling and grammar errors in the message?

Don't share personal information. Government agencies will not ask for your bank details, PIN, or passwords over the phone, via text, or in an email.

Block and delete the message. If you receive a suspicious text, email, or call, simply block the sender and delete the message.

Tell others. Inform older friends, family members, and neighbours about these scams, as they are often the targets.

Continued on page 26....

Winter Fuel Payment Scam continued from page 25....



What to Do If You've Been Targeted

Do not respond to the scam. End all communication with the scammer. Contact your bank immediately. If you have disclosed any financial information or lost money, call your bank's fraud department right away. In the UK, you can use the 159 hotline to connect directly to your bank's fraud department. Note – Most but not all telecom providers offer this service.

Report the scam. You can report a suspicious text message by forwarding it for free to 7726. You can send Phishing emails to report@phishing.gov.uk You can also report scams to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via their website.

Need Help or Advice?

If you're unsure about a message or phone call you've received, speak to a trusted relative or friend, you can also contact Citizens Advice / Age UK or other appropriate charities for guidance. Always remember, when in doubt, never give out any personal information. If necessary contact the relevant government department, directly using the official contact details shown on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

Line Dancing!



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!

Trigon Farm, Derriton, Holsworthy. EX22 6JU

Forthcoming Events & courses:

Dried flowers wreath workshop – 11th October

Christmas wreath workshop – 29th November/6th December

Christmas table arrangement workshop – 20th December

Book today at:

<https://www.trigonfarm.co.uk/book-online>



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

www.trigonfarm.co.uk
Call Al on Tel: 07988484069

Preparing for Christmas?

Why not let Gill & Liffy help. They have years of experience in cooking great Christmas cakes and puddings, using only the best ingredients.

Gill & Liffy are on their marks, mixing bowls at the ready. To take advantage of this offer please do give them a ring with size/shape and they will get baking! They await your calls....



Cakes are undecorated.

Order your Christmas Cake & Pudding now!

Gill Tel: 01409 253135

for Christmas cakes or email:
mikethemadmajor@hotmail.co.uk

Liffy Tel: 01409 254423
for Christmas puddings.

WHO'S CELEBRATING THIS MONTH?



BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

- 1st Maisie Chandler-Galt, Matt Clark
- 3rd Plym Peters
- 4th Jonathan Jones, Janey Ross
- 6th Angela Skinner
- 7th Shaun Fisher
- 10th Julian Lapham, Kara Buse
- 11th Kelly Davies, Simon Morley
- 17th Callum Foote
- 18th Evelyn Jennings
- 21st Andrew Axford, Lyla Robinson
- 22nd Molly Ross
- 23rd Kathy Peddle, Annette Hackett
- 24th Michael Waud
- 26th Cory Ward
- 28th Harry Brown
- 29th John Thripp



Community Birthday list

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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS AND FAMILY OCCASIONS



Grandparent's Day is the 5th October!

**Happy
Grand.
Parent's
Day!**

In the UK, Grandparents' Day is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of October, a tradition started by the charity Age Concern in 1990 and formalised in October 2008.

The day serves to recognise and honour the significant contributions of grandparents to their families and to foster the special bond between generations, with common celebrations including gifts, afternoon teas, and spending quality time together. Enjoy your day!



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



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Bude Jazz Club

The Falcon Hotel, Bude.
EX23 8SD

Sundays 8.00pm - 10.30pm

5th October Neil Maya

9th October North Devon Joymakers

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@holsworthytransport.co.uk

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



North Devon
Hospice

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Get your free will pack today and discover why an up-to-date will is so vital, for you and your loved ones. If you also choose to include a gift to North Devon Hospice, you'll be giving care and compassion when it matters most.

Your gift will be remembered, forever, in the heart of the hospice. The Forever Stone holds the names of amazing people like you, who've chosen to make a lasting difference.



Hold your phone camera up
to this code to learn more.

registered charity no.286554

Pyworthy Village Show 2025



Pyworthy Village Flower, Produce and Craft Show

Another very successful flower, produce and craft show was held on Saturday 6th September when nearly 360 amazing exhibits were on display for everyone to enjoy in the afternoon. This year saw an increase in the vegetable, flowers/plants, fruit and photography sections and all exhibits throughout the nine sections were of a very high standard. We definitely have some very talented residents in our parish. It was lovely to welcome some first-time exhibitors to the show this year, we hope you enjoyed participating and will return next year.

All eleven judges agreed they had a difficult job choosing the top three of each class and an overall winner. In the afternoon, everyone was delighted to see the wonderful children's exhibits and congratulations go to Hattie, Harry, Caleb and Maisie for coming first in their age groups and to Soal for winning the cup for the best exhibit as chosen by the judges. Each section winner was also congratulated and presented with a certificate.

The overall winner for this year was Angela Skinner with Chris Samuels a very close second. Refreshments and a raffle were enjoyed by all those in attendance, and **£372** was raised for Pyworthy Village Hall.

Thank you one and all for your support again this year.



Above: The Village Show Winner, Angela Skinner being presented with her trophy

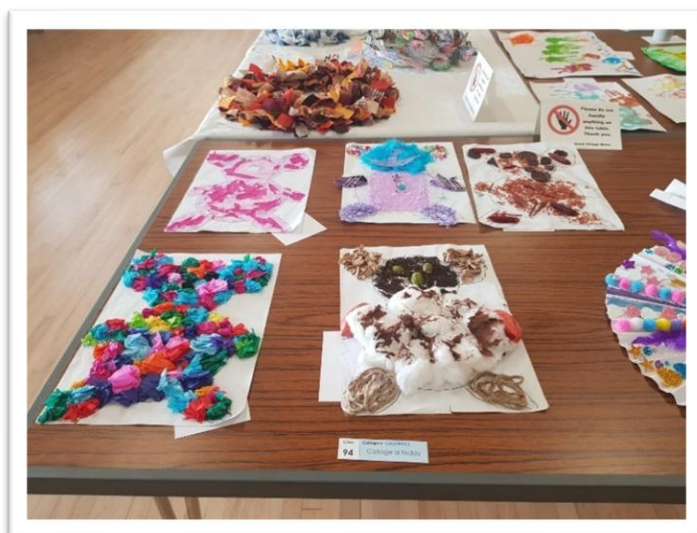
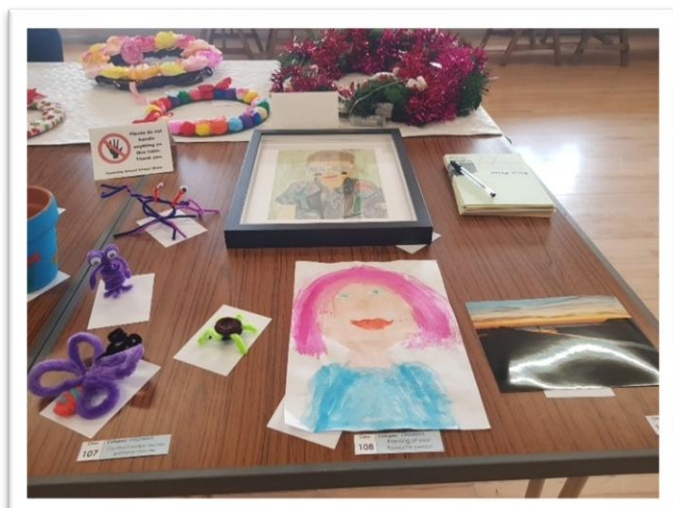


Above: The Winner of the Children's trophy was Soal, pictured receiving his prize cup from Marie Heard, organiser of the Children's show categories

Below: just some of the children's amazing creations, entered into the show this year



More of the Children's amazing creations – Well done everybody!



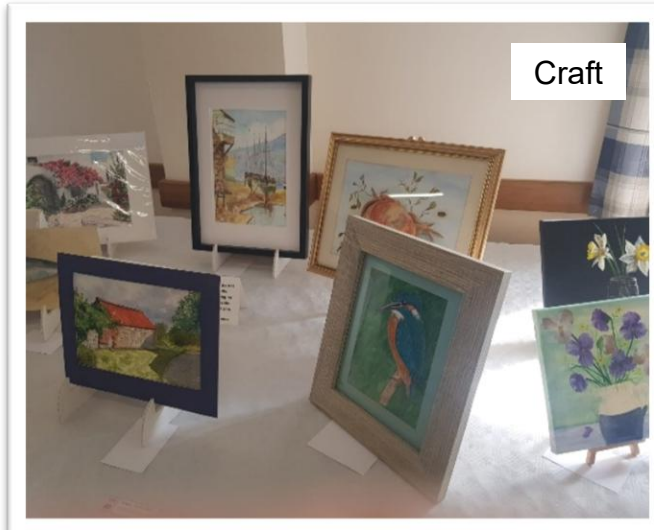
A small selection of produce & crafts in the adult classes this year.



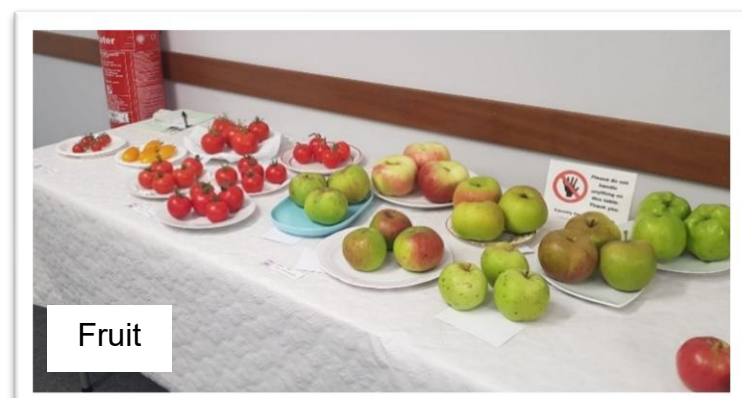
Photography



Thank you
to Steve &
Stephanie
for the
photos.



Craft



Fruit



Flowers



Cookery



Christmas Fair



The Fair will be opened by the
Town Cryer and will be held
on:

Saturday 29th November 2025

in:

**Pyworthy Village Hall,
11.00am until 3.00pm.**



There will be lots of crafts, books, cakes, grand raffle,
chocolate tombola, face painting, plus lots, lots more.

Refreshments will be available.

Come along and start your Christmas shopping.

PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY!

I will be looking for:

- ✱ **Books,**
 - ✱ **Raffle prizes and**
 - ✱ **Chocolate for the tombola, also**
 - ✱ **Cakes for the cake stall.**
- 

For further information contact:

**Janet Grant on:
010409 259356.**

Thank you for your support.

Merry
Christmas





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**

ARTHUR W. BRYANT FUNERAL SERVICE

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BUDE
01288 352282

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CARING@AWBRYANT.CO.UK



**Coming to the Village Hall on
TUESDAY 21st OCTOBER!**

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.



Other
food
available

Sign up & help the Village Hall

Help us raise **FREE** donations

every time you **shop online**

How to sign up

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



Scan me

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



Over £34 million raised

Trustpilot

1.9 million users

Update from our local hedgehog family



It has been absolutely "stuffing" to have the recent rain as it has tempted the slimy things out of their hidey-holes. Normal Hog-feeding has resumed, or should be 'consumed'?

Little hogs are now almost as large as both of us. They are now old enough to go off foraging on their own, hopefully staying clear of that nasty black tarmac!

Thanks to all those of you humans who have put down a dish of fresh water & meal of dog food. We can work well together.

Harry & Her indoors!

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 34



CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about crime

ActionFraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

0300 123 2040

Holsworthy History Society

The September meeting of
Holsworthy History Society
welcomed Mr John Killingbeck & his wife who gave a very interesting talk on Admiral Benedictus Marwood Kelly who was born in Holsworthy in the 1800s, joined the navy at 13yrs of age rising through the ranks & ended his naval career on HMS Pheasant where he liberated many slaves off the African coast & having lived a meagre life left his estate to fund Kelly College in Tavistock. His achievements Holsworthy can be extremely proud of.

The next meeting on October 9th is a talk on Edith Cavell in The Manor Suite, The Memorial Hall in Holsworthy at 7pm.

For more information about the History Society contact:
holsworthyhistorysociety@gmail.com

Margaret Stacey



Pyworthy Poser Quiz for OCTOBER 2025 DEVON!

1. What area of Devon has the lowest reported crime rate?
2. Which is Devon's oldest Town?
3. The "poshest! or most "expensive" town is?
4. The most "rebellious" town in Devon on record in 1685 was?
5. The cheapest residential area generally is?
6. The "nicest" town (maybe that's a village) is?
7. The richest person in Devon is?
8. "Worthy" is a suffix to many towns/villages in Devon. It defines as what?
9. Devon is the 2nd largest County in geographical area behind Yorkshire. What is 3rd largest?
10. What definition is given to visitors to Devon?



The answers will be in the next
Pyworthy Post.

By The Pyworthy Pilgrim



Torridge District Council

Pyworthy Bin Collections



OCTOBER 2025 - Pyworthy Village,
other villages may have a different
collection schedule.

Black bag collection days are:

Friday 3rd October
Friday 17th October
Friday 31st October

Recycling- Every Monday

Boxes/Bags & Food Caddy

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

Garden Waste Collection dates:

Monday 13th October &
Monday 27th October

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

Or phone:
01237 428700

Read online at:

<http://www.bit.ly/postpy>

and view the paper in **full colour**.

(don't use a search engine)



Keep saving your
used stamps!

A Change of Heart from Microsoft

By Brian Meadows of Nofix-Nofee

Microsoft will not now end support for Windows 10 previously planned for October 14, 2025 only if your Microsoft account is sync'd to the cloud. Adding a Microsoft account to Windows 10 will extend support until October 13, 2026. If you don't want to link a Microsoft account, you can either pay \$30 for a local account or use 1000 Microsoft reward points if you have them.

Windows 10 support was originally supposed to end on October 14, 2025 and previously, Microsoft confirmed that consumers could pay \$30 and get updates for an additional year. This meant those who wouldn't pay wouldn't be eligible for Windows 10's monthly security updates, and that would have left millions of PCs vulnerable to security threats.

Microsoft

understands users need time to buy a new PC, especially if Windows 11 is not supported on their existing computer. If you want to keep



using Windows 10 for another year, but don't want to pay \$30 for extended support, link to your Microsoft account and will also allow every user to sign-up for free updates starting August 2025.

Domestic users Must use settings or the on-screen wizard to enrol in service, which is free if using Windows Backup or you must otherwise pay Microsoft the equivalent of \$30.

Businesses & Organizations which hold a volume license or who use cloud providers must pay \$61 per device for

year 1 then double every year up to the following 3 years.

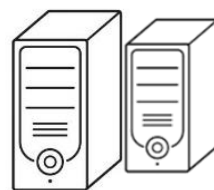
Cloud & Virtual PC users (Windows 365, Azure) Updates re automatically free with a valid subscription.

Clearly Microsoft's Windows 11 upgrade efforts have failed and extending support, want something in return. Either linking to a Microsoft account or paying \$30.

(Now that's what I call profiteering!)

However, some retailers are selling old stock which may not have the current Windows 11 24H2 version installed. This version requires a minimum 4GB memory to operate correctly, laptops with only 4 GB of memory will have little or no spare memory to operate 3rd party add-ons such as printers, scanners and office systems and will become slow or freeze when doing so. Beware retailer bargains they may not be as beneficial as the salesperson makes out! (check out system specifications before buying).

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Continued on page 37...

**A Change of Heart from Microsoft
continued from page 36...**

I have a small quantity of refurbished tower computers with Windows 11 installed and will gift these to OAP's experiencing financial difficulties free of charge (this offer does not include keyboard or monitors). Some conditions apply and to avoid fake applications, a sponsor will be required, although parental consent will not be necessary. Collection is also free, but a small charge may be made for delivery and data transfer. Please telephone me in the first instance for all details.



**For help and advice
telephone Brian
Meadows on 01288
381061.**

**Nofix-Nofee Computer Repair
Services.**

Trafalgar Day

Trafalgar Day is an annual celebration observed on October 21st. It commemorates the victory of the Royal Navy against the French and Spanish naval forces at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Lord Horatio Nelson became one of Britain's best-known war heroes after the Battle of Trafalgar. The British fleet that he commanded consisted of warships built of wood, driven by sails, and equipped on both sides with cannons.

The Battle of Trafalgar was significant, confirming the superiority of the British Royal Navy and marking the death of Admiral Horatio Nelson.

J. Mansell 07896 945889

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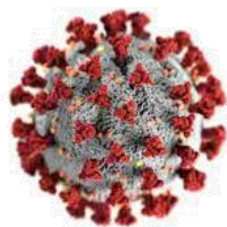
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Jamescancott@gmail.com

My COVID Diaries

By Mark Marriott



The COVID19 Virus

I used to be an interim executive director for the NHS. If a hospital was struggling to meet its operational targets I would be parachuted in by the regulator to take over as Recovery Director or as Chief Operating Officer. In 2018, the NHS agreed that Bristol Royal Infirmary could take over Weston General Hospital in a merger that would take about two years to deliver. The Weston Hospital board resigned and left the hospital with no leadership during the transition period and I was asked to take over the running of the hospital as Chief Operating Officer until the merger took place in April 2020, there were also interim medical and financial directors put in place. Weston Hospital is the smallest hospital in the UK and has always struggled to meet the needs of its population; when the hospital was first built, Weston Super Mare had 50,000 residents and the hospital was designed to support 180,000 people living in the area. However by 2018 Weston Super Mare had grown to 80,000 people and the hospital now supported 250,000 people in the surrounding area with no additional facilities.

The winter of 2018 was much like any other winter experienced by Weston General with around 150 A&E attendances a day, around 50 emergency admissions a day and 20 elective (non-urgent) admissions into our 360 beds, we also had around

around 5000 outpatient attendances a week. The typical winter would see outbreaks of flu, norovirus and various respiratory diseases alongside an increase in frail and elderly attenders at A&E and via their GP and “winter pressures” would normally last until April, but in Spring 2019 the pressure never seemed to stop with spring and then summer attendances staying at the same winter levels as previous years. With the hospital preparing for a merger and the whole NHS under continuous strain we were creaking at the seams and just about getting by lurching from one crisis to another. Winter came again in 2019 and the pressure increased further still and the usual flurry of winter disease notifications started to cross my desk, these were reviewed by the operations and medical planning teams and briefings were prepared for hospital staff to get ready for the latest predicted flu or respiratory virus infections. In December 2019 a notification arrived informing all hospitals that a novel coronavirus had been identified in Wuhan China, its origins and characteristics were still not known but the World Health Organisation (WHO) were placing an advisory caution on it. Since it was Christmas, most of the hospital was on leave so I contacted the medical director and informed him of the notice, we both agreed that we would include it in the flu briefing for the New Year, the briefing was to take place on the 13th of January 2020, but we never got the chance to brief the staff before everyone knew what it was. On the 5th of January 2020 Chinese authorities in Wuhan informed WHO **continued on page 39**

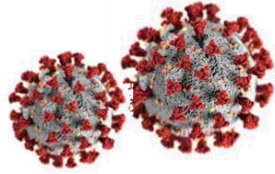
My COVID Diaries continued from page 38.....

were placing an advisory caution on it. Since it was Christmas, most of the hospital was on leave so I contacted the medical director and informed him of the notice, we both agreed that we would include it in the flu briefing for the New Year, the briefing was to take place on the 13th of January 2020, but we never got the chance to brief the staff before everyone knew what it was. On the 5th of January 2020 Chinese authorities in Wuhan informed WHO that it was officially an outbreak with 59 new cases in the last 2 days and seven critical cases; by the 9th of January the first death from COVID-19 was reported and by the 12th of January Wuhan hospital was overrun and people were being denied care. The virus spread to South Korea and on the 13th of January to Thailand, on the 15th of January to the USA and on the 24th of January Europe had its first 3 cases in France. By the 25th of January the virus was in Australia, Malaysia, Canada, Singapore, and Sri Lanka and WHO declared that the world should "act as one" in fighting the virus but it was yet to become a pandemic. By 27th of January cases were in Austria, Germany, Brazil, Cambodia, Mongolia, Ecuador, Hong Kong and Samoa, and Thailand declared they were unable to contain the virus, their health board declaring it an epidemic. The UK had its first two cases on January the 29th and by 30th of January 7800 cases had been confirmed with 170 deaths across 19 countries and WHO declared the

the virus a "disease of concern" and a global health emergency. By 16th March, 55 people in the UK had died with 1500 confirmed cases, a mortality rate of 3.5%, and Boris Johnson began to brief the nation each evening. Meanwhile an Imperial College team led by Professor Neil Ferguson had developed an epidemiological model suggesting that 50% of the population would be infected over 2 years and between 5 to 10% of those infected would die, a total of over 500,000 deaths in the UK. On the 23rd of March 2020 Boris Johnson came on national TV and informed the population that they were to lock down and not leave home except to buy food; by now the novel coronavirus that had been reported to NHS hospitals just three months earlier had infected 270,000 people worldwide and caused 11,000 deaths, we were living with COVID-19. I was due to leave the hospital on 1st April 2020, when Weston merged with Bristol, but I was asked to stay on and lead through the pandemic, so I stayed until 14th August when the first lock down ended and I left to lead Dorset's COVID recovery programme, not knowing that there were more lockdowns and a vaccination programme still to come. These diaries are my recollections of those few months at Weston General Hospital, and the vaccination programme in Dorset which I would lead and eventually turned the tide of the pandemic after nearly 2 years. So much happened at the same time so the diaries are written a topic at a time, each one spanning the whole pandemic, **continued on page 40**

My COVID Diaries continued from page 39.....

and they all overlap.



The Numbers

In February the Imperial College epidemiology team gave a series of briefings to NHS regions showing the prediction for each region and each hospital. For Weston's 250,000 people that meant 170 new infections every day, 50 needing a hospital admission and 7 to 15 deaths per day. The implication for the hospital was enormous, with 50 COVID admissions per day and an anticipated hospital length of stay of 9 days per case, hospital maths predicted we needed 450 beds for COVID cases alone; 300 of them would need oxygen and 25 would need ITU. Weston only had 360 beds, 60 with oxygen and 11 ITU beds, so the patients simply wouldn't fit and we needed an immediate response to prepare for such an overwhelming and catastrophic pandemic. Weston wasn't alone though, and in the regional briefing, both Bristol hospitals and Gloucester with around 1000 beds each were predicting to need 1200 COVID beds, we simply didn't have the capacity in the system, even if regular admissions were halved or more, we only had around half the beds needed for COVID.

Needless to say, after the regional meetings took place we held local crisis meetings with representatives from the hospitals, GP's, community care, ambulance service and care homes. It was agreed that all non-acute patients would be discharged to care homes under the care of a GP and that the ambulance service

and care homes. It was agreed that all non-acute patients would be discharged to care homes under the care of a GP and that the ambulance service would only attend respiratory calls at sites where no medical personnel were present, this meant they would not attend respiratory emergencies in care homes. In Weston we converted the physio gym into 12 extra beds and the discharge lounge into 6 extra beds, 4 of the 6 theatres were converted into 12 ITU beds and 60 mobile oxygen canisters were attached to ward beds, this gave us 378 beds and 23 ITU beds; still not enough, but it was the best we could do. The biggest problem though was that we only managed to discharge 160 of our patients as care homes couldn't cope with the large numbers they needed to take, explaining to us over and over again that they weren't governed by the NHS and wouldn't increase their capacity. We still had 50 emergency admissions a day through A&E and we hadn't been given permission to cancel planned appointments, so we were braced as a group of hospitals to be the point in the health system where all COVID cases would converge and we had no idea what to do with them, how to treat them or where to discharge them.

Next time we plan for COVID deaths



The Pyworthy Horse Chestnut Project 2025



By Reg

Godwin, member of the Pyworthy Environmental Group

I have loved and grown trees ever since I was a small boy. I always wanted my very own mature tree, but all we had at home was one lonely apple tree at the bottom of our fairly small garden. In later life I have been able to indulge this passion for trees on our own land.

Autumn was always a delight as the horse chestnuts started to drop their conkers in the spiky casings. There's something truly beautiful about the deep mahogany colour of the conker and its smooth feel in your hand. As schoolboys we always looked out for the largest, toughest conker which would be drilled and threaded with string for our playground game of conkers (now frowned upon by the Elf and Safety brigade, so intent on ruining the authentic experiences of childhood).

In my mind, you have never truly had a complete childhood until you have fallen out of your first tree and (hopefully) survived, bruised but undeterred. Some kids used to cheat by baking their conkers in the oven, but that made them a bit brittle and shrivelled (and was against the rules!). Soaking them in vinegar was also favoured but useless as it made them too soft. If you had a champion conker, you could often swap it for something else. I once swapped my conker king for another kid's foreign coin, a Victorian 1882, solid silver Rupee from India. That was the best swap ever. The conker is long gone, but I still have the coin 65 years later! It's worth £50-100.

This year has seen an abundance of almost all fruit and seeds from trees and shrubs (the Beeches seem to be the only exception). We are lucky to have an avenue of horse chestnuts along the parish road at Hopworthy. They are about thirty years old, planted with selfless forethought by John Clarke, a previous owner of Lower Hopworthy Farm. As I collected some of the irresistible (to me!) conkers, it occurred to me that other people might wish to plant some conkers if they have a suitable site for the trees. The lovely white 'candle' flowers are a valuable contribution to the environment as a source of nectar and pollen for bees in Spring.

It's important to remember that a mature horse chestnut can eventually reach 30+ metres (105ft) high and live for up to 300 years, nine human generations! But what better way to commemorate a person or event in your life than to plant a tree such as this species. You may even wish to commemorate the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II or Remembrance Day. Flowering cherries and other fancy ornamental trees are lovely, but they will not have the life of some of our other hardwood broad-leaf trees. Incidentally, although we think **continued on page 42**

The Pyworthy Horse Chestnut Project continued from page 41.....

of the horse chestnut as an indigenous British tree, it is originally a native of the Balkans (esp. Turkey) and was introduced here in the mid-1600s. It thrives in our climate and the only threat to it is the canker disease which causes 'sap' to bleed from the trunk. They seem to tolerate this disease in a way which our English elms were unable to survive Dutch Elm Disease.

All of this is a long-winded way of announcing the Pyworthy Horse Chestnut Project, my **spare conkers available free of charge (naturally) from the entrance of the Village Hall & Pyworthy Church**. There will be instructions there on how to grow them if you have never tried before. Please take as many as you wish; most will germinate if planted while still fresh and I have several hundred available! Let's make 2025 a memorable year by increasing the number of trees in our parish and making Pyworthy the horse chestnut capital of Devon!



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Pyworthy Post is:
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news as early as
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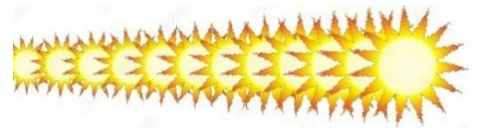


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Sunrise, Sunset Times for the coming month:



**Clock go back 1 hour on the
26th October at 2.00am**



1st October 2025 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 07.14am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 16.51pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 11 hrs 37 mins.

31st October 2025 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 07.04am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 16.50pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 9 hrs 46 mins

Come and Help Shape Devon's Future!

Devon County Council is on the road visiting towns and locations across Devon to talk to residents about local government reorganisation.

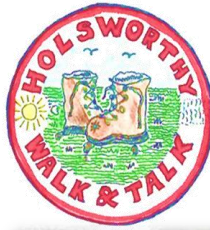
This is an opportunity for Pyworthy residents to have your say and share your thoughts and views. It's an opportunity to give your views face to face.

The Roadshow will be in **The Manor Car Park, Holsworthy on Thursday 2nd October, 9:30 – 11:30am.** Alternatively, it will be in Southley Road, South Molton (opposite South Molton central car park) - Thursday 9 October, 9 - 11am."

Simon Davies, Pyworthy Parish Clerk

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group

By Gill Aston



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



Due to the recent prolonged dry spell during the summer our Level 2 Group was able to walk through the Culm Grassland at Dunsdon Nature Reserve last month, which we haven't been able to do for some time. Culm Grassland is found in poorly drained lowland areas of acidic soil where there is a high rainfall, which makes that



Above: Walks meet up with the donkeys at Berridon Farm, Bradworthy

section of the footpath very soggy for much of the time. 90% of culm grasslands have been lost over the last century but Devon Wildlife Trust, who manage Dunsdon Nature Reserve, have worked for over 30 years to preserve not only the grassland but the rich diversity of plants, birds, insects and butterflies. We managed to take a photo of a Red Admiral butterfly enjoying a morning snack of ripe blackberries.

Level 2 walkers enjoyed a sunny walk at Bradworthy and met up with the friendly donkeys at Berridon Farm (See photo).

Then the tranquillity of the warm summer was quickly superseded by heavy deluges which we 'enjoyed' in mid-September. The Level 2 walk was scheduled to cross Efford Downs in Bude but, with high winds coming in across the Atlantic, the route was changed on the day to the quieter route alongside the canal to Hele Bridge and then back along the

Sustrans Trail just in time for a heavy downpour complete with hail stones as we arrived back at the cars. The Level 3 walk at Bratton Clovelly suffered the same fate of a downpour, but without the hail stones, which meant that we felt it prudent to forego our visit to St Mary's Church with its 12th Century Norman font and recently revealed 17th century wall paintings and dripped our way back to the cars.

All of our walks are risk assessed and checked during the week prior to the walk by the designated Walk Leaders. Sometimes a last-minute change of plan is needed, as in the case of the Efford Down walk, in the interests of safety of all involved.

If you would like to join us on any of our walks our current programme of walks is available, taking us up to October walks start at 10.30 and are FREE. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk.

See our walks programme on page 45

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

Our October Programme of walks:



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

OCTOBER Walks: Walk starting points as indicated below:

Friday 3rd October – Level 2: HALIFAX WAY / HOLLACOMBE. Starts by the war memorial near Anvil Corner. Hard tracks, quiet lanes and one short incline. **LEADERS** Richard Cook & Mike Jackson. EX22 6NR.

Level 3: - GERMANSWEEK. Starts from lay-by by the junction to Southweek. Hard surface, rough tracks and fields. **LEADERS:** Sue Sturmey & Jan Hayward. EX21 5BG.

Friday 10th October - Level 2: RYDON LANE. Starts from outside Holsworthy Museum. Mainly hard surfaces, gentle inclines. Can be muddy. Parking charges. **LEADERS:** Gill Aston & Cheryl Collins. EX22 6DJ.

Level 3: - UPPER TAMAR LAKE. Starts from Upper Tamar car park. Charges apply. Hard level track around lake. Can be muddy in parts. **LEADERS:** Kim Harris & Barbara Bishop. EX23 9SB.

Friday 17th October - Level 2: PYWORTHY. Starts from Village Hall. **LEADERS** Richard Cook & Mike Jackson. EX22 6JJ.

Level 3: - PYWORTHY. Starts from Village Hall. **LEADERS** Cheryl Collins & Eric. EX22 6JJ.

Friday 24th October - Level 2: HOLSWORTHY WOODS. Starts from main car park. **LEADERS:** Cheryl Collins & Paul. EX22 6NQ.

Level 3: RYDON LANE. Starts from Holsworthy Museum car park. **LEADERS:** Kim Harris & Jacqui. EX22 6DJ.

Friday 31st October - Level 2: LOWER TAMAR LAKE. Starts at Lower Tamar car park. **LEADERS:** Richard Cook & Mike Jackson. EX22 7LB.

Friday 31st October - Level 3: HIGHAMPTON. Starts at Windmilland Cross. **LEADERS:** Paul & Jacqui. EX21 5JH.

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.



**St Swithun's Church Pyworthy
will be holding a
Harvest Festival Service
on October 5th at 9.30am.
Please feel welcome to
come along & join us.**

**We will be collecting donations
of food for ?????**

**Please donate non-perishable
foods i.e. tins, jars or packets.
Fresh foods can't be accepted.**



PYWORTHY PARK CELEBRATED 100 YEARS

On the afternoon of Saturday 13th September an event was held in Pyworthy Park to mark the 100 year anniversary of the land for the Park being given to the village by John Sanders.

The event was formally opened by Gill and Mike Johns, well known members of our Pyworthy community. Gill has been a Trustee of the Park for many years and has performed the dual roles of secretary and treasurer till very recently. We are all very grateful for the time and effort Gill has given to the Park Trust in the past and hope she will remain a Trustee for many years to come.

Despite the rather changeable weather, grandparents, parents and children from Pyworthy and beyond, came together to enjoy a traditional sports day and other fun and games. Egg and spoon, sack and three-legged races were hotly contested by children of all ages, and the adults took part in a novelty pentathlon competition, which included welly throwing, an obstacle course, sprinting and skittles. Other entertainment included face painting (with many thanks to Sally Glessing), football target shooting and a tombola. There were ample refreshments in the form of a tasty barbecue, ice-cream tubs and cream teas (delicious scones courtesy of Jill Lapham). We raised £237.11 for the Devon Air Ambulance.

A capable group of Park Trustees and friends, led by our chairperson Rob Moores, set everything up beforehand

and ran the event. They did an amazing job and the Park looked fantastic. Thank you to Rob Horton, who very kindly attended as our highly qualified first aider, and to Arthur and Mark Burnard for making their field next to the park available for car parking. Thank you very much to all those who gave up their time and energy to make the event possible, there are too many to name individually, but they know who they are.

But most of all, thank you to all the lovely people who attended the celebration and took part, making it such an enjoyable community afternoon.



A very successful event in our village park, which was enjoyed by everybody who attended.

Many thanks go to all those volunteers on the day, who helped to make it all possible.

John Sanders Park Trust



Advanced notice – our AGM will be held on Thursday
9th October in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

WINNERS of the Park Draw for September 2025 are:

1st Prize of £30 – Martin Lawrence

2nd Prize of £20 – Adrian Oliver

3rd Prize of £10 – June Vinnecombe

All proceeds after the prizes goes towards the upkeep of the Park.

HOW TO BUY A £10 LOTTERY TICKET:

Please contact **Jane Oliver on 07500 834620**, if you would like to buy one. If you are transferring monies for tickets via BACS, please ensure that Jane has your contact details.

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:

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By Simon Peltenburg
on behalf of the Derril
Water Solar Coop



In parallel with the electrical works the team are continuing to level the areas of disturbed ground and are reseeded with grass, and will apply a final layer of stone on the tracks before leaving site.

As always, we would like to thank everyone in the community for their patience through the construction phase of this exciting project that is owned by over 9,000 households from across the UK.

Please see

<https://derrilwater.com/> for more details.

Top: the image shows the lights on the 'Switchgear'.

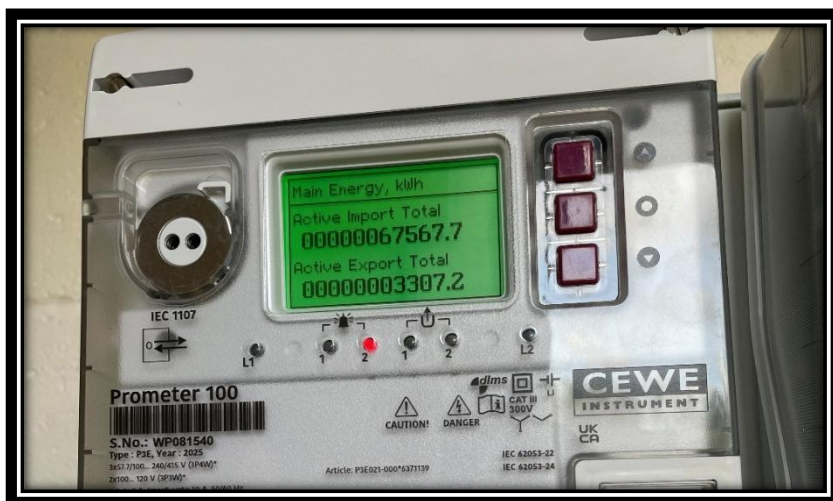
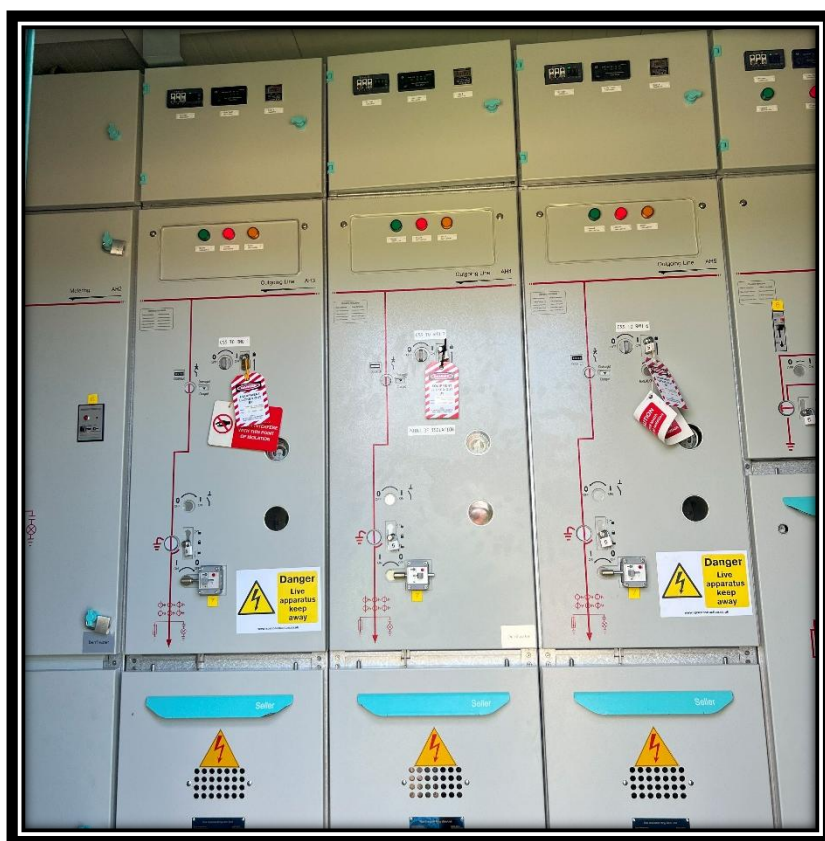
Bottom: output at present, which hasn't quite hit the operational milestone as work hasn't finished yet.



Update on Derril Water Solar Park

Everyone down at the Derril Water solar park is delighted that at the end of August we were able to energise the three feeders that connect up the seven medium voltage stations (MVS) located around the site. This is denoted by the three red lights in the photo of the 'switchgear' below.

Following that the majority of the tests required for exporting power to the grid were then passed and we are now exporting some power to the grid. We've not quite hit the operational milestone, as there's still some work required on one MVS, so exports are limited until then.



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Coarse FishingYeomadon Coarse Fishing 01409 253378
Computer Repairs Nofix – Nofee Repair Service, Brian 07534804101
Decorating & Property Maintenance Julian Lapham 07765626069
Driving Tuition Evelyn Sharman 01409 259848/07885352082
Double Glazing M.A.G. Double Glazing Repairs 07969 234161
Electrical Contractors..... Algo Electrical Contractors01409 254595
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: katescompletefeet1@gmail.com
Fencing/Garden structures..... WWW.RUBY-GROUP.CO.UK
General Builder James Mansell - General Builder 07896945889
Gun ClubWest Devon Air Gun Club, Nigel Palmer, 01409 254133
Grass cutting & garden maintenance Antony Jarvis, 07990016467
Heating Engineer Greg 01409 478198
British Hedgehog Preservation 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 Martin Brennan 01409 691096
Line Dancing Group Brenda Martin 01409 253015
MOT & Garage Services ...Pyworthy MOT Ltd, Simon Martin 01409 254275
National Grid (report a problem line) National Grid is on 0800 032 0311
Oil Fired boilers & tanks/service & installations Greg 01409 478198
Police 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
Therapeutic Treatments CN Holistics 01288 381201
Torridge District Council www.torridge.gov.uk 01237 428700
Walling & landscaping services Call Dan on 07968996191 for a quote.

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Pyworthy Parish Council Meeting Summary

Pyworthy Parish Council met on September 18th in the Village Hall.

Councillors updated on ongoing projects. The new parish noticeboard at the front of the village hall will be installed shortly. Devon County Council permission is needed for the Derril board to be erected on highway land and this has been asked for.

Work to resurface the path in the triangle by the war memorial will take place in 6-8 weeks.

TDC Cllr James updated on local government reorganisation and urged residents to attend the "New Devon Roadshow" in The Manor Car Park, Holsworthy on **Thursday 2 October, 9:30 – 11:30am**, so they can give their views on local priorities.

A member of the public planned a special evening of remembrance and community for local veterans on **Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 7:30 PM** in the Village Hall. Councillors agreed to support the event and agreed a grant of up to £50. See page 8 of Pyworthy Post for more details.

A member of the public flagged up issues of speeding in Derril due to the lack of speed limit signs. This has been raised numerous times with DCC and DCC Cllr Rowsell has undertaken to follow this up. Councillors discussed the merits of Speedwatch and we will be following this up. Watch this space! Councillors discussed adding the cost of groundworks at the park to the current Parish Precept. It is becoming difficult to recruit volunteers to carry out the regular grass cuts and maintenance to the park during the

summer. When the current volunteers are no longer able to carry out this work, someone will need to be paid to do it. Councillors agreed to add £2700 to the current precept to carry out this work from April 2026.

Finally, TDC Cllr Kit Hepple had emailed to say that, as the sale of the Molesworth Arms would be complete in early October and he was shortly to leave for New Zealand, he had resigned his seat on Torridge Council. This has triggered a by-election which will be held in October.

**The next meeting is on Thursday 27th
November."**

Simon Davies, Pyworthy Parish Clerk
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 on:

tel. 07989747416.

Email address:

pyworthy@yahoo.co.uk

**The date of the next meeting will
be Thursday 27th November at
7.30pm.**

**OCTOBER
2025**



Nature Notes

By Bryony Rylett

This month's Notes features a plant that can survive submerged in floodwater for up to eight weeks and a bird as intelligent as dolphins and apes.

Rumex obtusifolius, better known by its common name **Broadleaf Dock**, is a member of the *Rumex* genus consisting of 200 species of annual, biennial and perennial plants including Buckwheat, Sorrel, Rhubarb, Japanese Knotweed and **Curled Dock** - *Rumex crispus*.

Curled Dock can adapt to a variety of soil conditions and environments, happily growing in roadside verges & hedgerows, on waste ground, in gardens and by water.

It often grows well in damp, claggy, over-grazed fields where other plants fail and is resistant to change coping with being submerged in floodwater for up to eight weeks.

The deep tap roots of dock can descend over a metre underground. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, arranged in clusters known as inflorescences. One plant can produce some 60,000 rusty-red seeds that can stay viable for

for decades.

These hardy characteristics have led to docks being described as:

"a family of survivors and opportunists, who will flourish when most other plants would fail. When I look at a stand of broad-leaved dock, I wonder if I am looking at a potential post-apocalyptic plant, one that will be here long after we are all gone." (bugwomanlondon.com)

Evidence shows docks existed 450,000 years ago and remains of the plant have been found in areas farmed by the Celts.

In his 1386 work 'Troilus and Criseyde' Chaucer refers to an ancient charm to be recited as a dock leaf was applied to skin: 'Netle in, dokke out'. Curled Dock has slender leaves that taper to a point with wavy, curled edges.

Broadleaf Dock, growing up to 150cms in height with a spread of one metre, has large, almost oblong leaves, often with red stems. Some fine examples were on display at the Pyworthy Show last month.

Broadleaf Dock is known by many names including: Bitter Dock, Batter Dock, Kettle Dock and Cushy Cows. Many know it as Butter Dock, a name arising from the dairy farming practice of wrapping the cool leaves of dock around butter and cheese for market.

Dock leaves are said to taste tart and lemony with young leaves, high in protein, being treated like spinach.

Nicholas Culpeper, 17th century herbalist, said dock leaves make "a wholesome pot herb, making meat boil faster". He also recommended eating the seeds to "stay lasks and fluxes of all sorts". **continued on page 55**

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

With this advice he was drawing on the ideas of Greek philosophers Hippocrates, who recommended dock as an aid to digestion and Dioscorides who prescribed dock for dysentery.

In the past dock leaves were used for staunching bleeding, purifying blood and to sooth burns and abrasions. Dock juice was used as a compress for bruising, the seeds for treating coughs, colds and bronchitis and the roots for jaundice, liver issues, boils, constipation and diarrhoea!

Rural folk placed dock leaves in their footwear for a soothing and cooling effect and when tobacco was introduced to the UK dock leaves were used to line pockets to keep it moist.

The Native North American Haundenosaunee ('People of the Longhouse') used tea made from dock as a contraceptive. How reliable this was is not known.

Modern pharmacology has dismissed the benefits of rubbing dock leaves on the sting of the **Common Nettle** - *Urtica dioica*. Studies reveal the juice of dock has "no pharmacologically relevant properties". Scientists say the benefit of rubbing dock leaves on stings, a habit entrenched for millennia, is merely a placebo effect. While designated as an "injurious weed", in the 1959 Weeds Act, dock is a major food source for many species including House Sparrows, Dunnocks and Goldfinches so leaving it to grow in gardens benefits the ecosystem.

UK gardens provide more space for

nature than *all* the National Nature Reserves put together and are a vital resource for many species.

For ideas on how to welcome more nature into your garden visit '**Wild About Gardens**' at:

(www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk) a joint initiative between the Wildlife Trusts and the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society).

Dock is also important to the lifecycle of the **Green Dock Beetle** - *Gastrophysa viridula* as, along with sorrel, dock provides food and a nursery.



Above: A Green Dock Beetle on a Broadleaf Dock

Adult beetles lay up to 1000, yellowish, oval eggs, in batches of 20-45, on the underside of its food plant from March to October. The eggs turn orange just before the larvae hatch some 3-6 days later. These **Continued on page 56**

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

larvae excrete a substance to repel the competition from eating the leaves.

The second species featured this month is the **Carrion Crow** - *Corvus Corone*.

There are eight species of Corvid in the U.K..The most common are: Carrion Crow, Rooks, Jackdaws and Magpies; the less common corvids, with a more restricted range, are Ravens, Jays, Hooded Crows and Choughs.

Crows are heavily built birds with black, glossy plumage and a large, pick-like beak.

Both solitary and sociable, crows pair for life, build nests and raise young together.

Crows range in length between 45 and 47 cm, have a wingspan of 93-104 cm and weigh between 370 and 650 grams and have an average life expectancy of four years.

It is at this time of year and into winter crows become more social and can be seen perched, noisily, in the tops of favoured trees around Pyworthy; often choosing to gather in the upper branches where they are joined by Jackdaws and Magpies.



Above: Crows and Jackdaws socialising

As adaptable, opportunist omnivores, crows are found dining in many environments. They enjoy a broad diet including scraps in urban settings, seeds, fruit, carrion and in spring the eggs and hatchlings of other birds.

Crows in Japan have been observed dropping nuts onto roads, waiting for cars to run them over and crack open the cases and for the traffic lights to turn red before retrieving the kernels.

Crows are highly intelligent birds with a mental ability on a par with dolphins and apes.

They share food and when there is a problem crows will try and solve it together.

They have excellent memories, remember faces and are able to distinguish between people who may pose a threat and those who are harmless. They are also good mimics including human speech in their repertoire.

The Ancient Egyptians revered crows as symbols of wisdom.

Poet Ted Hughes, who lived in Devon from 1961 to his death in 1998, published a book of poetry in 1971, entitled: 'Crow: From The Life And Songs Of The Crow'.

It was considered of importance but also controversial as he challenged Christianity and humanism. He described it as his masterpiece.

His friend, artist Leonard Baskin who made drawings of crows, moved to Devon from the US to be nearer Hughes. Baskin described the pair as being "crow haunted and death involved".

Crows appear throughout literature and in films as symbols of both good and bad.

Robert Green, **Continued on page 57**

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

an Oxbridge literary scholar and playwright, who is thought to have been jealous of Shakespeare's talents, described him as being "an upstart crow" for having ideas above his station.

In Disney's classic animation Dumbo it is the crows who teach Dumbo to fly and sing:

"When I See an Elephant Fly".



Above: An inverted Comma

Your Nature Notes Monthly Quiz

The answer to September's Notes
Question:

Piglet

This month's question:

What is the collective noun for a group of crows and for a bonus point how many crows qualify for this moniker?

The answer will be in November's edition of Nature Notes





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OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

15th Anniversary, 13th October 2010 -

after 69 days underground, 33 Chilean miners were rescued. They were trapped 2,300 feet below the surface because of a cave-in at the San José Mine.

64th Anniversary, 1st October 1961 -

Songs of Praise, the longest running religious television programme in the world, was first seen and heard on 1st October 1961. The first edition came from the Tabernacle Baptist Chapel in Cardiff, with guest soloist Heather Harper. The programme showcases the best of congregational hymn singing up and down the land.

68th Anniversary, 4th October 1957 - the 'Space Age' was heralded with the launch of Sputnik 1, as the Soviet Union sent the first satellite into orbit.

102nd Anniversary, 29th October 1923 - with the demise of the 600-year-old Ottoman Empire after WWI, Turkey was officially declared a republic.

533rd Anniversary, 12th October 1492 after 33 days at sea, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus landed in the New World after sighting the Bahamas.



Print deadline for the next edition of Pyworthy Post is: SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2025 at 9am prompt!

Diary dates this month:

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

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

Thursday 2nd October – Devon County Council Roadshow, The Manor Car Park in Holsworthy 9.30 – 11.30am. Have your say!

Friday 3rd October – talk on the making of *The War Horse* film, in Village Hall, see page 2 for booking information.

Sunday 5th October – Pyworthy Church Harvest Service at 9.30am/also, Grandparents Day.

Thursday 9th October – John Sanders Park Trust, AGM in the Village Hall at 7.30pm Holsworthy History Society talk on Edith Cavell, 7pm in the Manor Suite, Memorial Hall.

Saturday 11th October – Trigon Farm are running a dried flowers wreath workshop. Book online – see page 36.

Monday 13th October – Evelyn's Walking group will be setting off from Clawton Village Hall at 10am.

Tuesday 21st October – Trafalgar Day.

Saturday 25th October – St. Crispin's Day.

Sunday 26th October – Clocks go back 1 hour

Friday 31st October – Halloween.



Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 1st November – “Not the Cowboys” band appearing at the Village Hall. **Sold out.**

Sunday 9th November – Veterans Evening, remembrance celebration in Village Hall.

Wednesday 12th November – Pyworthy Village Hall meeting at 7.30pm (in the Hall).

Thursday 27th November – Pyworthy Parish Council meeting, in Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Saturday 29th November – Church Christmas Fair, in the Village Hall.

Friday 19th December – “Joy Machine” entertain in the Village Hall.

Holsworthy Food Bank

Thank you Pyworthy for your recent donations. Gill collected a total of **9.75kgs** from the Church drop off point, this month. The lifting and carrying has resulted in her arms being somewhat longer now, but all in a good cause, hey.

Donations are always welcome to help those in need.

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

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



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