

PYWORTHY POST



What's in your paper this month?

Derril Water Solar Farm will be completed, read all the facts.

See the Village Hall Anniversary photos.

Update on Village Pub, a meeting is planned on the 14th May.

And much, much more turn the page and come inside.



Read online at:

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

May 2025
Issue number 339

WHO'S CELEBRATING THIS MONTH?



BIRTHDAYS

MAY

- 1st Adrian Oliver
- 2nd Ian Watson
- 3rd Roger Stanbury
- 5th Simon Martin
- 6th Terry Ravn, Paul Fitzpatrick
- 7th Woody Steyn
- 9th Wendy Richardson
- 10th Sue Bentley
- 14th Paul Symons
- 16th Pat Lavis
- 19th Nigel Godfrey, Geoff Matthews, Hazel Durant
- 22nd Brenda Martin, Marley Cutter
- 24th Janet Grant
- 25th Jemma McKenzie
- 26th Rhonda Godfrey
- 27th Tabitha Kirkwood
- 31st Geoff Young, Kim Harris

Community Birthday list

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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS AND FAMILY OCCASIONS



More announcements can be
found on page 54.

New Granddaughter Announcement



Marion & Terry Ravn welcomed a new granddaughter on the 31st March. Esther Eve Rosati was born at Torbay Hospital, and weighed in at a healthy 8lbs 9ozs. She is little sister to Lucas & Amber and cousin to Isla, Ellyn, Lewis, Phoebe and Sophia. Congratulations to proud parents Sarah & Shaun.

They all wish their Grandad Terry, a Very Happy Birthday on the 6th May.

Welcome to the MAY Edition



By Marion Ravn

The lovely month of May is about to begin. It's uplifting to see our local hedgerows looking so lush and green again. My favourite month of the year.

Here in the Parish, we've had another busy month. Our Village Hall celebrated its 40th anniversary in April. Martin Brennan has emailed me some of the photos taken during the day of the celebrations. These can be seen in full colour on page 28.

Derril Water Solar Farm will be completed as planned, even though Ripple Energy has gone into administration – read the facts on page 29.

Pyworthy won't be marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day, but Holsworthy have a number of events taking place on the 8th May, including the lighting of the beacon at 9pm, as a tribute to those lost during the wars. More details are available on the Holsworthy Town Council website.

Father's Day will be celebrated next month. If you would like a special message published, please get in touch through the usual channels.

Have a great month ahead.

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

Let's reduce the issue of dog fouling, please bag it and bin it!



**No
dog fouling**

More on
page 8.

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Holsworthy Library

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

www.discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Also, Holsworthy Library on Facebook and Instagram

WHAT'S ON AT HOLSWORTHY LIBRARY – MAY 2025

- Creative Workshop with the Resource Centre, Embellished Felt Brooches, Thursday 1st May – 10:00am–12:00pm, booking essential, £2
- Bounce & Rhyme, Thursday 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd (term time only) – 2:15pm – 2:45pm
- The Herbalists Tale, Herbal Medicine Talk with Diana Lee, Thursday 8th – 7pm. Free but booking essential.
- Sashiko Sewing Workshop, Saturday 10th – 2pm–4pm. Booking essential, £5
- Lloyds Bank Community Banking session, Monday 12th – 2pm–4pm
- Home Education Social Group, Monday 19th – 10am–12pm
- Lego Challenge Day, Wednesday 28th – 11am–4pm (drop in session)
- Board Games and Biscuits, Thursday 29th – 11am–4pm (drop in session)
- Lego and games for children. Every Saturday – 10am–12pm

Free hot drinks available during opening hours.

Most events are free but, donations always welcome

holsworthy.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk 01409 253514



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 10am-1pm

Saturday 10am-1pm - Sundays Closed.




United Benefice of Holsworthy

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



Benefice Services for May

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

Worship and Prayer in the Holsworthy Benefice – MAY 2025				
Date	Bridgerule	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Hollacombe
Sunday 4 th May	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Family Service	9.30am Mass
Sunday 11 th May	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	3.00pm Evensong
Sunday 18 th May	-	11.00am Sung Eucharist 3.00pm LYCIGS	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass
Sunday 26 th May	11.00am All Age Eucharist	11.00am 	9.30am Morning Prayer	-
2.30pm – Songs of Praise service at Pancrasweek				
Thursday 29 th May		7.00pm Sung Eucharist		

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

What a magic few days and evenings we've had in the Hall over the past few weeks.

On Friday the 28th of March we welcomed the: -

The Lone Kayaker (Rupert Kirkwood)

Having just arrived back from Australia he joined and shared with us some of his and his family's experiences encountered on the high seas, whilst there!!

Not only from there but from many other adventures around the Globe. In all 34000 miles paddled as the Lone Kayaker. We saw some wonderful sites and I must admit, that at times, were very scary!!

Thank you, Rupert, for sharing with us, what you love doing best. It was an honour and a privilege!!

On the night we raised £605, which Rupert kindly donated to the 'Village Hall Sound Proofing Project'

The 40th
Anniversary of
Pyworthy Village
Hall was
celebrated on the
12th April, see our
photos on page 28.

Potters Fish n Things
Tuesday 20th MAY
2025, 4.30pm-7.00pm



Village Hall Pub Night!



This month our Social Evening is:

Friday the 16th May!

We look forward to seeing you All.

Doors/Bar Opens at 7pm until late.

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



See page 32 for easyfundraising

Dates for your Diary.

Village Hall Meeting

**Our next meeting is on
Wednesday 18th June
at 7.30pm.**

Please feel welcome to join us.

Pyworthy Village Hall continued ...

Saturday the 12th of April, we celebrated the: -

'Hall's 40th Birthday/Anniversary'

With a 'Traditional Afternoon Tea' which was well attended. A 'Happy Birthday' was sung by all with the cutting of the cake by our very own Henry Johns.

We then carried on to the evening session where we were entertained by

'The Club Classics Band'

Prior to them coming on stage we shared stories of the History of the Hall. From the two walks that were arranged by Mike Johns and many other supporters, raising £2250 and this together with a legacy from William Rowcliffe Sleeman allowed the work to start. So back in April 1983 it all came together. First the wall, built by a group of volunteers from the Village. Then the main hall Built by Denner and Parnell who were also local builders. That same year Pyworthy Village Hall Trust was formed under the guidance of the then Chairman Ray Brain. A formal constitution was drawn up and registered at the Charities Commission and it's interesting to note that part of the constitution read: -

ONE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS: - PYWORTHY FOOTBALL CLUB, PYWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL, METHODIST CHAPEL, PYWORTHY LADIES' SKITTLES CLUB, PYWORTHY MENS SKITTLE CLUB, PYWORTHY WOMEN'S INSTITUTION, PYWORTHY LADIES CHOIR, PYWORTHY YOUTH CLUB, ST SWITHUNS, HOLSWORTHY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PYWORTHY SCHOOL ASSOC, PYWORTHY PARK COMMITTEE, AND PYWORTHY SPORTS CLUB.

WOW, isn't that really amazing!

The whole event in bringing the Hall to fruition was a great village effort and reminds us of the Power of the Community and the Beauty of Coming Together. Heres to 40 years of togetherness, and to many more years to come.

Henry Johns

A man who has given most of his spare time and energy over the last 40 years to the Village Hall. Always gives his best, nothing is too much for Him. Always willing to lend a hand or a kind word if required. Continues to work behind the scenes, no questions asked!!!!

Our Village Hall owes so much to Henry and in recognition of his commitment and dedication, it was our privilege and honour to appoint Henry,

Honorary President of Pyworthy Village Hall.

Congratulations and Thank You Henry.

All in all, a great time was had by everybody who came along to either or both of our celebrations. A special thanks to Angela, Marie, Brenda, Emma, Janette, and Ngaire for all their hard work in organising a very memorable Day. Thank you!

Pyworthy Rural Art Group

Pyworthy ART For further information contact Janet Grant Tel: 01409 259356



Well, what a lovely March we have had, but the ground is desperately needing some rain. The trees and spring flowers seemed to have found water and shown us their beauty. As I write this the forecast is for rain, some would be good but not too much!

We have enjoyed some good painting classes, and lovely work has been produced, which you will be able to see in the Church on the 19th & 20th July for our Patronal festival. A date for your diary.

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

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

Our programme for Tuesdays in MAY:

Tuesday 6th May sorry no meeting that day
Tuesday 13th May bee eating birds with water-colour pencils
Tuesday 20th May flowers – wet into wet using water-colours
Tuesday 27th May finishing off any painting ready for the Art Exhibition.

This will be the end of the term; we start **back on the 9th September.**

Dog Fouling in Pyworthy

Sadly, I have to report that there have been a number of complaints about dog fouling within the village once again. Public areas, the church yard and also private lanes are being affected.

You are reminded that the road to the left of the Village Hall belongs to Brenda. She doesn't object to dog walkers using the road, but please pick up after them. It's extremely unpleasant and upsetting for Brenda's family to deal with.

BAG IT & BIN IT!

Torridge District Council Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

- A person responsible for any dog must pick up any faeces left by the dog at all times
- A person responsible for any dog must keep it on a lead in certain areas.
- A person responsible for any dog must put the dog on a lead when directed to do so by an Authorised Officer of the council, this applies throughout Torridge;
- A person responsible for any dog must not enter land from which dogs are excluded.

The penalty in relation to any offence under this PSPO is, on summary conviction, a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1,000).

More information available at
<https://www.torridge.gov.uk/dog-fouling>

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.**



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 4

How is Electricity made

By Mike Godfrey



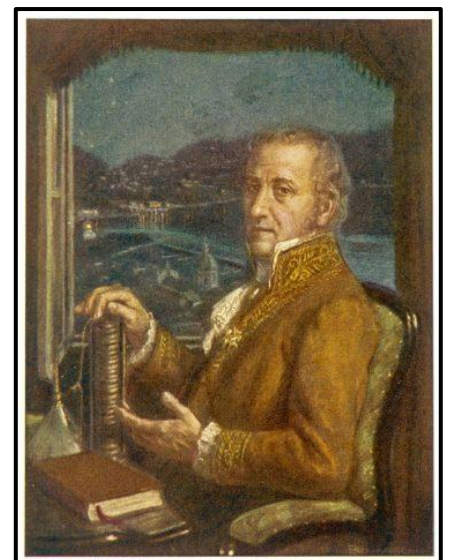
From what I have said in earlier episodes you might have gathered that we haven't invented Electricity but have just found ways of controlling it and making it work for us. Static electricity was known about by the ancient Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus as early as 600 BC when he found amber a form of plastic could attract straw and feathers when it was rubbed lightly with a dry cloth.

In the intervening period many scientists and engineers have contributed to allowing us to understand what electricity is, how we can make and harness it so that we can use it in the way we now use it in everyday life. Very early experiments by Robert Hook and his rival Isaac Newton led to early machinery with rotary evacuated glass vessels showing for the first time the effects of electricity. The Dutchmen Leiden and Musschenbroek further advanced the understanding of electricity in the development of the "Leiden Jar" a recognised means of storing electricity and in the mid 1700's an American named Benjamin Franklin carried out experiments, which confirmed that lightning was also electricity. Further experiments with a "Torpedo Fish", which stuns its prey with an apparent shock, led to an understanding of the difference between charge, the volume electricity stored, and the potential difference later to become known as the voltage, which is absolutely fundamental to the



development of electrical engineering. We now move to Italy where two scientists Galvani and Volta were very interested in these phenomena but whereas Galvani was deeply religious and considered it to be God's creation, Volta felt that there was a much more logical and scientific explanation for electricity. Galvani was convinced that all animals possessed electricity created by God. However, Volta reinvestigated how "Torpedo Fish" generate their lethal electrical shock via numerous little cells on its back. Each one producing a tiny amount of electricity but with many such cells the cumulative amount was considerable. Volta started to replicate the way the fish generates its electricity by creating a pile of metal plates with paper coated in acid in between each metal plate.

**Volta with
his first pile
(first
battery)**



See page 11 for more about electricity

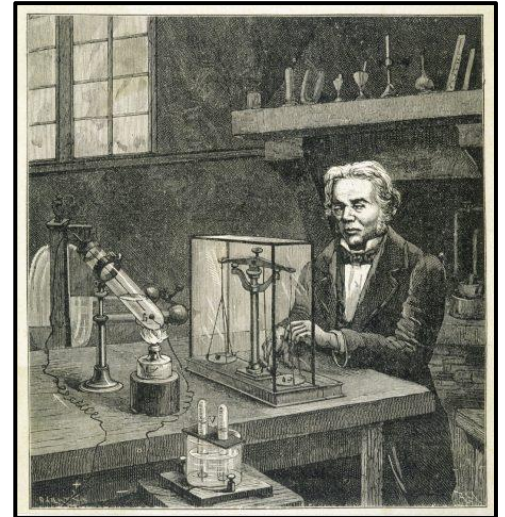
How is Electricity Made continued

Having previously determined that he could "taste" electricity by touching his tongue with two dissimilar metal coins, he attached a wire to each end of the "pile" he had created and touched the two wires on his tongue and noted the same "taste" but this time it was continuous. Volta had in fact created a battery, a very big leap forward with the first source of continuously usable electricity. This laid the foundations for Chemistry, Physics and our Modern Industry. This also settled the argument between the two men and Galvani died impoverished whereas Volta was honoured worldwide and the fundamental unit of electricity "the volt" was named after him.

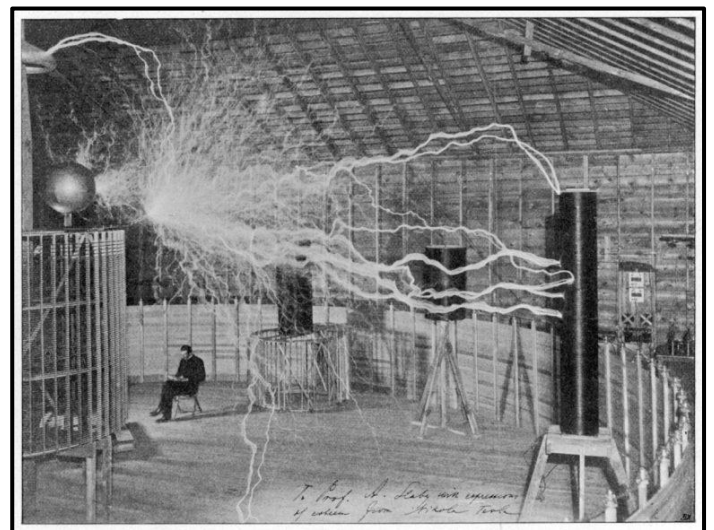
By the beginning of the 19th Century Michael Faraday and Nicola Tesla came to prominence and their experiments led to identifying a strong link between electricity and magnetism. In fact, they were able to confirm that when a current flows through a wire it also creates a magnetic field around it. The higher the current the stronger the magnetic field it creates. The work of these two men led to the foundation of electromagnetism and a means of creating continuous motion from an electric current. The foundation of our modern society was set up with the invention of the electric motor. Using the same principles that enables the rotor in a motor to spin by creating a rotating magnetic field they also discovered that if you turn a magnetic field within a set of coils of wire (a Stator) using a prime mover such as a reciprocating engine, steam turbine or a diesel engine, they could actually

a continuous supply of electricity. This massive milestone was reached getting on for 100 years ago and the ability to generate electricity and use electric motors to power so many things in our lives has revolutionised the world.

Michael Faraday with his electric dynamo



Small Power Plants started up all around the Country generating all just a few tens or hundreds of kilowatts. One of the first of these was in Godalming, Surrey in 1881, which had electric street lighting and was the first place in the world to have public electricity in people's houses, which was powered by a hydro plant.



Above: Nicola Tesla experiments

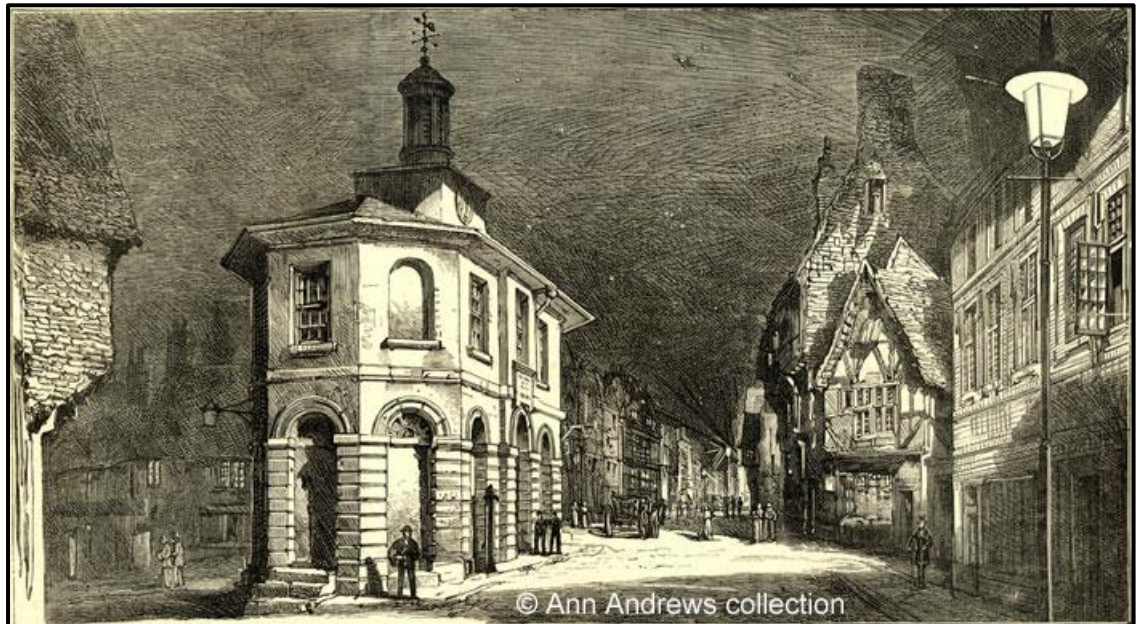
By 1920 London alone had more than 50 different systems to supply electricity with **continued on page 12...**

How is Electricity Made continued

24 different voltages and 10 different frequencies, including many supplied with DC instead of the 50 Hz AC we all use today. It was so bad, that moving home could mean having to change all the electrical appliances. What's more, none of the many small Power Stations were not interconnected and each station needed its own back up supply. Nevertheless, there were many blackouts. To be continued next month with the early history of the development of Electricity in the UK.

More from Mike next month.

**Godalming,
Surrey was
the first
place in the
World to
have public
electricity in
people's
houses**



Holsworthy History Society

The Holsworthy History Society met on Thursday 10th April and were absolutely riveted by the talk from Rev. Paul Fitzpatrick – The Royal Navy.

Paul took us on a journey of 20 years of his being in the Royal Navy. His first three vessels were submarines where he had the most incredible, funny and enlightening stories to tell. His talk culminated in his being on the Island of South Georgia where he became a Christian which changed his whole life. A truly fascinating talk.

The Society will next meet at 7.00pm on Thursday 15th May in the Manor Suite of the Holsworthy Memorial Hall. The talk will be about the Holsworthy Court Leet and will be given by Richard H Brown.

All are welcome to join us. Contact: holsworthyhistorysociety@gmail.com
Margaret Stacey.

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.

Line Dancing!



New Members welcome.



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

Line Dancing Classes

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

Complete Beginners:
5.30pm – 6.30pm.

Beginners/Improvers:
6.30pm – 7.30pm &

Intermediate level:
7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Intermediate level,
7.30pm – 9.30pm.

All classes cost just £5.

Come and join us!

Evelyn's Walks Update

By Evelyn
Sharman, Group
Organiser



*Right: Our walkers
pictured near Tetcott
Church, on a lovely
spring morning.*



On Monday 14th April, ten of us met at Tetcott Village Hall. It was lovely to see everyone but especially nice to see a couple of people that we hadn't seen for a while. It gave us the opportunity to catch up with their news. We turned left out of the car park & walked down the hill. When we reached the sign, we turned right towards Luffincott. This becomes the drive for Luffincott Barton & St. James' Church. It's a very long drive & it isn't surprising to know that the residents don't have to take their recycling to the end of the drive for collection on Monday mornings. We ventured through the farmyard & into the Church which is a Grade 1 listed building & is maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. It's beautiful for its simplicity but saying that it has a most attractive barrel vaulted roof & some stained-glass windows. From there, we re-traced our steps slightly in order to return to the footpath on our left. This took us across Tetcott Estate & we had the pleasure of the company of one of the farm dogs for a while. We have walked this

route previously in August '24 & November '21. It was interesting to note the differences at a different time of year. In spite of the fact that we've had very little rainfall recently, it was still quite squelchy underfoot in lower lying sections & we were very grateful for the boardwalk. There were masses of primroses, celandines, wild garlic, stitchwort, Devon violets, wood anemones & lady's smock. At least that's my names for them. Not everyone called them the same, which is largely due to regional differences. Several large trees have come down across the route since we last walked this way. However, we were able to either go over or under their sturdy trunks. The derelict cottage is gradually being taken over by nature & can easily be missed amongst the trees. Once again, we mused about the music teacher who used to live there having to carry her shopping home as it's quite a trek from the nearest road. The footpath

continued on page 15....

Evelyn's Walks group report continued from page 14....

brought us to Tetcott Manor & the Church. It would have been nice to stay longer but it was threatening to rain. We joined the lane & turned right which brought us back to the Village Hall. By that stage, it was raining quite heavily & we were glad that it hadn't started any earlier. It's a lovely circular walk of approx. 4.48 miles & took about 2.5 hours but it wouldn't have been as pleasurable if we had all got wet!

The next walk will be on Monday 12th May. We'll be setting off from the Parish Hall in Milton Damerel at 10am. Everyone is welcome but please car share if possible as parking is somewhat limited. You are welcome to contact me for any more information.

Contact information:

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848

Email:

evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com



**DOGS TO BE
KEPT ON A LEAD**



**PLEASE
NO FOULING**

**These rules should be observed
throughout Pyworthy village.**

APRIL'S PYWORTHY POSER ANSWERS:

1. Luton Town; Northampton Town; Mansfield Town; Grimsby Town,
2. USA, Canada & Jamaica.
3. Red, Green & Blue.
4. Nitrogen 78.084%; Oxygen 20.946%; Argon 0.934%; Carbon Dioxide 0.042%.
5. Pacific Mariana Trench @ 10,925m +/- 12m; Atlantic Puerto Rico Trench @ 8,408m; Southern Sandwich Trench @ 7,385m; Indian Java Trench @ 7,290m.
6. *Insects: 10 quintillion; Fish: 3.5 trillion; Birds: 50 billion; Humans: 7.94 billion.*
7. *Farmed Salmon; Imported Shrimp; King Mackerel; Shark.*
8. *Oak, Holly, Hazel, Alder.*
9. *Great White Shark, Tiger Fish, Moray Eel.*
10. *Boys: Noah & Liam; Girls: Olivia & Amelia.*

How did you do?

Pyworthy Pilgrim.

The next Poser quiz is on page 37.

**A big thank you to the
Pyworthy Pilgrim.**



*Keep saving your
used stamps!*

In the Spotlight



Our focus this month is:
Ros Skinner, wife, mother,
hardworking community
minded woman.

Name: Rosalyn (Ros) Skinner

Age: 63

Occupation: Currently a teaching assistant at Halwill Primary School; previously: banking with National Westminster Bank, raising 3 children, working at an estate agency.

Place Of Birth: Bideford maternity hospital when her family home was a beef and sheep farm at Little Torrington.

What is the best thing about Pyworthy and why?

We are a community that supports each other; if there is a need everybody helps.
If there is a need you're not on your own.

What one thing would you change about Pyworthy and why?

Improve the surface of the roads and make the roads safer, filling potholes.

Describe yourself in three words: Caring, chatty, family-orientated.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Gardening, sewing (cross-stitch) and reading. (Ros also spends her spare time being chair of Pyworthy Parish Council, Secretary of the Parochial Parish Council, a trustee of the John Sanders Park Trust (this year celebrating its 100th birthday) and being a member of a village book group.

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

I'm up for anything adventurous, like challenging travel. I would like to go to China, the Amazon rainforest, the Arctic and Australia but I don't envisage going into space. (This last comment was made without firm conviction so, literally, watch this space!).

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

I don't think there is anyone; I'm more for my family.

Continued on page 17....

Thanks go to Bryony
Rylett for your research.

Community Focus continued

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

Take the four grandchildren to Lapland for Christmas and make sure my family was well cared for.

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

1. Making sure everyone could enjoy good health.
2. Better public services.
3. Peace in the world.

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

1. Mobile phone.
2. Handbag, containing purse, bank cards and I.D.
3. Our unique Harry Juniper jug commissioned by a relative for mine and Phil's wedding.

Who will be selected by our roving reporter Bryony for the next Community Focus – could it be you? See next month's Pyworthy Post.



EVELYN SHARMAN

Professional Driving Tuition (DVSA ADI)

Telephone: 01409 259848

Mobile: 07885 352 082

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

Men's Skittles



Men's Skittles!

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

Andrew on 07531186466 or 01409 253509.

Training will be given!

Make a Donation to the Pyworthy Post

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

BACS details:

Account number: 01086227

Sort code: 40-24-25

Account name: Pyworthy Post

Type of account: Community account.

Please email me your name and address for a receipt.

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



Glebe House Cottages, Bridgerule

www.glebehousecottages.co.uk

Telephone: 01288 381272

Accommodation

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

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

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

10% discount for friends & families of local residents.



Party Venue

Why not host your next party at Glebe House Cottage?

We have so many options to make your party stand out. Make it a party you won't forget!

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





By Mike Godfrey, keen gardener

March and April have been pretty fantastic weatherwise and have produced excellent gardening conditions for so early in the year. With very few frosts, so far, and very many longer sunny days interspersed with the odd day of rain I think that the 2025 gardening year has got off to an excellent start. Nevertheless, we must still remember that it is still a transition period between winter and spring and the nights can still be pretty cold, so we must still protect our more delicate plants and don't expect miracles from our more hardy plants or our early sowings. Nature has a way of evening things out, be it bad or good weather. However, I am sure that the lower rainfall and good sunny periods will improve our seed germination in open ground. I have sown most of my seeds in the polytunnels, either in the ground or in pots for planting out later on in May when the colder nights and the risk of frost has diminished. This generally gives me more guaranteed germination. However, I have sown 12 tomato seeds of 3 different varieties and so far only 4 out of the 12 have germinated. On the other hand, my problems of getting beetroot to germinate over the past few years, seem to have disappeared but the reasons still remain largely unexplained. The good spell of weather has encouraged a whole variety of trees and shrubs to produce plenty of blossoms. Judging by my trees and bushes in the orchard and fruit cage we are in for bountiful crops

of apples, pears, plums, cherries, currants and blueberries. (see picture of apple blossom in the orchard).

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

- Clean pots and trays
- Clean greenhouses, polytunnels and cold frames
- Select and buy your seeds
- Plant onion sets and shallots
- Sow sweetcorn in pots for later planting out
- Set seed potatoes in egg containers or similar for chitting and possibly planting out, when the soil is warm enough
- Clean gutters and drainage gully's
- Divide summer flowering perennials
- Cut back Buddleias
- Pinch out Sweet Peas growing in pots and trays and prepare wigwams for the plants to grow up
- Deadhead bulbs but leave the foliage to die back to feed back into the bulb
- Clean pathways and patios of moss and other debris, as these can become very slippery and quite dangerous, particularly if wooden decking is involved
- Prepare your seed beds as the drier weather allows and start to sow seeds such as peas and beans as the soil begins to warm up.
- Sow salad crop seeds in pots or trays if you have somewhere warm, light and airy to keep them, which is frost free. Try not to plant all seeds in one go, sow to

continued on page 20

Jobs for this month continued.....

provide continuity of supply rather than have the whole crop ready at the same time, so a lot will inevitably go to waste or the compost bin.

- You can also sow vegetable and some flower seeds in pots or divided trays to get a head start. Courgettes, leeks, sweet corn, runner and other beans as well as flowers like sweet peas and other annuals.
- Of course, if you have a greenhouse or polytunnel or even a cold frame you should be able to get a head start with seed sowing and planting out.
- If you have a compost heap, now is a good time to turn it
- On damp evenings check your greenhouse, polytunnel or patio areas for slugs and snails and remove them to the compost area before they are able to do significant damage. The slugs and snails will also enjoy munching on the rotting vegetation
- If you have a pond, now is the time to divide some of the marginal plants and generally give it a spring clean and cut back any overhanging branches from trees or shrubs.

As the weather gets drier and warmer (hopefully), try and leave some water out for the birds, hedgehogs etc. The hedgehogs would also benefit from little bit of meat-based cat or dog food. Please also remember that May

can be a very deceptive month and lull you into a complacent state regarding overnight temperatures and frost. Make sure that you take precautions to be able to protect your seedlings and plants, otherwise you'll have to start all over again!



Mike Godfrey's beautiful blossom

My efforts to construct some wildlife ponds last year were pretty pitiful, mainly due a distinct lack of time in my defence. It is my sincere intention to be a bit more active this year and possibly start by lining them in order to retain a reasonable water level. Although there

continued on page 21

is plentiful amounts of clay around where the ponds were constructed, there seems to be some layers of shale which allows the water to drain during the drier periods. Hence the water levels have been pretty good throughout the autumn and winter with virtually non-stop rain but the last few months of drier weather has seen them virtually dry up apart from the occasional top up from the spells of heavy rain. Hopefully I will make better progress this time around.

More from Crinacott next month....

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

The Slow Worm

Delighted to advise that we now have a mutual friend to combat the pesky slugs! Recently observed 'sun-bathing' in the garden was a close ally of a 1ft long Slow Worm (a.k.a. as a Legless Lizard). Now there's a bit of competition for the little slugs! Don't be afraid if you find one - they are NOT a snake, though they might resemble one. Amazingly they can live to 20 years or more, are quite shy, live either concealed in undergrowth or even underground in winter - but they ARE one of your garden's best friends. The males are only aggressive towards each other in the mating season. They are not aggressive towards humans. Part of the natural world!

Bob, keen gardener



Coming to the Village Hall on Tuesday 20th May!

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
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www.pottersfishnthings.co.uk

**OR alternately just turn up on
the night.**



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Ticketsources: 03336 663366

(Lines open Mon-Fri 9am – 7.30pm
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Charity number 1110257



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[https://pyworthy-
parish.co.uk/](https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/)

free of charge. It's in full
colour.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES:

31st Anniversary, 6th May 1994 - The Channel Tunnel opens. Considered one of the most amazing engineering feats of the 20th century, the Channel Tunnel - which connects England and France - officially opened on this day in 1994, becoming the world's longest undersea tunnel.

71st Anniversary, 6th May 1954 - Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes, at the Iffley Road Sports Ground, Oxford, England.

82nd Anniversary, 16th May 1943 - RAF Lancaster bombers caused chaos to Nazi German industry by destroying two huge dams. Dr Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs skimmed the surface of the water to reach their targets.

80th Anniversary, 7th May 1945 - Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies at Rheims and the war in Europe ended. VE Day is celebrated across Europe and North America on the following day.

131st Anniversary, 21st May 1894 - The official opening of the Manchester Ship Canal by Queen Victoria.

216th Anniversary, 24th May 1809 - Dartmoor Prison in Devon is opened to house French prisoners of war.

174th Anniversary, 1st May 1851 - First Great Exhibition in London opens. Queen Victoria opened the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London's Hyde Park. The World's Fair displayed the wonders of industry from around the globe and was attended by a third of Britain's population at the time.

596th Anniversary, 8th May 1429 - The French warrior maiden, Joan of Arc, led the Dauphin's troops to victory over the English laying siege to Orleans.

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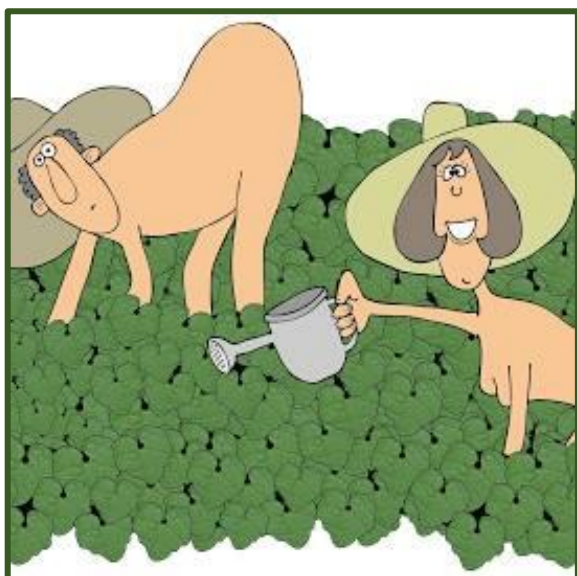
The May Pole

Maypole dancing is a tradition on May Day. It is believed to have started in Roman Britain around 2,000 years ago, when soldiers celebrated the arrival of spring by dancing around decorated trees thanking their goddess, Flora. These days dancers weave ribbons around a pole rather than a tree...



The British May Day tradition of dancing around a maypole is around 600 years old and the activity often brings communities together. Traditionally the dancers position themselves in pairs of boys and girls before beginning their routine. The dance creates a multi-coloured pattern which creeps steadily down the pole. The dancers then reverse their steps to undo the ribbons. This is said to represent the lengthening of the days as summer approaches, but the significance of the pole itself is not really known. Some communities have a permanent maypole up all year round on village greens and in squares. At Offenham in Worcestershire, a very complex dance routine around the pole is performed on May Day every year. The first recorded instance of a maypole dance came during the 14th century in Llanidloes, central Wales, and the tradition is thought to have come from Wales and Scotland before spreading around the country. Due to the ever-changing religious doctrines of the kings and queens of England over the centuries, the maypole was seen as an anti-Christian symbol for a time, right up to the end of the 19th century. The tallest maypoles in the country are at Nun Monkton, North Yorkshire (88 ft), Barwick-in-Elmet, West Yorkshire (86 ft) and Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (65 ft).

WORLD NAKED GARDENING DAY



In 2025 World Naked Gardening Day is on Saturday 3rd May. World Naked Gardening Day is a yearly event, observed on the first Saturday of May, involving the work in the garden completely naked. Its main goal is to create a positive image of the naked body in harmony with nature.

Please make sure you don't shock your neighbours!



CHURCH NEWS

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



I am writing this after just having heard of the death of Pope Francis. We watched him on television on Easter Sunday giving his Urbi et Orbi blessing to the multitudes gathered in Rome and are saddened at his passing. As the Conclave of Cardinals meets to pray for guidance in choosing his replacement may we wish them fruitful and prayerful discussions as they come to a decision.

Easter celebrations here at St Swithun's started on Palm Sunday with a Craft Afternoon much enjoyed by 10 children and 7 adults, with the results of all their joyful work being hung on a tree branch which was shown off in church on Easter Sunday. The children returned on Easter Sunday to do more colouring and decorating Easter bags which they brought to show us all at the front of the church at the end of the service. They were quite beautiful, bright and sparkly. Rev Alison was assisted at the altar rail by Archie who gave out Easter eggs to all the communicants. The children had to wait until the very end of the service before they were given the green light to hunt out all the Easter eggs that had been hidden around the church. A huge thankyou must go to Amanda for all she does for the children's sessions and the Children's Corner in the church which are thoroughly

enjoyed by adults as well as the younger ones.

We trust that you all celebrated Easter with joy (especially if you gave up chocolate for Lent). As we head towards the busy summer season do take time to reflect what your church means to you. How many of the headstones in our churchyard have names on of old friends? Do you sometimes walk through and say 'Hi' to them? I know my husband does!

There was a joyful wedding in April, which should have taken place in Bridgerule but a swap was arranged due to scaffolding being up around St Bridget's. The next wedding is here at St Swithun's which we know will be much enjoyed by all locals, whatever the weather, although of course a sunny day will be hoped for.

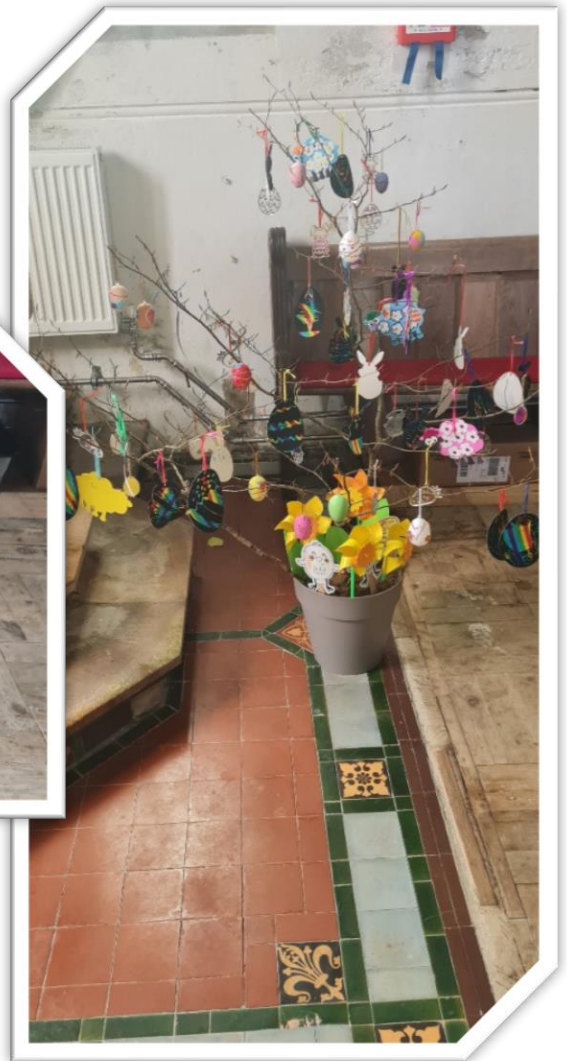
We always seem to moan about the weather, but we are so lucky here to have both rain and sun (though not quite at the time we would like) but both are needed for our gardens and for all the crops growing in our fields. If we did not have enough grass for our cows, or sun for the growing crops what would we do for our milk and vegetables? We do not want to have to import all our needs. I do not understand how importing fruit and veg from all around the world can be good for our carbon emissions. When we were young, we would have whatever fruit and veg was seasonal or what our mothers had bottled for the winter. The good old days!

I see there are two Bank holidays in May. Enjoy yourselves with family and friends, keep safe and look out for any lonely or struggling neighbours. Pope Francis was a **Continued on page 26.....**

Church News continued from page 25...

champion for all marginalised people. May we follow his example with an open mind and good heart.

May our God of Hope fill us with joy as we spend time with others.



St. Swithun's Church ran a children's craft afternoon on the 13th April organised by Amanda Witts. The children had an enjoyable afternoon, assisted by keen adults. They crafted Easter decorations, which decorated the Church over Easter. As you can see, they did very well.

Stay vigilant for ticket fraud ahead of top events and concerts this summer.....

Action Fraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
0300 123 2040

Follow our top tips to avoid falling victim to ticket fraud:

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known ticketing website
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud
- The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password, and [enable 2-step verification \(2SV\)](#)
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.
- Is the vendor a member of STAR? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit star.org.uk/buysafe
- If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040, or call Police Scotland on 101.



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Community Pub

So, what's happening?



The Molesworth Arms in back on the market, so we would like to try again to take it on as a community pub. There was lots of enthusiasm last year when the proposal was first put to the village, but it soon ran out of steam when we asked for volunteers to help support the campaign. There will be a meeting in the Village Hall at **7.30pm on 14 May** to discuss the options for a community pub and for people to volunteer to support the bid. If you wish to support a community pub please come along, if we don't get the support needed, we will not take the opportunity further.

The Community Pub Committee.

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Contact Marion at:
pyworthy@post.com
for more
information.



Above: Henry Johns being presented with a plaque. He has been made **Honorary President of Pyworthy Village Hall.**



Above: 'The Club Classics Band' performed at the hall in the evening. They entertained us with music from the 70's through to the 00's. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Latest Update

Shortly after the last newsletter submission from Derril Water was shared, Ripple Energy entered administration. Ripple was providing management services to the cooperative society that owns the Derril Water Solar Park and had designed the novel ownership structure that allowed for coop members to receive savings on their electricity bills according to how much power their share of the solar park generated.

Ripple's demise does not affect the ownership of the solar park. Nor will it affect the construction programme. And nor will it affect the coop's commitment to providing the community benefit fund associated with the project.

RES continues to provide project construction management services to the project which is due to start generating power on behalf of 9,000 households that make up the membership of the coop.

The project is fully funded with project finance from Virgin Money and specific accounts are in place to cover restoration obligations at the end of the project's life.

On site, the directional drilling under the road connecting the two halves of the solar park has completed, and the substation building is nearing completion. The last of the panel mounting structures will be installed following the demobilisation of the temporary site compounds.



Ducts emerging from the directional drill locations

Through the course of May there will be a lot of milestones to achieve. In particular there will be extensive testing of cables, inverters and transformers in advance of energisation of the grid connection. Works will then progress to commissioning the full site in preparation for the operational phase starting in the summer. While all these activities are vital for the completion of the construction phase, they are electrical in nature, so activity on site may be less perceptible.

The construction compounds will be removed, and reinstatement and reseeded of works areas will happen in tandem with the commissioning phase.

A new website and contact email address for Derril Water will be set up shortly.

An over-view of the solar park



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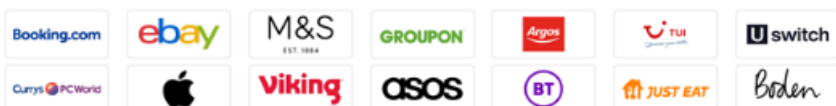
How to sign up

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

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when you shop with them - at no extra cost to you!



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produce cannot be
accepted.

**Donations can be
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Church, Pyworthy,
which is open every
day. Thank you.**



**Father's Day is
on Sunday 15th
June this year.**

Make it special this year. Have a personalised
message printed in the Pyworthy Post.

Email me your message and any photos you'd
like published.

Email: pyworthy@post.com



Garden Waste Service 2025

Your current subscription period runs out on 31st May 2025. This years' service will cost £56 and runs from 1st June 2025 to 31st May 2026.

Sign up or renew from April 1st 2025.

Torridge.gov.uk/gardenwaste or call 01237 428700 and select option 3.



Torridge

District Council

Pyworthy Bin Collections

2 Bank Holidays this month!



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

Black bag collection days are:

Friday 2nd May

Friday 16th May

Saturday 31st May

Recycling- Every Monday, apart from 27th May, which is a Tuesday.

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 12th May

Tuesday 27th May.

For more information go to:

www.torridge.gov.uk

Or phone:

01237 428700



Action Fraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
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**Dates for your diary can
be found on [page 54](#) this
month.**



Creative Craft Club

The afternoon craft club is going strong. This takes place in Pyworthy Village Hall on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month – 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

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

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

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



FRISKY BUT RISKY

**It's the mating season
But who'd be a toad
When your pond for the orgy
Is over the road**

**You're scared of the traffic
But your ardour is wild
The humping and croaking
Can be heard over miles**

**You think of what's waiting
Just over the track
And you have to cross over
But you may not get back**

**It's Russian Roulette
With the cars on the road
In the mating season
Who'd be a toad !!**



By Jean Clark
Rydon Village

Poetry Corner

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Domestic Abuse Men's Advice line:
Tel: 0808 8010 327

Childline: Tel: 0800 1111

Domestic Abuse Helpline



Phone:

**0808 2000247 for free &
confidential advice.**

More information available
online.

If in danger phone: 999





Pyworthy Poser Quiz for MAY 2025

INVENTORS OF WHAT?

1. Chemist Felix Hoofman patented what?
2. Clarence Birdseye marketed what?
3. Thomas Edison invented what in 1854?
4. Theodore Maiman invented what in 1960?
5. Julius Robert Oppenheimer invented what in 1945?
6. Joseph F. Glidden invented what in 1873?
7. John Boyd Dunlop invented what in 1888?
8. Alfred B. Nobel invented what in 1867?
9. Igor Sikorsky invented what in 1939?
10. Penicillin invented in 1928, by whom?
11. Tim Berners Lee with Robert Caillin invented what in 1989?
12. Telephone in 1874 invented by?




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**The answers will be in the
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Thursdays
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Pyworthy Post

Deadline

The PRINT
deadline for the
next Pyworthy
Post is: Monday
26th May 2025 at
12 noon.

Please email
your news as
early as possible.

Thank you.

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Post online in
colour. Search:

[https://pyworthy-
parish.co.uk/](https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/)

No Dog Fouling



Bag it - Bin it

Sunrise, Sunset Times for the coming month:



1st May 2025 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 5.48am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 20.35pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 14 hrs 47 mins.

31st May 2025 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 05.07am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 21.17pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 16 hrs 09 mins

A Possible Retrograde Step into the Future!

By Brian Meadows of Nofix-Nofee

I am not one to make political statements, that is for others to do, but I listened to much being said about the need to go green and reduce the world's reliance on fossil fuels, especially as my grandfather was a forced conscript coal miner in the "Great War" and dug for coal using a pick and shovel in Wigan's coal fields to help in the 1914-1918 war effort. How things have changed, or have they? Maybe things are now much worse!

Children as young as 5 years old are being used to mine rare metals, such as lithium out of the ground in Africa and ethnic minorities are forced to make batteries and computer components in China.

Much is also said about slave labour, but how many people realise their mobile phone, computer and smart watch is built, mostly from slave and child labour? These enslaved people receive as little as 1 USD a day, the profits stuff the pockets of dictators and corporate entities, as is the production of cacao the basic ingredient in chocolate!

Equally, the solar panels on the roofs of houses and covering large swaths of our once green and pleasant land have been produced by individuals forced to work in factories controlled by the Chinese government and paid a pittance for the privilege. A prison cell awaits those who object or attempt to escape.



So, when you next spend hundreds of pounds on buying your expensive technical gizmo, or battery powered car, spare a thought for the individuals receiving a bowl of rice in payment for their contribution to its production.

Now here's a frightening thought! China is gearing up to invade Taiwan and no matter if it happens sooner or later, it will be a humanitarian disaster when it does. It will also mean China taking control of 95% of the world's computer component manufacture and assembly, plus most of the world's battery production. It will become a major influence on the internet and will eventually have the ability to monitor, possibly control the internet, AI systems, and millions of user's internet activity and your data. America will then become a lesser player in that market.

TIK TOK users could well be the first to succumb to the control of world of the Red Dragon!

More customers experience the failings of BT's move to a digital telephone system, some I would add are delighted with it. Nonetheless, when it is your turn make sure your phone is digital compliant, and you have a mobile phone as backup!

**For free Telephone advice contact
Brian Meadows, Tel: 01288 381061
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Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group

By Gill Aston



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our QR code?
This will take you
to our website.



A glorious sunny morning accompanied 28 of us on our 20th Anniversary walk. The walk which took us over Holsworthy Viaduct, along the Cycle Way and out to the Rydon Inn before returning to Holsworthy was led by Michael Heryet who runs Bude Walk and Talk. Back in the early 2000s Michael and David Arney were approached by Jim White from South West Forest, then based at Cookworthy Forest, who mentioned that South West Forest had funds available for the setting up of walking groups in the area. Michael and David were keen to set up such groups and Bude Walk and Talk and Holsworthy Walk and Talk came into being. Although some of the original walkers are no longer with us, two people who joined Michael and David on that first walk on the 15th April 2005 were present. Both members, Clive and Marion, soon became walk leaders and both are still a very important part of Holsworthy Walk and Talk today.

Two more walkers have now completed their Walk Leader training and will be leading and back marking when we start our new programme in June. Congratulations to John and Barbara.

Our walks over the past few weeks have taken us around different parts of the area from Germansweek to Chilsworthy with our level 2 group in Bradworthy on the 4th April. Starting from The Square, we took North Road out towards Quoitgate Cross. Before

reaching there, we turned left along the bridleway, passing a private fishing lake and lodge situated in a lovely sheltered spot. On reaching the farm at Great Dinworthy we turned left onto the lane and back to Bradworthy. The views across to Dartmoor were quite spectacular and it is amazing how far you can actually see when the land is slightly elevated.

Future walks will be taking us to Torrington Commons, Sheepwash and Roadford Lake, a variety of locations which only adds to the interest. If you would like to join us at any time we walk on Mondays and Fridays. All walks start at 10.30 am and are **FREE**. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk.



Above: Clive, Michael and Marion at our 29th Anniversary Walk



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

Our May Programme of walks:



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

MAY Walks: Walk starting points as indicated below:

Friday 2nd May – Level 2: LOWER TAMAR. Start from Lower Tamar Lake free car park. Quiet lanes, paths and gentle inclines. **LEADER:** Michael Heryet. EX22 7LB.

Level 3: - CLAWTON. Start from Parish Hall car park. Quiet lanes, fields that can be muddy, a few inclines. **LEADERS:** Gill Aston & Cheryl Collins. EX22 6PS.

Friday 9th May Level 2: TORRINGTON COMMONS. Start from Commons car park. Hard tracks, lane, fields, and a few inclines. Cattle may be in fields. **LEADER:** Mike Jackson. EX38 8BY.

Level 3: - TORRINGTON COMMONS. Start from Commons car park. Hard tracks, lanes, fields, and a few inclines. Cattle may be in fields. **LEADERS:** Paul Davies & Jacqui Shapland. EX38 8BY.

Friday 16th May - Level 2: WITHERDON WOODS. Start from 200m inside main entrance on the Halwill to Roadford Lake road. Hard tracks, a few inclines. **LEADER:** Kim Harris. EX21 5TU.

Level 3 - SHEEPWASH. Start from Village Square. Lanes, tracks and fields, can be muddy. May be cattle in fields. **LEADERS:** Paul Davies & Cheryl Collins. EX21 5NE.

Friday 23rd May - Level 2: HIGHAMPTON. Start from Windmilland Cross on A3072 between Brandis Corner and Highampton. Lanes, tracks, and fields with inclines. **LEADER:** Mike Jackson. EX21 5JH.

Level 3: - WITHERDON WOODS. Start from 200m inside main entrance on the Halwill to Roadford Lake road. Hard tracks with inclines. **LEADERS:** Jacqui Shapland & Kim Harris. EX21 5TU.

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 41



Above: Richard being presented with his Walk Leader certificate by our Chairperson Jacqui Shapland

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group contact details:

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

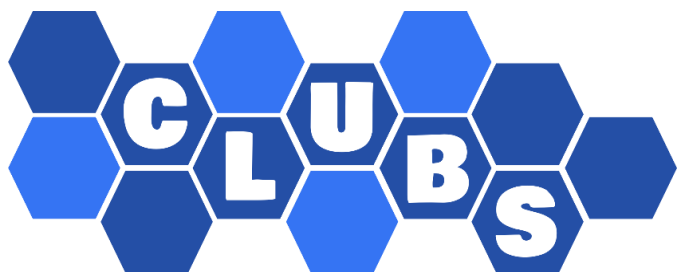
holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com
<http://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>

Phone contact numbers:

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



**New
members
are very
welcome.**



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

Mondays: Line Dancing Club:

Complete Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm

Beginners/Improvers,

6.30pm – 7.30pm

Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Rural Art Group,

2.30pm – 4.30pm.

All abilities welcome.

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.

Sundays: Children's Ballroom and

Latin Dance Class –

10.00am until 11.00am.

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

DOG FOULING/DOGS OFF LEAD

Following a number of recent and ongoing incidents of dog fouling in the churchyard and surrounding streets in the village centre, residents are reminded that dogs should be kept on leads and not allowed to roam unaccompanied.

Residents are asked to clear up after their dogs at all times.

Pyworthy Parish Council.

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 22nd May at 7.30pm.

John Sanders Park Trust



2025 DRAW

Our park is 100 years old this year!



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

Lottery 2025

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

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

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

BACS Information:

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

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

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

Volunteers:

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



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

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Pyworthy Sports Club Annual General Meeting Notice

Location: Holsworthy Football Club

Date: 8th May 2025 - Time: 7:30 PM

Notice is hereby given that a vote will be conducted at the upcoming Annual General Meeting to determine the future relationship between the Pyworthy Sports Club and the Pyworthy Park Committee (John Sanders Trust). Specifically, members will vote on:

Establishing a collaborative working arrangement between the Pyworthy Sports Club Committee and the Park Committee (John Sanders Trust), and Merging the committees, with current Pyworthy Sports Club Committee members assuming trustee roles for the Park Committee (John Sanders Trust) for a minimum of two years.



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list for just £15 per year!**

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Driving Tuition Evelyn Sharman 01409 259848/07885352082
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Dog Exercise facility Woofworthy, Holsworthy, call Becky 07887094320
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Electrical Contractor Mike Daniel 01288 381342/07977 596772
Estate Agents Kivells 01409 253888
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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
Rubbish Removal & Light Removals Service Man with a Van - Nigel 07725564331
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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Tel: 01288 381061.**

**Read Brian's article on
page 37.**

Save Your Used Stamps for the Hedgehogs!



British Hedgehog Preservation Society

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

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**9 Shortlands, Pyworthy or
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Thank You Everybody!

The Menu was somewhat sparse at the end of March, the slugs and snails were hiding away, as it was very dry. With April showers helping the larder, we have to admit to having had a nice little feed and we are both now putting on weight. Seriously! Don't forget, please, to allow us an entrance to your garden at the bottom of the fence to help you combat the nasty little "nibblers" of your recently planted prize specimens! Lots of used stamps from envelopes and packages really do help the cause!

Harry & Henrietta.

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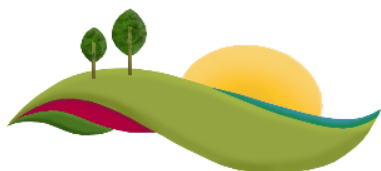
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Community Health Care Message

Patient Information – Changes to Blood Test Services

Dear Patient,

You may be aware that from Tuesday 1 April 2025, we will no longer be providing blood tests (phlebotomy) requested by hospital specialists (secondary care).

What's Changing?


From 1 April, **community phlebotomy clinics** will be provided by **Royal Devon** in the following locations:

- **Bideford Community Hospital**
- **Torrington Community Hospital**
- **Holsworthy Community Hospital**

Hospital clinicians will continue to request your blood tests using the Community Connect system, as they do now.

Need Support or Have Questions?

 For general enquiries, contact:
rduh.communityphlebotomy@nhs.net

 If you've already been referred and need help, call:
01395 519 922

**Local business and services contact information
can be found on page 45.**

**MAY
2025**



Nature Notes

By Bryony Rylett

The proverb: "One swallow does not a summer make", warns against thinking a single event informs what follows but with the appearance of the first swallow, white blossom transforming the hedges and butterflies fluttering in the lanes hope springs.

This month **Nature Notes** features three harbingers of spring: **Swallows**, **Blackthorn** and **Brimstone butterflies**.

By now you may have seen swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) arrive in Pyworthy, having flown here from their winter homes in South Africa and Namibia; a journey of 13,000 plus kilometres.

Has anyone spotted a swallow earlier than April 2nd when one swooped low over hedges in a field near Holsworthy Golf Course?

Travelling approximately 320 kilometres during daylight hours, this diminutive bird, weighing just 16-25 grams, flies from the tip of Africa up across the Sahara Desert, the Congo Rainforest, Morocco, eastern Spain and western France each spring; returning in the Autumn.

One swallow was recorded as having flown from Johannesburg to Russia, a distance of almost 12,000 kilometres, in 34 days.

Agricultural intensification, leading to the loss of open habitat and traditional farmland, preferred by swallows, has resulted in a decline. Some swallows return to find their traditional nesting sites swept aside to accommodate human wants that conflict with their needs.

Records show swallows are arriving 15 days earlier than before 1960. 'Swallow Day', marking the traditional first day swallows arrive in the UK, may, therefore, need to change.

Swallows are members of the Hirundine family that includes swifts, sand and house martins. They are distinguished by dark, glossy-blue, back feathers, red throats, white underparts and long tail streamers. Their distinctive, sociable, trilling, twittering calls differ from the 'screams' of swifts.

Juvenile swallows hatch from the one or two clutches of four or five eggs laid each season and do not have streamers. A female swallow will select a mate with the most symmetrical tail streamers, a sign of good health.

Swallows are harbingers of summer and are symbols of renewal, good luck and freedom.

Aesop's tale: 'The Spendthrift and The Swallow' is thought to have inspired Aristotle, two centuries later, to conclude: "One swallow does not a *spring* make, nor one fine day; similarly, one day or brief time of happiness does not make a person entirely happy". **Continued on page 51**

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



Above: a trio of fledgling Swallows filling in their Pyworthy nest

The birds are held in high regard and many cultures consider it unlucky to kill one. In the past farmers, thought swallows brought good fortune and protected their animals from disease. Cornish folks are said to jump on seeing their first swallow in Spring. Sailors marked completion of 5,000 nautical miles of seafaring by having the bird's image inked on their chest, hands or neck and should a sailor with such a tattoo drown it was believed swallows would carry their soul safely away and fighters bore swallow tattoos on their knuckles to symbolise strength and swiftness; traits they considered shared with the birds. The swallow and its trilling call are considered a quintessential metaphor for the theme of returning. Odysseus returned in spring and the sound of his bow string being plucked was likened to the note of the swallow.

In Shakespeare's 'Richard III' Richmond's desire to fight the king and be crowned is described:

"True hope is swift and flies with swallows' wings".

Coinciding with the arrival of swallows the hedges erupt with frothy Blackthorn Blossom.



Above: the blossom of the Blackthorn

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) is a densely branched, spiny tree growing up to seven metres tall and living for up to 100 years. It is an hermaphrodite meaning both female and male reproductive parts are found in the same flower.

Blackthorn fruit follows pollination of its flowers by insects taking advantage of an early and important source of nectar. The blue-black, sloe fruits, approximately 1 cm in diameter, appear in late summer.

Blackthorn is widely used as a stock proof hedging plant and while the tough hides of cattle may shrug off its spines if the bacteria laden spikes puncture human skin inflammation and discomfort can result.

Continued on page 52

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

Like gorse, the spiky nature of Blackthorn provides shelter for birds, such as Chiffchaffs and Yellowhammers, small mammals and insects. The leaves of Blackthorn provide food for the larvae of rare Brown Hairstreak and Black Hairstreak butterflies as well as Lackey, Magpie, Swallow and Yellow tailed moths.

Blackthorn is sometimes associated with witchcraft with witches' wands and staffs being made from its timber. An old country saying warns of 'Blackthorn winters' when cold weather coincides with the blossom arriving. This warning is similar to: "ne'er cast a clout 'til May is out"; meaning don't put aside your warm clothes until Hawthorn, Blackthorn's 'sister' tree has blossomed (usually in late spring).

Places where Blackthorn grows have been considered sacred. It is sometimes woven into wreaths, along with mistletoe, to bring good luck for the year ahead and garlands of Blackthorn were used in wassailing.

The tree's tough and hard-wearing timber has been used for tool parts, walking sticks and Irish shillelagh, a club used for hitting people.

Sloes are used in wines, preserves and when combined with gin and sugar make a sweet liqueur. The fruit is ready to pick when falling naturally from the tree and/or when the berries can be easily squashed between finger and thumb.

Tonics and syrups made from the flowers and leaves of Blackthorn have been used as remedies to cleanse blood, ease digestion and rheumatism. (Do not try this at home).

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



Above: spot the resting Brimstone

The warm, dry, early spring saw the emergence of many butterflies around Pyworthy including Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Common Blue, Orange Tipped, Speckled Wood and the eye-catching **Brimstone Butterfly** (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) often seen fluttering beside Blackthorn lined hedges in damp woodland areas.

It is believed the word butterfly is derived from the appearance of the male Brimstone butterfly with its large, leaf-shaped, *butter*-coloured wings; hence *butterfly*. Female Brimstones have pale, greeny yellow wings.

Brimstone is an archaic name for sulphur, a yellowish, non-metallic element often associated with volcanic activity.

Brimstones feed on dandelions, primroses and

Continued on page 53

Nature Note – MAY continued from page 52.....

bluebells and use their long proboscis to reach the nectar in plants such as thistle, teasels and Devil's-bit Scabious other butterflies cannot reach.

Butterflies need temperatures of at least 13 degrees and a minimum of 60% sunshine to 'charge' their wings for flight. Brimstones usually fly between 11.00 and 16.00, the hottest part of the day, fluttering to conserve energy.

Their peak flying months are April and May but are seen in numbers again in August when the young reach adulthood. Autumn is also a good time to spot them as they build up reserves ready to hibernate over winter.

Males emerge first in spring and mate

multiple times while females' pair just once.

The older the male Brimstone gets the more fertile he becomes.

It is said they can sense rain approaching, taking cover before rain falls.

English naturalist Matthew Oates calls the mass emergence of Brimstones in early spring: "National Brimstone Lift-Off Day - the first truly warm day of the year" and describes the insect as: "Our ultimate sunshine butterfly".

The answer to last month's Nature Notes' Question:

Frogs have green or golden eyes; toads' eyes are coppery in colour.

This month's question:

How many resident species of butterfly are there in the UK?

See the answer in the next edition of Nature Notes.



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Print deadline for the next edition of Pyworthy Post is:
Monday 26th May 2025 at
12 noon prompt!

Diary dates this month:

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

Holsworthy Walk & Talk group enjoy a walk every Friday, see their programme on pages 40 & 41. Also, members take a short walk in Stanhope Park on Mondays.

Thursday 1st May – May Day

Saturday 3rd May – World Naked Gardening Day

Sunday 4th May – Star Wars Day

Monday 5th May – **May Bank holiday**

Thursday 8th May – 80th Anniversary of VE Day celebration – more details also Pyworthy Sports Club A.G.M. 7.30pm at Holsworthy Football Club.

Sunday 11th May – The Bridge Mill at Bridgerule, Open Day - 11.00am until 4.00pm, see page 30.

Wednesday 14th May – meeting to discuss community ownership of the Village Pub, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Thursday 15th May – Devon County Show begins

Saturday 17th May – The Eurovision Song Contest final, in Switzerland

Tuesday 20th May – Fish 'n' Things in the Village Hall car park from 4.30pm – 7p00pm see page 21 for more information. Chelsea Flower Show in London opens to the public today.

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

Monday 26th May - **Whitsun Bank holiday**

Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday 18th June – Pyworthy Village Hall meeting at 7.30pm.

Saturday 21st June – Charity Birthday party in Pyworthy Village Hall, more information in next edition.

Saturday & Sunday 19th & 20th July – The Patronal festival at Pyworthy Church, including an Art Exhibition – more information to follow.

Saturday 6th September – Pyworthy Annual Village Show, more details to follow.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences go to the family of Mrs Evelyn Jennings, who passed away peacefully on the 21st April.

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

First Time Grandparents

Congratulations go to Gill and Richard Aston, who have just become grandparents. Such wonderful news.



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Enya Garrett
Property Secretary

