

PYWORTHY POST



What's in your paper this month?

New Pyworthy Village
website is launched

New Nature Notes series

Pyworthy Village Hall
celebrates 40th years in
April - update

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



Read online at:

[**http://www.bit.ly/postpy**](http://www.bit.ly/postpy)

and view the paper in full colour.

February 2025
Issue number 336

WHO'S CELEBRATING THIS MONTH?



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Mary Cleave, Henry Kirkwood, Tony Piercey & Heather Arbin
- 3rd Charlotte Parrish, Tallulah Thompson
- 6th Janet Axford, Brian Harris
- 7th Joan Glessing, Harry Meredith
- 10th Gabe Burnard
- 13th Rita Thurston, Simon Davies
- 15th Matilda O'Farrell
- 16th Tilly-Anna Thompson
- 17th Ben McKenzie
- 18th Tobias Richardson
- 19th Marg Martin
- 20th Isla Weekes
- 21st David Glessing
- 22nd Preston Martin
- 25th Emily Jones
- 26th Sarah Burnard
- 27th Angela Martin



Community Birthday list

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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS AND FAMILY OCCASIONS



Happy Birthday Mary Cleave

We wish Mary a very Happy Birthday on the 1st February.

All your friends in the village send their love and best wishes to you.



Welcome to the FEBRUARY Edition

By Marion Ravn



I've just completed my "Big British Bird Watch" Survey, which means February is almost here. Spring is just around the corner!

On the subject of birds, Revd Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick, a Trustee for the British Trust for Ornithology and a Pyworthy resident, has written an interesting article about how to feed our wild bird population during the winter months. You can find it on page 28, complete with 'do's' and 'don't's'.

We also have a new "Nature Notes" series on pages 47-49. Bryony Rylett, a relatively new resident of Pyworthy, is keen to write for our community paper on a range of subjects. She is also conducting a series of interviews called "Pyworthy People," starting with Revd Alison Hardy, our local rector. Who will be next? Find out in the next edition!

The big news this month is that Pyworthy is getting its own website, coordinated by Mark Marriot. This will bring our village into the 21st century. More information can be found on page 26.

Make the most of February—it's the shortest month of the year and will be gone before you know it. Stay warm, and don't forget to check on your neighbours.

Until next month, Marion

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



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Holsworthy Library

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

www.discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Also, Holsworthy Library on Facebook and Instagram

WHAT'S ON AT HOLSWORTHY LIBRARY - FEBRUARY 2025



Library News!

- Lloyds Bank Community Banking session, Monday 3rd & 17th - 2pm-4pm
- Managing Your Energy Bills - free help & advice, drop in session, Monday 3rd - 2pm-5pm
- Bounce & Rhyme, Thursday 6th, 13th & 27rd - 2:15pm -2:45pm (term time only)
- Stop Before You Shop! Free workshop with Navigate, Friday 7th - 10am-12pm
- Photography for Wellbeing, Friday 14th & 28th - 10am-12pm (please contact the library to book a place)
- Home Education Social Club, Monday 17th - 10am-12pm
- Half Term Lego Challenge, Wednesday 19th - 11am-4pm
- Board Games & Biscuits, Children, Teens & Adults, Thursday 20th - 10:30am-11:30am / 3pm-4pm
- Saturday Club! Lego, board games and colouring 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



Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092.
To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk

Supported
by



TORBAY COUNCIL

Opening Hours:

Monday 2pm-5pm

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 10am-6pm

Thursday 10am-5pm

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

Saturday 10am-1pm

Sunday Closed

*Support your local
library, it's a warm and
inviting place.*

United Benefice of Holsworthy

Rector: Revd Alison Hardy, Churchwarden: Position vacant



Benefice Services for FEBRUARY

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

Worship and Prayer in the Holsworthy Benefice – FEBRUARY 2025

Date	Bridgerule	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Hollacombe
Sunday 2 nd February Candlemas	11.00am Morning Prayer Candlemas	9.30am Morning Candlemas	9.30am Family Service	9.30am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 9 th February	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	3.00pm Evensong
Sunday 16 th February	11.00am Joint Service in Methodist Church	11.00am Eucharist 3.00pm LYCIG	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 23 rd February	11.00am Ecumenical Eucharist	11.00am Morning Prayer, Café Style.	9.30am Morning Prayer	-
9.30am – All Age service at Pancrasweek				

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



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.

More Church news on page 21 & 22

Pyworthy Village Hall News

Martin Brennan, Chairman

We hope that everybody reading this had a very Merry Christmas and like us are very much looking forward to Peaceful and Stress Free 2025.

Pre-Christmas Social Evening

What a delight it was to welcome back Ben Mc Kenzie. This time around, Ben, yet again, wooed the audience in a very different way with his own take on the music of Simon and Garfunkel, Elton John, Elvis, to mention just a few. All in All, a cracking evening was had by all. Our thanks to Marie for arranging the evening and to all the Gang who helped on the night.

Potters Fish 'n' Things

A special message from Olly at Potters: -

'We hope you all enjoyed it. Thank you for all the great support! We didn't realise we would be so busy. Thank you once again!!

Hope to see you all again on the 18th of February.'

See page 40 for further details.

Village Hall 40th Anniversary Celebrations on the 12th April

See pages 8 and 27 for further details.

Friday 28th March

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

RUPERT KIRKWOOD

Doors open at 7.30pm for light refreshments: Tea/Coffee/Biscuits

The talk starts at 8.00pm approx.

All proceeds in aid of Pyworthy Village Hall

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

See page 26 for further details.

Easyfundraising

Thanks to all you Guys who continue to support the Hall using the fundraising app, (details of which can be found on page 30).

More Information about the Forthcoming Events can be found on the following pages

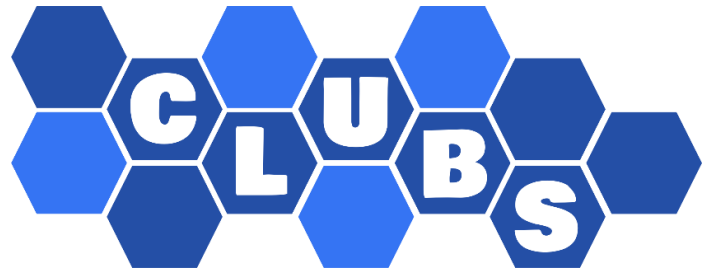
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Village Hall clubs list – page 7

Why not sign up to Easyfundraising while you shop, which will help to raise money for the hall. See page 30 for all the details.

Mobile Fish 'n' Chip van – page 40.

**Our Next Meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 23rd April 2025.
Further details to follow in next month's edition.
The meeting will start at 7.30pm. All Welcome.**



Village Hall Pub Nights!



**This month our Social Evenings
are:**

**Fridays the 14th & 28th
February.**

No single drink will cost you more
than £3.00.

**We look forward to seeing
you All** 🍷 🍺 🍻 🍾

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

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

Dates for your Diary.

Village Hall Meeting

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

Please feel welcome to join us.

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

Mondays: Line Dancing Club:

Complete Beginners: 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Beginners/Improvers, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Rural Art Group,

2.30pm – 4.30pm. All abilities
welcome.

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. **(NEW DAYS)**

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

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



**PYWORTHY VILLAGE HALL
IS 40 YEARS OLD!**



**SATURDAY 12TH APRIL
AFTERNOON**

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

For details of evening celebrations see page 27.

Registered charity number 290013

Pyworthy Rural Art Group

Pyworthy ART



Well, here we are in February, and we have had a little snow but not enough to worry about.

Classes have started well, and we are all getting back into the swing of painting again. Why not come and join us and learn some new skills?

We meet every Tuesday in the Village Hall at 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

All abilities are welcome.

Our programme for Tuesdays in February:

4th February Landscape in watercolour using trees and skies from our January classes.

11th February Study in glass in Pastels

18th February Portrait in Pastels

26th February Painting dew drops in watercolour.

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

For further information contact Janet Grant

Tel: 01409 259356.

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!**



EVELYN SHARMAN

Professional Driving Tuition (DVSA ADI)

Telephone: 01409 259848

Mobile: 07885 352 082

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

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- Pots, Cows & Bird guards Fitted.

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Traditional & Power sweeping Techniques
Chimney CCTV Surveys/ Bird Nests Removed.



24 Hours Emergency Service

**Call: 01409 240138 or
07984 406290**



Pyworthy MOT Ltd



Typical opening hours depending on school times and holidays.

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

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

Call Simon - Tel: 01409 254275

Courtesy car available.



Evelyn's Walks Update

By Evelyn Sharman,
Group Organiser

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

Confirming that there wasn't a walk in January, so the next one will be the first one of 2025.

Next walk: We will set off at 10am from Devon Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve (Dunsdon Nature Reserve) in Pancrasweek on Monday 10th February. You are very welcome to contact me if you need directions or would like any information about the route. I'll look forward to walking with anyone who would like to join me on any of the walks that I have planned for this year. They are on the second Monday of the month starting at 10am. The meeting points are announced in the Pyworthy Post each month.

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



**New
Members
welcome!**

JANUARY'S PYWORTHY POSER ANSWERS:

1. Roman God Janus.
2. Epiphany Tart.
3. 1st January!
4. "Clean your computer month".
5. Garnet.
6. Carnation.
7. National Penguin Day.
8. National Spaghetti Day.
9. Emmy Awards.
10. Alaska.
11. Six.
12. Minus 128.6° F. Chilly!
Pyworthy Pilgrim.

The next Poser quiz is on
page 35.

A big thank you to the
Pyworthy Pilgrim.



Line Dancing!



New Members welcome.



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

Line Dancing Classes

Our Line dancing classes are held
on: **Mondays** in

Pyworthy Village Hall.

Complete Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm.

Beginners/Improvers:

6.30pm – 7.30pm &

Intermediate level:

7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Intermediate level,
7.30pm – 9.30pm.

All classes cost just £5.

Come and join us!

Pyworthy Sports Week Cups – Do You have One?

The Village Hall committee are planning to revamp the displays in the hall, ready for the 40th Anniversary celebrations in April.

Brenda Martin will be working on a display commemorating Sports Weeks. She would like to include the cups, which were previously awarded for various events.

If you have or know the whereabouts of a Sports Week cup or trophy, please could be returned to the hall as soon as possible.



*Can you help
Brenda?*

Please phone Brenda Martin on 01409 253015, if you have any information that could help her locate the cups.



**Valentine's Day is Friday 14th February this year
How do people celebrate around the world?**

Valentine's Day is celebrated in various unique and fascinating ways around the world. Here are some interesting traditions:

Japan: Women give chocolates to men on Valentine's Day.

South Korea: Like Japan, women give chocolates to men on Valentine's Day, and men return the favour on White Day. Additionally, South Koreans celebrate "Black Day" on April 14th, where singles gather to eat black noodles and commiserate their single status.

Finland: Valentine's Day is known as "Ystävänpäivä," which translates to "Friend's Day." It's a day to celebrate friendships rather than romantic relationships, with friends exchanging cards and gifts.

Wales: The Welsh celebrate "Dydd Santes Dwynwen" on January 25th, which is similar to Valentine's Day. Lovers exchange handcrafted wooden spoons decorated with hearts, keys, and keyholes as a symbol of love.

France: Known as the "City of Love," France celebrates Valentine's Day with romantic dinners, flowers, and love letters.

In the Spotlight



Our focus this month is the Revd Alison Hardy, Rector at St. Swithun's Church, Pyworthy.

Community
focus

Name: Reverend Alison Hardy
Age: 64
Occupation: Rector of St. Swithun's Church, Pyworthy

What is the best thing about Pyworthy?

The supportive community and families.

What one thing would you change about Pyworthy and why?

The provision of footpaths to enable people to walk along the roads in safety.

Describe yourself in 3 words:

Mother, farmer, gardener.

How do you like to spend your free time?

With people; socialising with family and friends.

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

To walk Offa's Dyke.

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

My grandmothers.

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

I would probably give it away. As a Rector I would bring the churches up to 21st century standards.

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

1. To see more people healed as so many people are waiting for improved health.
2. The healing of divisions.
3. A breakthrough in supporting those with mental ill health.

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

Clothing appropriate for the season/situation; food, from the fridge and money.



Holsworthy Rainfall 2024

By Anne Luxton,
local rainfall analyst



The Molesworth Arms – Update

So, what's happening! The Molesworth Arms is no longer up for Sale. Due to the current climate within the industry, Kit and Monique are no longer selling the Pub. This is a positive move, as we all know how it's being used, and it will remain open for the time being.

The community is urged to continue to support the pub. Also, by talking to others and getting the word around will enable our pub to remain open. I believe that things happen for a reason, and this could enhance our opportunities in the future. With more time, this will enable us to establish a strong committee, to plan and better understand the way forward. So, it may not be over, just a change in when it happens.

If you have any questions or would like to have a chat about what we did, and how we did please feel free to email me on the below address.

Email:

communitypubpyworthy@gmail.com

Happy New Year to you all and
thanks for all your support.

Sue Jarvis Harvesters Cottage.

You'll be pleased to know that with appropriately 1450mm (57inches), 2024 was just about spot on average for the last five years. It just feels as if it is less seasonal but that may be my rose-tinted glasses.

Spring 2024, with 238mm, was just above average for March/April/May in the last 5 years but it was so cold that until the second week in May, many of us (and our plants) feared summer would be a no-show this year.... It wasn't, with June and August the driest months of the year (a wet July sandwiched between the two), both with less than 50mm each.

The last three months of 2024 were the lowest rainfall (396mm) for that time of year for several years, aided by more than a fortnight of dry weather in November and only 114mm in December.

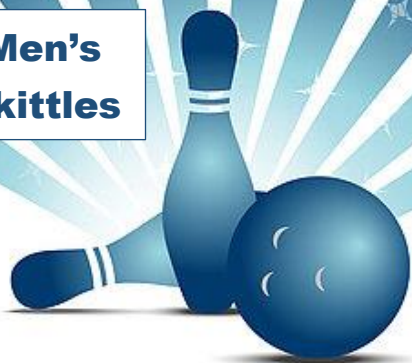
2025, however, has started with a drenching - 97mm in the first week and as I write, a dusting of snow is falling....it may still turn out to be average!

I guess temperatures might well have been average too.

I would just mention, all my possibly inaccurate measurements are taken in Holsworthy - Pyworthy's rainfall may be very different...

Thank you, Anne, for the update.

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 much appreciated.



Glebe House Cottages, Bridgerule

www.glebehousecottages.co.uk

Telephone: 01288 381272

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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

Looking back at 2024 it certainly wasn't a good gardening year and in fact it was almost a repeat of the issues that I encountered in the previous year. Our seasons seem to have changed markedly, with virtually no summer and very wet and stormy winters. In fact, most of the year was pretty wet, I remember trying to organise a Gardening Club barbeque in August without success, eventually spotting a dry evening in September but even then, the weather turned out to be pretty mediocre. As I have said many times before my interest in gardening wanes considerably during the winter months and is certainly not helped by the almost constant rain and the very high winds from the storms, which seem to be queuing up in the Atlantic to attack us. This heavy and almost continuous rain causes the ground conditions to be atrocious and to try and work on it or just stand on the ground will certainly do more harm than good. Hence, I use this time to do some reading or possibly order some seeds, get my seed potatoes and onion and shallot sets, and use the time to focus on other hobbies as well as the routine of farm and household chores and of course outstanding repairs. I am fortunate in having several polytunnels on site where the soil is protected from the rain and where I grow Wilja potatoes, Tender and True parsnips as well as various varieties of carrots. I do get some pleasure in digging these up through the winter, particularly if it is

raining. The sound of the raindrops on the poly roof is very soporific and relaxing, almost like meditation. I also normally grow beetroot but this year, as last, without success. I really must try to solve this issue for next season. I think I will contact Toby Buckland the local Gardening Guru on the local radio station to see what words of wisdom he can offer. I do also grow leeks outside as they need to benefit from a frost, but I can't say that it is a pleasurable experience. Between all the polytunnels we can grow a sizeable amount of our vegetable requirements for the year and at least we know they are fresh and free from artificial contaminants. Although I couldn't grow beetroot, my parsnips grew okay – in fact too well!! One of them was well over 12 inches long and about 6 inches across at the top (see photo) and in fact I had to use a pick axe to dig it out.



My massive 12-inch-long parsnip

Unfortunately, I was extremely busy last year and just couldn't devote enough time to my wildlife projects and particularly my ponds. I will do my very best to give it more attention and research to improve my efforts to develop wildlife friendly areas on the

continued on page 18

GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT
continued from page 17.....

farm and also sort out my wildlife ponds, it looks like reluctantly I will have to line them, as they seem to drain, even though they fill quite naturally. I will again sow wildflower seeds in trays in the polytunnel, to give them a head start in the spring before the grass gets going and attempts to smother them. I am hoping that this approach will allow me to increase the area covered by wildflowers earlier each year and allow the plants to get off to better start, as well as saving me money in not having to buy more plug plants. I am definitely looking forward to encouraging and seeing more wildlife species in the orchard and perhaps elsewhere on the farm as a result of these projects as they develop and really get established.

This time of the year is particularly hard for the wild bird population, so they will appreciate anything that you can do to provide food and some shelter for them. Growing shrubs can help tremendously and here are some suggestions. Holly (make sure it is a female, as that is the one with the berries); hawthorn; mahonia; floribunda, gelder or climbing roses or even winter honeysuckle and daphnes. The latter two provide excellent floral displays in the depths of winter but also have a very pleasant and strong fragrance, which can be smelt from many yards away. All these plants, in combination, can provide an abundance of berries as well as shelter for the birds and some nice flowers to brighten up the dull winter days. In addition to the above I have refrained from trimming the Ivy

back too much in many areas to ensure that there are plenty of winter berries for the birds. If you feed the birds, you should perhaps plant some Ivy nearby to create some shelter and extra feed from the berries, which are one of the most nutritious berries for birds.

Jobs for this month, unless you are like me and don't really want to think about it this month:-

- Look after the wildlife where you can, especially birds and hedgehogs
- Clean pots and trays
- Clean greenhouses, polytunnels and cold frames
- Ventilate greenhouses, polytunnels and cold frames on warm days to prevent botrytis
- Dead head winter flowering plants such as pansies, cyclamen violas
- Cut back climbing roses, shortening flowered side shoots by two-thirds of their length. Cut out old branches to encourage new growth, which should be tied in as it grows.
- Start to cut out dead and diseased wood from fruit trees and also begin to prune them to create a bowl shaped tree
- It is a good time to prune Gooseberries and Redcurrants
- Select and buy your seeds
- Plant onion sets
- Buy early seed potatoes ready for chitting
- Sow Sweet Peas indoors
- Clean gutters and drainage gulley's
- Sort out your garden shed

• **continued on page 19**

Jobs for this month continued

- Clean pathways and patios of moss and other debris, as these can become very slippery and quite dangerous, particularly if wooden decking is involved.

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



**Ant
The Lawn Ranger**

For grass cutting & garden
maintenance call:
Antony Jarvis
Mobile: 07990016467
Email:
antony2191@googlemail.com



**Village Show
2025**

**There will be a
meeting to be held at
Pyworthy Village Hall
on Wednesday
12th February at
6:30pm.**

**This will be the first
planning meeting.
Everyone most
welcome.**

Pyworthy Village Show 2025

Spotted a Pothole? Here's How to Report It!

If you've noticed a pothole on the roads around Devon, you can report it quickly and easily to Devon County Council through their online reporting tool. Just follow the link: **Report a Pothole** on the DCC website.

Steps to report:

1. Visit the website and click "Start Report."
2. Pinpoint the location of the pothole on the map.
3. Provide a description and upload a photo if possible.

Your report helps ensure our roads stay safe and well-maintained.

John Sanders Park Trust



2025 DRAW

John Sanders Trust 2025 is 100 years old this year.

If you want to buy a ticket @£10 to be a part of the Lottery 2025 to help raise money for the upkeep of our Park, please contact:

Jane Oliver on: 07500 834620 or
Rob Moore's on: 07748 981910.

Lottery 2025

You need to be in it, to win it!

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.

MEVAGISSEY MALE CHOIR



Forthcoming event:

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

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

50 tickets are available for this event. Book at:

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



Thank You!

St. Swithun's News!

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



Now we're heading into February it seems as if Christmas was eons ago. January has all but come and gone and we're heading into lighter evenings and hopefully no Beast from the East.

Thanks to the generosity of you all over Christmas we were able to send money to some very deserving charities. The card that was in church for you to be able to wish your friends Happy Christmas without the cost of postage resulted in £51 for Crisis. The Children's Hospice South West profited from all the services at Christmas itself to a grand total of £185.60. A big thankyou to all who came to the various services and contributed in any way.

Liffy and I hope our pre-booked puddings and cakes went down well over Christmas with a profit to keep our church going of £250.

We hope that many of you who came into St Swithun's over the Christmas period found it a fulfilling experience – we are a friendly lot and do not bite! Perhaps a New Year Resolution could be to come and find out more about the church, our Vicar Alison Hardy, have a go at bellringing or join the All-Age group with your children/grandchildren and have fun with the various crafts/colouring plus, of course, some yummy refreshments. We have a very well-equipped Children's Play Area, guaranteed to

keep the little ones occupied. As well as being child-friendly we also welcome our 4-legged friends, provided, of course, that they are well behaved!

The one date in February we all know from childhood is, of course, St Valentine's Day on the 14th. St Valentine was a 3rd century Roman priest. At the time of his life many Romans were converting to Christianity, but the Emperor Claudius II was a pagan and create strict laws about what Christians were allowed to do. He believed that Roman soldiers should be completely devoted to Rome and therefore passed a law preventing them from marrying! St Valentine began to marry these soldiers in secret Christian ceremonies, and this was the beginning of his reputation for believing in the importance of love. Eventually he was found out and jailed for his crimes. He was executed on 14th February in the year 270. He is patron saint of epilepsy, beekeepers, affianced couples, love, plague and happy marriages.



Church is not just for Hatch, Match and Despatch, it is there for you at all times of your life, especially when you need help or companionship. It is open 7 days a week. If you know anyone who is vulnerable or struggling in this cold weather or would appreciate a call/visit please speak out, we are here to listen. Since returning to our home in Pyworthy back in 1978 we have come to realise that this is a real community where we all look after each other.

Continued on page 22....

St. Swithun's New continued from page 21.....

A little prayer for children "Dear Lord Jesus, help me to have good health, wisdom and to work hard at school". Very apt I think for all ages apart from working hard at school!

More Church News....

Church services & contact details are on page 5.



"Mike Johns would like to thank all of you in Pyworthy who generously donated to the RBL Poppy Appeal raising a grand total of **£124.14** out of the total Holsworthy area collection of **£5,430.13**.

Well done."



Thank You

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

20th Anniversary, 10th February 2005 -

Charles, Prince of Wales (now King Charles III) and Camilla Parker Bowles announced their engagement.

25th Anniversary, 4th February - The first version of the life-simulation video game *The Sims* was released. It became one of the best-selling video game series in history.

50th Anniversary, 11 February 1975 -

Margaret Thatcher became the first female leader of the Conservative Party in the UK. She became Britain's first female Prime Minister in 1979.

60th Anniversary, 17th February 1965 -

NASA launched the space probe *Ranger 8* on a mission to take close-up photos of the surface of the Moon, ahead of a manned Apollo mission. After sending back more than 7,000 photographs it was deliberately crashed into the Moon on 20th February.

80th Anniversary, 6th February 1945 -

Birth of Bob Marley, Jamaican reggae/ska/rock steady singer, songwriter, musician and cultural icon. (Died 1981.)

90th Anniversary, 2nd February 1935 -

A lie detector (polygraph) machine was used in court for the first time. Its inventor, Leonarde Keeler, tested two suspects in a criminal case in Portage, Wisconsin, USA. The machine showed they were guilty, the court agreed to accept its results, and they were convicted.

200th Anniversary, 3rd to 5th February

1825 - The February flood of 1825 (known as the Great Hallig Flood in Germany). The North Sea coasts of the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany flooded. Around 800 people were killed.

Introduction to My Electricity Industry Recollections

By Mike Godfrey

Over the years when I have been chatting to people about my 60+ years in the Electricity Industry and the work I have been involved in, they invariably say that I should be writing it down – so for better or worse I am now about to document it all. As I write it down, hopefully in chronological order, I will send it into the Pyworthy Post for Marion to insert or not as is the case. I will try not to make it too technical or boring but inevitably it will include a bit of both, but I hope it will also be of some interest and a bit enlightening.

We all take electricity for granted and it is generally there at the flick of a switch. Generally, electricity cannot be stored and has to be produced instantaneously at that split second. As electricity travels down the wires at 186,000 miles per second you can see that it can travel from any power source in the Country or even Europe to your light bulb or electrical appliance as close to instantaneously as you can possibly get. However, the latest developments in electricity production now include battery storage, which has mainly been brought about by large scale PV development. PV only produces electricity for a fraction of the day and hence some production is now beginning to be stored in batteries and/or our water pump storage power plants at Dinorwig and Ffestiniog in Wales, to be used outside normal PV peak production hours to provide power when the peak



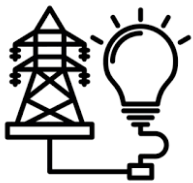
demand occurs on the Grid system at breakfast and tea times. Whilst Pump storage of electricity makes very good sense, I will have a great deal to say about the benefits or otherwise of large-scale PV development particularly on farmland in the future. I attach a picture (on page 24) of a 750,000 kw Generator driven by a million horsepower Steam Turbine, the output from which could deliver the annual output of 25-acre Solar Site in just 6 hours anytime of the day 7 days a week.

To provide a reliable source of power at all times of the day and night, the amount of electricity being produced has to match that being demanded in each and every location in the country and in later entries I will explain how that is managed on the Grid and Local Distribution systems, which in itself is a pretty complicated arrangement with the technicalities involved, particularly as the demand is constantly changing and maintaining a very stable supply is most important for all of us.

Next time I will write about the early days of electricity, how it all started, the local supplies in Holsworthy and the early grid connections as well as explain what electricity actually is and how it makes things work, including us.

See photo on page 24 of a Generator

Introduction to My Electricity Industry Recollections continued from page 23....



Above: a picture of a 750,000 kw Generator driven by a million horsepower Steam Turbine. Mike Godfrey will be writing more next month on the electrical supply industry.



The Snow Moon

The full moon will be on the 12th February this year.

The Snow Moon is the name given to the Full Moon in February, named after the snow on the ground in the Northern Hemisphere. Some North American tribes named it the Hunger Moon due to the scarce food sources and hard hunting conditions during mid-winter, while others named it the Storm Moon.



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- Fresh water available
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- Secure 6 ft fencing
- Exclusive booking

www.woofworthy.co.uk
07887 094320

Holsworthy Amateur Theatrical Society
presents

Cinderella

Mon 3rd - Sat 15th
February 2025

7.30pm (doors open 7pm)
2.30pm Saturday matinee (doors open 2pm)

H.A.T.S. Holsworthy presents
Cinderella next year.
Tickets are now on sale.
More information online:
www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk

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charlottejacksonphotography@gmail.com

Making memories!

EXCITING NEWS!



We are launching a Pyworthy Parish website that will show events, clubs and news and host the Pyworthy Post, Parish Council updates, Village Hall events, Church news and more.



It will also work alongside the Pyworthy Post to promote local businesses and trades, bringing Pyworthy into the digital age.

Scan the QR code opposite to see the first edition of the website where you can contact us and share ideas, photos and thoughts on the website, or visit <https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/>

‘Fins, Fur and Feathers... Wildlife Watching from My Kayak’. An evening with Rupert Kirkwood

Rupert’s talk will be held on the 28th March in Pyworthy Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm and will include:

A host of amazing aquatic creatures that he has seen whilst paddling his kayak around Devon and Cornwall.

Otters to Osprey, Seals to Sunfish, Beavers to Basking Sharks, Puffins, Dolphins and Whales.

It finishes with an amazing mini-film made by his wildlife filmmaker son Henry, featuring an unbelievable close encounter with some 10 ft long Giant Bluefin Tuna, a version of which will also be shown in the current series of “Winterwatch”.



Friday 28th March

Entry £5 per person.

Light refreshments will be available.

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

MUSIC

PYWORTHY VILLAGE HALL presents:

Let's Celebrate 40 Years

The Club Classics Band

**will be playing dance
classics from the 70's to
the present day
at Pyworthy Village Hall.**

12th April, doors open at 7.00pm.

Licensed bar.

**Tickets £10 each in advance or
£12 on door.**

Tickets available from

Marie tel: 01409 254924 or

Ngaire at: The Loft Hair Salon

tel: 07977153848.

Everybody welcome!

Saturday 12th April

Registered charity number 290013

40th Anniversary

Wild Birds & Winter

By Revd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick is a Trustee for the British Trust for Ornithology and a published Ornithologist.

Times have been hard for us recently, but nowhere near as bad as our garden and farmland birds; the extremes of weather have left many of them on the edge of survival. Even once common birds like Starlings and House Sparrows are often now red-listed as endangered. The predominance of Sparrowhawks, Kestrels and even Red Kites in and around our village is evidence of the scarcity of our smaller birds. But there is something we can do.

Feeding can be a joy and save birds that would otherwise die, but also, done in the wrong way can be disastrous. Here are a few do and don'ts...

Do

Feed regularly. Intermittent feeding over winter will form a dependency and if you then take even a short break, your precious birds may well die. If holidaying, ask a friend to feed them for you.

Put good food and feed just enough so that the food is all taken. Poor food, or over feeding will invite mice and rats. (Robins and Blackbirds love mealworms).

Clean your table or feeder. The recent crash in Greenfinch numbers was entirely due to fungus infection picked up on feeders and hoppers.

This is a big one... if you can, don't just



and Great Tits happily grab all the food but are not endangered. A handful of nuts or seeds every two or three days thrown on a field or hedge margin will do more to keep endangered birds alive than anything else you can do – but scatter the food so they find it foraging, not in piles.

Don't

Forget to wash your hands after feeding and never eat nuts meant for birds.

Be tempted to put up the same type of bird boxes in large quantities to try to add to your numbers.

Decrease feeding in rough weather, it's just when the birds need it most

Don't feed the same amount all year round, in spring and summer smaller amount is fine.

Worry if your bird population varies. This can be due to other people feeding, disease, predation (next doors cat – not birds of prey!), seasonal variation and migration. Feed them and they will come.

Finally, don't over-think feeding, have fun and enjoy the winter birds, in many ways it is the best time to see them.



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Email: carl@cblstoves.co.uk

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

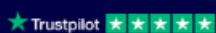


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Read online at:
[http://www.bit.ly/](http://www.bit.ly/postpy)

postpy
and view the
paper in full
colour.

(don't use a
search engine)

**SPEED
LIMIT
30**



Holsworthy Food Bank

Donations are always
welcome to help those in
need.

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

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

**THINK — DO YOU KNOW THE
CALLER IS WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE?**



**Love where
You Live**





**Please note
different
days of the
month!**

Creative Craft Club

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

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

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

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



Torridge

District Council



**Pyworthy Bin
Collections**



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

Black bag collection days are:

Friday 7th February

Friday 21st February

Recycling- Every Monday

Boxes/Bags & Food Caddy

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

Garden Waste Collection dates:

Monday 3rd February

Monday 17th February

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

BHPS
THE HEDGEHOG
CONSERVATION CHARITY



**Save your
used postage
stamps to
help our
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charity. See
page 42.**

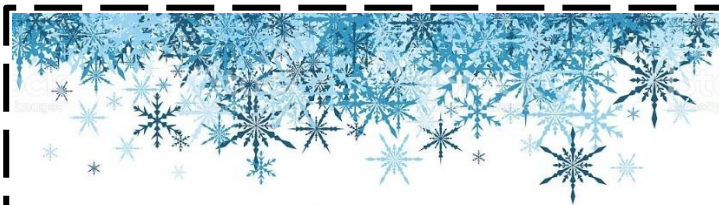
CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about crime

ActionFraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

0300 123 2040



**Dates for your diary can be
found on **page 50** this month.**

The Chinese New Year begins on 29th January 2025.

The Chinese use the Lunar Calendar, and their Zodiac contains 12 Animals beginning with THE RAT. 2025 is THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE - which is the sixth Animal in their Zodiac.

Here in the UK we use the Gregorian Calendar, along with many other countries in the West, which was decreed by Pope Gregory many years ago.

However, those born in the UK in January/ February are also a Chinese Tiger - which is the Third Animal in the Chinese Zodiac. Hence - my poem for February is about a Tiger.

Poetry Corner

TIGER LOVE

By Jean Clark of Rydon Village

If you dare to love a TIGER
He's a wild and untamed beast
A charming, raging creature
With strength and claws and teeth

In love, beware this predator
He swiftly stalks his prey
An urgent charm offensive
Then he's quickly on his way
A cruel and cunning animal
He'll pounce and take your all
Then leave you without mercy
When your body he has mauled

If you allow this pussy cat
To get inside your head
He'll take your love, your heart, your soul
And leave you there for dead

A TIGER'S charms are fleeting
His words of love are lies
He only wants your flesh and blood
No love shines from his eyes

If you try to love a TIGER
You'll get wounded in the heat
Take heed and leave him in the zoo
To chew another's meat.

Tiger Love



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Pizza evenings (check the website for the next date).

www.trigonfarm.co.uk

Call Al on Tel: 07988484069

More Useful Contact

numbers:



Holsworthy Food Bank:
Tel: 01271 377077

Holsworthy Community Fridge:
email

mtrudgill@dmatschools.org.uk

Samaritans: Tel: 116 123

Age UK: Tel: 0800 055 6112

Domestic Abuse Women's Aid:
Tel: 0808 2000 247

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

Childline: Tel: 0800 111

Domestic Abuse

Helpline



Phone:

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

More information available
online.

If in danger phone: 999



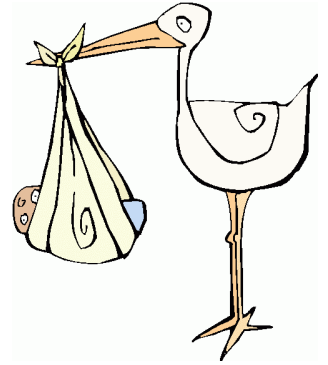


Pyworthy Poser Quiz for February 2025

Your February Poser Quiz

WHERE WERE THEY BORN?

1. Anthony Quinn, Actor:
2. Usain Bolt, Athlete Sprinter:
3. Ainsley Harriott, Chef/TV:
4. Gregory Peck, Actor:
5. Imran Khan, Cricketer & PM:
6. Peter Sellers, Actor:
7. Mo Farah, Long Distance Athlete:
8. Cliff Thorburn, Snooker player:
9. Gordon Ramsay, Chef/TV:
10. Barry Fischer, World Chess Champion:
11. King Canute, King of England:
12. Emerson Fittipaldi, F1 Racing:
13. Colin Cowdery, Cricketer:



**Last month's
answers are on page 12.
Pyworthy Pilgrim.**



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NEW VENUE

Bude

Bude Rugby Club
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5.30pm & 7.00pm

Holsworthy

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



   slimmingworld.co.uk

Pyworthy Post

Deadline

The PRINT
deadline for the
next Pyworthy
Post is: Monday
24th February
2025 at 12 noon.

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

View Pyworthy
Post online in
colour. Search:

www.bit.ly/postpy

No Dog Fouling



Bag it - Bin it

Sunrise, Sunset Times for the coming month:



WINTER

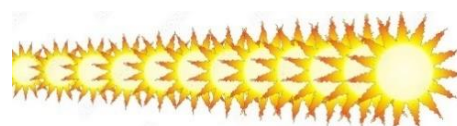


1st February 2025 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 7.49am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 17.06pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 9 hrs 16 mins.



28th February 2025 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 06.59am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 17.53pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 10 hrs 53 mins

Old Tricks may be on the increase!

By Brian Meadows of Nofix-Nofee

I received a call from an elderly gentleman recently, the issue was that when switching on his computer on all he could see was a line of text "Device not found! Press any key to restart!" But nothing happened and the message repeated as if in a loop!

I checked the disc only to find all its data had been completely wiped, everything had been deleted except for one hidden folder named MSR.

This small Microsoft Reserve folder holds a small amount of data used in discs formatted to GPT scheme. Not to bore you with technical jargon, older discs use an MBR scheme, which this computer had originally installed. Now it had formatted to GPT and in doing so had lost all its data.

So, what had caused the damage? I was reminded of a spate of Trojan infections many years ago which focused on the MSR folder causing a system to go into a loop mode and the only answer I could give was that such an infection had attacked this computer!

A sophisticated and totally useless action doing nothing more than mindless damage!

So, where had this infection come from? The only probable cause had been the last activity, which was using a Facebook account to receive birthday wishes from his group.

Social media is the single most used group of programs with worldwide access and jointly has over 7 billion

users, each user account is vulnerable to an attack from any source, with any motive, at any time! (Frightening isn't it!).

The moral here is install on your computer, Tablet and mobile phone a competent anti-virus program and be mindful and watchful for any unusual contact, no matter how attractive, funny, personal or beneficial the sender may seem. If you have not solicited the contact, or you do not know the sender, the risk of an infection or scam becomes truly very serious and possibly very expensive!

Equally, it's also foolish to think that you don't have anything of value on the internet, you don't bank or shop online all you do is watch a few videos and retrieve your emails. But with only that limited amount of activity you are exposing well over 50 facts and details about yourself which any thief can use for their own gain and possibly at your expense. Or a programmer can access your machine and use it to bounce messages to any other computer anywhere in the world. Switching your computer off when not in use is always good practice! Keep safe, think twice!



On a personal note, Osteoarthritis in my hip is making walking difficult and I am forced to restrict house visits; I continue to operate out of my workshop and can still be contacted for help and free telephone advice. Tel Brian Meadows on 01288 381061

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group



By Gill Aston

Firstly, a very belated Thank You to the volunteers at the Youth Centre who so generously hosted our Monday Walk Christmas Bring and Share lunch. We had a very festive morning with much food and laughter. It's good now to get back to our weekly walks again. Our new programme started on the 10th January and walks have been very well attended throughout. We have our Group Lunch on the 7th February 2025 when we will not be walking. In times past we had used to have lunch after the walk but, having had some wet walks, it was decided that steaming in soggy clothes wasn't too conducive to enjoyment or digestion! At this time of year gym subscriptions generally have a boost, which is good, but variety is the key to overall fitness. Working different muscles or the same muscles in a different way can be beneficial and enjoyable. Walking in a group and 'walking and talking' can take the mind away from the more physical element. When stopping to 'admire the scenery' and take a breather it can be a surprise to look back and see how much ground you have covered adding a sense of achievement.

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.



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



Highampton November 2024



Torrington Commons November 2024

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group contact details:

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

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

Phone contact numbers:

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

Our walks programme is on page 39

Holsworthy Walk & Talk group report continued from page 38....

Our FEBRUARY Programme of walks:



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

FEBRUARY Walks: Walk starting points as indicated below:

Friday 7th February – Level 2: ANNUAL WALKING GROUP LUNCH - BRADWORTHY INN. EX22 7SZ.

Level 3: - ANNUAL WALKING GROUP LUNCH - BRADWORTHY INN. EX22 7SZ.

Friday 14th February Level 2: LOWER TAMAR. Start from Lower Tamar car park. Quiet lanes, paths and gentle inclines. **LEADERS :** Michael Heryet. EX22 7LB.

Level 3: - HIGHAMPTON. Start from Windmilland Cross on A3072 between Brandis Corner and Highampton. **LEADERS:** Jacqui Shapland & Paul Davies. EX21 5JH.

Friday 21st February - Level 2: RYDON LANE. Start from car park outside Holsworthy museum. Charges apply. Mainly hard surfaces, gentle slopes. Can be muddy. **LEADERS:** Michael Heryet. EX22 6DJ.

Level 3 - BUCKLAND FILLEIGH. Start from the Village Hall car park. Lanes, tracks and fields. Some steep inclines and stiles. **LEADERS:** Gill Aston & Kim Harris. EX21 5HZ.

Friday 28th February - Level 2: HIGHAMPTON. Start from Windmilland Cross on A3072 between Brandis Corner and Highampton. Lanes, tracks and fields with inclines. **LEADERS :** Mike Jackson. EX21 5JH.

FEBRUARY walks programme continued:

Friday 28th February - Level 3: UPPER TAMAR. Start from UPPER Tamar car park. Parking charges apply. Hard level track around the lake. Can be muddy in parts after rain. **LEADERS:** Eric Boundy & Cheryl Collins. EX23 9SB.



Your support for our park is needed – see page 20!



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AT WORK: you spend the majority of your time in a 6 x 8 cubicle.

IN PRISON: you get three meals a day;

AT WORK: you only get a Break for one meal, and you pay for it!

IN PRISON: you get time off for good behaviour;

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Extra items and lamb are available from 8.00am -6.00pm Monday to Saturday when we are home.

**Please knock on the door or contact Wendy on:
07508586945.**

We are sowing seeds now, so hope to have some vegetable plants for sale in March.

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
23rd January at 7.30pm.**

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.**

**'Hope to see you all again on
Tuesday 18th February.'**

Other food available





Derril Water Solar Park Update 10....

We are pleased to provide an update on the progress of our site following the holiday break from the end of December to January. Currently, the installation of solar panels is ongoing, with the west area nearing completion. We anticipate that the overall structural work for the site will be finished by the end of this month; structural installations in the compound areas will be scheduled for later.

Now the foundation works for the substation buildings are finished, the Customer Substation is expected to arrive on-site by January 27th. Additionally, work on the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) substation is advancing well, with the masonry walls being constructed in preparation for the roof installation.



The foundations for 3 out of the 7 transformers have been completed, and the base for the 4th one is ready for concrete pouring. We are also making progress on the installation of the direct

current (DC) cables, CCTV ducts, strings, and low voltage (LV) cables. Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is currently underway to facilitate the placement of cables beneath the public road, connecting the Northern part of the site to the Southern.



The nature of the work at present, combined with the weather, has meant that more mud than we would like is getting tracked onto the roads. This has been raised with the contractors, and we are exploring ways to reduce it; thank you for bearing with us in the meantime. Remember, Derril Water Solar Park is Ripple Energy's first exciting shared solar project in the UK. Members not only benefit from the clean energy that will be generated but actually own this project.

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

DerrilWater@RippleEnergy.com.

Learn more about the project here:

<https://rippleenergy.com/our-projects/derril-water-solar-park>.

**Another
update next
month.....**



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Funeral ServicesDenise Wellington Funeral Services 01288 359277
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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
Herbalist Diana Lee, Registered Medical Herbalist 01409 254450
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Holsworthy Golf Club.....01409 253177
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Holsworthy Medical Centre 01409 253692
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
Oil Fired boilers & tanks/service & installations Greg 01409 478198
Police Non-urgent phone calls 101/email devon-cornwall.police.uk
Pyworthy Sports Club Tracey Langman 01409 254475
Pyworthy Village Hall Bookings: Marie Heard 01409 254924
Organic Farm, Trigon Farm selling fruit & veg etc phone Al on 07988484069
Renewable Energy/replacement windows Renew SW Ltd, 01409 253533
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Rubbish Removal & Light Removals Service Man with a Van - Nigel 07725564331
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**Contact Brian Meadows:
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.

Please Save your used Postage Stamps!

Used National & International stamps can be recycled.

They will be used to generate income for the

British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

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Hi! there Pyworthians,

Just a brief note to say "thanks" for all the used stamps that have been coming in to support this prickly pair through the winter. When it turns a little more mild and we get some overnight wet stuff, we'll both be out feasting on the slugs that emerge. We are both well and happy but looking forward to the next big feed-up! Keep those used stamps coming in please.

Best wishes,

Harry & Henrietta Hedgehog

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February Fun

In this life I'm a woman. In my next life I'd like to come back as a Bear.

When you're a Bear you get to hibernate. You do nothing for six months. I could deal with **that!**

Before you hibernate you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal **with that too!**

When you're a Girl Bear you give birth to your children (who are the size of walnuts) whilst you are sleeping - and then wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly little cubs. **I could definitely deal with that!**

If you're a Momma Bear everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too! **I could deal with that!!!**

If you're a Momma Bear your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling in a foul mood. He also expects you to have hairy legs and excess body fat. **He can deal with that!**

Yup!.....gonna be a Bear! Thanks go to the Pyworthy Pilgrim.

**February
2025**



Nature Notes

By Bryony Rylett

Winter occupies three months of our calendar year: December, January and February, a total of 90 days, with January 14th, the 45th day, normally marking midwinter.

In February, the predominantly overcast, wet, windy and cold days, typical of Winter, are decreasing, replaced by longer, lighter days as our Northern hemisphere tilts back towards the Sun.

This does not mean, however, that winter is done; spring still seems a long way off on days when the weather challenges our seasonal expectations.

During these spells it can seem as though there is little to cheer for us, but it is there if you are able to get out and about and take the trouble to look and listen.

Sprinkled about the drab landscape are vivid colours, little bursts of sunshine, to brighten even the most overcast day.

Nature shows its colours in the flight of a brightly plumed bird, in sunshine hued flower buds and among the rotting twigs, branches and leaves.

Each month **Nature Notes** will feature a seasonal selection of the wildlife you may see in Pyworthy.

The flora and fauna featured may never attract the attention of wildlife documentary film makers, but it is no less valid. Like most of us, it is in Pyworthy because it chooses to be.

This month **Nature Notes** focuses on three species that create a vivid splash of colour among February's predominantly brown, grey and muted green landscape.

First up is common **Gorse** (*Ulex europaeus*) otherwise known as **Furze** and **Whin**.



Common Gorse

Probably most familiar from hedges, this ubiquitous plant is easily taken for granted but shouldn't be because it is a fascinating bush perfectly adapted to our changing climate. It is drought resistant,

Continued on page 48

Nature Note – February continued from page 47.....

copest with exposure, likes full sun but types will thrive in north facing locations and adapts to most soils, though preferring sandy loams.

Evergreen gorse has very spiny, multiple stems bearing bright yellow, coconut scented, pea-like flowers from January to June providing colour in deep winter when little else is visible.

Mature specimens will reach a height and spread of 2.5 metres over a 20-25 year lifespan during which its dense, thorny mass provides cover for birds, their nests and other wildlife.

In the past, in parts of the country where it grew prolifically, furze was grown to be cut and crushed for winter fodder for horses and cattle.

Former gorse mills can still be seen in Wales and the practice gave rise to place names such as Furzebury Brake and Furzehill Common on Exmoor.

There were rules for common land about when and how much gorse could be cut; limited in some cases to as much as a person could carry on their back.

It was also widely used as fuel for heating ovens as its rapid and hot burn, leaving little ash, raised oven temperatures quickly speeding up baking times.

Combined with heather it was used to make brooms and for protecting germinating and emerging seedlings from mice and pigeons (now there's an idea).

Its alkali rich ash, mixed with clay, was made into primitive soap while householders would lay washing on furze bushes as the thorns stopped it blowing away.

The flowers can be used as a dye, in the manufacture of perfume and candles and even in gin.

On the flip side, gorse is known for its habit of spontaneous combustion; quickly burning to the ground leaving charred skeletal remains and acres of scorched coast and moorland.

Several fungi make gorse their preferred home including **Tremella mesenterica** growing on **Peniophora incarnata** that in turn grows on gorse. It also supports the larvae of the **Grey Gorse Piercer Moth**, that feasts on the seeds found inside the slim, black gorse pods, the **Gorse Tip Moth**, the **Gorse Weevil** and **Gorse Shield Bug**.

Samuel Coleridge, A. A. Milne and Thomas Hardy, amongst other writers, featured gorse in their poems and stories.

Next up...**Tremella aurantia** (not to be confused with *Tremella mesenterica*, commonly known as Witches butter).



Witches Butter

Sometimes found on gorse, although preferring dead oaks and beech, *Tremella aurantia*, commonly known as Golden Ear, **Continued on page 49**

Nature Note – February continued from page 48.....

is a yellowy-orange coloured, multi-folded, jelly fungus that appears on standing deadwood.

This example was spotted on a laid, hazel hedge near Derril.

In dry weather it loses its lustre and turns to tough, orange crusts making it more difficult to spot; not a problem in Pyworthy though as when it rains the fruiting bodies rehydrate and turn to their usual bright colour.

It is a fairly rare fungi most often seen in Southern England and Eastern Wales and occurring from Norway to Portugal.

It ranges in size from 2 to 10 cm and as a parasitic fungi will attack the *Stereum hirsutum* (Hairy Curtain Crust fungi).

Finally, this month, the superbly coloured, woodland specialist, the **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos major*) brings an elusive red, black and white flash to the bare branches of trees around the parish.



Here's some quick fire Great Spotted Woodpecker facts:

- Male GSWs have a red patch on the nape of their neck as well as under their tail.
- GSWs can be seen all year round.
- They prefer trees in mature, broadleaf woodland (sadly in decline), parks and gardens and nest in holes they have excavated.
- GSWs have a distinctive, bobbing flight and are wary of humans.
- They eat insects and larvae extracted with a sticky tongue while in the Autumn they'll eat nuts and berries and in spring sometimes the eggs of other birds.
- Juveniles GSWs have a 'cap' of red feathers.
- Good news: since the 1970s the population has increased by 300% however this is almost certainly due to the increasing number of trees afflicted by Dutch Elm Disease and Ash Dieback.
- Observed moving quickly from tree to tree, GSWs may be looking for the right 'drum' to provide the desired resonance. This is usually obtained from hard, dead tree trunks and branches but sometimes from telegraph poles and even metal poles.
- Once they find a tree with the right resonance, they may revisit multiple times.
- Individual GSWs can be identified by their signature drumming.
- GSWs drum up to 40 strikes per second to establish territory and attract a mate.
- Scientists recently concluded it is the small heads of GSWs that protect their brains from concussion since smaller animals are better able to cope with deceleration unlike human's skulls, for example.
- Finally, if walking Winscott way, you may be lucky enough to spot a GSW peeking out of its nest set high in a tree by the roadside.

**I hope you enjoyed the first in a series
of Nature Notes.**

More from Bryony next month.



Print deadline for the next edition of Pyworthy Post is:
Monday 24th February 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 38 & 39. Also, members take a short walk in Stanhope Park on Mondays.

Sunday 2nd February – Groundhog Day in USA

Monday 10th February – Evelyn's Walks group will set off at 10am from Devon Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve (Dunsdon Nature Reserve) in Pancrasweek

Tuesday 11th February - National Clean Your Computer Day

Wednesday 12th February – the first Village Show meeting of the year, 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Friday 14th February – Valentine's Day.

Tuesday 18th February – **Potter's Fish & Chip/takeaway food van** will be in the Village Hall car park, between 4.30pm & 7.00pm.

Thursday 20th February - Vernal Equinox

Forthcoming Events:

Friday 28th March – Rupert Kirkwood's talk and slide show on his kayaking adventures. More information next month.

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

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

Urgent Help Needed!

I could really use some help with delivering the bundles of Pyworthy Post papers around the area, once a month.

At the moment I need help in the Derril & Rydon Village areas.

If you could help, please email me on Pyworthy@post.com or phone Marion on Tel: 01409 478294.

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Dates for your Diary are on page 50.

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