

PYWORTHY POST



Left: the Crinacott Farm Daffodils, looking beautiful this spring.

21 Feb 2026 15:00



What's in your paper this month?

Devon CPRE report on Holsworthy Beacon Solar – project on hold.

Village Hall Curry Night this month!

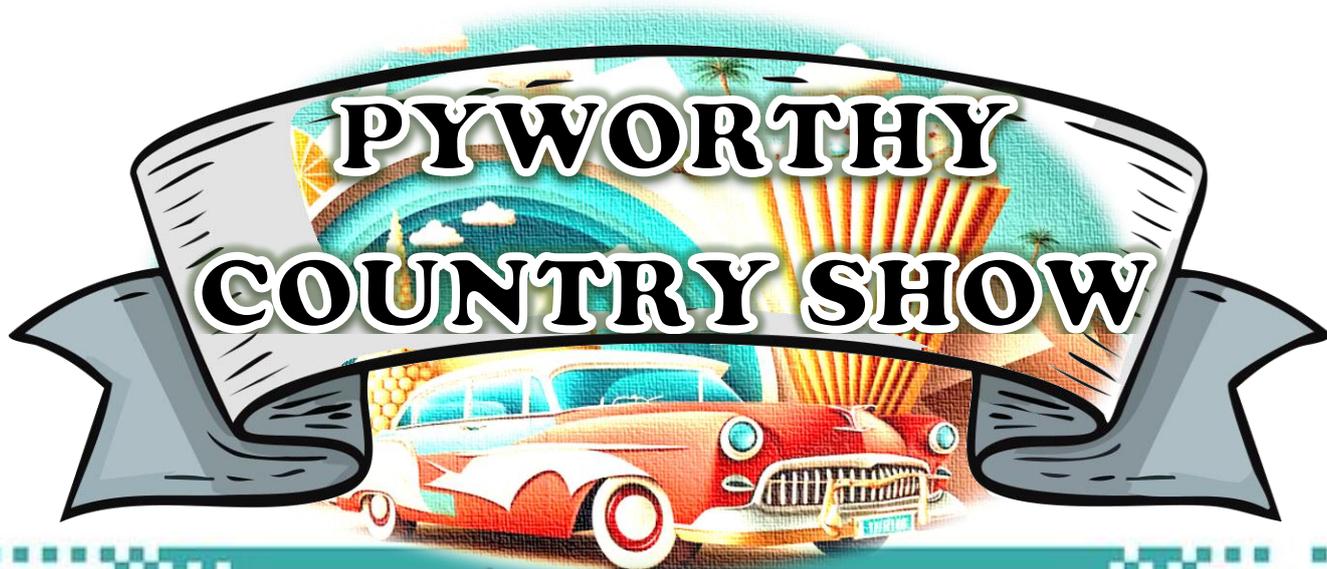
Date released for this year's Village Show.

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

Read online at:

<http://www.bit.ly/postpy> or
<https://pyworthy-parish.co.uk/>
and view the paper in full colour.

March 2026
Issue number 349



“Show with a View”

13th & 14th June 2026

**Derriton Road, Pyworthy
EX22 6JY**

Featuring:

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



**Supporting
Parkinson's Devon**

More information to follow.....

Welcome to the MARCH Edition



By Marion Ravn

The first signs of spring are all around us, and the weather should begin to warm up soon.

The highlights of the month will be the Curry and Chilli Night in the Village Hall on Friday the 20th March. On the afternoon of the 21st March Amanda is running one of her popular Children's Craft sessions. See pages 28 & 29 for details. There is advanced information about two categories of the Village Show, which will be held on Saturday 5th September this year. More information can be found on page 30. Brenda is organising a community social event on the 11th April with a line dance twist. Donations towards her chocolate themed raffle would be gratefully received. All monies raised will be donated to the Pyworthy Post. There are many interesting reports and articles in our community paper this month for you to enjoy.

A big thank you once again to all those people who make the paper possible every month. A real team effort.

Until next month. Keep safe and well.

Please keep the news & reports coming in.



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CHURCH NEWS



By Liffy Lowes, on behalf of St. Swithun's Church

Quickly looking at the last Post news I wrote, back in November, I blithely said what good weather we'd been having. That must have been the last decent spell. As I write this, it's a most dreary day, drizzling and not particularly mild as they said it would be. Still, it will get better. I think.

Never mind, I do have a reasonable amount of news to give you. Not all of it good. It started off so well with the Christening of twin babies, a boy and a girl, Edward and Evie, who were so lovely and just the right age to look around to see what was going on. I hope that maybe they will come along to our Family services in future and help to swell the numbers a little. Unfortunately, that's where the good news stops really. The following weekend you may remember that over large parts of Cornwall and Devon a huge amount of rain fell; South Devon and Cornwall were hardest hit but we certainly had our fair share. I walked into church on the Saturday morning to the sound of multiple drips and pools of water in the tower and down by the chancel steps. I've never seen so much water in the church and hope I never will again! The carpet underlay and the tower are still extremely wet; we think much work will be needed on both the inside and outside of the building.

The PCC has decided that as so much work needs to be done, we ought to

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 4

to go for a grant to cover everything. A great amount of work needs doing in the tower and on the outside of the building. A large grant seems sensible, but to go for one of these (such as one from English Heritage), we need to be seen to raise at least some of the money ourselves, which I think is quite reasonable. So, the church will be starting on a large campaign to raise money. **I have decided that I shall be abseiling down one of the cliffs at Hartland on May 6th, so I'll be coming among you looking for sponsor money. Please be generous.** Before I leave this subject, there are one or two people I would like to thank for their efforts in cleaning up the mess. There are all the people who came into church on the Saturday morning (and probably wished they hadn't!) and stayed to help clear up; there was John Weighell who brought up his Charlie vacuum cleaner to suck up water, and on the Monday morning, Julian Lapham, who cleared out all the drains and gutters. I am sure there are others, my memory fails me at present, but to everyone who turned up and helped, thank you. We are now into the Lent season, the six weeks leading up to Easter, a time which becomes so sad and then so happy. The children have a craft class on **Saturday March 21st at 2.00pm** in the village hall (see page 28 for more information), so please kiddies, come along, your crafty things will be decorating the church over Easter which this year falls on the first Sunday in April, the 5th. The service will be at 3.00pm so that hopefully many of you will be able to attend. There will be crafty things for children to do plus an Easter Egg Hunt. In a more solemn tone, on **continued on page 5....**

St. Swithun's News continued from page 4...

Good Friday we are holding a short service at 2.00pm, The Last Hour, a reflective service to remember Christ's suffering and death on the cross. Please try to come, it is such a moving and thought-provoking service.

Although the weather may not be to everyone's liking, I see that an awful lot of spring flowers have come out early this year. There are just so many snowdrops, far more than last year; primroses and daffodils are coming on

a treat. I suppose it shows that the winter has not been a cold one, though I for one have doubts about that! I just hope that summer will be with us before too long and we can at last be able to enjoy some longed-for sunshine!

There remains little more for me to say, other than amongst all the Easter eggs, bunnies and lambs, perhaps we could remember the joy of those people on Easter morning as they find their risen Lord, having thought him lost to them forever.



United Benefice of Holsworthy

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

Benefice Services for March

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

Worship and Prayer in the Holsworthy Benefice – MARCH 2026				
Date	Bridgerule	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Hollacombe
Sunday 1 st March	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th March	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	3.00pm Evensong
Sunday 15 th March Mother's Day		11.00am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd March	11.00am All Age Sung Eucharist	11.00am 	9.30am Morning Prayer	-
9.30am – Pancrasweek – All Age Service				
Sunday 29 th March Palm Sunday	11.00am Palm Sunday Service	9.30am Palm Sunday Service	9.30am Palm Sunday Service Morning Prayer	9.30am Palm Sunday Service

Pyworthy Village Hall News

Martin Brennan, Chairman

Village Hall Annual General Meeting

**This year our AGM will be held on
Wednesday 22nd April 2026!**

The Village Hall sits at the heart of our community. Over the past year, it has hosted clubs, celebrations, meetings, and events that bring people together of all ages. It is a shared space that belongs to us all, helping to strengthen community spirit and provide opportunities to connect, learn, and enjoy village life.

The AGM is an important opportunity to:

- Reflect on the past year and the role the Hall has played in village life
- Share plans and ideas for the year ahead
- Ensure the Hall continues to meet the needs of our community

As we look forward to the coming year, we would really value **your support**. Whether through attending events, sharing ideas, volunteering a little time, or helping in other practical ways, every contribution—large or small—helps keep the Village Hall active, welcoming, and sustainable.

Everyone is welcome, and we would love to see new faces as well as familiar ones. Your views and involvement truly make a difference. If you care about the future of the Village Hall and the community it serves, please do come along.

Prior to the meeting: -

Nominations are invited for the following positions: -

**Chairman,
Secretary,
Treasurer,**

Please forward all nominations to Janet Grant

via email: - artyjan43@gmail.com

Or complete the **nomination form on page 19**.

And drop it through the Village Hall letterbox by no later than Monday 20th April.

Many Thanks and we look forward to seeing you all.!!!

Dates for your Diary



Village Hall Meeting

Our next meeting will be the AGM.

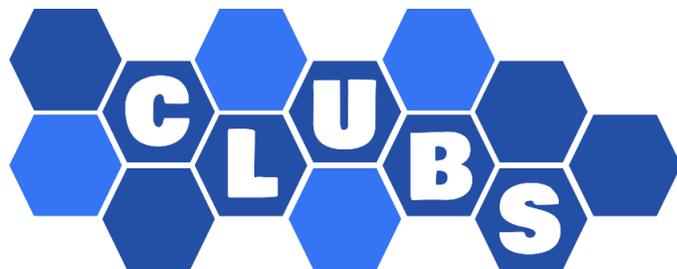
**Wednesday 22nd April
2026 starting at 7.30.**

**Please feel welcome to
join us.**

AGM

Annual General Meeting

**Everyone is welcome.
Stay informed and get involved.**



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

Village Hall Pub Nights!



This month our Social Evenings are:

Fridays 20th & 27th March

Still not too **Late to Order Your Curry**. Come along on **Friday 20th** and enjoy a sociable evening with delicious curry, refreshments from the bar, and good company in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Friends and family are most welcome.

To order please see details on page 29.

Don't forget to come along and join us for Beer or whatever takes your fancy and perhaps have a go at our next '**Play Your Cards Right**' - sessions are still on going. Why not come and join us for a friendly chat and a drink. Who Knows It could Be your Lucky Night!!

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

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

Mondays: Line Dancing Club:

Complete Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm

Beginners/Improvers,

6.30pm – 7.30pm

Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Rural Art Group,

2.30pm – 4.30pm.

Tuesdays: Line Dancing Club,

Intermediate, 7.30pm -9.30pm.

Tuesday evenings: Men's Skittles

Team. Playing at home & away.

Wednesdays: Beginners Ballroom

dancing & Latin class, including Sequence dancing 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

Thursdays: Gill's Golden Gang,

10.00am – 11.00am.

Thursdays: Coffee Mornings –

1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month.

Starting at 11.10am. Everybody welcome!

Thursdays: Creative Craft Club –

2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

See page 33 for easyfundraising. How you can help our Village Hall, while you shop online.

WHO'S CELEBRATING

THIS MONTH?

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

- 1st Reece Phillips
3rd Kirsty Rubery
4th Bradley Glessing, Grace Ross
6th Millie Palmer, Samuel Richardson
9th Alex Marsh
10th Faye Piercey, Pat Godfrey
11th Curtis Fairbrass
12th Chris Hopper, Ian Edwards
14th Chris Durant, Luke Bowden, Charlie Greenaway
16th Wendy Ward
19th Gary Burnard
20th Rob Moore
22nd Arthur Burnard, Pat Whitaker
24th Harriet Oliver, Thomas Rose, Jackie Moores,
Terry Godfrey, Emma Francis
26th Gerald Gulliver, Callum Lock
27th Angela Markus
29th Sarah Foote
30th Louis Durant
31st Marie Heard, Ross Daniel, Harry Lawman



SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS AND FAMILY OCCASIONS

Community Birthday list

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

Happy 21st
Birthday Harry
on the 31st March!



**Watching you grow into the wonderful man you are
today has been the greatest gift. We are so proud to be
your Mum and Dad and are always here to support you.**

Enjoy your celebrations from all the family! xxx

Join

Gill's Golden Gang

Strength & Balance Exercise Class

for the over 55's!

Held at:

Thursdays.

Pyworthy Village Hall

10.00am to 11.00am.

Halwill Baptist Chapel Hall

12.45pm to 1.45pm.

Contact Gill Aston on: 07854677784
for more information.

Coffee Morning



VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING GROUP

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

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

For more information phone:

Brenda on: 01409 253015 or

Marie on: 01409 254924.

Now held in the main Village Hall.



**NEW MEMBERS ARE
VERY WELCOME!**

My Electricity Industry Recollections

Episode 14

I say Farewell to Kingsnorth the Jinxed Power Station

By Mike Godfrey



There were so many faults of note at Kingsnorth it would probably take well over a 100 pages to explain them all. So, I will explain a few more and then just list some of the more notable ones. I should perhaps also mention although in most of the stories that I have related, I found myself on my own and the immediate outcome was down to me, there were many occasions when I was working as part of team. The calibre of the staff and the comradeship that existed was the key to keeping the plant operational when the odds were very much stacked against us. Looking back on it, the scale and the frequency of the problems would have broken most teams but somehow, we took it on and eventually won the battle.

I found a statement from a press release issued around the time of the official opening of the Power Station, which read "In its early years of operation Kingsnorth Power Station presented a constant challenge to its Operation and Maintenance Teams and the successes achieved relied heavily on the calibre of its Staff." This perhaps sums it better than I have above, as we struggled with poor specification of materials, inadequate design features and only extensive in-house testing and design modifications and replacement of some major items of plant, such as the 500,000kW Generators, enabled the plant to operate more reliably. In short, the

place was engineered beyond the technological knowledge of the day and beyond the capability of many of the available materials.

Here is another story about a DC link. These are now commonplace today, for example power is supplied in either direction between the UK and France; Norway; Denmark about 8 or so other links in total. Prior to these being built the CEGB decided to build an experimental link between Kingsnorth, Croydon in south London and Acton in north west London. As if we hadn't got enough on our plate already. It was designed to link to the output of number 3 Generator and the Main Grid supply by a switching arrangement at 400,000 volts. Once the commissioning and main and secondary circuit testing completed, the time came to connect it all together. I was stationed outside by the connecting switches and Generator output transformer. The Control Room Engineer checked his Synchroscope to ensure all parts of the system lined up, so he thought, and closed the last switch and there was the most enormous explosion. The bushings (insulators) in the Generator Transformer launched high into the air, right in front of me and the oil from the transformer was on fire. Inside the

continued on page 11...

I say Farewell to Kingsnorth the Jinxed Power Station continued....

turbo-generator building No 3 Generator lay in ruins, it was truly a scene of devastation. I was put in charge of "dealing" with the Generator and it took over a week to cut open the outer pressure casing to reveal the colossal damage inside. The windings were bent beyond belief; the forces involved were just unimaginable. Yet another Generator and Transformer written off at a cost of £2m and it took best part of 6 months to replace it and recommission it all. This time successfully. It was certainly not easy to lift the wreckage of a 350 tonne Generator out of its bed and even more difficult to fit a new one of a different design back in and re-thread the 18-tonne rotor and realign it all to the million-horsepower steam turbine within a few thousandths of an inch (about 0.1mm). The total cost of that job was £160m (about £1.7billion in today's money, taking the cost of replacing the generator with much less efficient plant during its rebuild). Again, we were up against very tight time constraints to get the machine operational for the autumn and winter load demands. Oh, and this very unfortunate incident was caused by a mistake in the secondary wiring of the two circuits to be joined together. Two wires were crossed making the circuit voltages exactly opposite to the way that they should have been, that was 180 degrees opposite to what it should have been, when the switch was closed.

I still to this day cannot believe how I dealt with next incident which occurred. I was walking along the turbine hall when I spotted a fire

underneath No 2 Turbine. The seat of the fire was about 40-50 foot in the air, with the only access being the two pipes, which ran from the gantry where I was standing to close by the fire under the turbine. I grabbed two dry powder extinguishers, climbed over the handrail and walked out with an extinguisher on each shoulder balancing with one foot on each pipe and a long drop down into the basement. I fought the fire and successfully put it out without breaking my neck. I'm afraid that now I would have difficulty just picking up one extinguisher, let alone get it on to my shoulder. As for balancing along the pipes, I have trouble just balancing without adding height and pipework into the equation. My quick intervention prevented a really serious situation developing causing considerable damage and probably taking the machine out of service with a replacement cost of a £1m a day, (£11m in today's money). As it was it just carried on and didn't even drop load.

The Power Station had numerous lifts serving all parts of the buildings including the Boiler House, which was about 300 foot high. However, there was one lift that ran inside the chimney at a height of around 650 feet. It couldn't be like a normal lift because it was not possible to accommodate multiple lengths of 650-foot steel cabling to take the lift to the top of the chimney. Instead, it had a number of continuous loop lengths of steel rope approx. 1300 foot in length, with a pulley wheel at the top and a drive pulley at the bottom. To work safely the rope loop had to be tensioned in order to grip **continued on page 12...**

I say Farewell to Kingsnorth the Jinxed Power Station continued....

the drive pulley, just like a car fan belt. The lift had severe weight restrictions on it and was for personnel only, to avoid putting unnecessary strain on the machinery and the ropes. One morning we were informed that the lift had lost traction and had dropped several hundred feet to the basement and had hit the safety springs. When we got there, we found 3 or 4 Contractors in need of medical attention, and they were duly conveyed to hospital. We set about investigating what had caused the fault but could find nothing wrong despite extensive testing. So, we turned to the Station grapevine to widen the investigation, piecing together bits of evidence and eventually exposed the truth. The Contractors had loaded a considerable amount of scaffolding in the lift, rather than carry it up the stairs. When it crashed to the bottom, other Contractors quickly removed the scaffolding, leaving just their dazed and battered colleagues inside for us to find.

To finish off my stories which occurred during my time at Kingsnorth here are a few more lighthearted tales, just



to prove it wasn't all trouble and strife.

It was late on a Friday afternoon, and we were notified of a fault on the Oil Jetty some 3 miles away. Me and another Engineer called Robin, were the only electrical maintenance staff still there and we looked around for some transport and found an electric truck. We got our test gear and set off but soon discovered that the battery was flat as the vehicle slowed to less than walking pace. I got out and started walking just to prove the point, but Robin insisted that we carry on in the truck. I remembered seeing a bike back at the workshops and went back for it. What I hadn't noticed was that it only had one pedal. In the absence of anything else it would have to do. Have you ever tried to ride a bike with one pedal whilst balancing tools and test gear on the handlebars – it is not easy. Nevertheless, I got into a rhythm pushing the pedal down with my right foot and then hooking it back up with the top of my right foot and I soon had Robin and the truck in my sights. I soon caught up with him and by this time he was probably doing less than 1 mph. I offered him a crossbar, but he declined. I carried on and soon arrived at the jetty, found and fixed the fault and set off back, only to find Robin about halfway still determined to get to the jetty. I let him know that I had fixed the **continued on page 13...**

I say Farewell to Kingsnorth the Jinxed Power Station continued....

fault and again offered him the use of my crossbar which he again declined. He turned the truck around and arrived back sometime later with the truck moving very close to a snail's pace. Every time I think of this story I have to laugh to myself, considering that we were in a multimillion pound Power plant at the forefront of electrical technology and I was reduced to solving a fault that stopped oil flowing to the plant on a bike with one pedal and poor old Robin nearly fell by the wayside with exposure.

During my time at Kingsnorth there was a 24hr strike by the manual operational and maintenance staff and so we Engineers had to try and keep the plant running. Each Engineer was allocated an area of plant responsibility; I and a junior Engineer were nominated to look after the coal plant and other outside pumps etc. We were allocated a minivan to get around the site. We also had to drive the scrapers and bulldozers to continually to keep the boiler coal bunkers topped up. In between times we had to drive around the site to check all the pumps were working correctly and de-watering the basement, which were several metres below sea level. We got in the van, and I turned the ignition key to the start position but nothing, so I said to my junior colleague you'll have to get out and give me a push to bump start the motor, which he dutifully did. This procedure was repeated about every 2 hours throughout the day, and it got to about 22.00 hours, 2 hours away from the manual staff returning to their

duties, and for some reason I looked down by the handbrake and saw this black button. Wondering what it was, I pressed it and the starter motor sprung into life. I was pleasantly surprised, but my colleague wasn't too happy, having pushed me for several miles around the site trying to get the van to start.

Although there are more stories, I think it is time to draw a line under my life at Kingsnorth, when I was hardly ever home. I would at this juncture like to pay tribute to my wife Linda for keeping the house running well in my prolonged absence (for many periods I only come home to sleep) and to my children Nigel and Rachel who didn't get the attention from me that they should have had. Below is a list of major plant problems which I was involved with or happened during my time there, to give you some appreciation of what were up against during the first 10 years of the Power Stations life.

Main Generator Rotors winding faults; field switch fires; Main Generator rewinds and installing new Generators on all 4 Units; Unit 4 run up as a motor shutting down most of the Station; Major oil fire on Unit 4, a member of staff suffer burns; A young mechanical fitter was killed working on a turbine; Unit 2 Generator hydrogen fault released a large amount of hydrogen which could have exploded; Degradation of the Main Generator Transformer windings, requiring unload treatment; replacement of all the Coaling Cranes; Feed Pump excessive wear problems; Gas Turbine starting issues; Excessive Turbine rotor blade erosion; Turbine over speed protection **continued on page 14...**

I say Farewell to Kingsnorth the Jinxed Power Station continued....

issues and so it goes on with a list of design and materials faults 8 pages long that had to be overcome one way or another to keep Kingsnorth generating electricity.

After nearly 10 years of constant pressure to achieve, I left Kingsnorth Power Station to take on the unknowns of a new oil-fired Power Station, being built alongside the Dartford Thames Crossing. Having endured 10 years of major issues I was to be pleasantly surprised as it seemed that technology and materials had at last caught up with large scale electrical power production.



Potters Fish n Things

Just to let you all know that Olly will be at the Hall on the **Third Tuesday of each month this year**. The first evening of 2026, will be **Tuesday 17th March**.

For further details see page 44.



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

Curry & Chilli Night/Pub Night

Friday 20th March

We're excited to invite you all to a **Curry Night** here at the Hall. Come along for a warm evening of delicious food and great company. Feel free to bring Friends and Family!!!

Please see page 29 for further details.



Please order by the 13th March!

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.

The Church is open daily.



Evelyn's Walks Update

By Evelyn Sharman,
Group Organiser



On Monday 9th February, we met at Devon Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserve at Dunsdon in Pancrasweek. It isn't the easiest place to find and it was a bit soft underfoot after all the rain that we have had so well done to everybody who found the car park and for not getting stuck. We set off promptly as we normally do but with the weather forecast very much in mind, threatening more rain at midday. We didn't venture through the actual Nature Reserve but walked back to the entrance of the car park and turned right along the lane. It was very grey and overcast so we couldn't enjoy the far-reaching views of Bodmin. However, we could still admire St. Pancras Church in the distance. Whether you love or hate wind turbines, the one at Thorne Farm was equally as visible and we have to remind ourselves that it generates lots of money for various community groups in the parishes of Pancrasweek, Pyworthy and Holsworthy Hamlets through Devon Community Foundation. At the point where the lane bared left at Lishaperhill Cross, we turned right and then joined the footpath on the right. This is a lovely level walk along the Bude Aqueduct, the feeder arm of the Bude Canal. We were effectively walking inland towards Lower Tamar Lake but only walked as far as Puckland Farm. It was a bit sticky underfoot but not really muddy which is amazing given how much rain we have had. Credit must



Above: Evelyn's happy band of walkers braving the weather at the Devon Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserve at Dunsdon in Pancrasweek.

go to the volunteers associated with the Bude Canal Trust who do their utmost to keep the route accessible. When we reached the gate at Puckland, we rejoined the lane and turned right. By turning right at the T-junction and right again at Dunsdon Cross, we completed a very nice circular walk of approx. 3.5 miles. Given how mild it has been, we were surprised not to have seen more spring flowers though we did see a few Snowdrops, a Primrose and a Camelia was in bloom. The weather forecast was pretty accurate as it started to rain just as we returned to our cars. Great timing!

The next walk will be on Monday 9th March. We'll be setting off from Thornbury Holiday Park in Woodacott, EX22 7BT at 10am. Everyone is most welcome to join me.

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

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

Take part this summer in the Scarecrow Trail

the Scarecrow Trail



Pyworthy Village Hall are organising a Parish Scarecrow Trail to run from 22nd August to 5th September 2026.

We would love to see scarecrows taking residence in Pyworthy, Derril and Derriton.

Please email angelaskinner27@hotmail.co.uk by **31st July** with your name and address if you would like to take part so that a route can be planned through the Parish.

Alternatively, drop a note or the form below into Pennikwik, Derriton Road, Pyworthy with your details.



N.B. Your name will remain confidential and not publicised.

The Village Show will be held on Saturday 5th September this year – more information can be found on page 30.

See what the classes are in the Photographic and Handicraft categories are this year.



Scarecrow Entry Form

Drop into Pennikwik, Derriton Road, Pyworthy.

Closing date – 31st July 2026.

I/we would like to enter to Scarecrow Trail this summer.

Please print name:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

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.



FEBRUARY'S PYWORTHY POSER QUIZ

ANSWERS:

1. 1847 - Fry's Chocolate Cream.
2. Candy Corn; Smarties; Gummy Bears; Jellybeans; Airheads.
3. White chocolate.
4. Sticky candies, e.g. Gummy Bears.
5. Dark chocolate (low sugar content) & Sugar-free gum (helps saliva flow).
6. Hogmany (oops, the question should have read time).
7. Pigs in Blankets!
8. 3-3-3: 3 months, 3 weeks & 3 days.
9. A pig.
10. Yes, and highly so.
11. Bottle Nose Dolphin.
12. 1. Border Collie; 2. German Shepherd; 3. Poodle.

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

Good luck from your Pyworthy Pilgrim.



Name: Andrew Foxcroft

Age: 59



Andrew Foxcroft

Occupation: Landlord of The Molesworth Arms, Pyworthy. Previously worked for 37 years, with international companies, as an IT and cyber security specialist; work that took him around the world. Gained hospitality experience working with his uncle who was in the pub business. "I have always had a passion for making food. We intend to serve bistro style food at the Molesworth Arms, offering a small menu of food we like to cook and eat; there will be a story around each dish".

Place of Birth: Lancashire. Lived in various places; most recently in Windsor for 20 years, before moving to Sutcombe last year then, in late 2025, moving to Pyworthy with family: wife, Lee, daughter Madison and son Mackenzie to run the Molesworth Arms.

What is the best thing about Pyworthy and why?

The quiet roads, countryside views and the people. Everybody we've met, so far, has been really friendly and we have felt included by people.

What one thing would you change about Pyworthy and why?

It would be good if there was a community training session on how to use the defibrillator. *

Describe yourself in 3 words: Purpose-driven, grounded, facilitator.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Both Lee and I are active people; we love the outdoors. Last year I completed three triathlons. We like doing a variety of different things: running, cycling, swimming, paddle boarding. We moved to Devon for the lifestyle.

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

I started to learn to play the guitar. I would love to be able to do that and kayaking.

Community
Focus



Thanks go to Bryony Rylett for your research.

Continued over page

Pyworthy People continued from page 18

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

Emperor Marcus Aurelius, a stoic philosopher. I would love to spend some time talking to him.

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

I would use the money to set something up, a centralized service helping people into work and empowering them to achieve, using my knowledge and experience.

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

1. Optimal health and wellbeing
2. Inner and outer happiness
3. Unlimited wealth to achieve the previous.

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

1. The family and our two dogs
2. My mobile phone
3. My car keys

The Village Hall Committee Nomination Form can be found below.

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

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

Thank you. Martin Brennan, Chairman.

Pyworthy Village Hall Committee Nomination Form – see page 5.

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

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

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

Signed: Dated:

Please print name:

Address

Men's Skittles



Men's Skittles!

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

Andrew on 07531186466 or 01409 253509.

Training will be given!

Holsworthy History Society

Holsworthy History Society starts the 2026 programme on Thursday 12th March @ 7.00pm in The Manor Suite, Holsworthy with a Talk by Mr Mark Shepherd on The History of Vet Practices.

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

For more information about the History Society contact:

holsworthyhistorysociety@gmail.com

Margaret Stacey



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Glebe House Cottages, Bridgerule

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

10% discount for friends & families of local residents.



Party Venue

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

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



GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT



By Mike Godfrey, keen gardener

In the 20+ years we have lived down here, this has got to be the worst winter for rain. Not only has it been raining virtually every day, on many days we have experienced some very heavy rainfall. My rain records indicate that apart from a brief dry spell after Christmas we have had rain every day at Crinacott since the middle of last October. Over the last few months the continuous daily rain has averaged around 12mm (1/2 inch) per day, on some days the rainfall has exceeded well over 25mm (1 inch). Although we have experienced higher winds where we lived in Kent (125 mph), the gales this year have certainly tested our numerous building structures and polytunnels on the farm. Some days with the combination of wind and rain, it felt like the end of the world was coming. At least we haven't had much snow and the frosts have been pretty minimal, but I better not speak too soon. Despite the atrocious weather we are seeing the first signs of spring with snowdrops, daffodils, grape hyacinths, crocuses, primroses and primulas all coming into flower and of course public enemy's plants brambles and stinging nettles are all starting to show new leaf growth. The ground here has gone passed being mud and is now a slurry which just sucks you down. The animals all want to be out but on the odd occasion we let them out, they come back plastered in mud. Despite the bad weather we don't seem to have suffered too much damage.

However, I was looking back to this time last year and noted that I was out at about midnight battling a storm, which was just about to rip the roof off one of our large sheds. I managed to fix it down with some 5 metre long 6x2 timbers as a temporary repair. I am sorry to say that those timbers are still in place and have weathered the recent storms. I really must get round to doing a proper fix. Another extra day a week and maybe 30 hour days should remedy the situation. I also noted at this time last year, that a previous temporary fix on the same shed roof had lasted over 10 years, so perhaps this temporary fix has got a few more years to run yet!



Above: temporary shed repair – good for another 10 years!

Although we haven't been blighted by too many frosts yet, it is definitely not too late and we need to remain attentive and **continued on page 22**

GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT
continued from page 21.....

vigilant for the possibility of frosts, it only takes one night to set things back or indeed kill delicate plants off. We need to be on our guard right through March and April and probably right into May. I have known a frost on the 31st May in Kent. I have got my vegetable seeds, my plug wildflower plants on order, my seed potatoes and onion sets. I shall chit my potatoes shortly and pot up my onions in the polytunnel to give them a head start. I have sown Wilja potatoes for probably the last 50 years or so. They always produce lovely waxy potatoes from September right through to March/April the following year. Once lifted they still store pretty well in a dry frost-free shed for another few months. I plant them in one of my Polytunnels so that I can control the amount of moisture in the ground. It makes a brilliant winter store. I also do the same with carrots and parsnips.

I am still determined to try "no dig" vegetable gardening this year, as I didn't get too far with-it last year. I am hoping it will save me some time and energy but the more I look into it, what seems simple in principle, in practice is not quite so straightforward and does rely on preparing things at the right time of the year. I may have already missed the boat and unfortunately, I don't have very much time during the daylight hours for about the next 3-4 months, because of other major work projects but I do have a plan to get some advice and help this year. Despite all difficulties there seems to be a lot of merit in not disturbing the soil structure or the weed seeds too much. I have got a number of loads of

green compost being delivered shortly as well as a considerable pile of very well-rotted horse manure, which I should have spread liberally over the designated vegetable areas to add nutrients to the soil as well as help to smother any potential weeds late last autumn. However, I can't get at the latter at the moment because the ground is still well beyond too wet!!

I am still set on a course improve my wildlife areas and ponds this year, but time just seems to fly by, so I am not sure how far I will get but as usual I will do my best. I have just started to sow my wildflower seeds in the polytunnel now there is a chance for things to warm up a bit. I won't plant them out until late May. I will really try to make more time for my "re-wilding" projects because the sustainability of our wildlife and their habitat is becoming more important, particularly as it will ultimately affect us humans. I did say this last year but didn't get too far, I am hoping for more assistance and guidance this time around.

You might think with a small garden, what can I do to help restore matters and ideally a 25 acre plot is what gives "re-wilding" perhaps its best chance to get established but all these small gardens when joined together with little access routes for hedgehogs and amphibians etc can soon have the same effect as the larger plot of land. A sure way to encourage wildlife is to build a pond. A pond will welcome all sorts of creatures to your garden; I hope my pond development work will be a bit more successful this year. I have two hedgehogs overwintering with me. I feed them twice a day and they have put on a lot of weight, so should be

continued on page 23

GARDENING MATTERS from CRINACOTT
continued from page 22.....

should be ready for release in the spring but not until the ground dries up considerably.

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

- Clean pots and trays
- Clean greenhouses, polytunnels and cold frames
- If you have winter crops such as Brussels, Kale, Cabbage, Parsnips, Swedes etc harvest them regularly before the warmer spring days causes them to bolt.
- Select and buy your seeds
- Plant onion sets and shallots
- Sow Tomatoes for Greenhouse or Polytunnel crops
- Sow peas in pots
- Chit seed potatoes in egg containers or similar for chitting
- Prune shrub roses, apple and pear trees
- Mulch your border plants and trees to help keep the moisture in the ground.
- If you have peaches, apricots or nectarines use a fleece to protect the buds and blossom from any frosts
- Cut back autumn fruiting raspberries
- Move shrubs that are in the wrong position or are not doing well where they are
- Cut back late flowering clematis and trim winter flowering immediately after blooming
- Revitalise ornamental climbers such as honeysuckle by cutting back to about 2-3 inches from the ground
- Avoid walking on the garden soil and lawns until they dry out a bit

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01 409 478294 Page 23

- Clean gutters and drainage gulleys
- Clean pathways and patios of moss and other debris, as these can become very slippery and quite dangerous, particularly if wooden decking is involved
- Feed the birds and other wildlife such as hedgehogs
- Look out for and look after hibernating wildlife.



Above: Crocus and Grape Hyacinths
flowering on Crinacott Farm



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

Plans put on hold for one of the UK's largest solar arrays on prime Devon farmland

Devon CPRE, the only local charity that campaigns to protect Devon's countryside from inappropriate development, has cautiously welcomed news that the company behind plans for the Beacon Solar project, near Holsworthy, has withdrawn from the Planning Inspectorate's pre-application service and placed consultation on hold.

The project update has been published on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110024>

Last October Devon CPRE held a packed public meeting at Holsworthy Memorial Hall and set up an online petition to oppose the development, then in the pre-application stage. The charity warned residents that the giant solar farm - which would be one of the largest arrays in the UK and Europe, covering 2,700 acres of prime farmland in Northwest Devon - must be headed off at the pass. Because of its size, with a capacity of over 100MW, the Beacon Solar project would count as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and would be decided by the government alone. The only input from the local planning authority and the six parish councils who represent local communities would be as consultees.

Torrige and Tavistock MP Sir Geoffrey Cox and the Stop Beacon Solar residents' group attended the meeting and added their voices to the opposition campaign.

To date, the online petition 'Say No to Beacon Solar' devoncpre.org.uk has received 4,399 signatures.

Commenting on the published update, Devon CPRE Chairman Steve Crowther said, "We are pleased to see that Beacon Solar have withdrawn their application for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project – a gigantic 2,700-acre solar farm which would produce no energy for more than a decade – across the landscape at Holsworthy.

"We hope that they have noted the reaction from thousands of residents of the area and members of the wider public who cherish this landscape; and will now redirect their investment into brownfield or rooftop renewable energy projects.

investment into brownfield or rooftop renewable energy projects.

"If all the developers now eyeing up our green fields would do that, we could exceed the government's solar targets for 2050 without ruining landscapes and taking millions of pounds worth of food production out of our economy. We will watch very closely what this developer – a Swiss-based group **continued on page 25**

Devon CPRE report continued from page 22...

with many fingers in the renewables pie – does next. And we will be ready and waiting if they come this way again.

"In the meantime, we urge Devonians to keep signing and circulating our petition, at devoncpre.org.uk, to help us defend Devon's unique landscape assets from mega-solar speculators."

By Media contact, Sharon Goble

Photos of the public meeting against the Beacon Solar Development on the 31st October 2025 in Holsworthy (all photos by Sharon Goble)



EVELYN SHARMAN

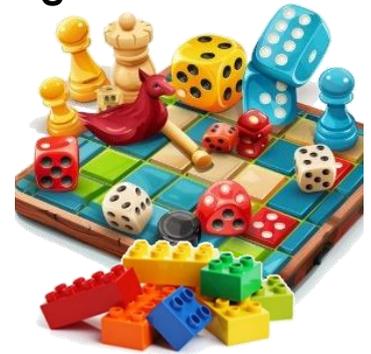
Professional Driving Tuition (DVSA ADI)

Telephone: 01409 259848

Mobile: 07885 352 082

Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

WHAT'S ON AT HOLSWORTHY LIBRARY – MARCH 2026



- **Bounce & Rhyme**, Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th – 2:15pm-2:45pm . Songs and stories for children 0-4 years old.
- Visit the library on **World Book Day**, Thursday 5th. Drop in craft activities: make a bookmark or your own comic and borrow a brilliant book or two! Don't forget that our Costume Swap rail is available in the run up to WBD!
- **Story-Kind**, Saturday 14th – 2pm. Led by professional storyteller Sara Hurley, this workshop offers a warm, welcoming space to pause, reflect, and imagine a kinder tomorrow. Suitable for anyone aged 12 and up. Book your place via Ticket Source.
- **Big Seed Swap and Giveaway**, Saturday 14th – 10:30am-1pm.
- **Gardening Cuppa and Chat**, Wednesday 18th March – 2pm-3pm. A monthly meeting to talk all things gardening. Everyone welcome – experienced gardeners eager to share seasoned successes and newbies after some helpful hints.
- Lloyds Bank Community Banking, every other Monday 2-4.
By appointment only – call 02077143681 to book direct with Lloyds.
- **Self Service Baby Weigh**. Every Thursday 1pm-4pm.
- **Lego and games** for children. Every Saturday – 10am-12pm

Free hot drinks available during opening hours.

Most events are free or low cost but donations always welcome.

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



Library News!

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





Shapland Accountancy

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

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Email Us: admin@shaplandaccountancy.co.uk



Bude Jazz Club

The Falcon Hotel, Bude.
EX23 8SD

Forthcoming Event this month.

Sunday evening -

7.30pm – 10.00pm.

1st March - Jazz and Boogie Band

29th March - Wriggle Valley

Jazz Band

Members £10, Visitors £14

Annual membership only £20



Bude Jazz

www.budejazzclub.co.uk

email: budejazzclub@gmail.com

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- Door-to-door service for all ages
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Call
01409 259001

office@holsworthy ruraltransport.co.uk

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



**The 10th
Pyworthy
Village Show will be
held on Saturday
5th September 2026.**

**Read more about
it on page 30.**



Booking is not essential but is helpful in planning enough craft materials.



Children's Easter Craft Session

Saturday 21st March

**2.00pm until 4.00pm at
Pyworthy Village Hall.**

Tea, coffee, juice and cakes available.

**(We will be using glue and paints, so old
clothes or aprons recommended).**

Contact details:

Amanda on 07455 609876



Curry Night

There will be a Curry & Chilli Night at the Village Hall on Friday the 20th March!

Menu

Chicken curry and rice

Beef chilli and rice

Vegetable chilli and rice

All served with a choice of condiments.

£8 per portion.

Food available from 7.30pm to 9.00pm,

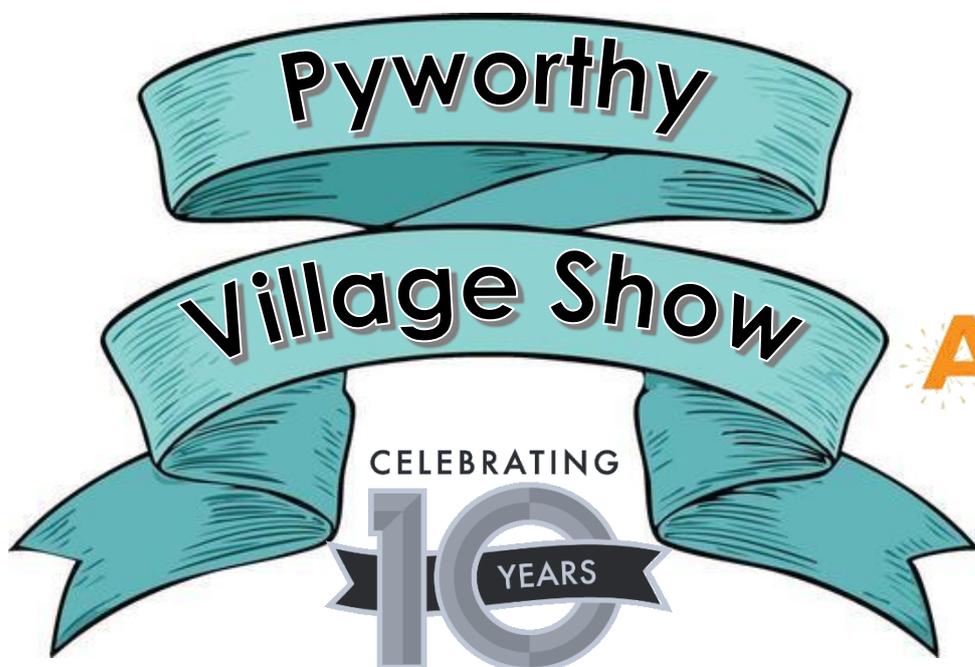
Licensed bar will be open from 7.00pm.

Orders should be placed by

Friday 13th of March, thank you.

**Phone Marie NOW on 01409 254924 to
place your order.**

Registered charity number 290013.



Let's make this year's show bigger & better than all the rest!

This year the Village Show will be held on Saturday 5th September!

Advanced notice – the classes in two categories have been announced, to enable you to start preparation and planning on them straight away.

The full programme will be on sale @ just 50p in June. More information to follow.



The classes in the Photographic category are:

Meadow/wildflowers
 Young and old
 Rockpools
 Old buildings
 Birds
 Over the farm gate

See page 16 for details of the Scarecrow Trail, part of the Anniversary celebrations this year!

Handicrafts

Hand knitted item
 Crocheted item
 Item of embroidery
 Make a cushion cover
 Decorate a hat
 Cross stitch
 5 Handmade flowers
 Handmade toy
 Bunting (no more than 2 metres)
 Item made from felt
 Handmade jewellery item
 Watercolour painting
 Painting of 'Fungi' in any medium
 Miniature painting in any medium
 Free hand pencil drawing
 Produce a mosaic item
 Write an 'Anniversary' poem
 Make a wreath (any medium)
 Decorate a wine bottle

M.A.G Double Glazing Repairs

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

Over 15 years' experience



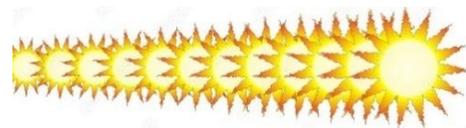
Call MARK for friendly advice and a
NO obligation quotation.

Tel: 07969 234161



**Don't forget on the 29th March
2026 clocks go forward by 1
hour.**

Sunrise, Sunset Times for the coming month:



1st March 2026 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 06.58am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 17.55pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 10 hrs 56 mins.

31st March 2026 (UK, Exeter)

☀ Sunrise time: 06.52am GMT

🌅 Sunset time: 19.44pm GMT

🕒 Length of day: 12 hrs 52 mins

Trigon Farm, Derriton, Holsworthy. EX22 6JU

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

- **Permaculture in Your Garden on the 1st March**
- **Natural Skincare Workshop on the 15th March (Mother's Day)**
- **Blossom Feast on the 22nd March**
- **Mastering Sourdough: Pizza, Bread & Focaccia on the 11th April**
- **Guided Farm Tour on the 10th May.**

We also host private bookings and themed gatherings, including small weddings, hen dos, birthdays and bespoke group farm experiences.



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

www.trigonfarm.co.uk

Call Al on Tel: 07988484069

Our flower season runs from May to October, offering P.Y.O. blooms & D.I.Y. Wedding flowers with expert guidance.

Line Dancing!



New dancers always welcome!

For more information call Brenda
on: 01409 253015

Line Dancing Classes

Our Line dancing classes are held

on: **Mondays** in

Pyworthy Village Hall.

Complete Beginners:

5.30pm – 6.30pm.

Beginners/Improvers:

6.30pm – 7.30pm &

Intermediate level:

7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Tuesdays: Intermediate level,

7.30pm – 9.30pm.

All classes cost just £5.

Come and join us!

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

easyfundraising
feel good shopping



Help us raise
FREE donations
every time you shop online

How to sign up

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



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



Over £34 million raised

Trustpilot

1.9 million users



Thank you for your support

To Pyworthy

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Your collection total £140.69

District total £4,991.37



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



THANK YOU!



CHURCH OF ST SWITHUN'S PYWORTHY

Higher Village, Holsworthy EX226ST

Fundraising event for building works.

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

Village Hall, Pyworthy

Stall fees £5 per table.

Cakes, jams, biscuits etc welcome on the day.

Quality used items and books also welcome on the day.

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

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

6:00 AM

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

Update from our local hedgehog family



We are currently relaxed and enjoying our Winter Hibernation period - though we do sometimes come to for a short spell. Spring is not too far off and we'll be off foraging for beetles, centipedes, earthworms, slugs and snails. If you could put out a dish of fresh water and also cat or dog food, that would be gratefully received. A BIG THANK YOU to those kind enough to have submitted used postage stamps to our Editor or Pyworthy Pilgrim - they are already on their way to the main collection site near Southampton.

Harry, Henrietta & the Hogs.



Pyworthy Bin Collections



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

Black bag collection days are:

**Friday 6th March
Friday 20th March**

**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 2nd March
Monday 16th March
Monday 30th March**

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

**Or phone:
01237 428700**

Read online at:

<http://www.bit.ly/postpy>
and view the paper in full colour.
(don't use a search engine)

A hint of things to come, or maybe it's here already!

By Brian Meadows of Nofix-Nofee

BT has commenced its copper cable shutdown with 135 postcode areas being the first to be totally switched off, none of these are in this area, but it soon will be, by mid-2027 all areas will have been converted to fibre optic Voice over the internet and the old landline service will be discontinued. Those who haven't upgraded should do so if they want to keep their phone system operational. Being without a phone can be can put you at risk! Sadly, one such case has recently caused the death one elderly gentleman.

Recently I experienced a blockage on the landline allowing outgoing calls to be made, but incoming calls were redirected to a voice mail server. I could collect the messages by dialling 1571, that is if any of the callers chose to leave a message. Several incoming calls were ultimately missed.

BT eventually admitted it is necessary to switch off and reboot the broadband router as a high volume of data traffic through the system can cause part of the system to malfunction. When this happens, the broadband router should be rebooted, (switched off and switched back on again) as the Voice over the internet is becoming overloaded with data, switching off the router, then restarting it should ideally be done every 2 weeks to refresh the system. As all landlines will be switched to this system next year, it is something worth remembering.

Now if you think your password is safe or your system is encrypted, time to consider this. For the past two decades

Computer Engineers have been working on Quantum Computers which are far faster than any supercomputer of today. Also, the new supporting quantum software will be so advanced it will consign AI to the scrap heap. You may think, So what? But consider this quantum software can break down binary code into smaller segments called "qubits" and these can be reconstructed to rewrite any password or decrypt any encrypted program and create a language so complex no human can understand or decode.

Microsoft, Google, Meta, Apple and many others are all involved at one level or another in



Quantum Computer development and when it is refined, not even the Banks or Stock Markets will be safe from quantum attacks! The value of currency or corporate stocks will be at risk, and the only safe commodities will be gold and silver.

Microsoft has changed the name of its office software to Microsoft 365 Copilot app. Copilot being Microsoft's venture into AI programming and guess what, the annual subscription has increased! The free Libre Office is a very good alternative without cost and the interference of a co-pilot.



For computer help and advice, Tel: Brian Meadows

01288 381061.

Nofix-Nofee Computer Repair Service.

(nofix-nofee.com)

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Email: katescompletefeet1@gmail.com

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Jamescancott@gmail.com

HAPPY Mother's DAY



**This year, Mother's Day is Sunday,
15th March 2026!**

Mothering Sunday was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptised or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In time, this moved towards the modern celebration of the day, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

Traditionally, people observed a fast during Lent. Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. During the Lent fast, people did not eat from sweet, rich foods or meat. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering Sunday and many people prepared a Simnel cake to eat with their family on this day.

A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, Simnel cakes are decorated with 11 or 12 balls of marzipan, representing the 11 disciples and, sometimes, Jesus Christ. One legend says that the cake was named after Lambert Simnel who worked in the kitchens of Henry VII of England sometime around the year 1500.



**Happy Mother's Day
to my Mummy
Emma Heard, with
lots of love from Evie.
XXXX**



Holsworthy Food Bank

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

**Donations can be left in the box
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Holsworthy Memorial Hall
Tuesdays
5.30pm & 7.00pm
Thursdays
9.00am & 10.30am



   slimmingworld.co.uk

The next edition
of Pyworthy Post
goes off to print
on the: **Thursday**
26th March at
9am.

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

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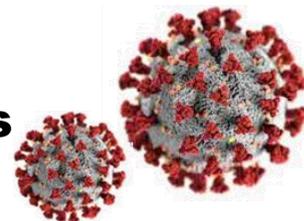
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Episode 6

My COVID Diaries

By Mark Marriott



Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mark has been unable to produce episode 6 of his Covid diary, this month. All being well, episode 6 will appear in the April edition of Pyworthy Post. Mark sends his apologies.

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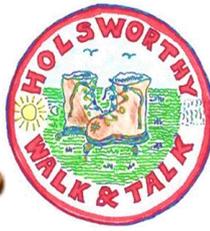
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Unit 9 Tamar Business Units
Holsworthy Ind Est, EX22 6HL

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group

By Gill Aston



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



Despite all the rain over the previous month we dressed accordingly and carried on, as can be seen from our photo taken at Meeth Nature Reserve. Both Level 2 and Level 3 groups met there making a total of 36 walkers on the day. There are various tracks and trails within the Nature Reserve including a section of the Tarka Trail where the Level 2 group came across a Sustrans Way Marker, which some of the new walkers thought was a Totem Pole. It is actually one of 1000 way markers along the National Cycle Network, a millennium project overseen by Sustrans, a charity recently renamed Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, which supports sustainable transport – walking and cycling. The waymarkers along the route are all different, being embossed with images to represent their location and were originally either black or brown in colour. Local groups have now taken ownership of the waymarkers and many are painted in bright colours to make them stand out. A list of all their locations can be found on the Sustrans website and at Ordnance Survey. Some people make a hobby out of 'ticking' them off similar to 'collecting' Monroes, for those of you interested in hill walking.

Due to on-going forestry work we relocated one of our walks to Bude making a total of 41 walkers between the Level 2 and Level 3, groups meeting outside the Tourist

Information Centre. The Multi Use Trail alongside the Bude Canal makes for easy walking, although some of the gateways along the footpath on Efford Down require a bit of nifty footwork to navigate the mud. It is made worthwhile by watching the Atlantic Ocean powering its way into the cliffs.



Above: Meeth Nature Reserve in February
Below: a Sustrans Route Marker



See our walks programme on page 41

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

If you would like to join us on any of our walks to visit local places, meet new people and enjoy the benefits of walking our current programme of walks is available. Walks start at 10.30 and are **FREE**. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk.

Our MARCH Programme of walks:

WALKING



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

MARCH Walks: Walk starting points as indicated below:

Friday 6th March – Level 2:

Bradworthy, starting from The Square. Leaders: Mike & Richard. EX22 7TD.

Level 3: Witherdon Woods, starting from the Village Hall car park. Leaders: Paul & Jacqui. EX21 5TU.

Friday 13th March - Level 2: Dunsdon Nature Reserve, starting from the Reserve car park. Leaders: Mike & Cheryl. EX22 7JW.

Level 3: Germansweek, starting from Southweek Junction Lay-by. Leaders: Paul & Sue. EX21 5BG.

Friday 20th March - Level 2: Clawton, starting from Main car park. Leaders: Jacqui & John. EX22 6PS.

Level 3: - Dunsdon Nature Reserve, starting from Reserve car park. Leaders: Kim & Eric. EX22 7JW.

Friday 27th March - Level 2:

Hollacombe/Hfx Way, starting from War Memorial car park Anvil Corner. Leaders: Mike & Barbara. EX22 6NR.

Friday 27th March - Level 3:

Chilsworthy, starting from Parish Hall car park. Leaders: Sue & Cheryl. EX22 7BB

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Group contact details:

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

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

Phone numbers:

Gillian Aston 07854677784 or
Mike Jackson 01409 261196 or
Paul Davies 07731 626594.

John Sanders Park Trust

There will be an important meeting about our village park on Thursday 12th March starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Please attend if you are able to.
Thank you.
Richard Thompson, Secretary.

Domestic Abuse Helpline



Phone:



0808 2000247 for free & confidential advice.

More information available online.

If in danger phone: 999

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

50th Anniversary 28th - 29th March

1976: West Somerset Railway celebrates its 50th anniversary of reopening.

80th Anniversary 25th March 1946 –

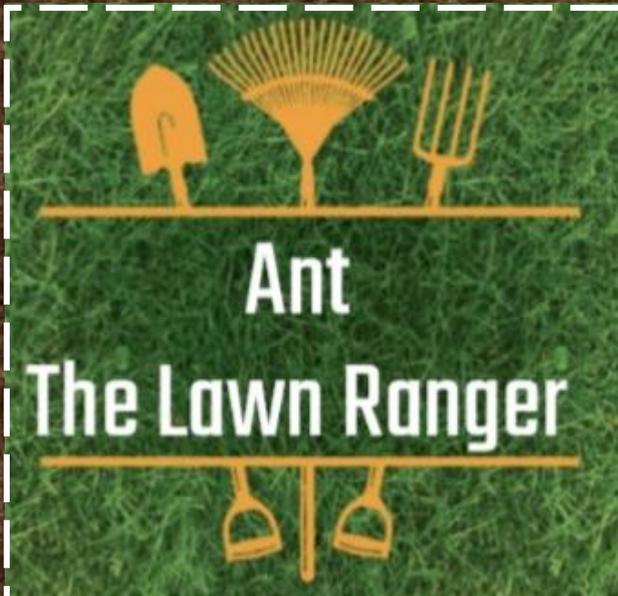
anniversary of the opening of London Airport (now Heathrow).

90th Anniversary 9th March 1936 –

the Spitfire's first flight.

150th Anniversary 10th March 1876 –

A century and a half ago, Alexander Graham Bell spoke the first words to ever be uttered over the telephone – no, not “can you hear me?” – instead, he said to his assistant “Mr Watson, come here. I want to see you”. A bit boring, I’ll admit, but Bell got his message across. This was the first time speech had been successfully transmitted by telephone.



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John Sanders Park Trust

Lottery 2026

Lottery tickets for the Park Trust lottery 2026 are now on sale. If you would like to buy a lottery number, please **contact Jane Oliver on 07500 834620** and make a BACS payment of £10 to the Park Trust bank account adding your name as the reference. Our trustees will also be selling numbers as usual. The first draw will hopefully take place in April. There are ten draws throughout the year each with prizes of £30, £20 and £10, so lots of chances to win. All profits go towards the upkeep and costs of Pyworthy Park. Our new secretary is Richard Thompson.

On Thursday 12th March there will be a Park meeting, 7.30pm in the Hall.

HOW TO BUY A £10 LOTTERY TICKET:

BACS Information:

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

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



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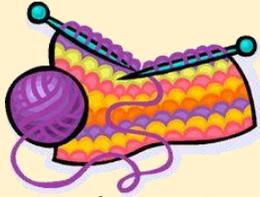
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Creative Craft Club

The afternoon craft club takes place in Pyworthy Village Hall on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month, at 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

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

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

Phone Marie on:
01409 254924

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Coming to the Village Hall on
TUESDAY 17th MARCH!

REMINDER - Potters Fish 'n' Things

By popular request, Potters have agreed to set up shop in the Village Hall Car Park, **4.30pm-7.00pm** every 3rd TUESDAY of each month, for the foreseeable future.

To pre order, head to their website:

www.pottersfishnthings.co.uk

OR alternately just turn up on the night.



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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
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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
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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
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Walling & landscaping services Call Dan on 07968996191 for a quote.

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Phone Brian Meadows:

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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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Pyworthy Poser Quiz for MARCH 2026..

"The Highest"

1. Name the highest elevation Football Club within Premiership to Division Two?
2. Name the highest elevation Racecourse in England?
3. What is the highest Rank within the Royal Navy?
4. What is the highest Pub in England?
5. What is the highest mountain in UK?
6. What is the highest (i.e. strongest) currency in the world?
7. What is the highest point in Devon?
8. What is the highest mountain in the world above sea level?
9. What is the highest mountain from base to peak?
10. What is the highest point on the Isles of Scilly?

The answers will be in the next Pyworthy Post

By The Pyworthy Pilgrim

Pyworthy Rural Art Group Pyworthy ART



Here we are in March and spring is on its way. Some of the Daffodils are already flowering despite all the rain. Hopefully we can look forward to sunny days and a chance to get into our gardens.

All is going well with the art classes this term, we have been learning new skills and techniques.

Why not coming and join us in the Pyworthy Village Hall on a Tuesday afternoon 2.30pm until 4.30pm. All abilities welcome.

The programme for MARCH:

Tuesday 3rd March – portraits of famous people in watercolour paints

Tuesday 10th March – second week of portraits

Tuesday 17th March – perspective drawing and painting

Tuesday 24th March – bring a photo of your choice to paint

Tuesday 31st March – still life drawing – subject Easter

Advanced notice: there will be **NO** meeting on Easter Tuesday 7th April.

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

**MARCH
2026**



Nature Notes

By Bryony Rylett

“Because a community is more than just people.”*

Having experienced what may prove to be the wettest winter on record it has seemed, at times, as if winter would never leave but Spring, the unstoppable force and herald of drier, warmer weather to come, was upwelling even when skies were dark with rain clouds and saturated ground was hemorrhaging biblical amounts of unbounded water.

In February a subtle change of light and the occasional warming of the air had birds calling, pairing and choosing nest sites, Catkins shivering in the breeze like tiny lambs' tails and Primroses and Lesser Celandines and daffodils thrusting skyward, buttery yellow, from waterlogged banks and hedges.

Despite the seemingly endless rain, often delivered by robust storms, familiar Spring plants, animals, birds and insects are coming back and by The First Day of Spring, occurring on the Vernal Equinox on March 20th, there should be many natural signs of spring to see and enjoy around the parish.

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 50

Meteorological Spring starts on March 1st but whether the weather matches the season's promise remains to be seen.

The leaves of most trees and shrubs are likely still tightly furled in bud however the trunks, branches and twigs of oak, ash and willow bear a smattering of curious appendages visible, now, before being obscured by foliage.

Here and there are clusters of small, brown globes, resembling pale, Maltesers, hanging like tiny baubles from woodland and hedgerow trees.



Above: Caption: Oak Marble Galls in hedgerow oaks near Derril

These are Oak Marble Galls (*Andricus kollari*) that alongside Robin's Pincushions and Witches Broom (resembling huge, twiggy birds' nests sprouting in trees) are members of the gall family that has 133,000 members worldwide. **Continued on page 51....**

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

What is a Gall?

The British Plant Gall Society, describes the gall as an:

“abnormal growth produced by a plant or other host under the influence of another organism. It involves enlargement and/or proliferation of host cells and provides both shelter and food or nutrients for the invading organism.”

Galls are produced by fungi: rusts and smuts or by invertebrates: gall midges, flies, wasps, sawflies, mites and aphids. They can also be caused by bacteria, viruses and phytoplasmas.

Where plants grow, galls will find a home on flowers, fruit, seeds and nuts, leaves and stems. They are usually harmless to their hosts and are included in the biodiversity trees support.

Oaks, both the English Oak (*Quercus robur*) otherwise known as the Common or Pendunculate Oak and the Sessile or Cornish and Irish Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and willows host many types.

Some 70 oak gall wasps have been identified in the U.K.

The Oak Marble Wasp (*Andricus quercuscalicis*), that create Marble Oak Galls, have a complex life cycle whereby alternate generations are either sexual (males and female) or asexual (just females).

Female Gall Wasps lay their eggs in oak tree buds, acorns or roots. When the legless grubs hatch, they secrete chemicals disrupting the normal growth of oak tissue, changing it to the gall structures pictured above. The plant develops around the grub.

Email address: pyworthy@post.com Telephone number: 01409 478294 Page 51



Above: A Witch's Broom growth, in a Pyworthy wood, being used as a bird's

The larvae pupate inside the gall, protected by the woody casing and tannins, emerging as adults in summer (both sexes) or as females only (asexual) in late winter and spring. The female carries self-fertilised eggs.

You may spot the exit holes in galls indicating the departure of the mature wasp.

Other insects make homes in galls, feeding on them without causing harm. These are known as **inquilines**.

In an experiment, when an Oak Apple Gall was left in a container to see what else might have taken up residence, 12 other insects emerged.

As well as providing a home for insects, oak galls are eaten by voles, field mice and woodpeckers that crack open the woody casing to devour the grubs and insects inside.

Gall wasps were deliberately introduced to Britain in the 1800s as a source of **Continued on page 52....**

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

of tannin for tanning leather and dying cloth.

Before that introduction the East India Company held a licence to import galls from Syria, home of the coveted Aleppo Gall containing four times the tannin, at 68% by weight, of Marble Oak Galls.

Marble Oak Galls were traded, together with Aleppo Galls, throughout the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile bark from oaks was being used to preserve or 'bark' sails and ropes. This practice is illustrated in the watercolour and oil paintings made by members of the Newlyn School of Painters who often depicted the red/brown-sailed fishing boats (luggers) of West Cornwall's ports and harbours.



Above: Witch's Broom clumps, resembling birds' nests, high in a birch tree

When the Turkey oak was imported into Britain in 1735 the wasps stowed away in the trees then had everything needed to complete their life cycle however U.K. grown galls were never as productive as those from Syria.

In her poem '**Gall**' Irish poet **Catriona O'Reilly** highlights the use of galls to produce ink:

"Those from Aleppo were bitterest, yielding the vividest of ink. More permanent than lampblack or bistre..."

"But all who made marks on parchment or paper dipped their pens in gall, in vitriol;..."

In a 2020 article on her website [TeachingManuscripts.com](https://teachingmanuscripts.com) Sara Charles, a book historian and Medieval manuscript researcher, describes the uses of Iron Gall Ink and gives readers a recipe for making it.

Sara used a recipe from @LovettPatricia's book 'Tools & Materials for Calligraphy'.

Other recipes are available on the Iron Gall Ink Website!

After collecting and crushing the oak galls (medievalists preferred galls with the wasp *still* inside) she added rain water then left the solution in a jam jar, on a sunny windowsill, for three days.

Sara then added Ferrous Sulphate, otherwise known as copperas or vitriol, to the resultant brown liquid. This turned the liquid inky black.

Finally, she added gum Arabic to thicken and allow the ink to stick to writing surfaces.

After leaving it again the liquid was strained through a muslin cloth producing 125ml of ink that she then applied, with a goose quill, to paper. Ta da!

Continued on page 53....

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

Traces of oak gall ink were found on the Dead Sea Scrolls, but oak gall ink does not last, it discolours and can damage the paper on which it is used. In her poem *Catriona* refers to vitriol, a word with a dual meaning. As a noun it means bitter criticism or malice and references harsh or caustic language. Its older and literary meaning refers to sulphuric acid.

There is reference to gall in the Bible in Job 16.13: "His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground".

Gall derives from a Hebrew word 'Mererah' meaning bitterness. As a verb, gall means to irritate, hence finding things galling, vexing or bitterly humiliating.

Other sources state Gall is a derivative of the Old English word *Gealla* a noun meaning sore or plant growth adding that it originates from the Latin *gall* meaning oak-apple.

The on-line Oxford English Dictionary lists the etymology of literary quotes referencing gall including J. Arbuthnot describing yet another use of gall in his 1732 work, 'Practical Rules of Diet iv 405': "Gall is the greatest Resolvent of curdled milk."

In *Twelfth Night* (1623) Shakespeare wrote: "Let there bee gaulle enough in thy inke, though thou write with a Goose-pen, no matter: about it."

W. Somerset. Maugham in 'Then & Now (1946) wrote: "His pen had dipped in gall and as he wrote he chuckled with malice," while Maugham's contemporary, P.G.

Wodehouse, in his 1948 novel 'Spring Fever' with its theme of love and US, UK relations, wrote: "He was a young man abundantly equipped with what he called sang froid and people who did not like him, usually alluded to as gall."

Well, what a journey...from the oak galls of Pyworthy through ancient history, to P.G. Woodhouse via Job and an Iron Ink Gall recipe. Here's hoping you didn't find it galling.

**A quote borrowed from The Bug Woman - Adventures in London website.*

PYWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

Here are the contact telephone numbers for our Parish Councillors:

Ros Skinner: Chair

01409 254159 or 07800667842

Andrew Parrish: Vice Chair

01409 254303

Nick Lock: 01288 381529

or 07989595372

Rob Moores: 01409 254192

Angela Skinner: 07794 344117

Martin Brennan: 01409 691096

Andrew Beaven: 01409 253509

(after 7pm).

For general enquires phone:

Simon Davies, Clerk to the council

on: 07989747416.

Email address:

pyworthy@yahoo.co.uk

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm.



The paper will go to print on:
Thursday 26th March! Please
 make sure your input is received
 before this date, thanks.

Diary dates this month:

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

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

Sunday 1st March – St. David's Day & Trigon Farm running a course in Permaculture in your garden – see page 32.

Thursday 5th March – St. Piran's Day & World Book Day

Thursday 5th – 8th March – Crufts Dog Show in Birmingham

Friday March 6th - Sunday 15th - National Science and Engineering Week.

Sunday 8th March – International Women's Day

Monday 9th March - Commonwealth Day/ Evelyn's Walks group will set off at 10am from Thornbury Holiday Park in Woodacott. EX22 7BT.

Tuesday 10th – 13th March – Cheltenham Festival, National Hunt Racing

Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday & Trigon farm running a workshop on Natural Skincare – see page 32.

17th March - St. Patrick's Day

Thursday 19th March – Pyworthy Parish Council meeting in Village Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 20th March – First day of Spring & **Red Nose Day**

Saturday 21st March – Children's Craft Session in the Village Hall, see page 28

Sunday 22nd March – Trigon Farm running a Blossom Feast – see page 32.

Sunday 29th March – Daylight saving begins, clocks go forward 1 hour.

Forthcoming Events in 2026:

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

Wednesday 22nd April – AGM meeting for Village Hall

Sunday 26th April – Tabletop sale in the Village Hall, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, stalls available see page 33.

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

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

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

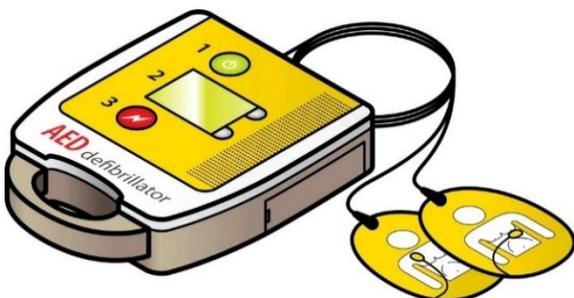
Sunday 5th July - An afternoon with ALL@C UKULELE BAND in the Village Hall.

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

Saturday 24th October – Children's Halloween Craft Session in the Village Hall.

Saturday 21st November – Children's Christmas Craft Session in the Village Hall.

Saturday 5th December - NOT THE COWBOYS, will be entertaining in the Hall.



IMPORTANT – FREE TRAINING

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

mary711devon@hotmail.co.uk



Spring Community Event

LINEDANCE PARTY

Saturday 11th April

7.00pm to 10.30pm.

Entry £6 per person.

Bring your own drinks & nibbles.

Everybody invited!

Chocolate raffle to raise funds for

The Pyworthy Post!



Your Local
Team



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



Holsworthy

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