

CLYST VALLEY NEWS



April 2023



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello and welcome to this April edition of the Clyst Valley News. Change is in the air – not only with the weather, hopefully (spring has now officially sprung); but also closer to home, at the CVN. Astute readers may have already noticed a few differences (improvements?) in the layout and appearance of the magazine this month. This is the beginning of a sort of overhaul of the CVN

designed to create a more entertaining, informative and attractive monthly magazine, firmly rooted in our communities; and provide better advertising and sponsorship options for local businesses. A bit of background:

Readers may be aware that we have been having some issues recently with securing sponsorship and advertising which have threatened the future of our magazine. This has given us pause for thought. Apart from the move to professional printing in 2012, the format of the CVN has remained essentially the same, although I have made efforts since I took over as editor in 2010 to give a growing emphasis to its role as a vehicle for broad-based community news and information. If we are to secure and develop its future (and be able to continue to run it on an entirely voluntary basis and deliver it free to readers), we are going to have to start to move in a new direction.

Technically, the Clyst St Mary Church PCC is the 'owner' of the CVN and this has meant that, of course, church-related matters (and specifically, the White Cross Mission Community have been given pride of place in the magazine. Following a recent meeting of interested PCC members, Rev'd Bill Lemmey and myself, it was agreed that the CVN will now move away from that dependent arrangement and evolve into a more clearly defined, free-standing, community-based magazine, possibly established as a charitable trust. Please do see Bill's comments on this in the new WCMC section.

At the same time, to improve overall quality, I need, as editor, to shift from doing all the production to focusing on content and design; and take on a small team of volunteers to lead on advertising, news gathering, sponsorship and distribution. In addition, I want to extend the scope of the CVN to include a wider range of regular columnists and feature articles.

In case what I am saying may be sounding alarm bells amongst those of you with strong ties to your local churches, let me reassure you straightaway that church news from all our villages will continue to be welcome and feature in the magazine, including the WCMC service timetable and a monthly message from our vicar.

Let me stress that these changes are not going to happen overnight. They will be gradually introduced over the coming months and readers will see continuing changes in style, layout and content as we move forward.

So I am starting the search now for people interested in the following **voluntary** roles:

- Securing advertising and sponsorship.
- Building an online presence for the CVN.
- News gathering in our villages and towns (to complement our dedicated existing cadre of supporters providing valuable content every month).
- Delivery to households and businesses in our area, where required.
- Writing more regular columns and features, eg local groups and societies, hobbyists, 'book of the month', new music, food and cookery, environment, travel, etc, etc.

If any of this takes your fancy, do please get in touch with me and we can have a chat. I'd be delighted to hear from you. Just drop me a line at clystvalleynews@gmail.com to get the ball rolling. Thank you.

Finally, as a start for the new- look CVN, I hope you like our new cover title. The photographer responsible for the fantastic banner photo of the confluence of the Clyst and Exe Rivers, Paula Fernley, has very kindly given us permission to use it and I'd like to record our sincere thanks and appreciation to her. If you'd like to know more about Paula's work – and see more examples, please see her article in the 'And Finally...' section.

That's it for now. Have a very Happy Easter. Best wishes. Peter Skelton

WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS?

If you'd like to advertise your business or organisation in the Clyst Valley News this year, you'll see that we have slots available NOW! Please get in touch - with no obligation - our rates are very competitive! Contact the Editor, Peter Skelton, at clystvalleynews@gmail.com.

Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the May 2023 issue of the Clyst Valley News should be sent by email, to the editor, Peter Skelton, at clystvalleynews@gmail.com by Saturday 15th April 2023 at the latest, please.

Please note that contributions may be edited.

If you experience any difficulty in receiving your copy of the CVN, please contact your local distributor, as follows:

CSG & Ebford	Isobel Stubbs	07826 806919
CSM	Ivor Spriggs	01392 874382
WS	Debbie Jung	01395 232328
Sowton village	Mike Galloway	07764 582023

YOUR PHOTOS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR THE COVER OF THE CVN!



There must be a lot of photographers out there snapping away around our villages. After all, our neck of the woods is rather photogenic. Why not share your results with our readers? Most months we aim to put one nice pic on the magazine cover and we need yours! So please do send in your efforts to the editor, Peter Skelton, who'll choose one each month. Try to use relatively high-definition settings but that's not a must. Just email them to clystvalleynews@gmail.com and we'll do the rest. Simple!

MAGAZINE DELIVERY AT THE CAT AND FIDDLE

I am very pleased to say that we now have two new sets of volunteers to deliver the magazine at the Cat and Fiddle. Jolie and Mark Gregory from Fairview Avenue will cover the SW area and Bev and Dan Maher from Oakley Walk will cover the NW area. Along with Georgina Furness from Glen Close who has been delivering the E area for some time we will be back to full strength. I would like to thank you all for volunteering. Well done, Cat and Fiddle! I should also like to give a special thank you to Sue Norman of Winslade Park for helping out and delivering to the SW area for the last few months on a temporary basis. Ivor Spriggs

CLYST ST MARY



New Food Bank Donation Point at Clyst St Mary Church

Clyst St Mary is starting a donation point for the Exmouth Foodbank. There is a box for donations in the church porch. The church is open every day



between 10 am and 4 pm; or donations can be brought to church services on the first and third Sundays. Preferred items are cans, jars and packets. Thank you.

Village Hall



Our website <https://www.clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk/> gives details of hiring availability and prices but if there's anything else you'd like to know, please drop Ali West an email on: bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Bishops Clyst Parish Council



Annual Parish Meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Clyst St Mary Church on Wednesday 5th April, 2023 at 7 pm and will be followed by the normal monthly Parish Council meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting is, in legal terms, a quite separate body from the Parish Council, but it is the Council that arranges it, simply because it is unlikely that anyone else will do so. Its decisions are not binding on the Council, though the Council will normally take heed of what is said at the meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when local councils did not exist, and all local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community, taking place in the church vestry. It is open to all electors of the parish, who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest. This contrasts with a Council meeting, where electors who are not Councillors have no automatic right to speak, though there is an item on every parish council agenda when electors can raise matters of concern to them.

This meeting has its own minutes, which are kept separately from the Council minutes, and these minutes can only be approved by the next Annual Parish Meeting which will, of course, not be held until the following year. The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting are reported to the next convenient meeting of the Council, since otherwise matters are unlikely to get progressed. But the Council cannot approve these minutes, as they do not belong to the Council.

If you have any matter of local interest or concern which you wish to raise, please let the Clerk know and come along to the Annual Parish Meeting, or just come along if you would like to find out more about the issues affecting your parish.

Parish Council Elections 4th May 2023 – Your Opportunity to Make a Difference! Information for prospective candidates at the Parish Council elections and a link to the nomination pack which contains guidance and forms is available on the Parish Council website <https://www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/elections-2023/>.

The nomination paper, home address form and consent to nomination form must be delivered to the Returning Officer, Blackdown House, Border Road, Honiton, EX14 1EJ between 10 am and 4 pm from 27th March until 4 April 2023.

Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen Consort, 6th – 8th May 2023:



- Saturday 6th May 2023 – **Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM The Queen Consort, Westminster Abbey.**

- Sunday 7th May 2023 – **Coronation Big Lunch.** The Eden Project is part of the official Coronation celebrations 'bringing neighbours and communities together to share friendship, food and fun' and provides guidance and a free online pack available at

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-jubilee-lunch>.

- Monday 8th May 2023 (Bank Holiday) – **The Big Help Out.** The Big Help Out will provide an opportunity to get involved in community volunteering. From 20th March a list of opportunities will be available via this link: <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>.

- **FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN ARRANGING CORONATION ACTIVITIES, DO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL CLERK TO DISCUSS FINANCIAL SUPPORT IF REQUIRED.**

Parish Council Meetings. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7 pm at Clyst St Mary Church, followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm. Council meetings take place each month and dates, agendas and minutes are posted on our website (www.bishopsclyst.org.uk) and on noticeboards in Clyst St Mary, Cat and Fiddle Park and Sowton Village.

Contact the Parish Council. Karan Bennett, PC Clerk, working from the PC office in Clyst St Mary Village Hall on Monday to Wednesday, 9 am to 1 pm. Call 01392 874405 or email bishopsclyst@gmail.com.

Clyst Valley AFC – The Cobras



As many of you will know Clyst Valley AFC is over 130 years old but their junior section, the Cobras, is just approaching its second birthday. A lot of interest has been created in the Cobras and I have been asked to provide more information which I am doing now.

Following an approach from some parents nearly two years ago Clyst Valley agreed to support them in creating a junior section for younger children of both sexes to take an active interest in sport and general physical activity. With the support of Bishops Clyst Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee we were able to base the first teams at the Village Hall field utilising the levelled football area and hence the Cobras were born. In September 2021 the Cobras were able to form two teams for Under 7s and in September 2022 they moved up to Under 8s and two new Under 7s teams were added. We now have nearly 36 young players within the four teams all of whom play and train at the Village Hall field on Saturday mornings. In September all the teams will move up another age group and I am pleased to advise that following a recent agreement with Burrington Estates, the Under 9s will be based at the Winslade Manor recreation ground thereby providing continuity for the children.

The Cobras have proved to be extremely popular and successful so far and I would like to thank the Parish Council, the Village Hall committee and now also Burrington Estates for their support and belief in Clyst Valley's ability to deliver. I would also like to thank our sponsors, the support shown by so many parents and in particular those parents that have, with Clyst Valley's help, become qualified FA coaches.

In September we will be forming the new U7s group and if you have or know of any children who will be age 6 on 31st August that may like to come and join in the fun on a Saturday morning, please make initial contact with Jason Mingo at jason.mingo@me.com or Nicky Blacker at nicky.blacker@gmail.com for more information.

Peter Cain, Chairman, Clyst Valley AFC

Clyst St Mary Primary School



The annual 'Caring and Sharing' event was a wonderful afternoon for all involved. Our Class 6 students took great care preparing a delicious homemade soup and bread rolls for their special guests to enjoy. We are very

proud of our students for their mature, respectful behaviour which helped to make it such a special event.

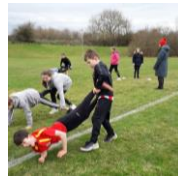
World Book Day was a big hit this year. All the children looked fantastic! We started the day



with a breakfast for parents, while enjoying a reading in class from a favourite story. We also held a book swap for children to exchange a well-loved book from home for a different one. Keeping with the book theme, the following week we held our Scholastic Book Fair: a great opportunity for families to stock up on book supplies and encourage the joy of reading at home.

The past month has been a very active one at Clyst St Mary, in collaboration with St Luke's Secondary School. The children have benefited greatly from taking part in the 'Fittest in Exeter' sporting event; the 'Fancy-Dress Football', and the 'Health and Wellbeing Festival', which includes a variety of active games and mindfulness through yoga.

Unfortunately, the scheduled Killerton cross country race for our KS2 children had to be postponed due to the weather. Hopefully that will now take place in the summer term. An 'Invasion Games' event - which involves rugby league, hockey and rollerball - is also to come, with details in next month's magazine.



To celebrate International Women's Day, the girls in KS1 were invited to St Luke's to take part in fancy dress football. They had a lot of fun joining in the activities and working on ball skills, teamwork and determination.

Our Class 5 children have been invited to participate in the 'Celebration of Dance' event being held on 17th March at the Phoenix Theatre, organised by Devon School Games and Active Devon. It is a good opportunity for the children to represent their school while building confidence and self-esteem. They have been practising their dance routine in anticipation of this and I'm sure will enjoy the day very much.

Also on the 17th, we look forward to more dressing up and fun to mark Red Nose Day, joining thousands of others across the country in raising money for those who need it most.

At the end of March we will return to the Barnfield Theatre for our production of *Harry Potter*, as part of the Dance Showdown. More on that too, next month.

King's Coronation, 6th May 2023



I am trying to organise a royal-themed scarecrow, garden or window display around Clyst St Mary, so people can walk around and see the displays and a coronation trail for the children and then meet back at the Village Hall at 3 pm for a cream tea and coronation crafts for the children. We will make a charge of £1 per adult for the cream tea and children free. If you are interested in doing a display or helping or getting tickets, please contact me at carolprice7@hotmail.co.uk or message me on 07732 081962. Carole Price

Walking Group



The village walk will take place on Tuesday 18th April. This normally comprises an approximately four-mile walk in the morning followed by usually a pub lunch and sometimes another short walk in the afternoon. We meet at the Village Hall car park at 10 am and all are welcome. Walkers do of course walk at their own risk. For more information, please contact Peter

Cusa on 01392 877907.

Clyst Valley Preschool



We started 2023 after a very busy autumn term, with the children all enjoying their Christmas party, Nativity concert, making Christmas cards, decorations, and stickmen for our church Christmas Tree entry. Check out all our fun activities on our Instagram page!

Our Preschool has been inundated with enquiries and demand for spaces for this term, and the coming summer term and is now full...However, we will have plenty of spaces available in the autumn term, September 2023 and are now happy to receive applications via email, our website www.clystvalleypreschool.org or by calling us on 01392 876615.

Table Tennis Club



Please come and join us! New members always welcome. We play at the Village Hall every Thursday, 4 - 6 pm. The minimal fee of £20 for a 10-week session includes use of all equipment and refreshments. Alternatively, fees may be paid on a weekly basis if preferred. For further details please contact Pam Gardner on 07714 097220 or by email to pamelamgardner@gmail.com.

CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD



Clyst St George Parish Council Chairman's Notes: April 2023

Planning is again top of the agenda, which we will consider carefully. This wouldn't crop up if it was not for the housing numbers, unfortunately outside EDDC's control. The strength of opinion was obvious to us all in the numbers of residents who turned up for our meeting; we will put more chairs out for April's meeting!

Local elections are taking place on Thursday 4th May. For us it's all the Parish Council; and our District Councillor is also up for re-election, if you want to stand, then EDDC will supply you with all the details. From this year you will need photo ID before you can vote. See: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/elections-and-registering-to-vote/voter-id-2023/>. All the best.

John Manser

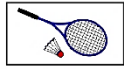
john@jmanser.co.uk

01392 874861



Badminton Club

Clyst St Mary Village Hall



The club, which plays on Tuesday evenings in the Village Hall will re-start after the Christmas break on:

Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 8 pm.

ALL are welcome (young and not so young!!) so come and join us. It is good exercise and a sociable evening.

For more information please contact either:

Hilary 0139 2874722 or Anne (annecurryer@gmail.com)

Thank you.

Clyst St George Parish Hall



Coffee Morning. April's coffee morning will be on Thursday 6th from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Feel free to pop in for tea/coffee and a chat.

Spring Clean. A big thank you to all committee members who gave up their Sunday afternoon on 5th March to clean both the inside and outside



of the Parish Hall. The windows are sparkling and the gutters are leaf-free. *Big Breakfast.* By popular demand the Big Breakfast will be back at the Parish Hall on Sunday 2nd April from 9.30 until 11 am. Come and join us for a full English at £7.50 including bottomless tea/coffee or a bacon/sausage butty with a hot drink for £4.

Coronation Event. We will be hosting a street party at the Parish Hall: barbecue, fancy dress competition, live music from the Otter Folk band, bar, tea and cakes and bouncy castle, on 7th May to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III. Tickets, priced at £5 per person for a burger/hot dog and drink, will be available from 1st April from Claire Marks, Paul Bragg, Helen Cragg, John Manser and Mark Stubbs.

Community Fit Club. If you are feeling sluggish after the damp winter months and want to put a spring in your step, come along to the free Community Fit Club. The club meets on Tuesdays at 10 am by the Cricket Club and on Thursdays at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. All ages and abilities are welcome.



We are always looking for people to support our community events. If you would like to get involved, please contact Isobel Stubbs (Chair) on 07826 806919 or Paul Bragg (Vice Chair) on 01392 874599.

Lady Seaward's C of E Primary School



Lady Seaward's C of E Primary carried out a very successful Read- a-Thon for Red Nose Day and at the last count had raised an impressive £680! Well done everyone! The children thoroughly enjoyed coming to school wearing red and/or pyjamas and read an impressive array of different stories and poems.



School trips abound with Class 4 fleshing out their WWII knowledge with a trip to RAMM and Exeter Cathedral just before the Easter holiday and Class 3 flexed their den-building skills on Woodbury Common. Both classes thoroughly enjoyed these experiences!



We wish you all a very enjoyable Easter holiday and we will be raring to go in the last term of the school year. It's nearly upon us already!

Tel: 01392 873629. e-mail: admin@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk

Nature Garden

Clyst St George has a delightful nature garden by the side of the parish church. The aim of the garden is to grow local Devon indigenous plants and trees and to encourage a Devon meadow with local wild flowers. Should you wish to help develop this 'green' facility, you can come along on the first Saturday of every month from 9.30 to 11 am.

Norman's Weather Report



My previously expressed hope for a mild and dry February was well fulfilled in terms of rain as only 6 mm (0.24 inches) fell here at Ebford. This was the least for about

three decades, only similar to that of 9 mm (0.35 inches) in February 2005. It was part of an extremely dry period of exactly seven weeks, extending into the neighbouring months. I must report that the average monthly amount of rain in February over the last 12 years is 71 mm (2.8 inches), which does indeed help to fill the dykes and reservoirs. Norman Cann

Little Dragons Pre-School



We are based in Lady Seaward's School and open four days a week, from Monday to Thursday, 8.45 am – 3.15 pm during school term times. For more information please telephone Elly on 07939 995486 (in school hours), email littledragons@live.com or visit our website www.littledragonsclyststgeorge.com. Here's a picture of World Book Day! All the children and staff had great fun. Thank you to all who

took part.

WOODBURY SALTERTON



Monthly Craft Afternoons

These take place in the Village Hall on the last Wednesday of each month, from 1 till 4 pm. These are proving a popular social event when anyone can bring their



craft work and sit and chat to friends and enjoy tea, coffee and cake.

If you would just like the company but don't do a craft you are still welcome to join us for a chat. The April event will be on Wednesday 26th.

Village Lunches at the Digger's



With the reopening of the Digger's under the new managers, Simon and Nikki, we have been able to resume our monthly village lunches. The date is always the second Wednesday in the month and we meet at 12 noon. The April meal will be on the 12th. A chance to meet up with friends in the village and have a good chat. Anyone interested in joining us please contact Nikki at the Digger's to book a place. All are welcome.

WHITE CROSS MISSION COMMUNITY



This is a new dedicated section of the magazine for news and information from the WCMC and our village churches. The list of services for April is, as always, on page 23.

Message from the Vicarage



On the Sunday before Mothering Sunday I preached a sermon based upon an encounter that Jesus had with a Samaritan woman at a well. It fitted well with being shortly after International Woman's Day. Jesus' male disciples were shocked to see him speaking with a woman, a Samaritan too. They didn't understand that it was for precisely those who didn't easily fit in that Jesus came. He overturned the religious niceties of the day with a more compassionate concern for the outsider.

The other day I was part of a group meeting, looking at the funding and composition of this magazine. You will see from Peter Skelton's editorial this month that we are moving away from the 'church' owning the magazine towards having a more community-based magazine. Peter has made it clear that we are still hoping to keep delivering the CVN free to all the local households, and that we continue to need a varied content for the magazine.

I have always tried to keep the vicar's letter as 'broadly' interesting as possible, and hope that this, together with the announcement of church services and events, reflects the church being part of the local community. In other words, it is no longer what it perhaps once was – a church magazine. And I think this is a good thing. However, like most of us, I want to have my cake and eat it (a peculiar expression which I have heard explained sensibly, but for another time). So I will continue trying to throw in the occasional religious ball from the left field, to keep us on our theological toes! Perhaps I should try and avoid too many mixed metaphors, though.

It is far too easy for those of us involved in running churches to be inward-looking and only concerned with our own congregations. I often quote a previous Archbishop (and forgive me if you have heard this before), William Temple, who famously said: 'The Church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members.'

Saying, or speaking, these words is, however, quite different from putting them into practice. So let's hope that the new look to the CVN will reflect the needs of all our community, not just the minority of churchgoing ones. Having nailed my colours to the mast (yet another metaphor), I do however want to echo Peter's thanks for all who keep the CVN going, including the volunteer deliverers, many of whom are linked to our churches. Let's hang on in there (Peter's metaphor this time) and see the CVN go from strength to strength.

Bill and Daffy Lemmey, Woodbury Vicarage revbillwhitecross@gmail.com 01395 232161

Clyst St Mary



Easter Celebrations. We have planned for the Easter celebrations and hope that you will be able to come along at some time. We haven't done this before but on Saturday 1st April from 2 to 4 pm (approx) we will be holding what we call an 'Easter Fest' in the church for all ages. We will be putting together the

Easter Garden and the Easter Cross that is finally decorated with flowers for the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We will also be having activities for you all that will include pictures for colouring, jewellery-making, Easter games, Easter flower decorations, chocolate and much more. Obviously, refreshments along the way and music, we hope, so if you would like to come along during the course of the afternoon please do; you will be very welcome and it will be warm! To enable us to plan for approximate numbers, please could you email pat@cusa.org.uk (Pat Cusa) to let us know how many adults and children will be coming along. We do hope this whets your appetite. Best wishes. Pat and all church members.


Church Services. The Family Service will be held on 2nd April, starting at 9.30 am. This is a very informal gathering for parents and children. There will be a Family Communion Service on 16th April, at 9.30 am as usual. Tea and coffee are served after both services, and we encourage people to stay and enjoy some fellowship. We welcome new families who would like to bring their children to join us in these services. On Good Friday, 7th April, we will be holding the Cross of Christ Service at 9.30 am. This is a service of lessons and hymns, similar in form to the Christmas service of nine lessons and carols, but reflecting on the Easter story. Coffee and hot cross buns are served after the service. On Saturday 8th April there will be an Easter Eve Holy Communion Service by candlelight at 7 pm. The service on Easter Day is a joint Confirmation Service at Clyst St George at 11.15 am.

Annual Vestry Meeting and Parochial Church Meeting. These meetings will be held in church on Sunday 16th April at 11 am in church, following the 9.30 service. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Clyst St George



Cards for Sale in the Church. Recycled cards are again available in the church. They can be used for any occasion, eg notelets, birthday, get well, sympathy, anniversary, new home, new baby, etc. You are welcome to visit the church at any time and spend time looking through the boxes of cards. The church is

open every day between 9 am and dusk. I'd also welcome any cards you may wish to recycle, except for Christmas cards. These can be left in the church for collection.  Many thanks. Linda Wilkerson (01392 873699)


Woodbury Salterton



Family Service. Mark Lovett conducted the February Family Service which was again very well attended. He talked about Love and Forgiveness and asked the congregation, in groups, to write down things they loved and then things they loved but other people might not love – tomatoes and noise

being among suggestions for the latter! Chris Heyball and Paul Ayshford read the Bible passages and Clare Rooke led prayers.

Good Friday Play. On Good Friday (7th April) we will again be performing the Good Friday Play in church. This is open to everyone across all the churches in the Mission Community. Children are invited to assemble in church at 9.30 am when parts will be allocated (the script to be read) and we will rehearse the play. There will be a break for hot cross buns, coffee and squash and parents and friends are invited to come at 11 am to watch the performance.

Coffee Morning. The April coffee morning will take place on Saturday 1st April in  church from 9.30 till 10.30 am.

Church Quiz. Our church spring quiz, entitled the 4th Scarecrow Quiz, is now on sale at £2 a copy. The theme this time is 'Sweet Treats'. Lin Ashby is kindly helping us by selling copies in Woodbury as is Liz Whittaker in Clyst St Mary. Paper copies can be obtained from Katharine Wheeler or can be requested by email from avmx79@dsl.pipex.

~~~~~ POETRY CORNER

Mausoleum

By John Smith (of Clyst St Mary)

In childhood I am taken on a visit
To relatives in a place called Cemetery,
It's like a country park –
If I knew what a country park was.

Grand wrought iron gates,
Grand paths and lawns
And great trees that put our
Grimy London Planes to shame,

I wonder at memorial stones
 From tiny slabs to great Angels wings
 And intrigued by little stone houses
 Where nobody seems to live.

Even at ten I understand
 That dead means dead and life is gone
 And status leaves with the last breath –
 If I knew what status meant.

But now I see that the mausoleum
 Is built for the living, and not the dead
 Glorifying worldly wealth whilst
 The living Spirit, all that remains,
 Lives in the minds that truly love.

©John Smith



~~~~~  
**AND FINALLY...**

**Paula Fernley Photography**



Kodak Instamatic that only seemed to take blurred photos; it was too light for a small girl to hold steady, and it moved every time I squeezed the shutter button. I moved into 35 mm compacts then graduated to film and digital SLRs before progressing to a Fuji mirrorless system. I have now discovered a new photography love and that is flying my camera drone. This



Could you believe this was taken above the Exe Estuary as the sun was setting? It gives a different perspective on mud!

I was honoured to be asked if the Clyst Valley News could use my panorama of the area. I'm a local photographer in East Devon. My love of photography began when I was a child. I started with a terrible

is quite amusing as two weeks before I bought this I was heard to say, 'I don't like drones, I can't see the point of them and I don't want one.' Oh my, have I had to eat my words.

With the advent of the pandemic I had to mothball my portrait business. This was difficult in many ways but this has allowed me to get out into the wilds again and have fun taking photographs. Landscaping has always been my first love, and it's nice to revisit.

The scope for aerial stills photography and videography is immense. When work began again I have been able to use the drone for portraits of people celebrating their lives and homes. The pandemic made people re-evaluate what's important to them and photographs of your families are so important. For me drone photography is all about seeing life from a different perspective, seeing things you haven't seen before and things you have, but from another angle. It has opened my eyes to my local area to record it in a very different way. evolving landscape. although this is complicated by the presence of a local airport.

As well as much beauty around my local area, there is a lot of house building going on. The landscape is changing dramatically and irreversibly. The drone is a great tool to capture the Air Traffic Control need to be consulted to make sure they are happy for me to fly doing this work. The last thing I want is to endanger anybody or anything.

We had a situation last year where I was teaching someone to fly their drone on a disused airfield. We had sought permission and it had been granted. So off we went for a lesson. No sooner had we got the drone in the air and we looked to our right, we could see an enormous Hercules transport aircraft flying extremely low across the runway behind.



The grasshopper's view: it's not all about crazy height. I love this view of the world in warm autumn sunshine.



It's tough on the fingers flying in frosty conditions but the patterns revealed in the landscape are worth it.

You need to keep your wits about you and have eyes in the back of your head. Having someone else with you to spot is a great idea too. Luckily we were only about 20 metres off the ground and nowhere near the Hercules but it made the heart pound for a minute or two about what might have been.

I know many people that have bought an expensive camera drone then left it in the box for months as they are too scared to get it out and fly it. Trying to find anywhere to fly seems impossible. My advice would be to book some training to gain confidence and do a qualification so you know the rules.

Here I have included a selection of my favourite images. The freedom to get unseen views from familiar locations is tremendous and has really ignited my passion for photography again. The cover image is only a few miles from my home but with no high vantage points around I have only seen it a few times going off on holiday in an aeroplane.

More of my work can be seen and limited-edition prints purchased at [www.paulafernley.co.uk](http://www.paulafernley.co.uk). If you need help with operating a drone, I offer lessons though I am quite busy presently mounting my election campaign to be a Broadclyst District Councillor. Paula Fernley

**There's No Fooling Topsham – Spring Is Here!**



Hello and welcome to April, and following the success of our Artisan Business Fair at the end of last month we have news of our events for the rest of spring.

Firstly, we're supporting our friends at Topsham Community Association with their brilliant idea for a Food Fair at the end of May. We'll be complementing that with a *Shopping Trail* to encourage more residents to maximise their shopping with our in-town businesses and shops, across food and other sectors. Watch this space for more details next month!

Secondly, May sees the return of Love Topsham's *hanging baskets* - no fewer than 90 of them along High Street and Fore Street as we start another season making our beautiful town still more attractive. We're still keen to enlarge our army of volunteers watering the baskets. Even if you can spare just a couple of hours a fortnight, we'd love your assistance please. Just pop in to Lily at The Topsham Bookshop to register your interest or please email us at [lovetopsham@gmail.com](mailto:lovetopsham@gmail.com).





Thirdly, we're set to launch a campaign to ensure we celebrate the Coronation with a feast from our *local stores*. We have brilliant food shops such as Arthurs, Richards, Salt, Topsham Wines, our many cafés and the Saturday Market (plus others too numerous to mention) so there's no excuse for not shopping local! Please watch for our publicity encouraging us to celebrate in style – with no food miles...

Fourthly and finally a few reminders. If you're involved in any of Topsham's groups, organisations and societies – please use the *Topsham Town Calendar* on [lovetopsham.co.uk](http://lovetopsham.co.uk). Several groups already do use this completely free service – the more that do so, the more it becomes to go-to place for anyone in the community, or any visitor, to see what's on. Please check it out and simply complete the easy online form for your entry to hit the website.

Please remember, too, that if you like what we do and want to help us do more, become a supporter with a very small monthly contribution for a *Love Topsham Card*. This helps us fund our hanging baskets, fairs and events, publicity and those public benches at the Quay and the Rec coming into their own this spring. More details about the card, and everything we do, on [lovetopsham.co.uk](http://lovetopsham.co.uk). Enjoy April and we'll see you next month. From the Love Topsham Team.

### The Sky Tonight: April



I hope you were able to catch sight of the conjunction of Venus and Jupiter at the beginning of last month and of the Space Station on one of its late March passes. If not, there is a phone app *Heavens Above* which lists all the satellites passes, not only the ISS, each night. You might like to give it a try.

Spring is with us and with it, the stars that fill the spring sky. *Looking at the southern sky in the middle of this month at our usual time of about 9 pm, it is*

*obvious that the aspect now is very different from what it was when we started in January. The orange star Aldebaran, which was then due south has been replaced by a different, blue-white star, Regulus, in our constellation of the month, Leo, the lion. The reason for the change is that the time it takes our Earth to turn once on its axis is not 24 hours, but 23 hours, 56 minutes and 11 seconds. So if you look out in the same direction at the same time the following night the Earth is already into its next revolution by about four minutes, moving the stars across the sky by a little under one degree. These add up, changing the aspect of the sky season by season. (We'll come back to this 'clock time' vs 'star time' discrepancy in a later article.)*

*Turning back now to the night sky and our constellation of the month, Leo, you will see five less bright stars forming with Regulus a reversed question mark or sickle shape. This is the head of the lion. Look at the second star in the sickle above Regulus with binoculars. It is a splendid binary star with orange and yellow components. Leo is a large constellation so looking well to the left of the sickle you will find two further stars making with it a rectangle, the body of the lion. Under the lower of these are two spiral galaxies, M65 and M66. One further star forms a triangle at the end, the lion's hindquarters. This last star is named Denebola, Arabic for 'base of the tail'.*

Two further constellations, either side of Leo, are associated with him. *If you sweep the sky with binoculars to the left of the constellation, continuing a line from Regulus to Denebola you will find a sprinkling of faint stars and a cluster of fuzzy patches. The latter are galaxies far beyond our own galaxy, the Milky Way. These form the constellation Berenice's Hair, Coma Berenice. The lady in question was an Egyptian queen who, when her husband returned safely from war, cut off her beautiful hair and laid it on the temple altar. Unfortunately it disappeared. The king was about to execute everyone in sight when a quick-thinking priest pointed to this*

hazy patch in the sky, saying the gods had honoured his wife's sacrifice, placing her shining tresses in the sky - or so the story goes!

*To the right of Leo, on a line between Regulus and the stars Castor and Pollux we met last time is the constellation of Cancer, the Crab. Look for quite a small triangle of three 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude (ie quite faint) stars with a fourth one in the centre. So, not an impressive constellation in comparison with, say Orion. However, it is of note for two reasons: You may recall on a map of the world, above the Equator a line labelled Tropic of Cancer, so named because when, on 21<sup>st</sup> June, the summer solstice, the Sun attains its highest mid-day elevation for the year it would be 'in' this constellation, ie if you could see them, the stars of this constellation would appear behind the Sun. (More about this in a later article.) The second claim we can observe now. Look just above the star in the middle of the triangle and you will see probably the night sky's finest open cluster of stars. With binoculars it is spectacular, with over 200 stars spread over three full-moon widths. This cluster, called the Beehive, is one of the closest to Earth.*

Turning our attention to the planets, the 11th of this month is the best time to see the planet Mercury. **Please wait until the Sun has completely set then scan the sky with binoculars about one third of the way between that setting point and the planet Venus which is very obvious in the West. Mercury is small (only slightly larger than our Moon) and the disc will only be about three-quarters lit, the inner planets showing phases like our Moon.** (Why this is I'll explain when we turn our attention to Venus later in the year.) Persevere. Viewing it is difficult. I've only seen it twice in 65 years of observing!

Finally, there is a meteor shower this month, the Lyrids. The shower is expected to peak on the night of 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>. *Look to the East and you should see a meteor trail every two or three minutes. They are the consequence of the Earth passing through the debris left in the orbit of comet Thatcher - not named after Margaret but an amateur astronomer, A E Thatcher, who discovered it in 1831. (Prior to the days of automated telescopes most comets were discovered by amateurs. The American Edward Barnard discovered sixteen - and with a prize of \$200 a comet, offered at the time, it paid for his house!)*

### The Exeter Forum Talks Programme: April and May 2023



The Exeter Forum weekly talks take place on Wednesdays at the Mint Methodist Church in Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT. Members get together from 10.15 am. After time for coffee and socialising, the talk starts, usually at around 10.45 am. All are very welcome to attend these meetings. There is a small admission charge if not a member of the Exeter Forum. More information at [www.exeterforum.org/talks](http://www.exeterforum.org/talks).

| Date         | Speaker      | Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 & 12 April | No meetings  | Easter break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 19 April     | Peter Selley | <i>Grave Robbing and Body Snatching in Devon</i><br>Two hundred years ago, the practice of grave robbing and body snatching was not uncommon in Devon but why did this happen and what were the consequences? Peter will tell the macabre and sometimes bizarre story of these activities and why they eventually ceased to occur.               |
| 26 April     | Alex Leger   | <i>Working with the Military – Presenters under Stress</i><br>Former BBC producer and Director of Blue Peter will draw on his experience working with the military for TV programmes to tell the story of some of the exciting and at times hair-raising ways presenters were challenged whilst filming with the military programmes that he was |

|        |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |                                 | involved with. His stories, all absolutely true, will show that life as a television programme maker is full of surprises.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3 May  | Vicki Samuels                   | <i>The Story of the Britannia</i><br>The Britannia is the last remaining Class 1 East Coast Smack. She is being restored in Devon as a sea-going vessel. Vicki's talk will tell the story of how the Britannia was saved from destruction, her restoration and the mission to tour the coastline of the British Isles to educate people about our maritime heritage and provide opportunities to develop skills of working with sailing ships. The Britannia will visit Exeter some time in 2023 as part of the events celebrating Exeter's Inland Haven.                                                                         |
| 10 May | Peter Kiff, followed by the AGM | <i>Early Years of The Salvation Army in Exeter</i><br>Peter will look at the importance of Exeter in the early years of the Salvation Army and its impact on the city. Peter is a Redcoat guide and has a lifelong experience of the Salvation Army. This short talk will be followed by the Exeter Forum AGM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 17 May | Bob Ball                        | <i>Three Battles That Could Have Changed Our World</i><br>Bob will follow up his talk on King Arthur by looking at three crucial battles that changed the course of history in the UK and the wider world.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 24 May | Roy & Lesley Adkins             | <i>Jack Tar – Life in Nelson's Navy</i><br>This week's talk is a joint presentation with Exeter Heritage Harbour Festival, part of the summer-long maritime event being held to celebrate Exeter's Quay, Heritage Harbour and Ship Canal. <i>Jack Tar – Life in Nelson's Navy</i> will look at the life of ordinary seamen at that time, both locally and nationally. For example, did you know that 103 men from Exeter served at the Battle of Trafalgar, four of them on the Victory herself? Roy and Lesley are authors of maritime history and archaeology books and have appeared at literary festivals across the country. |
| 31 May | No meeting                      | Half term break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

### An Interesting Speculation – It Might Even Be True



On a recent visit to *Plants Galore* in Topsham, there were a number of semi-mature olive trees in display. The trunks of these had all been cut through at approximately four feet from the ground and where the circumference of the trunks was approximately 30 inches but, below the cut, side shoots had grown vigorously to form a new young crown. This triggered a curious thought. Was this the clue to the survival of the eight extremely ancient olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem which are thought to be over 2000 years old? We know that in 70 AD Jerusalem was sacked by the Roman army under Titus who ordered the cutting down of all the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane. Little did he know that many of them would have simply sprouted new shoots from below the cuts and thus had their lives vastly extended. Could this be the secret of those eight surviving trees? Did they witness Jesus on the fatal night of his betrayal? History holds so many secrets and this speculation could explain one of them. Are there any other ideas? You can look up Garden of Gethsemane on Google and see one for yourself. Tony Rule

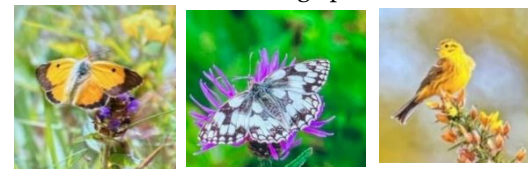
### Woodbury Camera Club



Woodbury Camera Club welcomed their first outside speaker of the year, Nick Howe, to the Church Rooms on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Nick gave an excellent insight into his passion of taking wildlife photos and provided the Club with numerous tips on

how to take the best photos, ensuring us that you don't need expensive equipment – though that's a bonus – but also patience and a little inside knowledge on where to find some of the regular wildlife visitors to our area. We were treated to photos of beavers, otters, their feeding mothers and young butterflies, birds, dragonflies, etc. I have included some here but obviously have compromised some of the excellent quality.

Nick explained where he went and what we are likely to find in those areas and the best time of year and day, in order to have a successful outcome. All the areas are very accessible and the Club looks forward to taking up his advice and sharing our shots at another meeting.



Next month we have invited John Perriam who takes landscape photos but puts a twist to them – really interesting, and the following month (April) we plan to use our own photographs that we have taken recently and talk about them to other

members if anyone wishes to. There is no expectation but we find members like to share and both give and receive advice. Our photographs are taken on a variety of cameras and mobile phones. For anyone who might be interested in joining the Club, which welcomes people from all the surrounding villages, we meet every third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Church Rooms. You are quite welcome to just turn up or if you would prefer to discuss this first, please ring Debbie Jung on 07903345683 or email [debbiejung16@gmail.com](mailto:debbiejung16@gmail.com).

### Monthly Giggle 😄

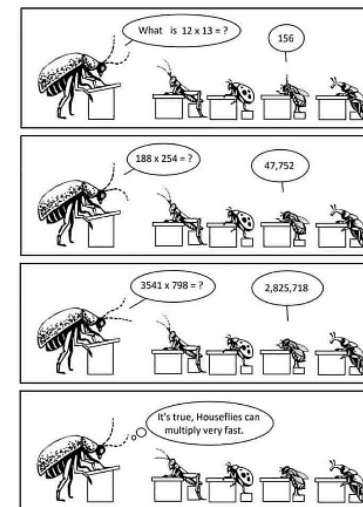
Traffic policeman: Didn't you hear me shout to you to pull over?

Motorist: 'I'm awfully sorry. I thought you said 'Good morning, Chief Constable.'

Traffic policeman: That's all right, sir. I just wanted to warn you that the traffic's pretty bad up ahead.

*Harry wasn't feeling too well and had been putting on weight and was stressed because of losing money on the horses. So he went to see his doctor for a thorough examination. After the doctor had finished, he said to Harry, 'You're going to have to have a triple by-pass.'* To which Harry replied, 'Is it that serious?' The doctor said, 'Yes...you'll have to by-pass the pie shop, the pub and the betting shop.'

An intrepid photographer went to a haunted castle determined to get a picture of a ghost which was said to appear only once in a hundred years. Not wanting to frighten off the ghost, the photographer sat in the dark until midnight when the apparition became visible. The ghost turned out to be friendly and consented to pose for one snapshot. The happy photographer popped a bulb into his camera and took the picture. After dashing into his studio, the photographer developed the negative and groaned. It was underexposed and completely blank. The spirit was willing, but the flash was weak.





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You too can advertise your business or organisation in this magazine! The CVN is delivered free to around 1300 households and businesses in the Clyst valley villages every month; and a full colour version is posted on Facebook village pages and parish council websites – as well as being sent out via a popular mailing list. If you want to find out more about our very reasonable rates, please contact the Editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) without delay! No obligation. Thanks.

**WCMC SERVICES APRIL 2023**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Palm Sunday**

|       |     |                 |                    |
|-------|-----|-----------------|--------------------|
| 09:30 | CSM | Family Service  | Rev'd Jean Burrows |
| 09:30 | WST | Holy Communion  | Rev'd Sid          |
| 11:15 | WBY | Holy Communion  | Rev'd Margaret     |
| 11:15 | AYL | Holy Communion  | Rev'd Bill         |
| 18:00 | EXT | Evening Worship | Rev'd Bill         |
| 18:30 | WBY | Cross of Christ | Lay led            |

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April: Maundy Thursday**

|       |     |                                                         |                    |
|-------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 18:30 | FAR | Stripping the Altar with HC (option of Washing of Feet) | Rev'd Jean Burrows |
|-------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April: Good Friday**

|       |     |                   |                               |
|-------|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 09:30 | CSM | Cross of Christ   | Lay led                       |
| 11:15 | WST | Passion Play      | Lay led (Children from 09:30) |
| 11:30 | WBY | Walk of Witnesses | Lay led                       |
| 14:00 | CSG | Meditation        | Rev'd Bill                    |

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

|       |     |                                          |           |
|-------|-----|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 19:00 | CSM | Easter Eve Holy Communion by candlelight | Rev'd Sid |
|-------|-----|------------------------------------------|-----------|

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Sunday**

|       |     |                      |                |
|-------|-----|----------------------|----------------|
| 09:30 | FAR | Holy Communion       | Rev'd Margaret |
| 09:30 | WBY | Holy Communion       | Bishop Jackie  |
| 11:15 | CSG | Confirmation Service | Bishop Jackie  |

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

|       |     |                            |                 |
|-------|-----|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 09:30 | WST | Breakfast Family Service   | TBA             |
| 09:30 | CSM | Holy Communion             | Rev'd Bill      |
| 09:30 | EXT | Morning Worship            | Lay led         |
| 11:15 | AYL | Family Service and Baptism | Rev'd Sid       |
| 18:30 | WBY | Evensong                   | Christine Grist |

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

|       |     |                 |                |
|-------|-----|-----------------|----------------|
| 09:30 | FAR | Morning Worship | Carolyn Keep   |
| 10:30 | WBY | Café Church     | Lay led        |
| 11:15 | CSG | Holy Communion  | Rev'd Margaret |

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

|       |     |                                   |            |
|-------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 09:30 | WST | Family Breakfast Creation Service | Rev'd Bill |
|-------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------|

*Week 1*

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Rev'd Jean Burrows |
| Rev'd Sid          |
| Rev'd Margaret     |
| Rev'd Bill         |
| Rev'd Bill         |
| Lay led            |

*Week 2*

|                |
|----------------|
| Rev'd Sid      |
| Rev'd Margaret |
| Bishop Jackie  |
| Bishop Jackie  |

*Week 3*

|            |
|------------|
| TBA        |
| Rev'd Bill |
| Lay led    |
| Rev'd Sid  |

*Week 4*

|                |
|----------------|
| Carolyn Keep   |
| Lay led        |
| Rev'd Margaret |

*Week 5*

|            |
|------------|
| Rev'd Bill |
|------------|



**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO MOVE FORWARD**

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For more information, please visit our website or contact us below.

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