



# CLYST VALLEY NEWS

May 2023



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### EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello and welcome to this May edition of the Clyst Valley News. It's been a bit up and down weather-wise the past few weeks, hasn't it? But there's a definite feeling now that spring has finally sprung. Let's hope so.

As our cover this month makes plain, there are two glamorous events taking place in the UK a week apart in May that will focus the world's attention on our island nation. First, on the 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be the Coronation of King Charles III when many of the world's glitterati will be assembled in London, multi-million pounds worth of jewellery on display, haute couture, dressy uniforms, tradition, pomp and heraldry, tight security – all to welcome our 62<sup>nd</sup> monarch to the throne – and of course his wife, Queen Camilla. And, as always tends to happen with significant royal events, fun parties will be organised around the country so that citizens can join in the celebrations too. As you'll see in the magazine, the Clyst Valley is no exception, with activities being put on by enthusiastic, hardworking volunteers in our communities. We wish them well and hope the weather plays ball and everyone has a great time.

Then, a week later, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Eurovision comes to the UK, with the city of Liverpool hosting the final of this annual extravaganza – this time with a difference as this country is doing the honours on behalf of Ukraine who won the contest last year but who sadly can't host the event this year because of the terrible war devastating their land. I am quite sure that Liverpool will excel in upholding the glitzy, theatrical, high-tech standards and reputation of this amazing event and put on a brilliantly creative show that will do credit both to that legendary city and to the people of Ukraine. The Eurovision Song Contest may be something of a Marmite date in the calendar for many people but it continues to enjoy amazing popularity around the world: around 180 million viewers will tune in live to watch it that evening, which ranks it among the world's most watched non-sporting events every year.

In this country, as in many others around the world, people will also, as with the Coronation, be arranging parties and get-togethers to celebrate Eurovision – the difference being that, in many cases these will take place in the privacy of their homes rather than on village greens or in the streets. But make no mistake, there will be no lack of pizzazz or outlandish attire at Eurovision. Perhaps the bling on display is less likely to consist of precious stones temporarily released from their museum homes – but they still glitter! Good luck to the UK's entry, Mae Muller; and our warm wishes go to Ukraine.

Have a lovely month and enjoy the magazine. Best wishes. Peter Skelton

**Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the June 2023 issue of the Clyst Valley News should be sent by email, to the editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 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:**

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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](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) and we'll do the rest. Simple!

### CLYST ST MARY



#### New Food Bank Donation Points in Clyst St Mary

Clyst St Mary now has two donation points 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. And there is now also a donation point at the village shop. Please give generously as there is an increasing need. 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](mailto:bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk). We look forward to seeing you soon.

### Bishops Clyst Parish Council



**Clyst St Mary Flood Defences.** The Parish Council is extremely grateful to the Environment Agency for completing the £3m improvement works to the Clyst St Mary flood defences. The scheme provides a high level of protection from river flooding to over 50 properties in the village. Operational elements of the new scheme include demountable barrier installations at the village end of the historic causeway and at the top end of Frog Lane. The Environment Agency continues to work in collaboration with the community Flood Group to ensure there is resilience in operating the demountable barriers during times of flooding.

We owe a vote of thanks to the team of 16 volunteers from the village who have formed a 'stop log' team and have recently completed a training exercise, overseen by Environment Agency staff, to erect the barriers. Each barrier consists of substantial and highly engineered aluminium parts which are stored in large aluminium cabinets close to the installation site which will be erected when advised by the Environment Agency of a potential flood risk.



Stop Log Volunteers

The Parish Council is also extremely grateful to Devon Communities Together who provided a grant to enable the Flood Group to purchase LED work lamps and waders for use by the 'stop log' volunteers.

If any resident would like to volunteer for the 'stop log' team, please contact the Parish Clerk at [bishopsclyst@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsclyst@gmail.com) or on 01392 874405; or Dave Richards at [daverichards50@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:daverichards50@yahoo.co.uk) or on 07914 723306.

**Parish and District Council Elections 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.** Information on nominations and voting is available at <https://www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/elections-2023/>. **Residents may have seen that only seven Parish Councillors have put their names forward to form the new Council from May, leaving five vacancies. More Councillors are urgently needed. If you would like to help, you can be co-opted on to the Council at our next meeting. Just email your details to the Clerk or drop a letter in to the Village Hall.** Assistant Clerk. The Parish Council would like to welcome Sue Scott, Assistant Clerk, who will be assisting with the running of the Parish Council office.

**Parish Council Meetings.** Council meetings take place each month and dates, Agendas and minutes are posted on our website ([www.bishopsclyst.org.uk](http://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 12.30 pm. Call 01392 874405 or email [bishopsclyst@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsclyst@gmail.com). *You are very welcome to drop in, but we recommend making an appointment to ensure someone is available to see you.*

### Macmillan Garden Party: A Date for Your Diary!

Fundraising for



Ann and Robin Bristow are hosting a Macmillan Garden Party at 6 Winslade Park Avenue on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 11 am to 4 pm. There will be tea, coffee and cakes on sale; books and plants; a raffle with amazing prizes!; a nearly new clothes sale; and a bric-a-brac stall.

This is for a really great cause and we are asking for donations of cakes, books, plants, nearly new clothes and bric-a-brac. These can be delivered to 6 Winslade Park Avenue.

This is a cash-only sale - come and catch up with friends and neighbours over a cuppa and get some real bargains! Looking forward to seeing you.

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:jason.mingo@me.com) or Nicky Blacker at [nicky.blacker@gmail.com](mailto:nicky.blacker@gmail.com) for more information.

Peter Cain, Chairman, Clyst Valley AFC

### Clyst St Mary Primary School

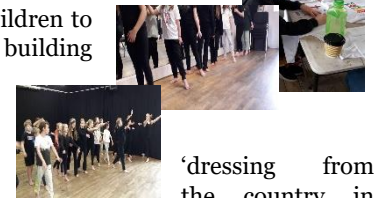


We'll start with the 'Celebration of Dance' event which our Class 5 was invited to attend at the Phoenix Theatre, organised by Devon School Games and Active Devon. It was a great opportunity for the children to represent their school, while building



confidence and self-esteem. Before they went home, they had the chance to decorate special T-shirts to commemorate their fun day!

Red Nose Day was a hit this year, with our children head to toe in red' and joining thousands of others across raising money for those who need it most. Special thanks to all our parents for their generous donations.



This term's Carers and Sharers group took part in our 'Easter Eggstravaganza', spending a lovely morning decorating eggs, then rolling them down the Village Hall hill. Some of the egg designs – and back-stories – were incredibly creative, as you can see from some of the pictures!



Our Carers and Sharers group meets several times across the school year to complete fun cooking, art, game-based or craft activities, along with the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with school peers in a supportive environment.

At the end of March we returned to the Barnfield Theatre for our production of *Harry Potter*, as part of the 'Dance Showdown' event. Class 4 put on a wonderful show, having spent many Friday mornings in rehearsal, under the enthusiastic guidance of Premier Education's Nadia Coles. Thank you to all the parents for going along and supporting the children – we hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!

In the last week of term, our Reception class were treated to a lovely, sedate walk around the



village and surprise Easter egg hunt in the grounds of Clyst St Mary Church. The children had a go on the church organ – and had great fun pulling on the bells’ ropes (in case any local residents were wondering why the bells were ringing out on a Thursday



expert Liz Whittaker accompanied the nuggets of her vast historical knowledge some frog spawn from a pavement puddle much to Liz, and the other parents who the day.

morning!). Our local group, imparting of the village – and even rescuing – along the way! Thank you very helped chaperone the children on



Unfortunately, our Sponsored Easter Walk, scheduled to take place on the last day of term, had to be postponed due to the extremely wet weather. We have rescheduled the event for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Fingers crossed for decent weather this time...

As soon as we returned from the holiday, our Year 3 and 4 classes took off on an action-packed Residential trip to Barton Hall in Torquay. Their two-night stay was filled with activities specially designed to motivate and build confidence in the students, including archery, canoeing, climbing and fun on a giant swing! We’re looking forward to sharing some pictures with you next month.

Looking ahead, we will start weekly swimming lessons from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April at the Exmouth Pool for a select group of Class 5 and 6 children. Of course, we have a couple of Bank Holiday closures, on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and then 8<sup>th</sup> May in celebration of the King’s Coronation. We plan on marking the event in the week leading up to the Coronation with a school Tea Party (date tbc, but probably Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May). The Class 6 children will sit their SAT papers during the week starting 9<sup>th</sup> May while Class 5 will complete their Level 2 Bikeability course. There will be more information on all this in next month’s magazine.

### Village Coronation Plans Cancelled



I am sorry to say that I have had to cancel plans for a royal-themed scarecrow, garden or window display around Clyst St Mary and a cream tea at the Village Hall to commemorate the King’s Coronation as there was insufficient interest. Carole Price

### Walking Group



The May walk will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>. We meet at the Village Hall at 10 am to carshare. The walk will be approx five miles with a pub lunch. All are welcome. We walk at our own risk. For information call Sue and Tony on 01392 874563.

### 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 [pamelagardner9@gmail.com](mailto:pamelagardner9@gmail.com).

### 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](http://www.clystvalleypreschool.org) or by calling us on 01392 876615.

### CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD



#### Clyst St George Parish Council Chairman’s Notes: May 2023

Local elections: Firstly, don’t forget your photo ID if voting in person at the Parish Hall in Clyst St George; the Government require this. You will be voting for your District Councillor only, as only six people have stood for the seven seats on the Parish Council. One other missed the deadline for returning the forms but they will be co-opted at the PC’s May meeting.

As a Council we feel that we are doing something right as otherwise we would have faced some opposition!

The planning in Ebford has not yet been decided by EDDC and will probably not be until after EDDC elections are decided and Councillors are told which committees they are on, June at the earliest!

The Coronation event is being planned by the Parish Hall Committee and the Council have got the mugs for all the children of primary school age and below. I will liaise with the school to hand them out. So I do hope you enjoy the Coronation weekend. All the best.

John Manser

[john@jmanser.co.uk](mailto:john@jmanser.co.uk)

01392 874861

### Clyst St George Parish Hall



*Coffee Morning.* May’s coffee morning will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Do pop in for a tea/coffee and a chat.

*Big Breakfast.* The Big Breakfast was a great community event on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and it



was fabulous to see so many people enjoy the delicious full English breakfasts and bacon and sausage butties. It was particularly lovely to see some of the youngest Clyst St George residents at the Parish Hall. Many thanks to Claire and Donna for all their hard work in the kitchen and also to Alan, our wonderful waiter! Profits from the event go to Parish



### 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](mailto:annecurryer@gmail.com))  
Thank you.



Hall funds and we are looking forward to the next Big Breakfast which will take place in September.

**Coronation.** Preparations for our Coronation event and are in full swing and tickets priced at £5 per person to include a burger or hot dog and drink are available from Paul, Claire, Helen and Isobel in Clyst St George and John in Ebford; contact details are in the poster. The event includes music from the Otter Folk Band, children's fancy dress competition, bouncy castle, tea and cakes, raffle and bar. We look forward to celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III with you.

**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

Much has been happening at Lady Seaward's leading up to the well-earned Easter holiday by staff and pupils! Among a variety of practical learning activities, Class 1 thoroughly enjoyed a visit



from Tiverton Toy Museum, exploring traditional toys. Class 3 dived into a damp but useful day on Woodbury Common practising their den-building skills and Class 4 were able to add colour



to their history learning by taking the train to Exeter to visit RAMM and Exeter Cathedral. These trips were greatly enjoyed by all involved!

The whole school took part in a very successful Read-a-thon for Children in Need and raised an impressive amount of close to £700! Some funds are still being paid in!



The Easter Service is always a special occasion on the school calendar and our recent service did not disappoint, with every class enjoying playing their part in explaining the Easter story with the help of Rev'd Bill.

We return to a summer term full of exciting events and opportunities, including the Year 6 Residential, Sports Day and not forgetting the King's Coronation this month.

If anyone is considering our school for the September 2023 Reception intake or for a move from another school/area, please contact the school office on 01392 873629 or email us on

[admin@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk). We will be hosting an Open Afternoon on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 1.45 – 2.45 pm.

### 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



The first week of March continued the unusual six-week period of winter drought mentioned in last month's report. However, after Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> rain became frequent and sometimes very heavy; Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> was very wet – 26 mm or one inch. Also, the last three days contributed 1½ inches, to a total of **132 mm or 5.2 inches** for the month!

The average monthly amount over the previous four years, and also my long-term average over 22 years here in Ebford, is 56 mm (2.2 inches). Gardens and fields are now sopping wet; but reservoirs must at last be filling. Last year the dry second half of March was followed by a very dry April; real amounts of rain only coming along in the merry month of May. 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](mailto:littledragons@live.com) or visit our website [www.littledragonsclyststgeorge.com](http://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 May event will be on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>.

### 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 May meal will be on the 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.


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## 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 May is, as always, on page 23.*



## Clyst St Mary



*Easter Celebrations.* Easter has been a busy time for the church but it was also a happy time for our community. We started the Easter Week with our Easter Fest in the church. This was attended by lots of families who iced cakes with Ann Bristow, made and donated by our lovely local shop in the village. Margaret Stainsfield helped children make some beautiful bracelets as presents, all made with lovely stones. Sandra helped with making special Easter cards for the children to give to someone. Colouring tables and lots of chat and laughter with families meeting other families for

the first time. A big success and hopefully to be repeated in the summer holidays. Our church services were very well attended, thank you, and the Good Friday service, The Cross of Christ, had a stunning Mission Choir singing hymns and anthems. Residents read the Easter readings and this was followed up by coffee and hot cross buns. On the Saturday Rev'd Sid Humphries took our Easter Eve Holy Communion Service with Barry Walker lighting a small fire outside the church. This was to signify the soldiers guarding the tomb through to Easter Sunday. The service was candlelit and very calming. This was followed by wine and refreshments. We do hope that everyone who took part, attended and helped us enjoyed our Easter representation and we all look forward to seeing you another time. Our church services are always in the magazine. Thank you everyone and our best wishes to you all from Clyst St Mary Church. Pat Cusa, Church Warden.

**Church Services.** There will be no Family Service this month as there will be a joint Coronation Service at Woodbury on 7<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a Family Communion Service on 21<sup>st</sup> May, at 9.30 am as usual. Tea and coffee will be served after the service, and we encourage people to stay and enjoy some fellowship.

## 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



**Mothering Sunday.** Rev'd Bill conducted the Family Service on Mothering Sunday. His talk included a slide show of Cuthbert the seal from his birth until his mother left him to make his own way in the world. Bible passages were read by Luca Fickem and Clare Rooke. Fiona Vessey led prayers.

Potted polyanthi, kindly donated by Sheila Gerdes, were handed to children to give to their mothers and Debbie Jung served coffee and breakfast before the service began.

**Good Friday Passion Play.** Although we had fewer participants this year we still managed to act out the Passion of Our Lord in church on Good Friday and those who came to watch appreciated it. Thanks to Debbie Jung and Jill Dupain who organised the rehearsal and refreshments and special thanks to all those, children and adults, who took part. It certainly makes the Passion story very real and many find it very moving, especially at the end when everyone places a lighted tea light round the body of Christ laid out on the sanctuary floor and then leave the church in silence.

**Easter Day.** Members of our church choir joined Woodbury choir in their church for the special Easter Day service for the whole Mission Community which was led by Bishop Jackie. Although small in number, we were able to sing quietly while people were taking communion and were gratified when Bishop Jackie commended us after the service and said that our singing had 'lifted the soul' – a very kind comment. It was lovely that Luca and Panka sang in the choir, the first time they have sung at a Communion service. Woodbury choir sang 'Now the green blade riseth' beautifully. Two choirs with different music styles but happy to sing the hymns together.

**It's All About Bugs.** Woodbury Salterton Church is hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Combined Service on 30<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30 am. As spring is on the way – apparently – we thought we would celebrate this with a service about creation. The service will take a slightly different format: we will be starting with the usual welcome and hymn but then you will all be invited to join our forest specialist, Liz, from Twig-lits who will be taking us into the churchyard to find BUGS. Depending on the weather we will continue with much of the service outside (or return to the back of the church) where we will discuss, analyse, explore all the wonderful facts about creation. We will complete our celebration with giving thanks and close at 10.30 am. Coffee and biscuits will be served at the end where you are welcome to continue discussing our findings of the day. It is recommended that you come dressed appropriately.

**Church Coffee Mornings.** It has been decided to hold the May coffee morning as usual on the first Saturday of the month, 6<sup>th</sup> May, although it is Coronation Day. This will be in church from 9.30 till 10.30 am – your last chance to enjoy a bacon butty until we start this again in winter. It was thought that people would like to meet and discuss the Coronation before going home to switch on their television sets. This will be the last of our winter series of monthly coffee mornings. In June we have weekly coffee mornings every Saturday throughout the summer.

**Church Quiz.** Our church spring quiz, entitled the 4<sup>th</sup> Scarecrow Quiz, is still 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](mailto:avmx79@dsl.pipex).



**Thank You Eliza.** Our thanks to Eliza Rooke who is giving our church a thorough clean each week as part of her public service for her Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

~~~~~

## POETRY CORNER

### *Spring Morning*

By John Smith (of Clyst St Mary)

The mist creeps into the valley  
And its fingers search with stealth  
To feel into every crevice  
In this quietly sleeping world.

But the earth is never still  
And creatures large and small  
Are busy hunting their prey,  
Like ghosts in the deadening grey.

When remorseless sun breaks through  
The misty vapour steals away  
Like a thief exposed to light  
And change is at gathering speed.

The hunters of the dark hours  
Hurry back to their hides and holts,  
For the young ones must be fed  
Or there will be no bright tomorrow.

©John Smith



## AND FINALLY...

### Love Topsham



Hello from the Love Topsham team. May is set to be a busy month for the town, so here we go.

Firstly, we're encouraging everyone to have their own celebration for *King Charles' Coronation*. After last year's amazing Jubilee celebrations this event is perhaps a little lower key but we hope people will mark this historic event in their own way – maintaining Topsham's reputation as knowing how and when to have a good time!

Secondly, towards the end of the month, our friends in the Topsham Community Association are holding a *Food Fair* in Matthews Hall; we wholeheartedly support this as the town has a strong reputation as a foodie destination. To support this fair, Love Topsham will be organising a *Topsham Food Trail* - full details on [lovetopsham.co.uk](http://lovetopsham.co.uk) and shortly on a new poster on the empty bank in town. We know you know how vital it is to support our restaurants, pubs and shops.

Also in late May stand by for the return of our *Hanging Baskets* - over 90 of them, outside our shops on High Street and Fore Street as we paint the town red, yellow, white, blue and every other floral colour too. We're always keen on as many volunteers as possible to water these baskets – it need not be a long-running commitment, and even the shortest available time will be a big help. If you are interested, please pop in to the Topsham Bookshop to discuss!

Finally, in May we begin our monthly *Street Entertainment Events* on one Saturday each month throughout the summer - we have music, dancing and other entertainment lined up, so please check our Town Calendar and our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook feeds for information on who is performing and when. You're not going to want to miss this!

That's it from us - we're off to get our Coronation picnics sorted with food and drink from Topsham's independent shops. Have a great month and we'll see you in June! All the best from your Love Topsham team [lovetopsham.co.uk](http://lovetopsham.co.uk).

### The Sky Tonight: May



Welcome back to our monthly guide to the night sky. I hope you managed to sneak a peep at Mercury last month. If not, there will be other opportunities: Mercury only takes 88 days to orbit the Sun so it soon gets back to an observable position. As dusk is later now I'll describe the night sky mid-month at about 10 pm rather than 9 pm (but you will still easily find the brighter objects earlier in the evening).

This month we'll become acquainted with some other spring constellations so let's go 'star hopping' again. *First find the Plough -- it will be almost overhead, then follow the curve of the 'handle' towards the south-east and you will come to a brilliant orange star.* This is Arcturus, the brightest star in the constellation of Bootes, the Herdsman - and the brightest star in the sky after Sirius. *The remaining dimmer stars of the constellation form a kite-shape extending to the left. The first star in this pattern to the left of Arcturus is a double star. Binoculars will show a yellow star with a fainter bluish companion.*

*Now look for a small semi-circle of stars under the head of this kite shape, to the left of Arcturus.* These form our second new constellation, the Northern Crown, Corona Borealis.

*If you return to the curve you were following to get to Arcturus and continue it you will come to a bright white star, Spica, in our third new constellation, Virgo, the Virgin. The other, less bright stars making it up form a Y-shape up and to the right. Where the arms of the Y split, that star, named Porrima, is a splendid binary. Now sweep the sky with binoculars within the arms of the Y and you will find a cluster of fuzzy patches.* These are galaxies far beyond our own home galaxy, the Milky Way and are a continuation of the Coma-Virgo Cluster we saw last month. In fact the whole of the universe is dotted with these galaxies so why can we not see them everywhere we look? Our home galaxy is much wider than it is thick, shaped rather like two plates held together by the rims with the bases facing away from each other. Our Sun is about half way out from the centre. Most of the time we look across the width of the 'plate' where dust obscures the distant view, but here the direction we are looking is at right-angles to this where the galaxy is relatively thin (in astronomical terms) so there is less obstruction and we can see out into the universe.

*To complete our quest to find new constellations continue that curve you were following towards the south and you will come to two small, faint constellations, Corvus, the Crow - a quadrilateral of four stars, and Crater, the Cup - looking like a goblet lying half on its left side. Finally, to the right of Crater, low down in the south-west, you will see quite a bright star on its own -- with an appropriate name, Alphard, meaning 'The Solitary One' in Arabic! It is the only star of note in our last new constellation, the large and winding Sea Serpent, Hydra.*



Having completed our starry wanderings let's turn our attention to those other celestial wanderers, the planets Venus and Mars and the Moon. Venus still blazes in the west as the month begins. If you can find a really dark spot away from human and moonlight it is possible to make out shadows cast by the planet! Around the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month you can watch Mars slowly move past Castor and Pollux in Gemini. Then between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> the crescent Moon sails from below and to the west of Venus across to the left of that planet, below the stars Castor and Pollux and then above Mars as it moves into the constellation of Cancer the Crab. If you have been following the movements of the planets and the Moon since January you may have noticed that they move from east to west through the same narrow band of constellations and often appear grouped together along a line (called the Ecliptic). The display on 27<sup>th</sup> March at sunset of five planets and the Moon lined up would have been a classic example – except it was cloudy! But why is this? To find an answer we have to go back 4.5 billion years to the formation of the solar system. Then it was no more than a slowly rotating cloud of particles – dust and gas. These particles were attracted to each other and, as they formed the Sun and planets, the ball contracted and increased its rate of spin, resulting in it flattening to a disc rather like when a chef spins a ball of dough to form a pizza base. As a consequence of this disc formation the planets all orbit the Sun counter-clockwise on the plane of the Ecliptic. Finally, if you are around in the early hours of the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> May look to the east for what is predicted to be an intense display of the Aquarid meteor shower, the result of the Earth passing through the debris left along the orbit of Halley's comet.

### The Exeter Forum Talks Programme: May and June 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).

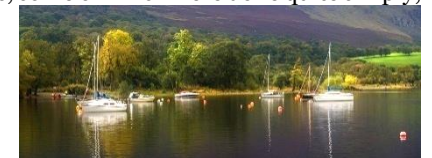
| Date   | Speaker                         | Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7 June  | Peter Wingfield-Digby | <i>Exeter Cathedral Memorials</i><br>Historian, author and Cathedral guide, Peter will give a fascinating insight into the different memorials that can be seen in Exeter Cathedral including their origins and the stories connected to them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 14 June | Derek Gore            | <i>The Vikings in the West Country</i><br>This talk is the follow-up to Derek's story about the Kingdom of the Dumnonia. He will show how the Scandinavians, mostly Danes, first came to Britain by sea in search of portable wealth. The long coastline with many estuaries was ideal for their highly manoeuvrable, shallow draught ships. As their raids increased, they sought land and power. This had important effects on the West Country and the Saxon city of Exeter. Derek Gore is a historian and archaeologist from the University of Exeter                                                                         |
| 21 June | Alan Pewsey           | <i>Dartmoor Search and Rescue</i><br>Alan is a volunteer with Dartmoor Search and Rescue working with the Ashburton team. He will show the many different ways that they help people in difficulties on Dartmoor and the roles they perform. His talk will also cover how they work with search dogs. Alan will explain the importance of training, and how a rescue is organised and co-ordinated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 28 June | Lisa Tame             | <i>Farms for City Children</i><br>Farms for City Children is a charity that enables children from disadvantaged communities to experience the adventure of working together on farms. It was co-founded by Sir Michael and Lady Morpurgo. Lisa's talk will look at the development of this important charity, and how its work has benefitted children from our major cities. The charity has its base near Exeter, and one of their main centres is Nethercott House near Iddesleigh. Lisa is Grants Development Manager for Farms for City Children.                                                                            |

### Woodbury Camera Club: March Meeting



Woodbury Camera Club was fortunate to have John Perriam give a really interesting talk on creative photography. (If you are interested, you can find him on Facebook and Instagram.) He explained how he used ordinary photos to look incredibly stunning by altering backgrounds and effects, some of which were done quite simply, others with more detail and were more time-consuming. He also had some audio-visual photographs which were really beautiful as well. John has won many awards in the past and worked with various camera clubs, so is very experienced and



it was lovely to have a different take on everyday objects that we can capture and create a stunning photograph. Some discussed the pros and cons of various photographing editing sites such as *Photoshop* and *LightRoom* and how to use simple techniques or more complex ones during the coffee break, all of which is really useful to members who enjoy the editing side of the hobby.

Next month it is over to the members. We have set a theme of Spring and members are asked to submit their entries digitally so that we can project them on the evening and each member can talk about their image and what inspired them particularly to take that image. We have found in the past this is a very rewarding and enjoyable way of sharing our hobby.



If anyone is interested in joining us we meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Church Rooms in Woodbury. 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).

**Secret Gardens of Topsham: Don't Just Save the Date – Buy a Programme!**

Programmes are now on sale for one of the most popular events on the social calendar in Devon - the Secret Gardens of Topsham, taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> June. It's the first time the event has taken place for five years and gives hundreds of visitors a rare opportunity to see 14 hidden gem gardens. These are not normally open to the public and are dotted around the town's streets, lanes and waterside walks.

Programmes went on sale recently with a quartet of volunteers from the organising body, Topsham Museum, dressed in event livery and taking to the town's streets to sell to enthusiastic residents and visitors. There's also a specially-commissioned jute bag to commemorate the event, available from the Museum.

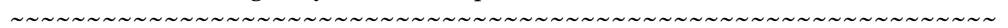


'We had a fantastic response and we're expecting this momentum to build as we get closer to the day,' explains Rachel Nichols, who is leading this year's event as President of Topsham Museum, and who was one of the organisers of the very first Secret Gardens day back in 2004.

'Programmes are available online via the Museum website or in person from the Topsham office of estate agency Wilkinson Grant and at the Topsham Bookshop,' she continues.

In addition to seeing the gardens themselves, green-fingered visitors can enjoy a specialist plant stall at the Museum's waterside garden – including selections from some of the Secret Gardens themselves – and tea and delicious homemade cakes at two lovely gardens along the route.

All proceeds from the event go towards running Topsham Museum which has its main building in one of the 17<sup>th</sup> century houses on Strand, close to the Exe, and which will be open for visitors on the Secret Gardens day. Topsham Museum has a popular and frequently-updated website and virtual tour, plus an online shop. The Museum additionally has displays in a red telephone box in the town, serving as a year-round outpost and attraction.



**MONTHLY GIGGLE** 😄

*Uncertainty Has Hit Banks in Japan*  
 Origami Bank has folded  
 Sumo Bank has gone belly up  
 Bonsai Bank has cut many branches  
 Karaoke Bank is going for a song  
 Shares in Kamekazi Bank have nosedived  
 Sixty staff at Karate Bank got the chop  
 AND...

There is something fishy at Sushi Bank – staff may get a raw deal.

[Thanks to Ann Bristow. Ed]

*Brian: What kind of dog is that?*

*Terry: A police dog.*

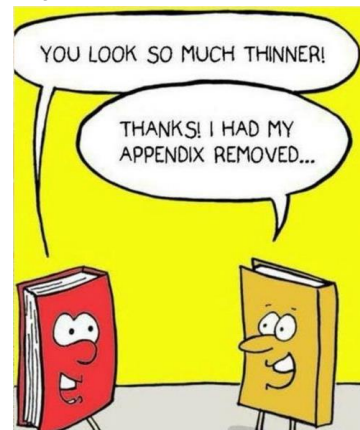
*Brian: Are you sure? It doesn't look much like a police dog.*

*Terry: That's because it's a plain-clothes police dog.*



A farmer near me is contemplating becoming a cow-only business. He's very unsure as to which ones to go for. I suggested he printed off all the breeds and did his homework. After all, to get this project started, there has to be a cattlelist.

*Three tourists were driving through Wales. As they were approaching Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch. As they stood at the counter one asked the employee, 'Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are...very slowly?' The girl leaned over the counter and said, 'Burrrrrr. Gerrrrrrr. Kiiiiing.'*



'Who was that lady I seen you with last night?'

'You mean 'I saw.'

'Ok, who was that eyesore I seen you with last night?'

*Then there was the hopeless case that Sherlock Holmes solved through the use of brilliant deduction...*

*Watson asks, 'Tell me, dear Sherlock, what school did you first attend?'*

*'Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary.'*

Man on phone: Hello. Can you please tell me how long it takes to fly to Hong Kong?

Travel agent: Just a minute, sir.

Man on phone: Thanks very much

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or [janepmoffatt@gmail.com](mailto:janepmoffatt@gmail.com)

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.

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**WCMC SERVICES MAY 2023**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May: Coronation**

|       |     |                                    |        |                 |
|-------|-----|------------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 11-15 | AYL | Family Service with teddy zip wire | Week 1 | Christine Grist |
| 10-30 | WBY | Coronation Service                 |        | Rev'd Bill      |
| 18-00 | EXT | Evening Worship                    |        | Rev'd Bill      |

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May: Rogation Day**

|       |     |                                |        |                  |
|-------|-----|--------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| 09-30 | EXT | Holy Communion                 | Week 2 | Rev'd Peter      |
| 09-30 | CSG | Family Service                 |        | Rev'd Bill       |
| 11-15 | FAR | Holy Communion, walk and lunch |        | Rev'd Bill       |
| 11-15 | WBY | Holy Communion                 |        | Rev'd Tony Raven |

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

|       |     |                          |        |                 |
|-------|-----|--------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 09-30 | CSM | Holy Communion           | Week 3 | Rev'd Bill      |
| 09-30 | WST | Breakfast Family Service |        | TBA             |
| 11-15 | AYL | Family Rogation Service  |        | Rev'd Bill      |
| 18-30 | WBY | Evensong                 |        | Christine Grist |
| 09-30 | EXT | Morning Worship          |        | Lay led         |

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

|       |     |                 |        |              |
|-------|-----|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| 09-30 | FAR | Morning Worship | Week 4 | Carolyn Keep |
| 11-15 | CSG | Holy Communion  |        | Rev'd Bill   |
| 10-30 | WBY | Café Church     |        | Lay led      |

AYL Aylesbeare FAR Farringdon EXT Exton WST Woodbury Salterton  
 WBY Woodbury CSG Clyst St George CSM Clyst St Mary For all queries,  
 please contact Admin Officer, Jill at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01395  
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