

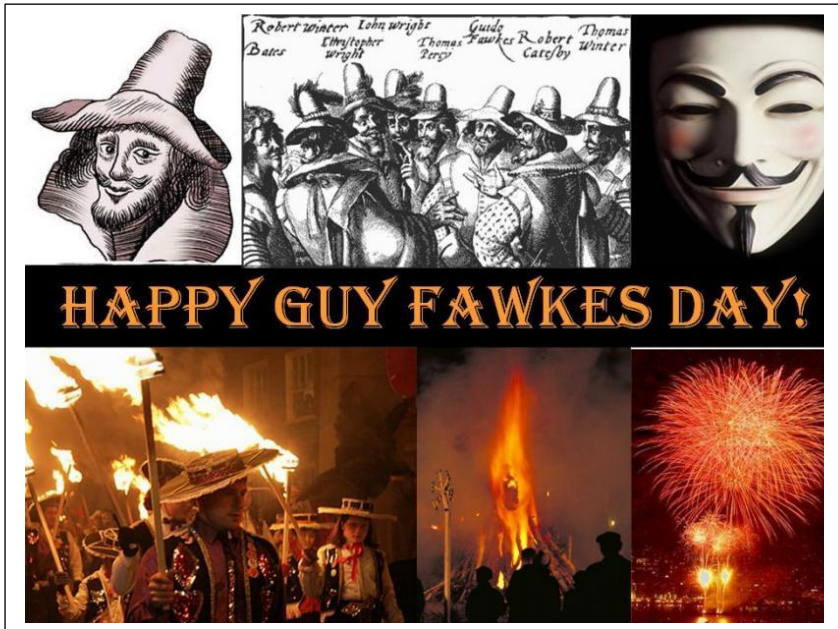
# CLYST VALLEY NEWS



November 2023

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**HAPPY GUY FAWKES DAY!**

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello and welcome to this November edition of the CVN. A lot of content in the mag this month so just a few words from me. But first, I must repeat my plea: We still need to appoint Trustees for our new CVN Small Charity and, from among them, a Treasurer and a Secretary. If any of those roles might be of interest to you, please do get in touch with me (with absolutely no obligation or pressure!). You can drop me an email at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com). I'd be delighted to hear from you.

A quick mention that my wife and I have just returned from ten very enjoyable days of 'interrailing' on trains on the continent. We set off with our rucksacks (confession: they did have wheels so could be pushed around too!) from a rainy New Court station, feeling a bit 'studenty', and took in London, Brussels, Munich, Budapest and Linz, returning to New Court on a sunny afternoon. We carefully planned all our trains and stopover accommodations in advance and, apart from some serious delays with Deutsche Bahn (yes, even the Germans are now having trouble running their rail services to time!), everything went off well. Even the weather was kind to us. We'd thoroughly recommend this type of adventure and definitely plan to repeat the experience.

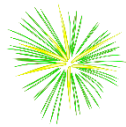
In case I've whetted your interest – and if you're of a similar vintage to me – I can recommend joining the 'Interrailing for the Older Crowd' Facebook group, which certainly prompted us to give it a go. Lots of practical tips and advice and helpful sources of support. I hope you'll soon be hearing 'Bienvenue à bord' or 'Willkommen an Bord'!

Enjoy the magazine; and stay safe on Bonfire Night. Peter Skelton

**Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the December 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 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 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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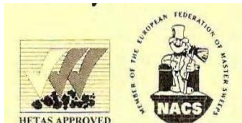



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**THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS IS STILL SEEKING TO RECRUIT A TREASURER OR SECRETARY**

As we transition into Small Charity status, we need to set up a Board of (voluntary) Trustees – if you think you might be interested in getting involved with our magazine as a Trustee, please do get in touch with me ([clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com)) and I can explain what the responsibilities/duties are. They're not at all onerous, rest assured!

We will need to appoint one of the Trustees to be our Treasurer, and another to be Secretary – a statutory requirement of our new charitable status. Without people in these posts, we cannot proceed. If either of these voluntary positions might be of interest, again please contact me and I will run through the duties with you. I would love to hear from anyone who might have a few hours to spare each month and would like to support us in this way. Thank you. Peter Skelton, Editor.

**WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS?**

If you'd like to advertise your business or organisation in the Clyst Valley News, 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**

**Village Hall**

*Committee Meeting.* The next Village Hall Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm in the Hall. If you have ideas about events, clubs or activities or just want to help with running the Hall, you are welcome to join us.

*New Treasurer Needed.* Our Treasurer will be retiring in December and we are looking for someone who could replace him. If you think this is a role you could fill, please speak to our Chairman on 01392 874305 or come along to the meeting. Recruiting a new Treasurer is essential for the continued running of the Hall.

*Defibrillator.* The Village Hall now has a defibrillator which is fitted near to the entrance in a fully accessible cabinet. There are RevivR posters and flyers in the kitchen at the Hall. If you are in the Hall, feel free to take one away. If you scan the QR code on these resources with your 'phone, you will be taken directly to RevivR training. You can also use this link for a short instructional video [Learn CPR in 15 minutes with RevivR™ CPR Training](#).

Many of us will witness a cardiac arrest in our lifetime. Be ready for that day. The BHF's digital training tool – RevivR, teaches you vital CPR skills and how to use a defibrillator, in just 15 minutes on your mobile 'phone or tablet. Created by BHF's medical experts, the tool will take you through a real-life scenario, so you feel prepared for an emergency. You never know when.



you'll need to give someone CPR, so learn today. Our thanks go to British Heart Foundation and Bishops Clyst Parish Council for grants towards providing this equipment

*Hirting the 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.



### Clyst St Mary Church: Financial Crisis



We are currently facing a serious financial crisis at Clyst St Mary Church. Like everyone else, the church is not immune to rising costs. We need to increase our income to keep pace with inflation and we have had to carry out a number of major repairs in the last two years. We have just been advised that we must replace our oil tank at a cost of around £3000. We have very little money in the account and our annual budget is showing a deficit. Without a significant increase in our income we may not be able to keep the church open.

If you value the church and, like us, want it to continue as part of our community life, would you be willing to support the church by regular giving as part of our Stewardship scheme? The regular giving, which others have undertaken to make as part of this scheme, covers a large part of the cost of maintenance of the church. If you are a taxpayer, we can benefit by 25 per cent on your payments from the taxman.

If you would like to become a regular giver, or if you would like to make a one-off donation towards the cost of the oil tank, please contact our Treasurer, Gill Fenwick, on 01395 239802. If you have any questions on Stewardship or the finances of Clyst St Mary Church, contact Pat Cusa, Churchwarden, on 01392 877907.

### Bishops Clyst Parish Council



*New Councillor.* The Parish Council is very pleased to welcome a new member, Dr Lisa Joels. Having been a member of the Parish Council previously, Cllr Joels has a great deal of experience, and the Parish Council is delighted to welcome her back after a period of working away.

*Make A Change Campaign!* The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is hosting a free online information event on getting involved with your local council. The event will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 from 12 noon to 1.15 pm. If you would like to attend, visit <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-events> and follow the 'Democracy in Action' link.

*Bishops Clyst Parish Council Vacancies.* There are vacancies for Parish Councillors which we need to fill urgently. If you would like to be involved, you can be co-opted on to the Council. Just email your details to the Clerk ([bishopsclyst@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsclyst@gmail.com)) or drop a letter in to the Village Hall.

*Community Grants.* Community grants of up to £500 are available to groups, clubs and voluntary organisations based in the parish for non-commercial activities which benefit residents of the parish. Please see further details on our website [www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/community-grants/](http://www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/community-grants/).

*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.*

### Clyst St Mary Primary School



Our late-summer weather appears to have broken – but wasn't it glorious while it lasted? We hope everyone's managed to get outside and enjoy it, as we did.

Our first class trip of the year was to the fantastic FarmWise Devon exhibition at Westpoint. It was an amazing for our Year 4s, who had a busy day 'to and smell' farming and with food

is turned importance had the



experience touch, feel understand how it links production and the environment. They learnt how grain into bread; what can be composted and why; of conservation on land and in our oceans. They opportunity to watch cows being milked, to make their own butter from cream, to make sausages and to hold hours-old chicks!

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October marked the Harvest Festival at school, when the children put on a heart-warming performance for their parents in the lovely Clyst St Mary Church. We'd like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all our families who have donated so generously again this year, all of which has been taken to the Exeter Foodbank and is, of course, much needed.

As soon as we return from half term, Classes 5 and 6 will leave for the first Residential of the year. The children (and adults) will be spending an activity-packed week at the Little Canada PGL facility on the Isle of Wight. We look forward to hearing all about it, which we will share in next month's issue.

Parents' evenings were held in the last week before half term for our KS2 parents, then again, for KS1 in the first week back. They are a useful opportunity to check in with the children's teachers and have a look at the work the children have been completing in class.

We will celebrate one of the children's favourite holidays – Halloween! – with a disco after school on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Always great fun to see the brilliant costumes and let loose on the dancefloor!

We hope all our children, parents and staff enjoy a restful half term and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October (after the clocks go back).

### Clyst Valley Preschool



We are fast approaching Christmas and all the fun and glitter that the festive season brings! Our children have enjoyed the 'All about Me' focus for this term, finding out all about each other, their homes and families. We are now busy learning all about autumn, looking at the changing colours of trees and plants, the weather, and what this all means for our wildlife. Soon, our Christmas preparations will be in full swing and we will be busy rehearsing for our Nativity, always a very special event for all of our families.



If you are looking for a nurturing and fun Early Years setting for your child with dedicated, enthusiastic, very experienced and highly qualified staff, please check out our Instagram account and our website [www.clystvalleypreschool.org](http://www.clystvalleypreschool.org). We have spaces available for an immediate start, and our waiting list for next year is filling fast, especially for two year-olds when many will be funded for 15 hours a week from April 2024. Please call us to arrange a visit on 01392 876615 or email [admin@clystvalleypreschool.org](mailto:admin@clystvalleypreschool.org).

### Walking Group



The village walk for November will take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. We are considering a walk in Stover Park where hopefully there should be some good autumn colour and the walk is generally on the level. Lunch will be arranged at a nearby hostelry. All are welcome. We meet at the Village Hall at 10 am and walk at our own risk. For more information, please contact Peter or Pat on 01392 877907.

### Badminton Club

Clyst St Mary Village Hall

The club, which plays on Tuesday evenings in the Village Hall will re-start after the summer break on:  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 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 ([annecurryver@gmail.com](mailto:annecurryver@gmail.com))  
Thank you.

### Anyone for Tennis?



Some of us play tennis in Clyst St Mary on Friday mornings. Why not join us for some fresh air, exercise and good fun? Call Janice on 01392 876858.

### 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 [pamelamgardner9@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamgardner9@gmail.com).

### CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD



#### Clyst St George Parish Council Chairman's Notes: November 2023

Thank you for your responses to our consultation on the land behind the Parish Hall. We had 82 responses of which 79 were yes and 3 nos. Those negative responses all gave a reason, which was the fencing. Parish

Councillors have arranged a meeting on site to review it with the residents of Model Cottages, and our revised plans will be submitted to EDDC in a planning application for change of use of the land.

At the October meeting we also decided to ask Devon CC to approve a diversion of Footpath 1 so it doesn't go through our 'Open Space'. Planning in Ebford does not look as though it will be determined by EDDC until the new year; they are short of staff at EDDC.

Whilst most dog owners are picking up after their dogs, please complete the process and put the bag in a bin, even your own black bin, otherwise it's just littering! All the best.

John Manser

[JEManser@outlook.com](mailto:JEManser@outlook.com)

01392 874861

### Clyst St George Parish Hall



**Quiz Night.** Quiz Night is back on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7 pm and tickets are available from Isobel, Paul, Claire and John. Teams can have a maximum of six members and the ticket price is £5 per person with all proceeds going to Parish Hall funds. Teams can be formed in advance or on the night. The current quiz champions are the 'Model Citizens' but will they be able to retain their title?

**Big Breakfast.** We held our most successful Big Breakfast to date on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September.



The weather was atrocious as we experienced rain of biblical proportions, but the Hall was packed with all tables occupied. Thanks to everyone from the Village Hall team for their hard work and enthusiasm. The next Big Breakfast will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November from 9.30 am. No need to book in advance, just come along and enjoy a full breakfast with unlimited tea/coffee and toast for £7.50 or a bacon/sausage bap with a hot drink for £4.



**AGM.** We will be holding our AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on the last year and plan for the year ahead. The meeting in September with Devon Communities Together was very useful and will help to inform our decision making and planning process. Any changes to trustees or their roles following the AGM will be communicated in the CVN.

**Christmas Prosecco Party.** Tickets for the Christmas Prosecco Party on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 12 noon until 2 pm are now on sale! Tickets are priced at £10 each and are available from Isobel, Claire, Paul and John. With free-flowing Prosecco and delicious canapés this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the start of the festive season.

**Get involved.** If you would like to get involved in our community events, please contact Isobel Stubbs (Chair) on 07826 806919.

### Lady Seaward's C of E Primary School



The autumn term is marching on at Lady Seaward's with enthusiastic participation in our Year 3/4 swimming lessons and their recent trip to Kent's Cavern to support their learning of the Stone Age. Class 4 will be getting stuck in with a visit from Potty Joy to bring a practical element to their investigations into

Viking heads and pottery.

If your child is due to start school in September 2024, we will be holding Open Afternoon sessions on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024, both at 2 pm. Please contact our school office on 01392 873629 or email [admin@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk) if you would like to attend. We look forward to welcoming you and providing a tour of the school.

### Norman's Weather Report



The first half of September was indeed very warm and dry and the second half from the 16<sup>th</sup> very wet; that weekend Ebford received 65 mm (2.6 inches) of at times very heavy rain with large puddles and local flooding. The blackberries ripened very well but they were washed away before they could be picked!

Total rainfall for the month was 105 mm (4.1 inches), very nearly the same as that for the recent wet July of 4.3 inches. This is way above historic averages for September here at Ebford; and also more than the average over the last ten years of 63 mm (2.5 inches). Norman Cann



## 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.

## Little Dragons Pre-School



Little Dragons is in the process of being taken over by the First Federation. This has enabled them to look at their class structures for the future resulting in Little Dragons and Reception children being together to make a foundation stage unit. Little Dragons' provision will work alongside the Reception class; the children follow the same early years curriculum. Although the legal change can't happen immediately, we have started working closely together from September. We will also work towards extending Little Dragons' provision to be five days a week. Although there is risk the transfer could take time, we are passionate about ensuring the provision can stay open and continue to flourish. Any questions, please let us know at [littledragons@live.com](mailto:littledragons@live.com). Thank you. Elly, Sam, Emma, Emily and Codie

## WOODBURY SALTERTON



### Woodbury Salterton C of E Primary School

Here at Woodbury Salterton Primary School, Forest School has been particularly exciting as everyone got the opportunity to use 'dragon sneezers' to make sparks and



then light cotton wool. Their excited faces were such a joy to see and they particularly loved digging in the mud, building dens, playing in the mud kitchen, and searching for bugs.

The Nursery and Reception children are taking part in lots of activities linked to harvest and autumn. Making clay hedgehogs has been lots of fun! In preparation for our Harvest Festival in church, we are learning a harvest song and making scarecrow puppets!

Class 1 were lucky to be invited to the art studio of local artist, Louise Kelly, who lives in the village and paints beautiful landscapes as well as fruit and potatoes! Louise was impressed with how polite and enthusiastic the children were and thoroughly enjoyed meeting them all and welcoming them to her garden studio. We hope to invite Louise into school to share her skills and talents with us.

In science Class 1 have been learning about how they can keep their bodies and minds healthy. They have thought about what makes a healthy diet and have looked at different types of exercise. This theme has been continued in their design and technology topic, as they have been thinking about healthy meals and different ways of preparing food. The children have enjoyed experimenting with different kitchen tools, deciding which tool is best to mash a banana, peel a potato, pick up lettuce and mix flour and water.

The Class 3 children have enjoyed finding out about Pablo Picasso and have been very creative in designing their own information page about him in their art sketch book. They loved creating a continuous line drawing and surprised themselves at how good their final drawings were! Over the next few weeks they will learn how to create depth and tone by using different shading techniques.

In their science lessons the Class 3 children have learnt about habitats and food chains and carefully considered how a change in the food chain affects the food web. They have also researched the life cycles of plants, amphibians, mammals and insects. [Continued on page 11]

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[bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk)

or on 01392 949088

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[Woodbury Salterton continued from page 9]

**To All Those Residents of the Parish of Woodbury Salterton Who Will Be 70 and Older by Christmas 2023**

*The Kerslake Trust.* This Trust was created on the death of Celia Elizabeth Kerslake on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1939. Under the terms of her will some shares were left to the Trustees of Woodbury Salterton Church, with the instruction that the income received from them should be distributed among 'the old people over 70 belonging to the Parish at Christmas time'.

The Trustees are currently reviewing the list of beneficiaries to arrange this year's distribution and will be pleased to hear from anyone permanently resident in the Parish who has NOT received a payment in previous years and who considers they now qualify for such a payment.

Last year 56 people benefitted from the Kerslake Trust and many very kindly donated their gift back to the church, and also opted to do this in the future. If you would also like to have your share of the distribution paid straight into the church funds please let the Trustees know.

Please advise Nigel Dupain, Trustee, on [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) or by 'phone on 01395 232953 by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**Bangers and Mash Evening**



Woodbury Salterton Village Hall  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7 pm  
£10 per person - bring your own bottle. Raffle.

Tickets available from Pat  
Bricknell

01395 232463 or 07929 134325

**Film Night**



There will be another of the very popular children's film nights on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Come in onesies or pyjamas and bring your duvet and pillow. The film has yet to be chosen. Look out for posters.

**Annual Stream Clean**



The Woodbury Salterton Resilience Group, co-ordinated by Geoff Jung, carried out the annual tidy up of the Grindle Brook on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Twenty-three people working in four

crews worked hard strimming, pruning, any greenery which might block the brook their hard work and to Greendale for the operated by Ben, which took all the



etc to remove and cause flooding. Thanks to all for loan of the tractor and trailer, greenery to the recycling depot.



**SOWTON VILLAGE**

**Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper**

The church was beautifully decorated for our Harvest Festival on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Thank you to all who contributed. The fruit and vegetables donated were taken to Hospiscare the following Monday.



A week later, we came together for the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October. As always, it was a great event with wonderful food prepared and shared by everyone. Rev'd Gudrun Thomas and her husband Darryl joined us for a very merry evening. After several decades as churchwarden, Mike Fernbank has retired from his role. We took this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work.



**Christmas Wreathmaking in Sowton**



On Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> November we will be gathering for a festive morning of wreathmaking accompanied by music and mince pies in the Village Hall. The idea was met with such enthusiasm that the event has already sold out.

**Tai Chi in Sowton Village Hall**



Do you want to improve your flexibility, balance and strength? Then why not give Tai Chi, a gentle, slow form of Chinese exercise, a go in Sowton Village Hall? Starting on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 pm, there will be weekly Wednesday evening classes. The cost is £6 per session for the one-hour classes held by experienced instructor Tom Collingridge. After an initial taster

session, participants can sign up for a six-week block of lessons. For more information, email Yvette Williams on [yfp.williams@gmail.com](mailto:yfp.williams@gmail.com).

**WHITE CROSS MISSION COMMUNITY**



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

**Clyst St Mary**



*November Services.* The Family Service will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 9.30 am. This is a very informal gathering for parents and children. There will be a Family Communion Service on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 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.

**Clyst St George**



*Clyst St George Church Autumn Clean-Up.* Can you spare two hours for the Clyst St George Church autumn clean-up, which will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2-4 pm? Inside or outside, everyone is welcome so just turn up on the day to help keep this building a welcoming and clean space for the school and the community.



*Cards for Sale in the Church.* Recycled cards are 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**



*Extra Coffee Mornings.* In addition to the coffee morning with bacon butties on the first Saturday of each month we have decided to have an extra one, just coffee, on the third Saturday as social outreach to those who value the company. Coffee mornings are from 9.30 till 10.30 in church.



*Harvest Thanksgiving.* The school held its Harvest Service in church on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. The youngest children performed *The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow*. Children from the older classes read their Harvest poems and Class 5 read *The King and the Seed*. Rev'd Sid Humphries gave a short talk and the





service ended with the whole school participating in a lively dance, directed by Mrs Mason, to the modern worship song *Everything*, by Tony Mac.

The church celebrated Harvest at the Family Service which was conducted by Debbie Jung. The gifts of produce were later given to Exmouth Foodbank. Thanks to all who brought gifts and especially to the school parents for their generosity.

*New Choir Member.* Welcome to Jo Parsons who has joined our church choir.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Peter

Several years ago I had some correspondence with you about a seedling I had grown from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Wellingtonia at Clyst St George. Due probably to over-watering, it died in its second year. As I had collected hundreds if not thousands of seeds in the hope of getting one to germinate, this was a setback. However, early this year I had another forage. I collected six rather scruffy cones, the best I could find, and shook the seeds into a tray. To my utter amazement, after three weeks on a warm surface, five germinated. Perhaps Longley's spirit was in them?

I have learned from my previous mistake and have been very frugal with the water. The leading one is about eight inches high. They will not be fit for planting out for another season or two, but I thought I would pass on the information. If anyone locally would like to take care of one, I'd be very happy to think of it being returned to the vicinity of its towering parent. Kind regards. James Muirden

#### POETRY CORNER

Here is another poignant, intensely personal poem from our local poet, John Smith, written six years ago on the death of his beloved wife. This is the first time it has been published. [Ed]

*The Way It Was*

By John Smith of Clyst St Mary

When the word came  
We didn't fight it.  
The blood doesn't lie and  
Earliest admission is embraced  
Like a friend.

We pass along the assembly line  
Of professional competence  
Taking comfort from being a passenger  
And not having to plan the route.

But each stage tightens the embrace  
Of a new changed life,  
A shorter life than wished.  
Now a new world opens its doors to us.  
A world of beds and staff who  
Become temporary friends.  
And new routine becomes the glove  
Of familiarity

Test follows test, day follows day  
Whilst your body dictates the delay  
Between stages. We're kept informed  
Yet nothing is surprise,  
I see it in your eyes –  
Acceptance.

After comforting repair is made  
The major problem will not be delayed  
It will plot its own course.  
And whilst waiting? How to live?  
Why, just as we have always lived –  
You want for no other way.  
©John Smith

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# Kids' Corner

## What's happening this month?

### Bonfire Night

Bonfire night (sometimes called Guy Fawkes Day) is celebrated every year on 5<sup>th</sup> November.



Back in 1605, a man called Guy Fawkes, with a group of other men, planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament, but the government found out and the men were arrested. The 'Gunpowder plot' was organised because the men wanted to assassinate the king and replace him; the reason for this was because they did not agree with the king's religion.

### **Assassinate: murder for political or religious reasons**

Now, Bonfire night is celebrated with feasts and fireworks. Straw men designed to look like Guy Fawkes, called "guys," are often burned on bonfires as well. You may hear people asking for "a penny for the guy" which is a small bit of money that is supposed to help pay for the big party.



## Get involved...

Have a go at solving the riddle below. Send your answers in via email to [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) and you could be featured in the next issue.

### **Riddle: What goes up but never comes back down?**

We would love to have some children writing for the Clyst Valley News. If you would like to get involved, please email [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com)

**Last month's answer: What has hands and a face, but can't hold anything or smile? A clock!**

### **MONTHLY GIGGLE**

😄 Having just received a great promotion, John was excited about his new position, new status and new office. He was checking through the desk vacated by his predecessor when he came upon a letter, attached to three envelopes, made out to him. The letter told him that if he got into trouble he should open the first envelope. 'Make sure you open them in order and only if there is a real emergency,' warned the letter. John laughed but filed the envelopes away. Sure enough, within a month he felt the heat and decided to give envelope number one a chance. He opened it and it said, 'Blame your predecessor!' So John went to his boss and told her how the bloke he had replaced had messed things up and that it would take him time to get things back on track. And, with hard work, he did get the problems resolved.

Everything went fine for several more months before, once again, all hell broke loose. In desperation, John opened the second letter. It advised him to 'Reorganise!' So John went to his boss and told her the solution would mean a drastic reorganisation. After this was done relative calm prevailed. But the day inevitably came when another disaster struck. With trembling hands, John opened the third, and final, envelope. The advice? 'Make up three new envelopes!' \*\*\*\*\*

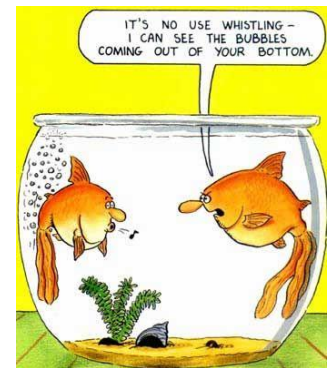
*Joe: Last night the lion-tamer at the circus was attacked by his lions.*

*Brian: Was he clawed?*

*Joe: I don't know what his name was. \*\*\*\*\**

Police today pulled over a hearse on a motorway and charged the driver with undertaking on the hard shoulder. \*\*\*\*\*

*I bought a toy castle for my grandkids. It's got a built-in calculator. It's the fort that counts. \*\*\*\*\**



### **AND FINALLY...**

### **How Did Heavitree Get Its Name?**



The origins of names are always of interest and, as lovers of trees, have you ever wondered how Heavitree acquired its name? There are two explanations and they are both possibly true, given the vast time lapse between them.

Many years ago an article by a local clergyman who had researched the issue (and whose name I regret to say I have forgotten) appeared in a local paper which suggested how Heavitree originally got its name. It was claimed that in Saxon times in the 6<sup>th</sup> century there was a local King Heffer who used to hold court beneath the canopy of a magnificent tree (I like to think it was a great oak). This tree gradually became known as 'Heffer's Tree' and over many hundreds of years until the Middle Ages, and given changing local dialects, it gradually merged into 'Heavitree'.

There is, however, a grimmer and more recent history which claims that the name derived from an old English word 'Heaford-treow' which means 'head tree'. This was where criminals were hanged and where others who had been beheaded had their heads hung up in the branches.

The last time it was used for this purpose was in 1682 when, sadly, three local women were hanged in the belief that they were practising witchcraft. These were the last reported hangings of witches in Britain. Let us all be thankful humanity has moved on. Tony Rule



## Clyst Valley Choral Society



We are currently rehearsing Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*. We began practising this prior to Covid and lockdown which meant that we did not have the chance to perform it and it was put on hold. It is now back on the agenda and will be performed on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November along with two opera choruses and some solo pieces, at St Mary's Church, Clyst St Mary; and on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at Holy Trinity Church Exmouth. Both performances will start at 7.30 pm. Do put the dates in your diaries so as not to miss what promises to be an inspiring performance.

Tickets are £8.50 in advance and £10 on the door. They will be on sale at Holy Trinity Church Office from 9 am to 1 pm and from Pat Cusa on 01392 877907 (Clyst St Mary Church).

We welcome new members. We rehearse Thursday evenings at St Mary's Church, Clyst St Mary at 7.30 pm. No audition is required, just a love of singing! For more details, please ring Barbara Scales on 07950 021006 or visit our website [www.clystvalleychoral.info](http://www.clystvalleychoral.info) and contact via email.

## The Sky Tonight: November



Last month, in our Saga in the Skies, we met up with Cepheus the king, Cassiopea his queen and our hero, Perseus – but I failed to mention that he arrived at the party on a flying horse, Pegasus. So let's start this month's journey across the heavens finding that constellation. *At our usual observing time (about 10 pm, mid-month) find the W of Cassiopeia almost overhead. Follow the line from the centre star through the adjacent one, moving in the direction of the SW horizon and at about halfway down you will find a large square of fairly bright stars with few other stars within it.* This is the Square of Pegasus – and that's pretty much it for this constellation! It is surprising that with the image of a winged horse featuring so prominently in the art and coins of the period that this constellation is so basic. In fact the Square of Pegasus can't even stake a claim to all of the four stars making it up as the top left star actually belongs to our next constellation, Andromeda, the to-be-sacrificed princess in our story. *She is represented in the sky by a gentle curve of three stars reaching out from that top left star of Pegasus towards the zenith and her rescuer Perseus. Now with the top left star of Pegasus as the first, count three stars along the curve of Andromeda then move three stars up at right-angles towards the zenith. Just to the right of this third star is the famous Andromeda Nebula – but before you swing your binoculars on to it, wait! Try searching for it with the unaided eye.* Ideally you need a moonless night (new moon this month is on the 13<sup>th</sup> so around that date would be good), few street-lights and a clear sky. You are looking for a small 'glowing ball of cotton wool'. When you spot it, be amazed. Lying at a distance of fifteen-followed-by-18-noughts miles from the Earth this is the most distant object that can be seen with the naked eye! You are also travelling backwards in time as the light you are now seeing left there 2.5 million years ago, so you are seeing the Nebula not as it is now, but as it was then! Actually, nebula is a misnomer as it is not made of dust but is another galaxy of stars, like our own Milky Way – and is on a collision course with us! But not to worry, the encounter is 4.5 billion years away and, because the stars in both galaxies are so far apart they (and their planets) would pass each other by without colliding.

The last participant in our saga is the sea monster about to attack Andromeda. *Follow a line down from the left two stars of the Square of Pegasus towards the southern horizon and just before you reach it you will see quite a bright star with other fainter ones stretching to the left towards the V of Taurus, a constellation we met last winter. This the long, winding constellation of Cetus, the Whale.* It has little to draw attention to it – except ... *Go back to the*

*Square of Pegasus and follow a line from the top right to the bottom left star again towards the horizon. As you pass through stars of Cetus can you see another bright star? If you do, then congratulations, you have been lucky enough to spot Mira, 'The Wonderful' during a bright phase in its cycle. It is a long period variable star which can be bright for a few months then dims to below naked-eye viability for almost a year.*

Now let's leave our heroes and villains and see what else is happening in the night sky this month. Jupiter is still shining brightly in the S. It is closest to the Earth on the 1<sup>st</sup>. With steady binoculars you should be able to see an obvious disc, perhaps with thin dark bands across it and its largest moons – up to four pinpoints of light in a line on either side. On the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> there is a meteor shower, the Leonids. It is expected to provide a good display this year. Saturn, with its rings visible in steady binoculars, is low in the SW. The planet Uranus is in opposition on the 13<sup>th</sup>, visible as a tiny greenish disc halfway between Jupiter and Pleiades. Finally, an infrequent event happens on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. The Moon passes in front of the planet Venus. This is called a planetary occultation and, bearing in mind that the Moon appears half a degree wide in the sky and all the planets (except Mercury) follow the line of the ecliptic, which is only three degrees wide, you would expect this to be a regular event. But it's not. *On the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> before 9.40 am, find the crescent Moon to the right of the Sun (which will already have risen SO TAKE GREAT CARE!) Bring your binoculars slowly towards to Moon from the right (making sure you keep the Sun well to the left) and, when you reach the crescent Moon, just to the left of it you will find Venus in the dawn sky. Watch for five or six minutes and you will see the Moon slowly cover the planet.* Clyde Bish

## Christmas in Topsham



It's going to be a Christmas to remember in Topsham this year and it kicks off this month!

Festivities start on 24<sup>th</sup> November with Love Topsham's *Christmas Lights Switch On*. From 4.30 pm that day there will be spectacular street entertainment – we're talking a samba band in illuminated festive outfits plus jaw-dropping puppetry to entertain the children. At 5 pm the lights go on and a procession heads to Topsham Quay, led by a festive tuktuk carrying our Town Crier. At the Quay there will be carols, samba dancing and an appearance by – you guessed it – Santa, ahead of the lighting of Topsham's very biggest Christmas tree close to the estuary. That same evening – from 5 until 8.30 pm, 24<sup>th</sup> November – Love Topsham's annual *Festive Market* will take place in the town's St Margaret's Church, with over 20 stalls showcasing arts, crafts, food and drink from Exeter's finest artisan producers. It's the ideal opportunity to bag a unique gift. Phew! That's quite an evening on 24<sup>th</sup> November – but it's just the start of Christmas 2023 in Topsham. On 28<sup>th</sup> November there is a *late-night shopping evening*, the perfect opportunity to buy unique gifts from Topsham's 50-plus independent shops, businesses and eateries – the largest collection of independent shops in the Exeter area.

In early December Love Topsham is running *Best Dressed Window Competitions* for shops and residents (it's definitely worth spending an evening wandering the streets to admire the spectacular displays).

And Love Topsham is back with its annual *Kids' Christmas Trail* from 3 pm on 13<sup>th</sup> December – end of term fun for children who can drop in to many of the town's shops to pick up festive treats. Details in next month's Clyst Valley News but as in past years it ends at the Museum where there are grown-up refreshments for parents and guardians, as well as something for the little ones.

Throughout the build-up to Christmas and right into the New Year Topsham's not-to-be-missed

*Christmas Lights* will illuminate the High Street, Fore Street and Ferry Road – all paid for by generous donations to Love Topsham by the town's residents and businesses. For more details of all these events, and other festive frolics in the town, please check out [lovetopsham.co.uk](http://lovetopsham.co.uk) ... oh, and if it's not too early to say it, Merry Christmas!

### Woodbury Camera Club



We have the Astro photography talk on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Everyone welcome.

### The Exeter Forum Talks Programme: November 2023



The Wednesday weekly talks take place at the Mint Methodist Church in Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT. Coffee and socialising from 10.15 am; the talk starts usually at around 10.45 am. All welcome to attend these meetings. There is a small admission charge for non-members. More information at [www.exeterforum.org/talks](http://www.exeterforum.org/talks).

Date	Speaker	Title
1 November	Brian Fernley	<i>Destination Utah (The USAAF in a Typical English Village)</i> In February 1944, RAF Upottery opened and was occupied by four squadrons of the US Air Force in March 1944 to prepare for D-Day. This talk illustrates the impact of around 1500 American servicemen taking up residence in a quiet English village. It focusses on the impact on the local population, the role of the airfield in the conflict and the transportation of 1300+ paratroopers to Normandy to support the D-Day landings.
8 November	Ian Aspinall	<i>Exeter WW1 Hospitals</i> To coincide with Remembrance week, Exeter City Redcoat Guide Ian Aspinall will show the vital role of Exeter's eight World War One war hospitals which treated over 35,000 wounded, under the direction of their redoubtable administrator, Georgiana Buller.
15 November	Mike Richards	<i>Royalty in Exeter</i> Exeter Forum member and Redcoat Guide Mike Richards will tell the story of the many royal visitors to Exeter, from the time of Alfred the Great to Queen Elizabeth II showing how some visits were more gracious and regal than others.
22 November	Roy and Lesley Atkins	<i>Everyday Life in Jane Austen's England</i> Roy and Lesley make a welcome return visit to the Exeter Forum to set the world of Jane Austen's fiction alongside the real lives of ordinary people at the time. They will cover forced marriages, selling wives in marketplaces, children toiling down mines, convivial dinners, strange medical remedies, dentures, bodysnatching, shoplifting, punishments, reading, writing, and the fear of revolution. Roy and Lesley are husband-and-wife historians and writers, whose books include <i>Eavesdropping on Jane Austen's England</i> , <i>Jack Tar</i> and <i>When There Were Birds</i> . They talked about Jack Tar during the Heritage Harbour Festival.
29 November	Jon Bell	<i>The Golden Age of Cinema in Exeter</i> Exeter Redcoat Jon Bell will tell the stories of the different cinemas and picture houses that existed in Exeter from the 1900s onwards, the films they showed, and their characteristics and peculiarities.

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 11:15 AYL Holy Communion  
 11:15 WBY Holy Communion  
 18:00 EXT Evening Worship

## Week 1

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 Rev'd Sid  
 Archdeacon  
 Christine Grist

## Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance

10:45 AYL Remembrance Lay led  
 10:50 WBY RBL Act of Remembrance on the Green Christine Grist

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November

09:30 CSG Remembrance Family Service Jacquie and Paul  
 10:45 FAR Holy Communion with Remembrance Rev'd Nigel  
 10:45 CSM Remembrance Service Don Axford  
 10:45 WBY Act of Remembrance Rev'd Peter  
 10:45 WST Remembrance Service Lay led  
 14:45 WBY RBL Act of Remembrance on the Green Christine Grist

## Week 2

Jacquie and Paul  
 Rev'd Nigel  
 Don Axford  
 Rev'd Peter  
 Lay led  
 Christine Grist

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November

09:30 EXT Morning Worship Lay led  
 09:30 CSM Holy Communion Margaret  
 09:30 WST Breakfast Family Service Mark Lovett  
 11:15 AYL Family Service Christine Grist  
 18:30 WBY Evensong Rev'd Tony

## Week 3

Lay led  
 Margaret  
 Mark Lovett  
 Christine Grist  
 Rev'd Tony

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November

09:30 FAR Morning Worship Carolyn Keep  
 10:30 WBY Café Church Lay led  
 11:15 CSG Holy Communion Rev'd Sid  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November: St Andrew's Day**  
 09:30 EXT Holy Communion Rev'd Tony

## Week 4

Carolyn Keep  
 Lay led  
 Rev'd Sid  
 Rev'd Tony

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)

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