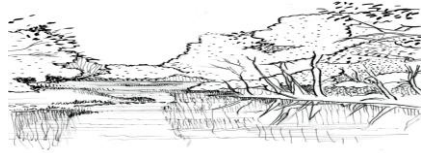



# CLYST VALLEY NEWS



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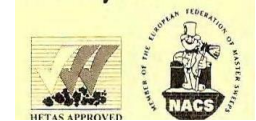
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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICARAGE



I wonder how many readers are familiar with an incident referred to in two related Old Testament passages, about King Hezekiah: Isaiah 38: 1-5 and 2 Kings 20: 1-11. Both passages describe the king (who, unlike many other kings of Judah, 'did what was right in the sight of the LORD') as being close to death. The king weeps bitterly when he is told he is about to die by the prophet Isaiah, prays beseechingly to the Lord God – and is then granted his request to live for longer – another fifteen years. A miraculous sign using a sundial confirms this decision of God. The passage(s) are interesting in a number of ways, and I refer to them because not all of you, if indeed many at all, will be familiar with this part of the Bible – do go and look it up. Sometimes passages from the Bible leap out at us, and it came straight to my mind when I learnt from my oncologist that I was going to be 'dismissed' from their referral list, as my cancer levels (my PSA test) had dropped to near zero.

I have stage 4 prostate cancer, but the combination of a regular hormonal injection and a heavy dose of radiotherapy seems to have held the cancer at bay. This is great news for me. I note that in the news as I write there is a great disparity across the UK about how quickly men get diagnosed with it, so there is a call for GPs and others to be more proactive in encouraging tests. Once I was diagnosed, I was dealt with remarkably quickly, and I have nothing but praise for our over-pressurised health service.

But this article is not just about me – others are not so fortunate. What has happened to me, though, a little like the ancient king Hezekiah, is that I have been forced to face my own mortality – not at all a bad thing for me. The illness also forced me to think about how I wanted to spend the rest of my life.

I could write a lot more about how we try to deny death in this society, and how we struggle with mourning, but will leave this for another time.

More significant for me at the moment is how we re-evaluate our lives. It is helpful, I think, to think about them in terms of how we help others and support our nearest and dearest (if we are lucky enough to have them). It is also helpful, I believe, to include God into this equation in whatever way we see fit. Prayers are indeed helpful!

After the pandemic, in these times of financial uncertainty and global insecurity, can I suggest we all revisit our life priorities – and perhaps even like good old King Hezekiah – we may be given another chance.

As Dickens' Tiny Tim would say: God bless us every one. My grateful thanks for all *your* prayers. Bill and Daff Lemmey, Woodbury Vicarage [revbillwhitecross@gmail.com](mailto:revbillwhitecross@gmail.com) 01395 232161

## WHITE CROSS MISSION COMMUNITY

Please see the schedule of services within the WCMC for February at the end of the magazine. Contact Jill Dupain at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01395 232953 if you have any questions.

## MAGAZINE DELIVERY TO CAT AND FIDDLE: HELP NEEDED!

We have lost another delivery team from the C and F as Linda and Steve Jones are moving on. We would like to thank them for their valuable help in the last year or two and wish them all the best in their move. Unfortunately that means we now have only one team available out of three at the C and F and urgently need two more volunteers. The work is not arduous and gets you out into the fresh air once a month and the exercise is very good for you as well as helping the community. We would like to hear of anybody who would be public spirited enough to do this little job so please give me a ring as soon as possible. Ivor Spriggs, 01392 874382

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS NOW! IT'S COMPLETELY FREE!

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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) without delay!

**Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the March 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> February 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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## 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!

## WE ARE URGENTLY SEEKING A SPONSOR FOR THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS

Burrington Estates have not renewed their much appreciated sponsorship of the CVN. So we now need to secure new sponsorship as a matter of urgency - something we rely on heavily if we are to be able to continue to produce, print and distribute the magazine to the current standards. If any of our readers would be interested in knowing more – or you know of a company or organisation that might be interested – please do get in touch with Peter Skelton at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) or on 01392 879857 and he will provide the details. In short, in return for an agreed donation, the company's advert will **exclusively** occupy the whole of the back cover of the magazine for a period of twelve months. Thank you.

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello and welcome to this February edition of the Clyst Valley News. As you'll have seen, we have a little collage (or is it a montage?) of photos on our front cover this month: Steve Capper's majestic fallen oak in a flooded meadow; Ian Porter's soothing frosty fields looking towards Oil Mill Lane; and 10 year-old Edward Pateman's superb view of the flood plain from CSM bridge. Warmest thanks to you all.

*This month I'd like to share an essentially personal and somewhat painful story with you in the hope that it may illustrate a not unfamiliar theme of how most of us, at certain points in our lives, have to face up to making hard decisions affecting our loved ones. In our case, an abrupt change of plan for Christmas at CVN Towers became part of a chain of events culminating in my elderly mum moving into a care home in Derbyshire, close to my sister, just before the New Year. There was, I suppose, a certain inevitability in this outcome – she is, after all, 95 and has become too frail, physically and mentally, to continue to live independently. Nevertheless, it is sobering to see the beloved person responsible for bringing me into this world all those years ago now set to see out her days in an institutional setting. I'm sure this will resonate with readers who have gone through similar soul searching. It's strange how old age can creep up on us unawares sometimes and we are not always best prepared. At the end of the day, the response required is a mixture of pragmatism and love – a hard nose coupled with a soft heart. Easy to articulate; much more difficult to execute. We in the family have now taken that irrevocable step; we console ourselves with the thought that mum is now safe, in comfortable surroundings, and being cared for by a lovely, devoted, attentive staff. But we also recognise that we have taken a leap into, for us, uncharted waters. Enjoy the magazine. Best wishes. Peter Skelton*

## CLYST ST MARY



### Cyst St Mary Church

We would like to say a very big thank you to those who supported our Christmas programme of events and services. They were all very well attended and we met many of you for the first time so thank you for coming down the lane. The lead up to Christmas was very special this year. We had the meal amongst the Christmas trees and, as they say, it was quality not quantity and a big thank you to our local school for joining in with gusto. They

were all very lovely with some special and clever ideas. The Christingle was enjoyed by many children, adults and everyone. The lit candles were very pretty and everyone went home with their orange! Our thanks go to Liz, Bridget, Ruth, Rosemary, Paddy and Margaret for decorating our church inside and out adding to the festive look. Thank you to you all and our ministers who took part in the services.

Confirmation this year will be at Cyst St George Church on Easter Sunday so if you have been thinking about this please contact our admin person, Jill, on [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) for more information. If any of you are thinking of having your children baptised at our church, the contact is still Jill. We will be putting together some Easter activities very shortly which everyone will be invited to so please look out for these on various communication avenues.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy 2023 and all that you wish for yourselves and your families. Our best wishes. Pat Cusa, Church Warden ([pat@cusa.org.uk](mailto:pat@cusa.org.uk)).

**Church Services.** The Family Service will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 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> February, 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.

### New Look for the Monthly Coffee Mornings



The PCC has decided to replace the monthly coffee mornings, which are poorly attended, with one-off coffee mornings and other events through the year. Watch this space for more details. As a result, there will be no February coffee morning.

### Village Hall: New Sound System and Comfortable Chairs!



We have installed a new sound system in the Village Hall. This allows hirers to play music at their events by linking to their mobile 'phone or computer. We are also buying a small number of more comfortable chairs as a trial. The Hall committee is reconstituting

as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which will limit the liability of voluntary Trustees. If you would like to help with the running of the Hall as a Trustee or just as a volunteer, please call our Chairman, Rob Hatton, on 01392 874305. If you have ideas for activities or events which you would like to see put on at the Hall, come along to our AGM in March. The details will be in the March Cyst Valley News.

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 Cyst Parish Council



**Elections 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – New Councillors Needed!** Getting away from the challenges current in national government, local government faces its own challenges in the forthcoming year. It is time for District, Town and Parish Council elections which will take place in May of 2023 and include our own Bishops Cyst Parish Council.

Bishops Cyst PC consists of the parishes of Cyst St Mary and Sowton. It is a non-political council giving residents the opportunity to represent and support their communities independent of any political dogma, a very refreshing opportunity. The Council is made up of twelve councillors who stand for election every four years, supported by part-time staff. It is led by a Chair and Vice Chair, elected/confirmed annually, and operates via a committee system addressing finance and planning matters, coupled with ad hoc groups which are formed to address important matters as they arise. These report back to the monthly Council Meetings where debates take place and decisions are reached.

Currently the Council operates with only ten Councillors, leaving two posts unfilled. It is likely that some sitting Councillors will be standing down so new blood is needed. This is YOUR opportunity to step up, address those issues which have been troubling you, support your neighbours and the community in general and make a difference.

The Council addresses several ongoing responsibilities in supporting its community, but also seeks out areas to add to the quality of life for residents. Some of the areas addressed over the last election cycle of four years have been:

- Maintaining our car parks, including relining them and refurbishing the footpaths at the lower car park, replacing dying trees.
- Refurbishing the children's play area adjacent to the Village Hall.
- Opening up the football area on the Village Field for use by the Football Club for young teams.
- Refurbishing the allotments and currently seeking an increase in such provision.
- Planning a new footpath from Greenspire to give safe access to the village centre at Cyst St Mary.
- Addressing flood issues in Cyst St Mary and recruiting volunteers to prepare flood defences.
- Successfully campaigning to obtain a speed reduction on the A3052 road to address safety issues, especially for residents of the Cat and Fiddle.

- Providing community grants to qualifying organisations.

Being a Councillor is interesting, rewarding but not onerous. There is a breadth of opportunities to support your community in a very rewarding way. If you are at all interested, speak to one of the sitting Councillors or contact our Clerk (details below).

**Try it, learn how local government works and make a large contribution to our democracy.**

*East Devon District Council Parish Tree Wardens.* EDDC is updating its Tree Warden volunteer list. 'In the first instance, we would like Tree Wardens to be the eyes and ears on the ground, in their parishes looking out for and caring for trees. That could be as simple as reporting suspicious works to us or wind-blown trees.' If you would like to volunteer to be a Tree Warden for the parish, please let the Clerk know (details below).

*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/).

*Environment Agency Contacts for Reporting Incidents (Particularly Odour and Noise).* 24/7 Incident reporting hotline: 0800 807060; non-urgent incident reporting, email: [incident\\_communication\\_service@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:incident_communication_service@environment-agency.gov.uk).

*Parish Council Meetings.* Parish 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 1 pm. Call 01392 874405 or email [bishopsclyst@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsclyst@gmail.com).

### Clyst St Mary Primary School



Our children were welcomed back for the spring term, filled with stories of Christmas festivities spent with their families - it's lovely having the school buzzing with activity again!



In the second week of term the whole school was delighted by M&M Theatrical Production's performance of *Cinderella* - a familiar story with the added joy of beautiful costumes, music and laughter!



Our Reception Class was very excited to learn about the UK's first ever satellite launch, which was attempted on 10<sup>th</sup> January from Newquay in Cornwall. Jumbo jet 'Cosmic Girl', operated by the American Virgin Orbit company, had been aiming to release a rocket high over the Atlantic Ocean. Sadly, it ended in failure, but the children all had tremendous fun building their classroom rocket and learning about the wonders of space!

Our industrious Student Council have been busy organising events this term, with the first one - a 'Toy and Book Swap' - taking place at the end of the second week. It was a great success, with children bringing in toys and books they no longer use to swap for 'new' toys donated by another child. The items left over will be donated to an appropriate charity. Following this, the Student Council will hold an ever-popular Bake Sale at the end of the month to raise money for the school. We're all looking forward to that!

Kicking off our calendar of school trips, a select group of Class 5 and 6 pupils will visit the beautiful Dunsford Nature Reserve on the edge of Dartmoor. The children will walk alongside

the river Teign, stopping at three 'stations' en route to take part in various team building activities. With luck, they might even catch a glimpse of kingfishers and otters down by the water, or tawny owls and woodpeckers in the beautiful oak and ash trees! It sounds like a wonderful event which the children will enjoy immensely. There will be some beautiful photos of the visit to share in next month's edition.

### Walking Group



The February Clyst St Mary village walk will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. We meet at the Village Hall at 10 am to carshare. We plan to walk from Sidford to Sidmouth along the Byes, with a pub lunch. Please do join us; we would love to see some new faces. Tel Janice on 01392 876858.

### Clyst Valley Preschool



We start 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.

### 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



### 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)

### 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.



**Clyst St George Parish Council Chairman's Notes: February 2023**

The Council met as usual on the second Wednesday of the month. January's main topic was the EDDC Local Plan and we agreed our objections to Option 3 and submitted them. They are on our website [www.clyststgeorge.org.uk](http://www.clyststgeorge.org.uk). We have also agreed not to increase our income from EDDC; one of our main expenses is the grass cutting - whilst it has gone up by 10 per cent, we have some reserves that we can use.

Local elections take place in May this year with all of the Parish Council seats up for election. If you would like to stand yourself then ask myself or contact EDDC for details. It's a good way to get involved and help fix local problems. All the best.

John Manser

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

01392 874861

**Clyst St George Parish Hall**



*Coffee Morning.* February's coffee morning will be on Wednesday 1st February from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Feel free to pop in for tea/coffee and a chat.

*Quiz Night.* Looking for an opportunity to exercise the little grey cells? Come along to the Parish Quiz

Night on Saturday 4th February at 7 pm. Bring your own nibbles and tipples (food and drink!) and enjoy an evening of quizzing, questions and quick wit. Tickets are £5 per person and available from John Manser and Anna Smith in Ebford or Mark and Isobel Stubbs in Clyst St George. In anticipation of the Quiz Night, here's your starter for 10: One Clyst St George resident (who bears a striking resemblance to the Queen Consort) has met the King on several occasions but do you know who she is?



*Save the Date!* On Sunday 7th May we will be hosting a family event: barbecue, fancy dress competition, bouncy castle, bar and live music to celebrate the coronation of Charles III.

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

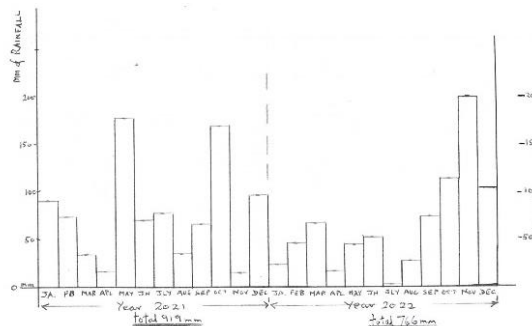
**Nature Garden**

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**



December started in complete contrast to November with two and a half weeks of dryness and very cold conditions, sometimes reaching -6°C or -7°C at night. However, from Sunday 18th through Christmas to the end of the year we here at Ebford received 103 mm (4.1 inches) of at times very heavy rain. This was very similar to the amount for December 2021 of 97 mm; both values being in line with the previous ten-year average of 98 mm.



Interestingly the total amount for the year 2022 was only 766 mm (30.2 inches), the driest since 2016; the previous 5-year average (2017 – 2021) was 897 mm (35.3 inches) here at Ebford. So, in conclusion, 2022 was still a dry year. 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).

**WOODBURY SALTERTON**



**Holy Baptism**

Rev'd Sid Humphries baptised Arabella Autumn Wright at the Family Service on 18th December. A large number of family and friends came to the service. The choir sang their usual song of welcome and Arabella was given a Baptism Bear to remember the occasion.

**A Look Back at Christmas**

*Carol Service.* It was good to be back in church for the carol service which has a lovely atmosphere with the only lights being candles in lanterns, the Christmas tree lights and the light from the screen with the order of service and carol words on it. When it came to *Away in a Manger* only two girls, out of the many children in the congregation, were brave enough to come to the front and sing the first verse - Luca and Panka. Their courage and sweet singing were applauded. Rev'd Margaret Scrivener kindly led the



service. At the end Churchwarden Debbie Jung thanked the organist, Katharine Wheeler, and choir, the PCC members, the ladies who had decorated the church so beautifully and Rev'd Margaret and Rev'd Sid who have taken so many of our services while our vicar, Rev'd Bill Lemmey' was ill. Margaret then thanked Debbie for the hours of work she puts in to keep the church going.

Mulled wine and mince pies were served after the service. Thanks to those who gave mince pies and to Jill and Nigel Dupain for making the mulled wine. Thanks again to Devon Clinton Estates for their gift of the Christmas tree.

*School Christingle Service.* This took place in church. Rev'd Bill Lemmey gave a short talk and said special prayers for Ellen Tout, who has taught at this school for 17 years and latterly has been Head of Learning, responsible for the day to day running of the school: and for Esther Brace, a much-loved Class 1 teacher, both of whom left at Christmas.



*Midnight Communion.* This was conducted by Rev'd Bill and the organist was Judy Reeves. *Carol Singing Round the Village.* Twenty people went round the village on Wednesday 21st December, singing and collecting for The Children's Society. The group included several small children and the boys enjoyed knocking on doors and holding out the collecting tins. They especially enjoyed the kind gift of sweets from the Clarke family. As usual William Olney was an invaluable help accompanying the carols on his trumpet. The evening ended at The Digger's Rest, which reopened the week before. Organiser Debbie Jung was pleased to say that the sum of £123.54 was raised. The collection at the school Christingle service, which totalled £27, will be added to this so our church/village will be sending a donation of £150.54.

*Choir.* The church choir was invited to sing carols to the residents of Halsdon House, Exmouth. Their singing was much appreciated by the residents, one of whom said they were 'a bunch of angels'! We were joined by Erin Keery who has just joined our choir.



### Monthly Coffee Mornings



These continue on the first Saturday of each month in church from 9.30 till 10.30 and bacon butties are available. The February event will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Church Quiz - On the Map



Thank you to everyone who supported this quiz by buying a copy and especially to Lin Ashby and Liz Whittaker who sold copies in their churches and to Carol Rowe who sells to friends in Exmouth. Thirty entries were submitted but only one person got every answer I wanted so the prize goes to Ann Steventon, a member of our church choir. Carol Rowe and Ros Pollitt were joint second with one answer adrift. Ann kindly donated her £10 prize back to the church so at the time of going to press the quiz has raised £502 for our church funds. The next quiz will be out in the spring.

### Village Lunch



A Bring and Share Lunch was held in the Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> December. It was decided to turn this into a celebration of Bidy Lagus' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and she was surprised with a gift and also a birthday cake made by Terrie Neman topped with a large blazing candle. A raffle was held to cover the cost of the hire of the Hall. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by 17 friends and ended with a profit of £52. It was decided to give this sum to the

Exmouth Food Bank.

### Woodbury Salterton Crafters

The crafting afternoons will continue on the last Wednesday of the month - the next being on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, from 1 to 4 pm. Bring your knitting or other craft project to the Village Hall. The afternoon is very informal. All are welcome even if you just wish to sit and chat and watch the various crafters at work; or have a sociable chat and enjoy coffee and the delicious cakes kindly made by Louise Lee



### In Memoriam: Joan Auton

The funeral of Joan Mary Auton took place in our church on 29<sup>th</sup> December and was conducted by Rev'd Jean Burrows. Joan married Horace Auton in this church on Boxing Day 1956 and always regarded Holy Trinity as her church even after she moved to Poltimore and then to Exeter. The red carpet in church was her gift. Joan and Horace made their home at Bridge Farm and raised their family of three daughters and a son there before moving to Poltimore in 1970. Joan took a very active and often leading part in the communities in which she lived - as District Commissioner of Guides, Diocesan President of The Mothers Union, a Parish Councillor, School Governor, Churchwarden and many others. She continued as member of Woodbury Salterton MU until it went into abeyance. She achieved her wish to reach her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in October and received a card from The King. Burial followed in the churchyard.

### Farewell Tony

Our love and best wishes go to Tony Appleton as he leaves the village to live in a care home near to his son Marcus. Tony has been so much part of this village life for getting on for 40 years. He and his wife Lis were members of our church congregation, Lis being a founder member of our choir and Tony serving as Churchwarden. Tony supported most village activities, often with his trumpet! Now in his 95<sup>th</sup> year he leaves this village as a reluctant necessity. With his friendly nature and love of a good conversation we are sure he will soon make many friends. Our love and prayers go with him.

### POETRY CORNER

#### *Ragbag*

By John Smith (of Clyst St Mary)

My mum kept a ragbag  
In the cupboard under the stairs  
Anything of fabric  
From linen cloth to cambric  
Would finish up in there.

Stuff that might 'come in useful'  
For repairs or new made beautiful,  
Nothing is ever wasted  
Raw edges can always be basted  
To make them smart again.

My head has become a ragbag  
Filled with ideas still unused  
But if writing can put them in view  
Others may remake them anew  
Into something that may prove useful.  
©John Smith



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Peter

#### **Bus Service from Clyst St George to Exeter**

*I may be mistaken, but I don't think I have seen mention of the T bus in the Clyst Valley News and I keep meeting people who don't know about it. Run by Dartline, it leaves Woodbury three times a day (9.30 am, 11 am and 1 pm) via Clyst St George and Topsham and on to Exeter High Street, return, Monday to Saturday.*

*It's great to be able to get on in Clyst St George again: at the George and Dragon (9.39, 11.09, 13.09) or at Darts Farm (9.40, 11.10 and 1310).*

*Thanks and regards.*

*Cathy Piper*



## AND FINALLY...

### The Sky Tonight



Welcome back to the wonders of the February night sky - with the promise of a naked-eye comet! As before, the guide is for about 9 pm mid-month, but it will apply earlier or later.

Orion and the companions that I directed you to last month are still there dominating the southern sky but, before we leave this area, let's return to one of his companions. *You'll remember that if you follow the line of Orion's belt downwards you come to*

*Sirius, the brightest star in the constellation of the Great Dog. If you look carefully below Sirius you will see a small hazy patch.* In 325 BC the Greek philosopher Aristotle wrote of a 'cloudy spot' in this location. His record of this star cluster (now termed M41) is the earliest description of a deep-sky object. *The cluster contains about one hundred young stars and looks beautiful through binoculars. The bright star underneath Sirius is named Adhara.* Five million years ago it would have been the brightest star in the sky as it passed close by our Sun. We tend to think of the stars as fixed, but they, including our Sun (and, in consequence, us) are all moving relative to each other. (However clusters, like the Pleiades I introduced you to last month and the one we are about to find, do move together.)

*Under Orion's feet are the faint stars of the constellation of the Hare, no doubt trying not to be noticed by the hunter and his dogs!*

Now let's 'star hop' to find another new constellation. *If you take a line from Rigel (the bottom right star of Orion) through Betelgeuse (the top left star of that constellation) and continue it on up and to the left you will come to the two brightest stars in the constellation of Gemini, the Twins.* The lower brighter orange star is Pollux. The upper less bright one is Castor although the ancient astronomer Ptolemy recorded them as of the same brightness. *Look at Castor through binoculars and you will see it is a double star - two stars close together and revolving around each other.* In large telescopes it shows as actually a six-star system. *The constellation continues down and to the right with four lines of stars.* Many of these are also double stars, although the ancient astronomers could not have known this when they chose this group of stars to represent the Twins from mythology! This constellation also contains a star cluster but this time an open one, labelled M35. *To locate it we'll 'star hop' from Taurus. If you find the star at the tip of the bull's lower horn using the guide I gave last month for the Crab Nebula then continue on about half the distance again to the edge of the stars of Gemini and you will find this loose cluster of stars - a splendid sight in binoculars.*

Last month we used the Moon as a guide to finding the planet Uranus. This month we can use a similar technique to search for Neptune, the outermost planet in our solar system. It is below naked-eye visibility and usually difficult to spot with binoculars but on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month it is very close to Venus. *On that evening you will find the brilliant Venus dominating the western evening sky. Focus on it with binoculars then look slightly down and to the right for the tiny bluish disc of Neptune.*

There are other sights to look out for. *On 22<sup>nd</sup> February after sunset you will see the crescent Moon between Venus and Jupiter.* (By the next day the Moon will have moved up above Jupiter.)

*Check out the moons of Jupiter with binoculars. They will be in different positions than when you saw them last time.*

*Mars is still among the stars of Taurus. On the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> February, the Moon is close to Mars within the triangle of that planet, Aldebaran and the Pleiades.* Although the Moon's disc

is half illuminated it is said to be at First Quarter! This is because it has completed one quarter of its orbit around the Earth.

In my introduction (and in my December article) I mentioned a comet. It should be quite easy to find on 1<sup>st</sup> February; but no promises - these 'dirty snowballs' don't always perform in the way they are expected! *Face north and look slightly to the right about half way up the sky for a group of seven stars, four making a box and three more forming a tail from the bottom left corner. They form a shape like a ladle with the handle downwards.* In America it is called the Dipper. We call it the Plough. *Follow the line of the top two stars to the left and you will find the Pole Star.* (It is so called because it would be directly overhead at the North Pole.) *At around 10 pm look for the comet about half-way along a line between the Pole Star and a point directly overhead (called the Zenith). Binoculars will help as the comet will probably only just be within naked-eye visibility. You are looking for a small but quite distinct head and a short hazy tail, probably pointing up and to the right.*

I wish you well in your star-gazing this month. Clyde Bish

### The Exeter Forum Talks Programme: February and March 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 an admission charge of £3 if not a member of the Exeter Forum. More information at [www.exeterforum.org/talks](http://www.exeterforum.org/talks).

Date	Speaker	Title
1 February	Mike Richards	<i>A History of Exeter Hospitals</i> Exeter Forum member Mike Richards will look at the long history of hospitals and medical care in the city of Exeter from Mediaeval times to the present day. He will outline how some of the main establishments evolved and detail some of the local characters. He will also show the important part Exeter has played in introducing significant medical procedures.
8 February	Dr John Salvatore	<i>What the Romans Did for Exeter!</i> Archaeologist and Roman historian Dr John Salvatore will provide an overview of how the Romans shaped the development of Exeter as a city, from water supply and baths to roads and villas.
15 February	Charlie Courtenay, The Earl of Devon	<i>Exeter and the Earls of Devon – Frenemies for a Millennium</i> Charlie Courtenay, the Earl of Devon, will tell the story of the relationship between the Earldom and the City of Exeter over the last 1000 years, recounting the good times and bad that helped shape our historic community.
22 February	Derek Gore	<i>The Kingdom of the Dumnonia</i> Historian Derek Gore from the University of Exeter will describe the Kingdom of the Dumnonia in the South West and how it evolved after the Romans left. He will show how recent excavations, stone sculpture inscriptions and pottery finds are helping to provide a clearer picture and explain how an organised church and trade, high status activity and some fabled kings feature in this still mysterious period.
1 March	Professor John Bryant	<i>Human Genetics – What's Ethics Got to Do with It?</i> Rapid developments in human genetics are raising very important questions about privacy, testing, confidentiality and genetic therapies. Professor John



		Bryant will make a welcome return to the Exeter Forum to look at the ethical issues associated with the developments in human genetics.
8 March	Salli Carr-Griffin	<i>A La Ronde, Exmouth</i> A La Ronde is a fascinating, unique house on the edge of Exmouth owned by the National Trust. This talk will focus on the transformational A la Ronde Project which includes the conservation of the internationally important Shell Gallery. The project also incorporates working with the local community and partnerships in a new way and will set the direction of how A La Ronde will continue to develop in future years.
15 March	Robin Thomas	<i>The Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen and Tuckers Hall</i> 400 years ago, a Royal Charter granted by King James 1 allowed the Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen of the City to become an Incorporation, based at Tuckers Hall. Robin's talk will look at the history and development of the Incorporation and its present role. He will also show the importance and historical significance of Tuckers Hall in Fore Street, Exeter.
22 March	Leigh Edwards	<i>Human Microbiome Part 2</i> Leigh makes a welcome return to the Forum to give his talk on the Human Microbiome Part 2. The Human Microbiome is the ecological community of microorganisms that literally share our body space. This talk focusses primarily on the gut microbes and the link between our immune systems, our brain, and our gut, and how it affects our general health.
29 March	Robert Hesketh	<i>Devon Castles</i> Devon has a fascinating array of castles and historic fortifications. Photographer and author Robert will explain how they were developed and altered over the centuries to meet the changing military, political and domestic needs of the people who used them. Examples from every major period from the Iron Age to England's newest castle, Castle Drogo will feature in the talk.

### Love Topsham 2023 - Lights Out and Away We Go!



We start this month with a big thank you to the organisers of Topsham Food Festival and Nello's Longest Table for a very generous donation to Love Topsham at the turn of the year. This is a marvellous boost for us and, more importantly, a recognition of how we have become more pro-community in the past 12 months, supporting activities throughout Topsham and not just those we organise. This generous gesture is timely as we hope to have at least

one food-and-drink event of our own in 2023 - please read on!

Now that our Christmas lights are away for another year, we can announce that our 2023 activities begin in April with a Topsham Small Business Fair. This is an event to showcase those businesses, retailers and entrepreneurs in Topsham who help the town to thrive but do not have their own shops. A version of this a few years ago proved a big success. There are, literally, dozens of these businesses from accessory designers to proofreaders, website workers to bakers. We'll be showcasing their marvellous contribution to our town with a special day at Matthews Hall in the spring - watch for date and details.

Also coming up in 2023 will be a food-and drink event to highlight just how special Topsham is, whether you want to go into one of our businesses for a pint or fine dining, or want to buy anything ranging from a specialist coffee to a freshly-caught fish feast.

Closer to summer we will begin a new-look street entertainment programme - once a month on a Saturday we will have entertainment throughout the town. This year it will not just be street music, so expect the unexpected to enhance your weekend shopping experience!

There will also be bunting to give Topsham a party atmosphere - even before the Coronation street parties - and once more there will be up to 100 hanging baskets outside our businesses along the High Street and Fore Street.

And talking of hanging baskets...last year we had a heroic team of waterers, undertaking a daily routine to ensure the baskets not only survived but thrived, even in the fiercest of heat. This year we're looking for more volunteers.

Whether it's just one day a week or every day of the summer, if you can help we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email [lovetopsham@gmail.com](mailto:lovetopsham@gmail.com) or pop in to see Lily at 'Love Topsham HQ' - the Topsham Bookshop on Fore Street.

And a reminder - we can only do what we do with your support, and the contribution of supporters taking out a Love Topsham Card. It's just £3 a month and means we can stage our special events, publicise the town, and have landmark festivities such as our summer hanging baskets and Christmas lights. Please email us or pop into the bookshop to sign up and get a stake in our community!

That's it for the moment, but please keep an eye out for more details of our plans. In the meantime, have a fabulous February. From your Love Topsham team.

*Play Bridge at  
Exeter Bridge Club*





We meet at the Isca Centre (EX4 4NT) on Tuesday evenings (6.15pm for a 6.30 start) and on Thursday afternoons (1.15pm for a 1.30 start). We play duplicate bridge at just £2.50 per session.



Do come along and play. If you don't have a partner please contact Neville Lane (details below) to see whether we can provide a partner - we usually can.

There is ample free parking at the Isca Centre, which is close to the Exeter Arena. You can purchase drinks at the Isca Centre.

You can also join us online on Mondays at 7.15pm or on Fridays at 3pm.

Contact Neville Lane on 01392 861062 or 07496 392106 or by email [nevilleslane@gmail.com](mailto:nevilleslane@gmail.com), or visit our website at [www.bridgewebs.com/exeter](http://www.bridgewebs.com/exeter) for further information.

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*Exercise your mind*



### Monthly Giggle



A successful fresh water angler named Brod Thought he would go out to sea and catch cod All was going fine Way out on the brine Until he discovered he had forgotten his rod. [Thanks to John Flitney for this. Ed]

*Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson were having a rest in their hotel room when suddenly a tree walked in. 'Elm entry, my dear Watson,' said Holmes.*

A man was walking down the street and he met a small boy. The man asked what was his name. The boy replied, 'Six and seven-eighths.'

The man asked him why his parents had given him such a strange name, and he replied, 'They just picked it out of a hat.'

A minister was asked to dinner by one of his parishioners, who he knew was an unkempt housekeeper. When he sat down at the table, he noticed that the dishes were the dirtiest that he had ever seen in his life. 'Were these dishes ever washed?' he asked his hostess, running his fingers over the grit and grime. She replied, 'They're as clean as soap and water could get them.'

He felt a bit apprehensive, but blessed the food anyway and started eating. It was really delicious and he said so, despite the dirty dishes. When dinner was over, the hostess took the dishes outside and yelled, to her dogs, 'Here Soap! Here Water!'



I know this eccentric man who raises carp in the south of the country. When the carp are full grown, he catches them, skins them, and makes men's wallets out of the skins. He is, in fact, a man known for his carp-to-carp walleting.

People who lived at an assisted living home each had their own apartment but all ate in a central dining room. One morning Edith noticed that Joe hadn't come down for his breakfast so she went up to his apartment and knocked on the door. Joe shouted out that he was fine and would be down soon for breakfast. As he was coming down the stairs Edith noticed that he was very slow and could hardly move so she helped him down the last few stairs and to the table. When he had finished his breakfast he had great difficulty in getting up from the chair and even more difficulty getting up even the first two stairs to return to his room so she informed Matron. She decided that there was definitely something very wrong with Joe so she phoned for an ambulance and Joe was taken to hospital.



Two hours later Matron 'phoned the hospital to find out what was wrong with Joe. The receptionist said that he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts...

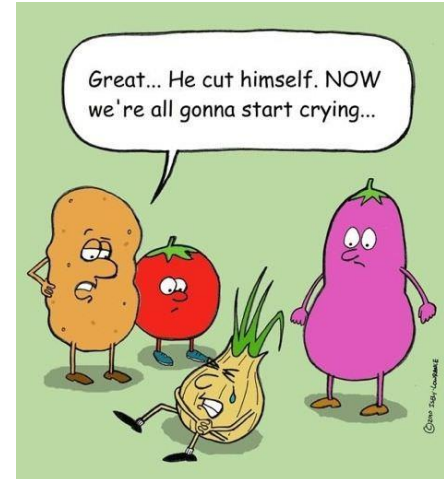
Mildred, the village gossip, shared all her news with anyone and everyone in the village and poked her nose into everyone's business. She made a mistake however, when she accused Frank, new to the village, of being an alcoholic after she saw his car parked in front of the village's only pub all afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. Later that evening Frank quietly parked his car in front of Mildred's house, walked home, and left it there all night. Mildred wasn't so keen to pass on the gossip after that night! [Thanks to Lesley Richardson for these two. Ed]

This woman decides to buy a self-assembly cupboard. Back home she reads the instructions carefully and assembles the cupboard in the bedroom. It looks really neat. Then, a train passes and the whole cupboard collapses. Not daunted by this she re-reads the instructions and reassembles the cupboard. Then, another train passes and the whole cupboard collapses again. Thinking that she must have done something wrong she re-re-reads the instructions and re-re-assembles the cupboard. Then, a train passes and the whole cupboard collapses yet again. Now, she's finally fed up with this and calls the customer service department. She is told that this is quite impossible and that they'll send along a technician to have a look. The technician arrives and assembles the cupboard. Then, a train passes and the cupboard collapses. Completely baffled by this unexpected event, the technician decides to reassemble the cupboard and sit inside it to see whether he can find out what causes the cupboard to collapse. At this point, the woman's husband comes home, sees the cupboard and says: 'That's a nice looking cupboard,' and opens it. Says the technician: 'You won't believe me, but I'm standing here waiting for a train.'



Two fish were relaxing in their lake. Suddenly a worm on a hook appeared in front of them. One fish says to the other, 'Did you order anything online?'



Patient: I've been feeling a little off colour lately.  
 Doctor: Tell me what you have been eating recently.  
 Patient: I only eat snooker balls.  
 Doctor: Snooker balls?  
 Patient: Yes, I have a blue one for breakfast, a pink and a yellow one for lunch, red ones as snacks, and then a black one for dinner.  
 Doctor: Aha, I see what the problem is - you're not getting enough greens.

When William Shakespeare went swimming one day, he was obsessed with the notion that moths had been feeding on the back of his trunks! He asked a friend to investigate and make a thorough search. The friend replied, 'No holes, bard.'

A man goes into a fish 'n' chip shop with a salmon under his arm. He asks, 'Do you sell fish cakes here?'

'No' was the reply.  
 'Shame, it's his birthday.'

BREAKING NEWS: Local man rushed to hospital after being seriously injured in a peek-a-boo accident. He's in ICU.



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or email [sarahmansell@live.co.uk](mailto:sarahmansell@live.co.uk).

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## WCMC SERVICES FEBRUARY 2023

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February

09:30 CSM Family Service  
09:30 WST Holy Communion  
11:15 WBY Holy Communion  
11:15 AYL Holy Communion  
18:00 EXT Evening Worship

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

09:30 EXT Holy Communion  
09:30 CSG Family Service  
11:15 FAR Holy Communion  
11:15 WBY Holy Communion

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

09:30 WST Breakfast Family Service  
09:30 EXT Morning Worship  
09:30 CSM Holy Communion  
11:15 AYL Family Service  
18:30 WBY Evensong

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

09:30 FAR Morning Worship  
10:30 WBY Café Church  
11:15 CSG Holy Communion

### Week 1

Rev'd Bill  
Rev'd Karen Spray  
Rev'd Bill  
Rev'd Jean Burrows  
Rev'd Roz Harrison

### Week 2

Rev'd Margaret  
Rev'd Bill and lay led  
Rev'd Bill  
Rev'd Sid

### Week 3

Lay led  
Lay led  
Rev'd Margaret  
Rev'd Bill  
Rev'd Bill

### Week 4

Carolyn Keep  
Lay led  
Rev'd Bill

AYL Aylesbeare FAR Farrington EXT Exton WST Woodbury Salterton WBY Woodbury CSG Cyst St George CSM Cyst St Mary For all queries, please contact Admin Officer, Jill at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01395 232953. For any pastoral needs please contact Rev'd Bill Lemmey on 01395 232161.



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