



June 2023



Have a jaunty June!

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello and welcome to this June edition of the CVN. As I write, the Devon County Show is in full swing and, judging by the volume of traffic around Clyst St Mary, it looks as if it's been a bumper year!


I hope you're buoyed up, as I am, by our cover picture this month of a very happy Shirley Moore thoroughly enjoying the special Creation Service in Woodbury Salterton a few weeks ago. And what about that hat?! What in London would be called a 'top-notch titfer'.... Thanks to Katharine Wheeler for taking the photo; you can read about the service on page 13.

Well, you'll probably notice a few more format changes to the magazine this month. Still work in progress but I hope you approve of the direction of travel. I'd like to welcome Natalie Chandler on board, who's been a great help already. Check out her new Kids' Corner feature on page 14.

The recent sunshine has set my thoughts firmly on our family holiday this summer in northern Italy, one of my favourite parts of the world. Those who know me quite well will acknowledge that I'm a total languages nut and have had a go at a wide range of them, in some cases rather more seriously than others. Surprisingly, Italian isn't one of them. Up to now, that is...I've decided it's time to plug that gap before our holiday so am following a rather good course focusing on basic communication skills, ie speaking and listening. And I'm thoroughly enjoying it. A bit quirkily, I find that one of the best places to practise out loud is on my bike! So now, as I pedal down the paths and lanes of the Exe estuary most weeks, with my iPod (yes, that ancient technology), I chunter away booking hotel rooms, ordering risottos and bottles of wine, visiting the tourist office in front of the piazza and buying tickets for the train to Naples! I'm sort of in my own little world, but I do get some strange looks from fellow cyclists and walkers as I bowl along! I guess they're thinking that a) I'm on the 'phone; b) I like talking to myself; or c) I'm addressing them in a strange foreign lingo! If you're one of those people, apologies for causing any distress. At least ora è tutto chiaro...

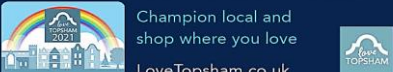
Enjoy the magazine. Lots of local Coronation pics and reports. Best wishes. Peter Skelton

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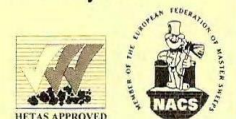


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Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the July 2023 issue of the Clyst Valley News should be sent by email, to the editor, Peter Skelton, at clystvalleynews@gmail.com by Thursday 15th June 2023 at the latest, please. Please note that 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 and we'll do the rest. Simple!

CLYST ST MARY


New Food Bank Donation Points in Clyst St Mary
 Clyst St Mary now has two donation points for the Exmouth Foodbank. There is a box for donations in the church porch. The church is open every day between 10 am and 4 pm; or donations can be brought to church services on the first and third Sundays. Preferred items are cans, jars and packets. And there is now also a donation point at the village shop. Please give generously as there is an increasing need. Thank you.

Village Hall

Open Morning. We are having an Open Morning at the Village Hall on Saturday 1st July from 10 am to 12 noon. Come and join us for coffee and cake. Have you got ideas about events, clubs or activities you would like to see at the Hall? Do you want to know what groups you can already join? Come along and talk to committee members and regular hirers about your ideas, or just to find out more. We have plans to extend the facilities at the Hall so this is your chance to give us your views.

Committee Meeting. If you aren't around on the 1st, you are welcome to come along to the committee meeting on Monday 3rd July at 7.30 pm in the Hall. There will be an open session for any points people would like to raise. With the emphasis today on issues of loneliness and social isolation, we are keen for the Hall to help to meet community needs.



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

Bishops Clyst Parish Council



Parish and District Council Election Results. Election results are available at <https://www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/elections-2023/>.

Parish Councillors Urgently Needed. There are three 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 at our next Parish Council meeting. Just email your details to the Clerk (bishopsclyst@gmail.com) or drop a letter in to the Village Hall.

Get to Know Your Parish Council. The role of the Parish Council is to represent the views and needs of its community. It is funded by you and works for you, with integrity and transparency at the heart of everything it does. The Parish Council website contains information on governance and transparency, finance, meetings, projects and news (www.bishopsclyst.org.uk).

Parish Council meetings are open to the public so do come along and get to know how the Council operates. Agendas and minutes are posted on the website and parish noticeboards, and if you feel strongly about an issue there is an opportunity in the open session for members of the public to speak.

Your Councillors. Councillors get involved in community projects, they take part in debates and make informed decisions in the best interest of the community and, collectively, are responsible for ensuring the Council finances are managed appropriately and transparently. When carrying out Council activities, Councillors have a legal duty to adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct which is based on the 'seven principles of public life': selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership. Training and support are available for all Councillors.

Diversity. The Council needs people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the community to put themselves forward for election.

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/).

Parish Council Meetings. Council meetings take place each month and dates, Agendas and minutes are posted on our website (www.bishopsclyst.org.uk) and on noticeboards in Clyst St Mary, Cat and Fiddle Park and Sowton Village.

Contact the Parish Council. Karan Bennett, PC Clerk, working from the PC office in Clyst St Mary Village Hall on Monday to Wednesday, 9 am to 12.30 pm. Call 01392 874405 or email bishopsclyst@gmail.com. You are very welcome to drop in, but we recommend making an appointment to ensure someone is available to see you.

Macmillan Garden Party: A Date for Your Diary!

Fundraising for

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

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

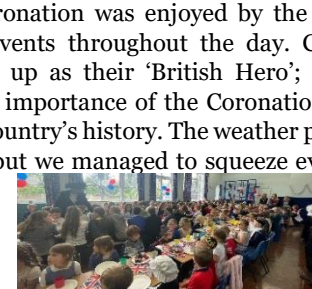
This is for a really great cause and we are asking for donations of cakes, books, plants, nearly new clothes and bric-a-brac. These can be delivered to 6 Winslade Park Avenue. This is a cash-only sale - come and catch up with friends and neighbours over a cuppa and get some real bargains! Looking forward to seeing you.

Clyst St Mary Primary School



First of all, a special mention of our Class 6 children who completed their SATs tests last week: Their positive attitude, perseverance and resilience throughout the testing period was very impressive. Well done all of you!

The King's Coronation was enjoyed by the whole school with various events throughout the day. Children were asked to dress up as their 'British Hero'; our assembly focused on the importance of the Coronation and what it means in our country's history. The weather put paid to our plan for an outdoor tea party, but we managed to squeeze everyone into the hall for a lovely party, with cakes, juice and thank you to all the parents for to governor Mandie Rose for skills!



music - very festive! A big their generous donations, and her excellent organisational



Going back to just after our return from the Easter holidays, Years 3 and 4 took off on an action-packed two-day Residential trip to Barton Hall in Torquay, which was a resounding success. The children enjoyed a wonderful variety of activities, including raft building, fencing, archery, problem solving, micro-scooters, orienteering and a sensory trail - rounded off with a 'silent' disco! They were all brilliantly behaved too: a credit to our school.



A select group of Class 5 and 6 children are continuing their weekly swimming lessons at Exmouth Pool, making steady progress and benefiting from some extra time in the water. While our senior class had their heads down taking their SATs last week, Class 5 children enjoyed taking part in their Level 2 Bikeability course. The sudden, heavy downpours didn't deter the group at all, who made great progress over the four days. Looking ahead, Class 3 children will visit Dartmoor for a day with the Dartmoor Pony Society who will take them on a range of activities, including navigation using compasses and maps. Class 6 are set to have a lovely day out at the Devon County Show as a post-SATs treat and our Classes 3 and 4 will take part in a Wellbeing Festival at Buckfast Abbey. More information and pictures to follow next month.

Walking Group



The June walk will be on Tuesday 20th. We meet at the Village Hall at 10 am to car share. The walk will be approx five miles with a pub lunch. We walk at our own risk. Do come and join us. For more information, 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.

Clyst Valley Preschool



We started 2023 after a very busy autumn term, with the children all enjoying their Christmas party, Nativity concert, making Christmas cards, decorations, and stickmen for our church Christmas Tree entry. Check out all our fun activities on our Instagram page! Our Preschool has been inundated with enquiries and demand for spaces for this term, and the coming summer term and is now full...However, we will have plenty of spaces available in the autumn term, September 2023 and are now happy to receive applications via email, our website www.clystvalleypreschool.org or by calling us on 01392 876615.

Badminton Club

Clyst St Mary Village Hall

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

Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 8 pm.

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

For more information please contact either:
Hilary 0139 2874722 or Anne (annecurryer@gmail.com)

Thank you.

CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD



Clyst St George Parish Council Chairman's Notes: June 2023
Elections over; Mike Howe returns to EDDC as an independent. Congratulations to him! For the Parish Council there was no election as we had just enough standing for a full Council, so unchanged. I was asked about Ebford Lane, which had been earmarked for resurfacing, but not now in 2023; also the banks on both sides of the A376 between the traffic lights and the George and Dragon roundabout. These have been inspected and found not to be a safety issue, so will not be done by the County Council. The PC will look into the cost of getting it done. All the best.

John Manser

john@jmanser.co.uk

01392 874861

Clyst St George Parish Hall

Coffee Morning. June's coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 7th from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Do pop in for a tea/coffee and a chat.

Coronation Event. The sun shone (probably the only dry day of the Coronation weekend!), the corks popped, the union flags flew and the sausages sizzled at the Sunday 7th May celebrated the Charles III. Parish Hall on as we Coronation of Music was Folk Band provided by the wonderful Otter who played a variety of music from each of our four nations.



After the barbecue, residents were able to enjoy delicious cakes baked by a team of fabulous bakers from the parish church; I understand the chocolate cake was definitely worthy of a Paul Hollywood handshake!

As you all know, Monday 8th May of the Coronation weekend was called [*continued on page 9*]

Clyst St. Mary Village Hall

Recently refurbished with excellent facilities for meetings, parties, events, exhibitions, trade shows etc. Large car park and well-equipped kitchen. Details of charges and availability on our new website <https://www.clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk/> or contact Ali West at: - bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk or on 01392 949088

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'The Big Help Out', the aim of which was to promote volunteering as a way of bringing communities together and for individuals to appreciate just how rewarding volunteering can be. In Clyst St George, Sunday was our day of 'The Big Help Out' as the success of the event was solely due to the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication of a team of volunteers from the Parish Hall committee. As part of 'The Big Help Out' let's have a big shout out to Claire, Alan, John, Paul,



Donna, Jacqui, Helen, Mary and Lil for all their work in making the Coronation barbecue a wonderful community event. *Community Fit Club.* If you are feeling sluggish after the damp winter months and want to put a spring in your step, come along to the free Community Fit Club. The club meets on Tuesdays at 10 am by the Cricket Club and on Thursdays at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. All ages and abilities are welcome. We are always looking for people to support our community events. If you would like to get involved, please contact Isobel Stubbs (Chair) on 07826 806919 or Paul Bragg (Vice Chair) on 01392 874599

Lady Seaward's C of E Primary School

Lady Seaward's thoroughly enjoyed the preparations and celebrations leading up to the King's Coronation. The children made crowns and showcased those with a parade at the end of the school day on 5th May.



The school PTA were also involved with providing cream teas for the watching parents; a truly lovely afternoon leading into an exciting weekend!

Class 1 have written letters to King Charles III, welcoming him to his new role; course. Fingers Since then the Year 6 children their SATS tests and we are done themselves proud. A lot preparation went into those can now look forward to Devon County Show, their preparing for the school this term.




Class 1 have written letters to King Charles III, welcoming him to his new role; course. Fingers they hope to receive a reply in due crossed! have completed sure they have of hard work and and the children performing at the residential and production, later



The rest of the school have been taking advantage of the sunny days we have had to take part in Forest School and supporting their science learning by identifying plants in the school garden and planting new ones. The Coronation seed packets received by the school are being put to good use! Thank you, King Charles III!

Norman's Weather Report

 This was not a typical April, as the showers were more than light and nourishing, but at times particularly heavy – the 11th and 27th of the month each providing ¾ inch of rain. So the total rainfall was 76 mm (3 inches), exactly the same as that in April 2019. The three Aprils between 2019 and 2023 totalled only 67 mm (2.6 inches)!

A 20-year average amount here at Ebford is 1.9 inches but each decade included four dry Aprils, when the weather came mainly from the eastern quarter.

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

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

WOODBURY SALTERTON

Celebrating the Coronation in Woodbury Salterton School.



The schoolchildren had a celebration tea party in the playground on the Friday afternoon before the Coronation. Bunting and flags were put up and the national colours were echoed in the tables



with their white tops and red and blue chairs. Many of the children were wearing crowns which they had made. After the weekly awards of Star of The Week were announced by Nikki Wickes and the cups presented and certificates celebrating those who had exemplified the school values were handed out, everyone sang two verses of the National Anthem accompanied by Katharine Wheeler on the keyboard. Tea was then enjoyed.

The King's Coronation Big Lunch was held in the Glebe Field on Sunday 7th May at 1 pm which was decorated with the home-made bunting which villagers had made for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Charlie Olney was MC and the afternoon got off to a good start with the singing of the National Anthem followed by three rousing cheers for King Charles. As usual people had gone to a lot of trouble to decorate their tables and prepare special food, which gave a great problem to Katharine Wheeler who had the task of judging the best entries. She awarded first prize for the best dressed table to Jo Solman with Ann Short a very close second. The best food presentation went to Judy Langdon with Clare Thomas second. Katharine was later presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers by Jane Angus.



While everyone tucked into their lunch, gentle background easy listening music was provided by Joe Spurrell singing to his own guitar accompaniment. There was a raffle for which prizes had been given by villagers and by some local businesses. Proceeds will go into village funds. [continued page 12]



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For the children there were activities, the most popular being a free lucky dip sponsored by the Parish Council. Prizes included water pistols and fortunately there was a supply of water to hand so these were very much appreciated.

About 200 people of all ages, including Ruth Parsons who hopes to celebrate her 100th birthday



in August, had a very happy time. Our grateful thanks for organising this most enjoyable and very successful celebration event go to Jane Angus and her committee of Charlie Olney, Gill Bricknell, Sue Woods,



Ngaio Southard and Emma Charrington-Lee.

Digger's Rest. In the evening there was live music at The Digger's Rest. This was privately sponsored by a generous anonymous donation which also paid for over 60 Coronation mugs which will be distributed to all children in the parish under 12 years of age. Many thanks to this kind donor.

This was a day which will live long in the memories.

Monthly Craft Afternoons

These take place in the Village Hall on the last Wednesday of each month, from 1 till 4 pm. These are proving a popular social event when anyone can bring their craft work and sit and chat to friends and enjoy tea, coffee and cake. If you would just like the company but don't do a craft you are still welcome to join us for a chat. The June event will be on Wednesday 28th.



Village Lunches at the Digger's Rest



With the reopening of the Digger's under the new managers, Simon and Nikki, we have been able to resume our monthly village lunches. The date is always the second Wednesday in the month and we meet at 12 noon. The May meal will be on the 10th. A chance to meet up with friends in the village

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Peter



I would like to thank Carole and Andy for arranging our Coronation street party. What better than bubbly, cake and the sunshine with neighbours. I thought I saw Camilla? 😊

Regards,

Jackie Ranft, Clyst St Mary



WHITE CROSS MISSION COMMUNITY



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

Clyst St Mary



Church Services. The Family Service will be held on 4th June, starting at 9.30 am. This is a very informal gathering for parents and children. There will be a Family Communion Service on 18th June, at 9.30 am as usual. Tea and coffee

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will be served after the service, 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



Parish Clock Appeal Fund. Huge thanks to all those who supported Barbara's raffle and the church cake stall at the Coronation party to produce a wonderful total of over £500 for the clock appeal. We are well over the half-way mark now with only about another £4,000 needed to reach our target.



Our next community event will be the ever-popular **Pimms Party** to be held in the Nature Garden (in church if wet) on Saturday 15th July from 6 to 8 pm. Please save the date for this event with further details in the July issue of the magazine. This event will not only raise funds for the clock repair but will allow the parish to come together as a community to celebrate an important milestone in village life when the inhabitants learnt to live by a standardised time.

Cards for Sale in the Church. Recycled cards are again available in the church. They can be used for any occasion, eg notelets, birthday, get well, sympathy, anniversary, new home, new baby, etc. You are welcome to visit the church at any time and spend time looking through the boxes of cards. The church is open every day between 9 am and dusk. I'd also welcome any cards you may wish to recycle, except for Christmas cards. These can be left in the church for collection. Many thanks. Linda Wilkerson (01392 873699)

Woodbury Salterton



Creation Service. As part of the church's outreach to families and children, the United Mission Community service held at Woodbury Salterton Church on the last Sunday in April focused on Creation and instead of a sermon/talk everyone went outside into the churchyard where a gazebo and mats had been set out for a talk and activities led by Liz Bull from Twig-Lits Forest School. Liz encouraged the children and anyone else who wanted to do so to search for mini-beasts or other wildlife. As it was trying to rain there was a lack of



butterflies or bees buzzing round but the children did find some very large black slugs in the grass and a wood louse. Shirley Moore joined in the spirit of the occasion by wearing a special hat which did have some mini-beasts on it! [See our cover photo!] The children enjoyed the other activities Liz had arranged, including making a bug hotel and then everyone went back into church for the rest of the Family Service which was led by Debbie Jung. The children were asked, 'What does creation mean to you?' Some answers were love, life and time. Prayers were read by Robin Lee, Rev'd David Ireson and Paul Hudson.



When told about this coming service in school one boy asked anxiously, 'You will put all the bugs back afterwards, won't you, as it is important that they stay in their natural environment?' He came to the service and saw that the wildlife was left as it was at the end.



Weekly Summer Coffee Mornings Start Beginning of June. On Saturday 3rd June we start our summer programme of weekly coffee mornings from 9.30 till 10.30 outdoors in the churchyard or inside the church if wet.



~~~~~

# Kids' Corner

## What's happened this month?

### Local Elections

Local elections give adults the chance to choose who represents them in their towns and councils - basically, at a more local level.

They took place on Thursday 4th May as adults went out to vote for their mayors and councillors. The voting started at 7am and stopped at 10pm. People must be over 18 years old and have registered in order to vote.

Did you know that members of the Royal family do not vote? They are not supposed to have 'favourites' within the political parties (groups representing the people).

This round of elections was different because it was the first time that voters needed to have photo identification (ID) to prove it was really them. In the 2021 local elections, there were 79 cases of alleged voter fraud (source: [electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)) which is where somebody uses someone else's identity to vote.

**Alleged:** this means the cases were referred to the Police to investigate.

The conclusion of the election was that councillor Mike Howe was re-elected. He is an independent councillor which means he is not linked to a political party (for example, the Conservatives or Labour).

For more information about the UK parliament, scan the QR code on any device.



## 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 has many rings but no fingers?**

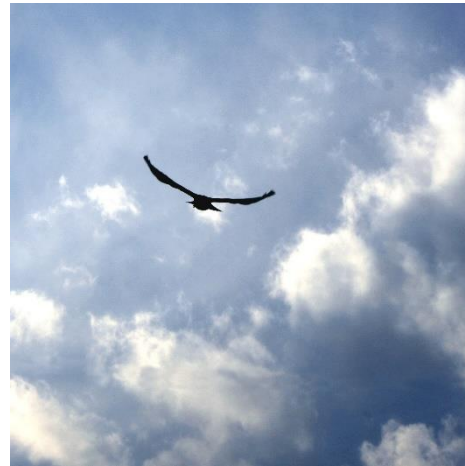
We would love to have some children writing for the Clyst Valley News. If you would like to get involved, please email [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com)

**POETRY CORNER**

*Evening Flight*

By John Smith (of Clyst St Mary)

Bird, where do you journey,  
Flying with purpose so high.  
I know the robin in my garden  
And the blackbird and sparrow too,  
But you fly on as if scheduled,  
A long-haul flight plan booked.

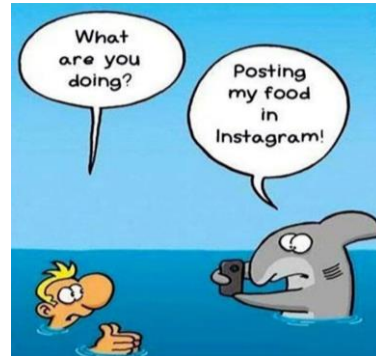


Perhaps you are a commuter  
Spending the days far away,  
And flying home each evening  
To family in woods or fields  
Where bonded mate and fledglings  
Give the eternal pull of home.

©John Smith

**MONTHLY GIGGLE**

A nurse was learning 😄 first aid. The sister said, 'Nurse, imagine a man's been brought in after an accident and he's bleeding badly. What's the first thing you'd do?'  
The nurse said, 'Faint.'



A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question, and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the kerb and stopped just inches from a plate glass window. For a few seconds everything was silent in the cab, then the shaking driver said, 'Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me.'



The badly shaken passenger apologised to the driver and said, "I didn't realise that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle you so badly."  
The driver replied, 'No, no, I should be sorry. It's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years.' [Thanks to Lesley Richardson. Ed]

Customer: I'd like a pair of stockings for my wife.  
Storekeeper: Sheer?  
Customer: No, she's at home.

**Chris Isaac**  
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## AND FINALLY...

### Topsham's June Extravaganza



Welcome to June (already!) – but firstly huge thanks to all the Topsham traders who helped with our *Big Hamper Trail* at the end of last month. We had over 20 businesses donating gifts for the hamper and almost as many serving as stopping-off points for competition entrants. Thank you to all the businesses!

Now let's look forward to June and the rest of the summer. During June we're hoping to host the *Street Heat Samba Band* on Topsham Quay – the first of several street entertainment events over the summer. Watch for the date – likely to be a Saturday in June – and this will be confirmed on our social media channels and our website.



Next up are Topsham's 90-plus *hanging baskets* which are just about in place around our town's busiest areas. Our thanks go to the New Leaf charity, based at Exminster, for providing wonderful arrangements for the third successive year. If you're unfamiliar with New Leaf, it's part of Devon Partnership NHS Trust's Vocational Rehabilitation Service; it trains and supports adults living with a mental health condition. Now watch out for Love Topsham's watering teams, recognisable by their hi-vis jackets – please say hello when you spot them!

Meanwhile please watch Love Topsham's social media and of course the [lovetopsham.co.uk](http://lovetopsham.co.uk) website for a very special announcement. It will be about a *secret VIP event exclusively for Love Topsham Card Holders* to be held in July. It'll be a first-come, first-served event with tickets available in June. At the time of writing we can't say more – but we hope lucky card holders have a great time at the event in early July!

That's it for now – have a great month. All good wishes from your Love Topsham Team.

### The Sky Tonight



The constellations of the Lion, Herdsman, and Virgin that we 'star hopped' to find in May are still well in evidence for night-time viewing but this month we'll concentrate on just one star, our star, the Sun (in which case I suppose I should retitle the article *The Sky Today!*)

June is a significant month for the Sun as on the 21<sup>st</sup> the summer solstice occurs. On this date, because of

the tilt of the Earth's axis, the Sun would appear overhead at the Tropics. In 240 BC Eratosthenes used this information to calculate the circumference of the Earth. When the Sun was overhead at Syene in Egypt he observed it was 7.2 degrees from the vertical in Alexandria 800 km to the north. *Now you can repeat his calculation. Divide the sphere of the Earth (360 degrees) by this segment (7.2) then multiply it by the distance (800 km). Your answer will be pretty close to the figure accepted today!*

For us, at about 50 degrees N, not only is the Sun is at its highest altitude for the year around noon on the 21<sup>st</sup> but it also rises well to the north of east and sets well north of west, so making its longest journey across the sky giving us the greatest hours of daylight – the Longest Day.

The Sun being above the horizon for longer in the summer months is obviously one contributing factor to the warmer weather, but it's only part of the story. Another is the high angle that the Sun's rays strike the Earth. In winter, because of the tilt of the Earth's axis, the same amount of heat energy is much more spread out. One factor that surprisingly has little effect is the distance from the Earth to the Sun. Because of the elliptical orbit of the Earth this is actually 5 million miles less in January!

Solstice means 'stand still' – which is what the position of sunset on the horizon appears to do around this date. *You can check this out by noting where the Sun sets from about 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June. You'll find very little change. But wait until the Sun has just disappeared from view. Never look at the Sun with the naked eye (or even through dark glass) and never with binoculars.*

Humans have for many thousands of years used the Sun to measure time. The oldest sundial can be found in Egypt and dates from 1500 BC. However, the Sun (or more accurately, the Earth) is not a very accurate time keeper. This is due to the Earth moving at a variable speed along its elliptical orbit and also (again!) by having an inclined rotational axis. In consequence sundials can be up to 17 minutes 'fast' in autumn. The sundial in Plymouth city centre has a correction graph, the Equation of Time, fixed to its base. Differences in longitude also cause inaccuracies. Our mechanical/digital clocks are set to the time at Greenwich (hence GMT) but the difference in Sun-time from east to west in Britain is over half an hour. Here in the Clyst Valley time runs 14 minutes slow! And, of course, at the moment we have purposely set our time to be one hour ahead of solar time!

The position of the Sun can also give us our orientation. *If you aim the hour hand of an analogue watch towards the Sun, a line half way between that hand and 12 on the dial will point south. To determine an east-west line, put a stick vertically in flat ground on a sunny day and mark the tip of the shadow. Wait a while then mark the new shadow tip. Join the two marks to scribe an east-west line.*

Turning now to the Sun as a star you should be pleased to find out that we orbit a very ordinary, middle-sized, middle-aged, rather boring star. Why pleased? Well, imagine what life would be like if the Sun was prone to exploding! Or one of a pair like the many double stars we have encountered in the past months. Day-length and the seasons would be totally haphazard! Or a variable star that kept changing brightness – and heat output. (Considering the number of Ice Ages the Earth has been through it would be reasonable to think that variability in energy output from the Sun would be responsible but of the many possible culprits the Sun is not considered one of them.) Not that our Sun is totally boring. It develops spots on an 11-year cycle, which is nearing its maximum, so now is a good time to look for them - **very carefully!** *Here's how to do it safely. Make a small hole in a piece of card and let the sun shine through this on to a piece of white card to act as a screen. Adjust the distance between them and you will get quite a sharp bright image of the sun with any sunspots showing up as small dark patches. Sunspots are magnetic storms that can last a long time. If you spot one, look for it on subsequent days. You will notice it move towards the west limb of the Sun. It is not the spot moving but the Sun rotating. It takes about one month to make one revolution so if you see a large spot disappear over the edge you might be lucky enough to see it reappear two weeks later. The Sun is forever bombarding us with various charged particles, many of which would strip our atmosphere were it not for the Earth's magnetic field deflecting them – and as a by-product producing the Northern Lights for our delight. Did you catch a glimpse in May?*

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

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## Woodbury Camera Club



In April we were treated to a presentation from Club members. All members were asked to submit about five of their favourite photographs on the subject of Spring. These were projected and each member discussed why they had taken each particular photograph and what they liked about it and other members of the group commented on the composition. This is



always a very positive and rewarding experience with everyone learning a little and appreciating each other's point of view. The photographs were very varied and showed that actually we have had some really nice days this year already.

This month (May) we are having a presentation from Mike Gilan on Japan and also wildlife photography which will be yet another example of the diversity of our presentations. We are so fortunate to have such a variety of presenters with such interesting topics. On 20<sup>th</sup> June we will be having our usual Social at The Maltsters. If anyone is interested in joining our friendly little club then please feel free to contact me; it is always a good time to join and get to meet people. Debbie Jung, 07903 345683, [debbiejung16@gmail.com](mailto:debbiejung16@gmail.com)



## The Exeter Forum Talks Programme: June - August 2023



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

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



|              |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|              |                 | Lisa's talk will look at the development of this important charity, and how its work has benefitted children from our major cities. The charity has its base near Exeter, and one of their main centres is Nethercott House near Iddesleigh. Lisa is Grants Development Manager for Farms for City Children.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5 July       | Angela White    | <i>Chinese Festivals</i><br>Angela will draw on her experience of living in Hong Kong for 14 years to provide an insight into a 12-month run through of festivals in the Chinese Zodiac. She will explain some of the symbolism and customs of celebrating, showing many of the colourful banners and ornaments used.                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12 July      | Julie Owen      | <i>Devon Loves Dogs</i><br>Devon Loves Dogs is a local organisation for those who own dogs or go on walks with friends and family who have dogs. It sets out to inform dog owners and walkers about how they may impact on wildlife. It also provides a way to represent the needs of dog owners to landowners and managers. Julie is the co-ordinator for Devon Loves Dogs. She is often seen at work with her cocker spaniel x labrador Maisie and on Waggy Walks locally. |
| 19 July      | David Brandreth | <i>Jane Austen's Purse - History in Coins from the Restoration to the Great Recoinage of 1817</i><br>What coins would have been in your purse in the time of Jane Austen? Why were coins needed? Why was a recoinage necessary after the Napoleonic wars? David's talk will give a general overview of aspects of our coins, with some interesting anecdotes from this historical period.                                                                                    |
| 26 July      | Graham Forshaw  | <i>The Work and Challenges of the Exeter Port Authority</i><br>Exeter Port Authority Harbour Master Graham Forshaw will look at his day-to-day work that covers Exeter, the canal and the estuary, and describe some of its many challenges.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2 August     | John Davidson   | <i>Slips, Slides, Slumps, Flows and Falls - The Story of Landslides</i><br>Devon and Dorset have spectacular landslides which appear in the news from time to time. John's talk will look at why landslides occur along the Jurassic Coast and elsewhere in the world, and what, if anything, we can do about them.                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9 August     | Robert Hesketh  | <i>Smuggling in Devon - The Truth behind the Fiction</i><br>Devon has a long history of smuggling, and many stories have been told about the battles between the smugglers and the revenue men. Following his talk on castles in Devon, photographer and author Robert will show how smuggling became a huge industry in Devon from 1700 onwards and the various romantic and more brutal stories that were told about these illegal activities.                             |
| 16-30 August | No meetings     | Summer break. The programme resumes on 6 September.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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



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

Programmes went on sale recently with a quartet of volunteers from the organising body, Topsham Museum, dressed in event livery and taking to the town's streets to sell to enthusiastic

residents and visitors. There's also a specially-commissioned jute bag to commemorate the event, available from the Museum.

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

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

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

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



### Clyst Valley Choral Society News



CVCS appears to be going from strength to strength since Covid with increases in audiences and appreciation of the music we produce. We are only a small choir but we are told that we make a big and beautiful sound!

Our next concerts are Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June: Saturday at St Mary's Church, Clyst St Mary and at Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth on Sunday. Both concerts start at 7.30 pm. We will be singing Schubert's *Mass in G*, Andrew Carter's *Benedicite* and *Zadok the Priest*. There will be our usual chamber ensemble, and soloists: Jason Bamford, tenor; John Draisey, bass; and Janet Macdonald, soprano. Paul Stock is our Musical Director. Tickets are £8.50 in advance and £10 at the door; and are available from Choir members, Pat Cusa of Clyst St Mary Church and Holy Trinity office, 10 am to 12 noon.

We welcome new members. We rehearse on Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 9.15 pm during term time at Clyst St Mary Church. If you are interested in joining us, please see our website [www.clystvalleychoral.info](http://www.clystvalleychoral.info).

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# WCMC SERVICES JUNE 2023

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

|       |     |                 |        |                  |
|-------|-----|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| 09:30 | WST | Holy Communion  | Week 1 | Rev'd Peter      |
| 09:30 | CSM | Family Service  |        | Rev'd Bill       |
| 11:15 | AYL | Holy Communion  |        | Rev'd Tony Raven |
| 11:15 | WBY | Holy Communion  |        | Rev'd Bill       |
| 18:30 | EXT | Evening Worship |        | Rev'd Roz        |

## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June

|       |     |                |        |             |
|-------|-----|----------------|--------|-------------|
| 09:30 | EXT | Holy Communion | Week 2 | Rev'd Sid   |
| 09:30 | CSG | Family Service |        | Rev'd Bill  |
| 11:15 | FAR | Holy Communion |        | Rev'd Karen |
| 11:15 | WBY | Holy Communion |        | Rev'd Peter |

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June

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

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June

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

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