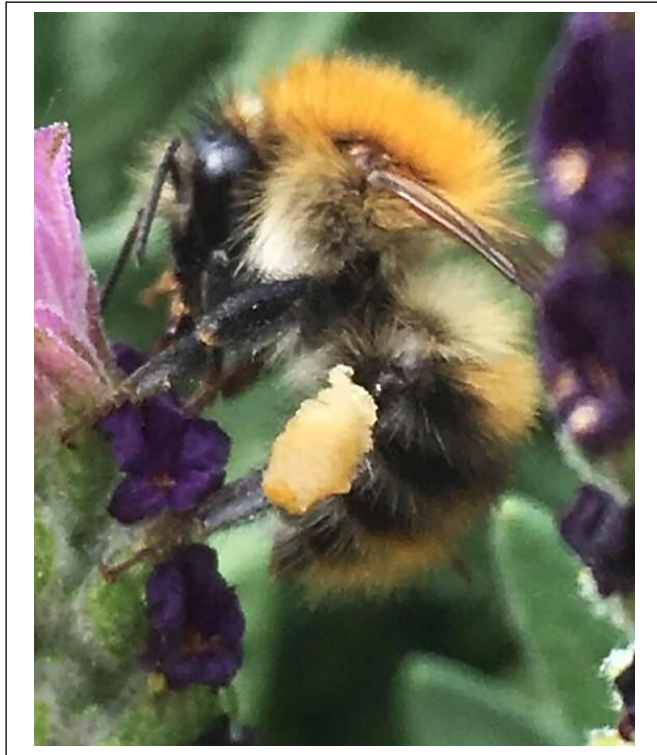


**October 2023**



*Have an open-hearted  
October!*

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**EDITOR'S NOTE**



*Hello and welcome to this October edition of the CVN. My thanks to Sue Alford for this month's spectacular close-up photo of a bee seeking out pollen in her back garden in the Cat & Fiddle Park. Sue tells me it was taken on her iPhone. Amazing!*

*As you'll see in this edition of the CVN, we are making progress on the path to our new charitable status, which is great news. As part of this transition process we will need to appoint Trustees and, from among them, a Treasurer and a Secretary. If any of those roles might be of interest to you, please do get in touch with me (with absolutely no obligation or pressure!) and I can fill you in with a few details on what would be involved. The easiest way to make initial contact is to drop me an email at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com). I'd love to hear from you.*


*I've mentioned before that we are not only planning a new charitable status for the CVN; we are also looking to diversify the content and create a new look for the magazine. So, alongside all the important local news and information from our villages and towns, we would like to see more regular and/or one-off articles of broad general interest to our readers. If you have a hobby or passion for something, or if you have some expertise in some area of knowledge that you'd like to share, please do get in touch with me. Don't be shy! We've had some really interesting contributions in recent issues and I'd love to be able to continue the momentum. This could be your breakout moment as a writer! Let's make the CVN an even better read! You know where to find me: [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com).*

*No space for the usual ramblings from me this month (don't all cheer at once!). So I'll leave you with these two thoughts on the advent of autumn. The first is from Jane Austen from her book, Persuasion: 'Her pleasure in the walk must arise from the exercise and the day, from the view of the last smiles of the year upon the tawny leaves and withered hedges, and from repeating to herself some few of the thousand poetical descriptions extant of autumn—that season of peculiar and inexhaustible influence on the mind of taste and tenderness—that season which has drawn from every poet worthy of being read some attempt at description, or some lines of feeling.'*



*The second, which I think is wonderful, is from L M Montgomery from her book, Anne of Green Gables: 'I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.'*

*Enjoy the magazine and have fun at Hallowe'en. Best wishes. Peter Skelton*

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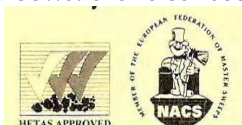


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**Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the November 2023 issue of the Clyst Valley News should be sent by email, to the editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the latest, please. Please note that contributions may be edited. If you experience any difficulty in receiving your copy of the CVN, please contact your local distributor, as follows:**

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

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

As we transition into Small Charity status, we need to set up a Board of (voluntary) Trustees – if you think you might be interested in getting involved with our magazine as a Trustee, please do get in touch with me ([clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com)) and I can explain what the responsibilities/duties are. They're not at all onerous, rest assured! We will need to appoint one of the Trustees to be our Treasurer, and another to be Secretary – a statutory requirement of our new charitable status. Without people in these posts, we cannot proceed. If either of these voluntary positions might be of interest, again please contact me and I will run through the duties with you. I would love to hear from anyone who might have a few hours to spare each month and would like to support us in this way. Thank you. Peter Skelton, Editor.

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

If you'd like to advertise your business or organisation in the Clyst Valley News, please get in touch - with no obligation. Our rates are very competitive! Contact the Editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com).

**YOUR PHOTOS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR THE COVER OF THE CVN!**



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

**CLYST ST MARY**



**Village Hall**

*New Status for the Village Hall.* The Village Hall officially transferred to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Apart from a having to make payment to the CIO rather than the Village Hall, users should not notice any difference in hiring or using the Hall. The changes make it easier for Trustees to run the Hall and relieve them of some liabilities. As Trustees are all volunteers, we are hoping that this will make it easier to recruit new Trustees. Village Hall meetings are now open to everyone. If you have ideas about events, clubs or activities or just want to know what groups you can join, you are

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welcome to come along to our next committee meeting in November (timing to be confirmed). There will be an open session for any points people would like to raise.

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

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

Many of us will witness a cardiac arrest in our lifetime. Be ready for that day. The BHF's digital training tool – RevivR, teaches you vital CPR skills and how to use a defibrillator, in just 15 minutes on your mobile 'phone or tablet. Created by BHF's medical experts, the tool will take you through a real-life scenario, so you feel prepared for an emergency. You never know when you'll need to give someone CPR, so learn today. Our thanks go to British Heart Foundation and Bishops Clyst Parish Council for grants towards providing this equipment.

**Hiring the Hall.** Our website <https://www.clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk/> gives details of



hiring availability and prices but if there's anything else you'd like to know, please drop Ali West an email on: [bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk). We look forward to seeing you soon.

### **Bishops Clyst Parish Council**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Clyst St Mary Primary School**



We'd like to extend a warm welcome to all the students – and their families – starting their academic journey at Clyst St Mary this autumn term – and a warm welcome back to everyone else! We hope you all enjoyed a restful summer break, despite the unseasonal weather. We'd also like to take this opportunity to

again wish our 2023 Class 6 leavers all the best at their new schools.

We've had a large intake of new children this year, throughout the school, and they all seem to be settling well into the school routine. We are very proud of our new Reception class children, who have enjoyed sharing stories in the reading corner, getting to know each other; playing on the computers and making the most of the water and theatre activities in the outdoor area.

We started our annual parents' briefings in the first full week of school, which are an opportunity for the teachers to explain class routines, as well as giving an overview of the topics the children will be learning this year.

Rehearsals are already taking place in preparation for our traditional Harvest Festival, in the lovely village church, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Children very much enjoy learning about the Festival; that it's a time of feasting, sharing and giving thanks. We will include pictures of the Festival in next month's magazine.

Of course one of the children's favourite holidays – Hallowe'en! – is at the end of the month, offering a chance to dress up and have fun at our PTFA-run disco.

Half term will take place from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> (school is closed for a staff training day) to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> this year, with children returning to school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – after the clocks have gone back.

We will be holding our Open Days in October and November (dates to be decided) when we look forward to showing parents of children due to start Reception in September 2024 our wonderful, caring school environment. Please keep an eye on our school website for more details.

### **Watching Your Speed in Our Communities!**



Community Speed Watch (CSW) aims to educate drivers who exceed the speed limit and make communities safer by reducing vehicle speeds. Volunteers assist the police in achieving this aim by monitoring vehicle speeds in locations where speeding is a known problem. Volunteers are registered and only operate at police-approved sites and are trained in health and safety and how to use the speed monitoring equipment. A CSW volunteer records and logs details of vehicles exceeding the speed limit from which a staged warning system is employed using advisory letters. Details of vehicles which have already been recorded exceeding the speed limit are then passed on to the local police for attention. CSW operates under the direction of the police.

Ian Adams, Coordinator of the Devon and Cornwall Police Community Speed Watch for Clyst St Mary, said, 'Speed is one of the main factors in fatal road collisions. The difference of a few mph can mean the difference between life and death. Small increases in speed can have significant consequences and the faster someone is driving the less time they have to stop if something unexpected happens. It's so important that people drive according to the conditions of the road.'

Ian went on to say, 'Consider the consequences of causing injury or even death to others due to driving at excess speed. I don't want anyone in our local community to get the dreaded knock on their door, hence the reason I have launched Community Speed Watch in Clyst St Mary and am looking for volunteers to join our CSW group.'

If you are interested in supporting the safety of our local community through CSW, you can register to join the group and complete your online training by going to [CommunitySpeedWatch.org](http://CommunitySpeedWatch.org).



### Walking Group



The October walk will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. We meet at the Village Hall at 10 am to carshare. The walk (venue tba) will be approximately four miles, followed by lunch. For more info, please 'phone Janice on 01392 876858 or Steph on 01392 879437. New faces very welcome. We all walk at our own risk.

### Anyone for Tennis?



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

### Clyst Valley Preschool



We are now into one of the most fun terms here at Preschool! Our new little starters have settled well and are busy enjoying all the learning activities available. We are looking forward to autumn, the changing colours, crisp days and all the celebrations this term brings.

If you are looking for a nurturing and fun Early Years setting for your child with dedicated, experienced and highly qualified staff, please check out our Instagram account and our website [www.clystvalleypreschool.org](http://www.clystvalleypreschool.org). We have a few spaces available for an immediate start, and our waiting list for next year is filling fast, so call us to arrange a visit on 01392 876615 or email [admin@clystvalleypreschool.org](mailto:admin@clystvalleypreschool.org).



### Table Tennis Club



Please come and join us! New members always welcome. We play at the Village Hall every Thursday, 4 - 6 pm. The minimal fee of £20 for a 10-week session includes use of all equipment and refreshments. Alternatively, fees may be paid on a weekly basis if preferred. For further details please contact Pam Gardner on 07714 097220 or by email to [pamelamgardner9@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamgardner9@gmail.com).

### CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD



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

The Parish Council is in the process of acquiring two pieces of land, to be used as Public Open Space. The consultation is now open, as we need to confirm that we have your support, before the funds are released to us from EDDC. Please respond to the leaflet with this month's CVN. It's a once in a generation opportunity to preserve the space for the community.

### Badminton Club

Clyst St Mary Village Hall

The club, which plays on Tuesday evenings in the Village Hall will re-start after the summer break on:  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 8 pm.**  
 ALL are welcome (young and not so young!) so come and join us. It is good exercise and a sociable evening.  
 For more information please contact either:  
 Hilary 0139 2874722 or Anne ([annecurryer@gmail.com](mailto:annecurryer@gmail.com))  
 Thank you.

It's hedge cutting time so can I ask if your hedge or even shrubs are impinging on a road or pathway, then get them cut back please? My fellow Councillors are reporting many areas that are in need of cutting.

The coffee morning on 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Parish Hall in aid of Hospiscare raised £80 so thank you. The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30 – 12.30. All the best.

John Manser

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

01392 874861

### Clyst St George Parish Hall



*Audit of Community Buildings.* The Parish Hall committee is busy reviewing the Hall's audio/visual systems with the objective of having a more reliable and user-friendly system. We will also be participating in the Devon Communities Together audit of community buildings. The audit is funded by Devon Public Health and DEFRA and will look at how community halls are used, the challenges we face post-Covid and how community centres such as parish halls can be developed. Village halls are assets to Devon communities and we are looking forward to working with Devon Communities Together to serve both the local and wider community.

*Well done, Beatrice!* We have a very strong sense of community in Clyst St George and Ebford with many residents volunteering their time in working with the Parish Hall or delivering the Clyst Valley News. Our most recent (and youngest!) recruit is Beatrice who delivers the CVN to houses in Woodbury Road. Thank you, Beatrice, for your valuable contribution!

*Quiz Night.* Quiz Night is back on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November and tickets will be on sale later this month from Isobel, Claire, Paul and John. Teams can have a maximum of six members and the ticket price is £5 per person with all proceeds to Parish Hall funds. There's plenty of time to exercise the little grey cells and swot up on topics such as blockbuster movies, capital cities and the animal kingdom. Teams can be formed in advance or on the night.



*Big Breakfast.* The final Big Breakfast of 2023 will be on 19<sup>th</sup> November from 9.30 until 11.30 am. We will be offering a full English breakfast with unlimited tea/coffee and toast for £7.50 and a breakfast bap with tea or coffee for £4.

*Prosecco Party.* Save the date: The fabulous Christmas Prosecco Party will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Information on ticket sales will be in the November issue of the CVN.

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

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



The children at Lady Seaward's have had a really positive start back at school, exploring spirituality and connection with themselves, others and the world 😊 This has included a visit from the Bible Society at St George's Church and a visit from a representative, Sophie, from Edukid as we kick off another year of supporting our sponsored pupil in Uganda, Ryan. Sophie gave us the latest news on Ryan and how he has started his new school year.

We are all looking forward to another busy and interesting year at Lady Seaward's C of E Primary School. If you would like any information about our school, please contact the school office: tel: 01392 873629 or email: [admin@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk).





## Norman's Weather Report



August was rather wet; unfortunate for both farmers and holidaymakers, with 71 mm (2.8 inches) of rain recorded here at Ebford. This was well spread over three of the four weeks; the only dry spell was early, between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Over the last ten years the monthly average rainfall for August is 68 mm (2.7 inches): individual values ranging between 28 mm in 2022, fairly memorable, and 143 mm in 2015. As said in the previous report, averages have little useful significance in any current situation! Norman Cann

## Nature Garden

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

## Little Dragons Pre-School



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

## WOODBURY SALTERTON



### Woodbury Salterton C of E Primary School

Here at Woodbury Salterton Primary School we have had a lovely start to the school year! Not only has the weather been wonderful, it has been fantastic to see all of the children returning to school with smiling faces and such enthusiasm.

Our new Reception children walked in with confidence on Wednesday and have settled very well indeed since. Miss Harvey-Jones has enjoyed visiting our three classes and is pleased to have seen all the children happy and already enjoying their learning.

The main theme for KS1 this term is 'Movers and Shakers'. This project teaches children about historically significant people who have had a major impact on the world. They will learn to use timelines, stories and historical sources to find out about the people featured and use historical models to explore their significance.

The KS2 topic this term is 'Sow, Grow and Farm'. This project teaches children about the features and characteristics of land use in agricultural regions across the world, including a detailed exploration of significant environmental areas. In October, we will be attending Farmwise at Westpoint Arena which will teach the children about many different farming techniques and ways in which land is looked after in the UK. It will enable the children to experience farming first hand and will really bring their learning to life.

[Continued on page 11]

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[Woodbury Salterton continued from page 9]

### Swede Rolling Postponed

The swede rolling event has unfortunately had to be postponed due to a technical hitch over the road closure. Plans are already in place for this to take place next year.

### SOWTON VILLAGE



#### Church Service Time Changing to 5.30 pm for Winter Months

The church services at St Michael and All Angels are held on the first and third Sundays of each month. As we come into autumn and dusk begins to fall earlier, we will be trialling an earlier evening church service from November 2023 until March 2024. So, the services in October will start at 6.30 pm as usual but from 5<sup>th</sup> November they will start at 5.30 pm. The

Communion Service is the first Sunday of the month; the Evening Prayer service on the third Sunday. All are welcome.

#### Harvest Supper

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October we are holding our Annual Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

#### Tai Chi in Sowton Village Hall



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

session, participants can sign up for a six-week block of lessons. For more information, email Pippa Watts on [pippa.watts@pwpr.org](mailto:pippa.watts@pwpr.org).

### WHITE CROSS MISSION COMMUNITY



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

### Clyst St Mary



*Harvest Festival Family Service.* Clyst St Mary Church will be holding their Harvest Festival Family Service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 9.30 am in the church which, if you don't know, is at the end of Church Lane. Everyone is welcome, whatever age you are. It will be a joining in service so we would like you to bring

along things like your toy tractors, farm animals, things like that. If you are out on a walk, please collect leaves, acorns, beech nuts, etc so we can have some see and tell. I know that some of you like to dress up so please feel free to do this for our Harvest. Not obligatory, of course.

Just to let you know that Pat Cusa, the Churchwarden, will be taking the service so hope that doesn't put you off! We look forward to seeing you but any questions, please get in touch with Pat at [pat@cusa.org.uk](mailto:pat@cusa.org.uk).

*October Services.* The Harvest Festival Family Service will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> October, starting at 9.30 am, as mentioned above. There will be a Family Communion Service on 15<sup>th</sup> October, at 9.30 am as usual. Tea and coffee are served after both services, and we encourage people to stay and enjoy some fellowship. We welcome new families who would like to bring their children to join us in these services.

### Clyst St George



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



### Woodbury Salterton



*Bacon Butties Are Here Again!* On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October we resume our winter programme of monthly coffee mornings with bacon butties. From 9.30 till 10.30 in church on the first Saturday of each month.



*Bibles for Schoolchildren.* The church is giving a child friendly edition of the Bible to each child starting in Reception at our village school instead of giving them a Bible when they leave to go on to senior school. It was felt that the children would be more likely to read their Bibles as they hear Bible stories during their time at junior school.



*Ruth Parsons is 100!* At the service on 3<sup>rd</sup> September Debbie Jung (Churchwarden) asked Ruth's daughter Jo, a member of our congregation, to pass on the good wishes of the church to Ruth and said how people had enjoyed meeting her at her tea party in the Village Hall.



*Enjoy and stay safe!*



# Kids' Corner

What's happening this month?

## Hallowe'en

Halloween (sometimes called All Hallow's Eve) is celebrated each year on October 31<sup>st</sup> and this year it will be Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Hallowe'en originated two thousand years ago with a Celtic festival called **Samhain**. This day would symbolise the end of summer and harvest time and was the day before the new year would start on 1<sup>st</sup> November. The Celts believed that the night before the year the worlds between living and dead could become blurred and ghosts could return to earth. They would light bonfires and wear costumes to scare off these ghosts. Halloween has evolved over many years into an evening of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, and wearing costumes.



**Staying safe at Hallowe'en:** If houses are happy for you to trick-or-treat there, they will usually be decorated or have a pumpkin outside. If not, this probably means that you should visit other houses. Make sure you stay with your grown-up or a grown-up knows which area you are visiting.

## 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 hands and a face, but can't hold anything or smile?**

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

**Last month's answer: What is yours but mostly used by other people?**  
Your name!

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**POETRY CORNER**

*Six years ago I wrote a series of poems following the death of my wife, without any intention of them ever being published. They were a personal therapy in order to release the emotions that I felt and they have only been seen by my three children who are mature adults of course. However, I feel now that I have no qualms about letting them fly free since I know that most worthwhile writing tends to be autobiographical and thereby has the sense of truth. I also now realise that the reader who understands the writing will appreciate the sentiments and may even be helped at some time, whilst those that do not understand will merely ignore it – which is fine. John Smith*

*The Flight Now Boarding*  
 I pack and re-pack mental baggage for the journey,  
 Destination unknown.  
 What to include is trial and error  
 And some things will have to  
 Be discarded on the way,  
 For baggage that is burdensome  
 Stops forward movement,  
 A hindrance not a help.

The trick is to travel light  
 Carrying only essentials for the flight  
 Into the future.  
 Write one's own itinerary  
 Into the uncharted territory,  
 No matter what other guides suggest.  
 They have not made my journey  
 So do not know the way.

Just travel with love of the journey  
 For I do not know how far it will be,  
 But I have packed for both of us  
 For I could not travel alone.  
 ©John Smith

**MONTHLY GIGGLE**



An old man was on his death bed. He wanted badly to take all his money with him. He called his priest, his doctor and his lawyer to his bedside. 'Here's £30,000 cash to be held by each of you. I trust you to put this in my coffin when I die so I can take all my money with me.' At the funeral, each man put an envelope in the coffin. Riding away in a limousine, the priest suddenly broke into tears and confessed that he had only put £20,000 in the envelope because he needed £10,000 for replacement stained glass windows. 'Well, since we're confiding in each other,' said the doctor, 'I only put £10,000 in the envelope because we needed a new machine at the hospital which cost £20,000.' The lawyer was aghast. 'I'm ashamed of both of you,' he exclaimed. 'I want it known that when I put my envelope in that coffin, it held my personal cheque for the full £30,000.'





*My mother is a Woman of rare gifts – hardly anyone ever receives one from her!*

While walking down the street one day a high-ranking politician is tragically hit by a truck and dies. His soul arrives in Heaven and is met by St Peter at the entrance. 'Welcome to Heaven,' says St Peter. 'Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you.'

'No problem, just let me in,' says the man. 'Well, I'd like to but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in Hell and one in Heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity.'

'Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in Heaven,' says the politician.

'I'm sorry but we have our rules.' And with that, St Peter escorts him to the lift and he goes down, down, down to Hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a club and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him. Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, hug him, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at expense of the people. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster and caviar. Also present is the Devil, who really is a very friendly guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a lot of fun that, before he realises it, it is time to go. Everyone gives him a big hug and waves while the lift rises. It goes up, up, up and the door reopens on Heaven where St Peter is waiting for him.

'Now it's time to visit Heaven.' So 24 hours pass with the politician joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realises it, the 24 hours have gone by and St Peter returns. 'Well then, you've spent a day in Hell and another in Heaven. Now choose your eternity.'

He reflects for a minute, then the politician answers: 'Well, I would never have said it, I mean Heaven has been delightful but I think I would be better off in Hell.'

So Saint Peter escorts him to the lift and he goes down, down, down to Hell. Now the doors of the lift open and he is in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the rubbish and putting it in black bags. The Devil comes over to him and lays his arm on his neck.

'I don't understand,' stammers the politician. 'Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and club and we ate lobster and caviar and danced and had a great time. Now all there is is a wasteland full of rubbish and my friends look miserable.'

The Devil looks at him, smiles and says, 'Yesterday we were campaigning. Today you voted for us!'

*I went to the doctors this morning and said,*

*'Every time I drink a cup of tea or coffee, I get a sharp pain in my eye.'*

*He said: 'Have you tried taking the spoon out?'*

I hate it when people get sayings wrong. After all, it's not rocket surgery.



*A man fell into the lion's enclosure at the zoo. A lion walked in front of him and sat down. The man was frozen with fear, so he decided to pray. The lion looked at him and also started praying! 'Wow,' said the man, 'why are you praying too?' The lion said, 'I always say grace before a meal.'*

I've just got a part-time job for Hallowe'en making plastic Draculas. There are only two of us on the production line so I've got to make every second count.

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

**The Sky Tonight: October**



There are many stories locked in the stars but none is so dramatic as that told in the constellations of autumn: a king, his queen, their beautiful daughter, a sea monster and of course a dashing hero (who's already been busy disposing of one baddie) – plus a flying horse! It's a long story so I've split it into two parts.

Once upon a time...*Look to the north (at our usual 10 pm. mid-month time) and you will see the Plough low down but the right way up for once. Follow the Pointers past the Pole Star and at about the same distance the other side you will find a V of stars just East of overhead.* The pattern could be seen as a chair, and so it is. It is the throne of our queen, Cassiopeia. In Greek mythology she was Queen of Aethiopia who boasted that she was more beautiful than Neptune's Sea Nymphs. Not a good idea as Greek gods can be very touchy and, true to form, a sea monster was sent by the god of the sea to ravage the land. *The central star of the West is spinning at some phenomenal speed and recently emitted a gas cloud which contained elements that indicated that this was a star running out of fuel. When that happens it will go supernova. This could happen quite soon (astronomically speaking) – but probably not tonight!*

Now let's find Cassiopeia's husband, King Cepheus. *Facing North, find the West of Cassiopeia again then look to the left, almost directly overhead (called the zenith) for a rough square of stars with one below forming a triangle with the lower side, the whole thing enclosed in the triangle formed by Deneb in the Swan, the Pole Star and Cassiopeia. Now look halfway between the stars forming the base of the square to find the deep red 'Garnet Star' of William Herschel (who discovered of the planet Uranus in 1781 from his house in Bath – well worth a visit if you are in that city).* This is a variable star, but nowhere near so important as another in this constellation. *At the top right of the square find a small triangle of stars, the lowest of which is named Delta cephei, another variable star, but a very special one.* It has a period of exactly 5 days 8 hours 47 minutes and 27 seconds. Why is this important? Because any variable star of this type with this period will have the same real brightness. So if another star is seen with this period but it looks dimmer then it must be further away from us. Without going into detailed formulae – just believe me – knowing how much dimmer enables us to calculate its distance. This is particularly important as Herschel had noticed that some of the nebulae he observed were made up of stars, not just gas, and wondered if they were galaxies, like our own Milky Way, but more distant, but had no way of checking this. Once Cepheid-type variable stars were found in these nebulae their distances could be measured and they were found to be way outside our galaxy. They were in galaxies of their own!

We've met the king and queen. Now step forward the hero Perseus, fresh from killing the Gorgon monster, an unpleasant woman with hair of snakes whose glance would turn you to stone. He still has her head – which will prove useful when the saga continues next month. *Again face North and find the West of Cassiopeia. You will notice that the V forming one half of the W is flatter than the other. Follow the direction this points down toward the North East*

and you will find an orange star at the top of two lines of bright stars. This is the constellation of Perseus. Not a very impressive hero – but he does have a couple of tricks up his sleeve, so to speak. Find the fourth star down the right line. It may look quite bright – or not. This is Algol – Arabic for ‘Winking Demon’. It regularly changes in brightness by about a magnitude and a half – but it is not another Cepheid. It is an eclipsing binary – two stars which revolve around each other, as do all binary stars, except these two do it along our line of sight so that every 2.5 days the dimmer (and larger) companion gets in front of the brighter one and blocks out its light for a short while. The ancient Arab astronomers must have observed these fluctuations otherwise why the name? The other sight to look for in Perseus is his sword handle. Look halfway between the stars of Cassiopeia you used as a guide and that top star of Perseus and you will see two misty patches. Binoculars will show this as two star-clusters close together. Patrick Moore considered this to be the loveliest object in the sky.

We'll return to the saga next month but what else is happening in the heavens? On the 21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> look out for the Orionid meteor shower resulting from debris left from Halley's comet as it orbits the Sun. Also, beginning at 8.35 pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> there is the partial lunar eclipse I mentioned last month. It won't be very impressive as only 12 per cent of the Moon is obscured but keep a look out anyway. The planet of the month has to be Jupiter, shining brightly low in the East with the eclipsing Moon close on the 28<sup>th</sup>. With steady binoculars you should be able to see an obvious disc, perhaps with thin dark bands across it and up to four pinpoints of light in a line either side – the moons discovered by Galileo. Clyde Bish

### Woodbury Camera Club News



In August Woodbury Camera Club members had the unenviable task of choosing the 13 photos that would be featured in the 2024 Calendar. This is a democratic process where all the photos submitted are voted on by the members and those receiving the highest number of votes are then sent to the printers in Exmouth. We prefer to use local services and

businesses where possible. The date for the sale of the calendar will be published in the next edition of the Woodbury News/Clyst Valley News. We wish to thank all those who have supported us in the past and hope that you will do so again this year. Our speaker for September was Gary Holpin on his journey in photography along the SW path. For anyone who is super-organised and would like to put a date in your diary we have Astro photography talk on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Everyone welcome.

### Summer's Over – You Know What Comes Next!



Summer is over but what a time it was for Love Topsham activities – whatever the weather. For the record we had *four monthly musical extravaganzas* in town, *90 hanging baskets* in bloom and watered daily, a special event for Love Topsham cardholders with famous author *Kate Mosse*, the return of *a Residents Meet Up* for newcomers to our town, and the installation of *wheelchair-friendly benches* to complement existing ones at the Quay and the Rec. Phew!

A big thank you to all our volunteers for helping us have such a busy summer – especially those who worked tirelessly to keep our hanging baskets looking lovely. And talking of volunteers...what might you be doing on 24<sup>th</sup> November? That's the date of our *Christmas Lights Switch On*, procession to festive celebrations on the Quay, and our annual festive market at St Margaret's Church. It promises to be quite an afternoon and evening and we'll have very full details in November's edition; but with so much going on we will need plenty of volunteers. If you can help, email [lovetopsham@gmail.com](mailto:lovetopsham@gmail.com). Thank you!

In the meantime, have a great October and when we meet in November we will have full details of... you know, Christmas! Happy October from your Love Topsham Team.

### The Exeter Forum Talks Programme: October 2023



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

| Date       | Speaker         | Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 October  | Dr Jenny Moon   | <i>Just Going Fishing (2000 miles away - 1590 - Exeter and the Newfoundland Cod Trade)</i><br>Jenny will look at the trade in salted, dried cod, fished in Newfoundland, which operated from as early as the 1500s, mostly from Devon and Dorset ports. She will show the many hazards the fishermen and sailors faced. Jenny worked in Higher Education (Exeter and Bournemouth and Cardiff Universities) in health and educational development, writing and running professional development workshops across the world. She is now a writer and storyteller. |
| 11 October | Vikki Ritchie   | <i>The Training and Work of Police Dogs</i><br>The police dogs in Devon and Cornwall include the traditional German Shepherds alongside other breeds trained specifically to sniff out illegal substances, explosives and digital devices in the fight against crime and terrorism. Vikki will talk about the training and roles of police dogs in Devon and Cornwall.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 18 October | Robert Guyver   | <i>The American Adventure of Lady Harriot Acland and Her Military Husband, John Dyke Acland</i><br>Robert will look at John Dyke Acland's involvement on the British side in the American War of Independence and Lady Harriot's determination to go with him, even behind enemy lines to nurse him after he was wounded. She was an Earl's daughter, hence her title. Their remarkable but tragic story will take us from the West Country to North America.                                                                                                   |
| 25 October | 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.                                                                                                                                                                       |

### Male Voice Choir (MVC) Concert at Clyst St Mary Village Hall




The Budleigh Salterton MVC and our guests Four Lanes MVC from Cornwall will be singing a joint concert at Clyst St Mary Village Hall on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 7.30 pm. The tickets are £10 each and can be purchased as follows: [www.budleighmvc.co.uk](http://www.budleighmvc.co.uk); The Village Shop, Clyst St Mary; or at the door on the night.

Each choir will perform songs from their own repertoire but the intention is to sing at least six as a combined choir of over 50 male voices. We are raising money for the Exeter Chiefs Foundation.







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# WCMC SERVICES OCTOBER 2023

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October

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

## Week 1

Rev'd Nigel  
 Lay led  
 Rev'd Peter  
 Rev'd Sid  
 Christine Grist

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

09:30 EXT Holy Communion  
 09:30 CSG Family Service  
 11:15 WBY Holy Communion  
 18:30 FAR Holy Communion + Harvest + Supper

## Week 2

Rev'd Margaret  
 Lay led  
 Rev'd Karen  
 Rev'd Sid

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

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

## Week 3

Rev'd Sid  
 Debbie Jung  
 Lay led  
 Christine Grist  
 Rev'd Tony

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

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

## Week 4

Carolyn Keep  
 Lay led  
 Rev'd Peter

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

16:30 CSG Mission Community Service -  
 Light of Life Service

## Week 5

Rev'd Margaret

AYL Aylesbeare FAR Farringdon EXT Exton WST Woodbury Salterton WBY  
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Located in the newly opened Courtyard by Marriott Exeter Sandy Park Hotel. Redeem this special offer by presenting this flyer.

\*T&Cs Apply. We reserve the right to withdraw offer at any time. £10 per person (excluding optional service charge) is for one person only and cannot be shared. Offer is valid for a slice of cake and unlimited Tea and Coffee only and cannot be substituted for other drinks. On day of purchase this offer is to be used within the hours of 9am-5pm of that day, offer available Monday - Friday only. Car parking registration to be given to server and is subject to availability.

Courtyard by Marriott Exeter Sandy Park Hotel is proud to sponsor  
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