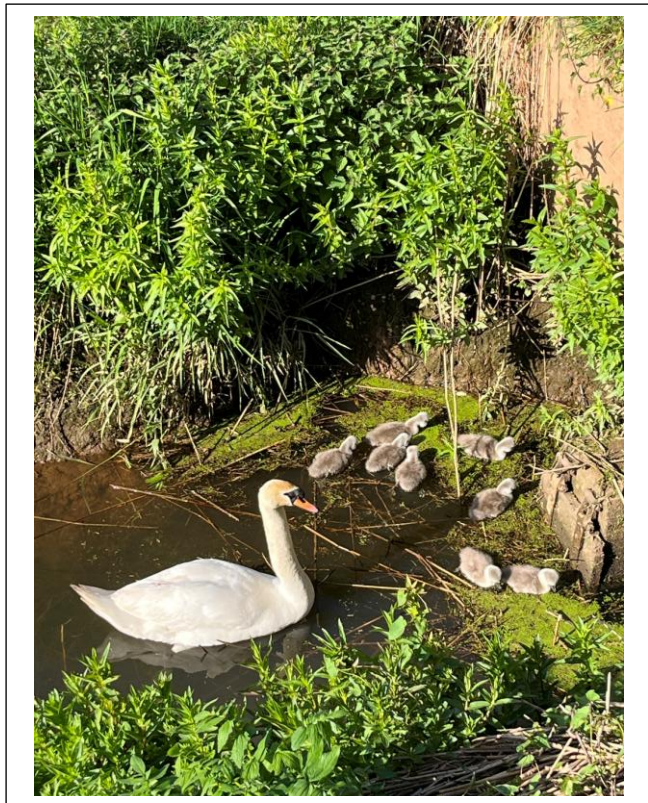


# CLYST VALLEY NEWS



June 2026



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## EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello and welcome to this June edition of the Clyst Valley News. My thanks to Trupti Desai (who happens to be my wife!) for our delightful cover picture of mum and her cygnets, taken recently by the Old Bridge in Clyst St Mary.

As a brief respite from the constant stream of disturbing news assaulting our senses at the moment, here's a heartwarming story, courtesy of [www.northdevongazette.co.uk/](http://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/), to whom many thanks. Eight young people from North Devon with serious illness or disability have just returned from the holiday of a lifetime in Florida thanks to the tireless work of a very special local charity, the Children's Holiday Foundation North Devon (CHFND). Each Florida trip sees the young people accompanied by eight voluntary adult helpers and the only aim is to give them a memorable and fun two weeks. Several of the recent group had never been abroad before and all of them have had a challenging time over the last year. As ever, the highlight for most was the very special day at Discovery Cove, where they got the chance to interact and swim with the dolphins. CHFND was founded by Dr Robin Buckland in 1993 and it has now taken 232 young people on 29 separate holidays. He said, 'This group of young people have had to cope with some major medical problems and they all deserved this special two-week holiday in Florida...They all described the trip as a holiday of a lifetime and the best two weeks of their lives so far...We saw nothing but smiling and happy faces, and they were a joy to be with. They have all visibly grown in confidence and this should help them with whatever they have to face in the future.' Just lovely! You can check CHFND out at <https://chfnd.org.uk>. And there are plenty more joyful stories in our magazine this month. Enjoy! Best wishes. Peter Skelton

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



Calling all photographers! 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, who'll choose one. Just email them to [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com) and we'll do the rest. Simples!

## WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS THIS YEAR?



Advertising your business or organisation in the CVN makes a lot of sense. How about joining our loyal band of advertisers? We print and deliver the magazine free to around 1300 households and businesses in our villages and towns; and, in parallel, we upload an online, full colour version on various Facebook village and town pages and parish council websites each month. We have also built up a sizable mailing list for direct emailing of the CVN to subscribers – all also for free, of course! To find out more (Our rates are very competitive), please contact the Editor, Peter Skelton, at [clystvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:clystvalleynews@gmail.com).

Have a jaunty June!

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**Contributions, photos and letters to the editor for the July 2026 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 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026 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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**CLYST ST MARY**



**Church News**

*Services.* The Family Service will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 9.30 am. This is a very informal gathering for parents and children. There will be a Family Communion Service on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 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.

*Supporting the Church.* Very many thanks to everyone who continues to support us as we endeavour to maintain and keep our beautiful old church open. If you would like to become a regular giver or make a one-off donation please contact our Treasurer, Nicky Blacker, on 07501 223654 or [nicky.blacker@gmail.com](mailto:nicky.blacker@gmail.com).

**Bishops Clyst Parish Council**

*Allotment Plot Waiting List.* Allotments are known for their physical and mental health benefits, from exercise to stress reduction and access to fresh food. They also provide a way to connect with others who share similar interests. We currently have a very short waiting list for allotment plots in Clyst St Mary. Priority is given to residents within Bishops Clyst. If this is of interest, or you would just to find out more, please contact the Clerk (details below).

*Parking on Pavements and Verges.* The Parish Council would like to remind residents and visitors that the verges in the villages are not for parking and please repair any damage that is created.

*Annual Parish Meeting.* The Annual Parish Meeting received reports from local groups, including the Village Hall and football club. Discussion noted funding concerns for the football club, while the Village Hall was reported to be performing well.

*Bishops Clyst Parish Council Vacancy.* We still have one vacancy for a Councillor we would like to fill as soon as possible. If this is of interest do come along to a Parish Council meeting to see what we do and if you would like to be involved, you can be co-opted on to the Council. Email a brief résumé to the Clerk ([clerk@bishopsclyst.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bishopsclyst.org.uk)) or drop a letter in to Clyst St Mary Village Hall.

*Parish Council Meetings.* Council meetings take place on the second Monday of the month and dates, agendas and minutes are posted on our website ([www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/parish-council-agendas](http://www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/parish-council-agendas))

**April BCPC Summary**  
 The Parish Council noted it had significantly reduced reserves, requiring tighter future spending. Key discussions included ongoing parking problems in the village caused by long-term use of the lower car park, with a new working group formed to investigate solutions. Planning matters were considered, with an objection raised to the Winslade Park variation due to unclear legal details and the lack of a Community Use Agreement. Progress updates were given on parish projects such as the Greenspire footpath, a landslip near Rydon Garage, and the stalled Winslade Park agreement. The Council also reviewed allotment issues, including policies on structures, requests for facilities, and maintenance arrangements. Several actions were agreed, including forming groups to address heritage assets.

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and [www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/parish-council-minutes](http://www.bishopsclyst.org.uk/parish-council-minutes)) and on noticeboards in Clyst St Mary, Cat and Fiddle Park and Sowton Village.

Contact the Parish Council. Katie Webb, PC Clerk, works 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 [clerk@bishopsclyst.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bishopsclyst.org.uk). Bishops Clyst Parish Council also has a Facebook page – please follow our page.

You are very welcome to drop in, but we recommend making an appointment to ensure someone is available to see you.

### Walking Group



The walking group in Clyst St Mary meets once a month. Generally, this takes the form of a morning walk of varying difficulty followed by a pub or café lunch. Occasionally a picnic will be taken with some walking in the afternoon. We are a friendly group and all are welcome; indeed, we would benefit from some fresh faces. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month (16<sup>th</sup> June this month) at 10 am in the Village Hall car park. So please come along and enjoy some exercise, fresh air and good company. We are an informal group and walk at our own risk. Any questions, please contact Peter Cusa on 01392 877907.

### Village Hall



Hiring the Hall. Our website [www.clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk/](http://www.clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk/) gives details of hiring availability and prices but if there's anything else you'd like to know, please drop Ali West an email on: [bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk). We look forward to seeing you soon.

### Clyst Valley Preschool



As we enter June, we also approach the fun end of the school year...summer trips, Sports Day, our Summer Concert and Graduation! Also, with better weather we can turn our attention and focus learning towards our preschool garden and nurturing seeds and plants. While our theme for stories, small world, craft activities and role play will be under the sea.

We will be offering tours and taster sessions towards the end of term, so please get in touch to arrange a visit if you are considering a preschool for your little one. At Clyst Valley Preschool we offer a warm, secure, fun preschool experience for children from 2 years 8 months, in an Ofsted-rated 'Good' Early Years setting led by dedicated, enthusiastic, experienced and highly qualified staff. We have limited spaces available, so if you are considering Preschool for your child, starting *any time* in the next academic year, spaces fill fast so if you are considering September, January 2027 or even an Easter



**May BCPC Summary**  
The Annual Meeting of Bishops Clyst Parish Council on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 focused on appointing council leadership, confirming committee memberships, and reviewing governance and financial matters for the year ahead. Councillors unanimously elected Cllr Cain as Chair and approved a range of committee and liaison appointments. The Council also approved routine financial payments, insurance renewal, and the 2025/26 accounts and AGAR documents, while discussing local issues such as Devon County Show traffic management, Greenspire footpath progress, planning applications, flood and runoff concerns, parking issues and allotment policies.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LOCAL HERITAGE?**

We are looking to set up a group of local people to help identify heritage assets across the parishes. If you think you could help, please contact [clerk@bishopsclyst.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bishopsclyst.org.uk)

Bishops Clyst Parish Council

**Help Wanted**

Clyst St Mary Village Hall Co

Trustees needed for our village hall. We are finding it increasingly hard to run without more help. Contact our chair on [admin@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:admin@clyststmaryvillagehall.co.uk)

2027 start, please get in touch. Email us at [admin@clystvalleypreschool.org](mailto:admin@clystvalleypreschool.org) or call 01392 876615 for more information.

Check out our Instagram account, and visit our new look website [www.clystvalleypreschool.org](http://www.clystvalleypreschool.org); you can always enquire through there.



### Clyst St Mary Primary School



We are fully into the swing of the summer term now and enjoying the various opportunities the warmer weather affords us. It's been that time of year again, when Class 6 children across the country take their SATs. Although always a bit of an anxious time of year for the class, their teachers are well versed at mitigating any concerns they might have. Every year we hold a 'Breakfast' each morning for the children to meet, talk to their friends and decompress. At the end, they were treated to a day at the Devon County Show for all their hard work!

This year, each class has prepared an entry for the Devon County Show Junior



Competitions. They chose a topic from the Crafts and Flowers category, which included 'Painted Flower on a Pebble'; 'Homemade Bird Feeder'; a 'Sunflower'; and a 'Climate Change Poster'. Here's a small sample of the results! As always, Mrs Hockin gathered a small choir who performed at the DCS Blessing Service which was held at Westpoint on the evening before.



Forest School has continued to delight and educate the children each week. Run by The Outdoors Group on site, they provide age-appropriate activities to engage children with the outdoors: to take in the fresh air and get dirty!



Premier Education has started rehearsing with Classes 2 and 3 for their 'Dance Showdown' which will take place at the Barnfield Theatre on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to gain experience on stage in a theatre setting while watching other schools perform; always an enjoyable evening for families to watch their children shine!

At the end of May we started an eight-week swimming programme at Exmouth Pool for Class 4, as well as some Class 5 and 6 children who need to build their confidence in the water.

In June we look forward to two visits by the Bikeability team: they will work with Class 3 children on two days, building on their basic biking skills and learning to control their cycle in the playground, away from traffic; and also with Class 5 over four days on local streets, learning how to deal with traffic on short journeys.

As part of their WW2 topic, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, Class 6 will attend the Exeter Blitz tour of the city to discover how Exeter was affected by the air raids of May 1942.

Finally, the PTFA will hold their annual Summer Fête on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June: a fun afternoon for the whole family to enjoy! Everyone is most welcome.

### 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).



**Badminton Club**  
Clyst St Mary Village Hall



The club plays on Tuesday evenings at 8 pm in the Village Hall  
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 01392 874722 or Anne [annecurryer@gmail.com](mailto:annecurryer@gmail.com)  
Thank you.

## Anyone for Tennis?



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

## CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD



### Church News

**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)

**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.

## Clyst St George Parish Hall



**🎉🎊 Exclusive Parish Hall News!** We are absolutely delighted to announce that the Parish Hall has been awarded a Community Funding Award from East Devon Council to purchase a brand-new table tennis table and all associated equipment!

This fantastic investment will benefit the whole community, providing more opportunities for people of all ages to come together, stay active, and enjoy some friendly competition in the heart of the village. And to celebrate in style...during this year's Summer Fête, we will be hosting a Table Tennis Tournament to officially christen our exciting new purchase! Expect fast-paced rallies, plenty of laughter, and a brilliant atmosphere as players of all ages take part and showcase their skills! Full details on how to enter will be shared very soon...👁️ Keep your eyes peeled – this is one not to miss!

**🎉🎊 Summer Fête Returns – Bigger, Brighter and Bouncier Than Ever!** Get ready for one of the highlights of the year...the much-loved Summer Fête is BACK on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026, from 2 to 5 pm – and it's shaping up to be our most exciting one yet! Expect an afternoon bursting with energy, laughter, and pure summer magic as our school community comes together to celebrate in style.

There'll be non-stop fun for everyone, including a thrilling raffle with fantastic prizes, classic fairground games, a buzzing drinks tent, and of course the legendary welly wanging (prepare for some seriously competitive throws!). And that's just the beginning...keep your eyes peeled for plenty of surprise stalls and activities popping up throughout the afternoon! The crowd-favourite Dog Show is also making a glorious return – always a showstopper and guaranteed to bring plenty of smiles, cheers, and a few wagging tails stealing the spotlight 🐕👉

**☕🍰 Coffee Morning – Cake, Chat and Community!** Come and join us at the Parish Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June from 10 am to 12 noon for a relaxed and friendly coffee morning. Enjoy a cosy cuppa, a slice (or two!) of delicious homemade cake, and plenty of cheerful conversation. It's a lovely chance to catch up with friends, meet new people, and spend a relaxed morning together in the heart of our community. Everyone is very welcome – we'd love to see you there!

**👉 Get Involved – Help Shape the Future of Our Parish Hall!** Do you enjoy village life and want to play a meaningful role in keeping our community vibrant and thriving? We're looking for enthusiastic, friendly people to join our team of trustees and help guide what happens at the Parish

Hall. We're often asked how people can get more involved in village life – this is the perfect opportunity! Why not take that next step and join the committee? Becoming a trustee is a fantastic way to meet new people, share ideas, and make a real difference. Whether it's supporting much-loved events, helping to organise new activities, or simply being part of a positive and welcoming team, you'll be right at the heart of it all. No special experience is needed – just a willingness to get involved, a few spare hours, and a passion for community spirit. If you'd like to be part of something special and help make great things happen in our village, we would love to hear from you.

Email: [Clyststgeorgeandebfordvhall@outlook.com](mailto:Clyststgeorgeandebfordvhall@outlook.com).

**🏡 Your Perfect Venue Awaits!** Looking for a place to host a birthday party, wedding, meeting, fitness class, or community event? Our bright and welcoming Parish Hall is the perfect spot to bring people together and create unforgettable memories. With flexible hire options – hourly or daily – and fantastic rates, it's ideal for any occasion. 📧 For bookings or more information, email [Clyststgeorgeandebfordvhall@outlook.com](mailto:Clyststgeorgeandebfordvhall@outlook.com).

## Lady Seaward's C of E Primary School



Congratulations to all of our Year 6 pupils on completing their SATs tests! That is an important milestone that is now complete and the focus can change to other exciting events such the residential and summer production, all of which are on the horizon.

They all worked incredibly hard and their focus and determination is to be commended. Year 5 completed their Bikeability course and all did incredibly well. Thank you to Devon CC for supporting this important life skill. The children have made the most of the recent good weather to use the field that the Ebford Parish Council have generously enabled the school to use. This is a valuable space that would otherwise not easily be available to the children and we appreciate the Parish Council's generosity and support for the school. If you have any queries or would like to consider our nursery and/or school for your child(ren), please contact us: school office tel 01392 873629; email [office@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk](mailto:office@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk); nursery email [nursery@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@clyst-st-george.devon.sch.uk).

## Norman's Weather Report for April



The very dry conditions at the end of March continued until Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. So no significant rain for 31 days here at Ebford! During the third week 10 mm or less than half an inch of rain fell. The weather overall was dry, sunny and often very windy; total rainfall was 13 mm or 0.51 inch.

April averages have been: over the previous five years – 53.4 mm (2.1 inches); over the previous ten years – 52.9 mm (2 inches). There could be another shortage of rain for the summer of 2026!

Norman Cann

## WOODBURY SALTERTON



### Art And Craft Exhibition

Local artistic talent was showcased in Holy Trinity Church, Woodbury Salterton on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday when Debbie Jung organised another Art and Craft

Exhibition. Entry was free and about 180 people came to admire the paintings, pottery and jewellery on display and to relax in the peace of the church building and enjoy a chat over refreshments. The artists were Sandra Andrews, Tessa Challenger, Debra Jarman, Penny Silverthorne, Doug Gilding, Katie Egan, Francesca Dawson, George Halse, Debra Wellington, Helen



exhibiting

Workman, Megan Copley and Lea Hyde. The best day for sales turned out to be on Monday and over the three days £1,468 of artwork was sold. The church got donations from this.



Volunteers from the church congregation helped Debbie to serve tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes. This and the sale of small knitted items contributed to the total sum of £570.77 being raised for church funds. Thanks to all who helped in any way and most of all to Debbie for the tremendous amount of time and effort she puts into organising and running these events. This is the third such event of its kind. Her efforts are very much appreciated.

### Coffee Mornings



Every Saturday from now on till the beginning of September, from 9.30 till 10.30 am. Outside in the churchyard if fine or otherwise in church.

### Church Quiz



The seventh Scarecrow Quiz had as its subject things which could be found in a country garden. Over 130 paper copies were sold in addition to some sent online. 26 people submitted entries and five of these – Judy Spargo, Gina Ward, Anne Riley, Carol Rowe and Eileen Wilkinson – were just one answer adrift so there was a draw to allocate the prize. Debbie Jung (churchwarden) made the draw at choir practice and the prize went to Gina, who has very kindly given the £10 prize money back to the church. The quiz raised £448 for church funds. My thanks to all who supported this by buying copies and especially those who sold copies to friends and neighbours. Katharine Wheeler.

### Woodbury Salterton C of E Primary School



**Biscuit's Weekly Visits.** Biscuit, our much-loved therapy dog, continues to visit school every Monday and remains a real highlight of the week for both children and staff. Now a familiar face around the school, Biscuit confidently makes his way through the corridors and classrooms, always ready to brighten someone's day. Whether he is enjoying a gentle stroll around the playground or curling up on the soft new rug in our library, Biscuit brings a wonderful sense of calm and happiness to our school community. greatly valued by everyone and always leave plenty of smiling faces *School Transformation.* Our school has recently been transformed fantastic programme of redecoration. With the entire painted, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to The School House Trust for their generous support. The improvements have made a huge difference to our learning environment and have given everyone a real sense of pride in our beautiful school spaces.



His visits are behind. thanks to a school freshly

We are also incredibly grateful for funding from The Farmington Trust, which has helped to transform our library into a welcoming and inspiring space for children to enjoy reading. In addition, we are delighted to be working alongside Inclusive Pathways, who are helping to develop our Forest School area into a truly magnificent outdoor learning environment.

The school has also been selected to take part in the Tesco Stronger Starts blue token scheme. If you are shopping in any Exeter Tesco store, we would be incredibly grateful if you could support our school by placing your blue token in our box. The funds raised will help provide exciting new resources for our youngest learners. Thank you for your support!

**Acorns Class.** There has been great excitement among our youngest learners in Acorns Class this half term as they explore their new topic all about minibeasts. Through stories, creative art activities, Forest School sessions and hands-on investigations, the children have been enthusiastically

discovering the fascinating world of tiny creatures. From searching for bugs outdoors to creating colourful minibeast artwork, the topic has inspired curiosity, imagination and plenty of joyful learning experiences. The children have especially enjoyed exploring nature and developing their understanding through play and investigation.

*Visit the School.* If you would like a tour of our fantastic school, please contact us by either calling 01395 232649 or emailing [adminwoodburysalterton@thelink.academy](mailto:adminwoodburysalterton@thelink.academy). Gillian Pyle, Academy Head

### Woodbury Salterton Village Hall



**Hall Improvements.** Our planned maintenance and improvements to Woodbury Salterton Village Hall are coming to a conclusion in May. The Hall floor is getting a facelift – a company that specialises in village hall floors will be sanding/sealing and staining our floor, bringing it up to the standard required for Keep Fit



and Pilates classes being held in the Hall.

**Cream Tea.** Our next fundraising event is a Cream Tea with home-made cakes – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 2 to 4 pm. £6 per person. We look forward to seeing everyone on the day.

### SOWTON VILLAGE



#### St Michael and All Angels Cross Repair

We have rather anxiously been watching a stone cross on the apex of the church's chancel roof tilting more and more. A crack at the base meant water had penetrated and corroded the iron rod supporting the cross. Concerned about the risk to people's heads and the church roof, we contacted Devon Historic Churches Trust for emergency funding towards the cost of repairing it. Following Faculty Approval from the archdeacon and a helping hand from the charity, we have now thankfully been able to have the cross repaired.



### Cheese and Wine Evening

A very enjoyable cheese and wine evening was held in Sowton Village Hall on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May. It was so popular, we may do it again! Thank you to everyone who came.



### MONTHLY GIGGLE

A man in the Scottish Highlands sees a hillwalker kneeling by the side of a burn scooping up water in his hand to quench his thirst. 'Haw, min!' he shouts. 'Dinna' drink oot o' there. It's fu' o' coos' keech!'

'I don't understand a word you're saying,' replies the hillwalker. 'Why on earth can't you Scottish people learn to talk proper English?'

The man says, 'I was saying, use both hands to scoop up the water – you'll get more!'

*I didn't believe my dad was a construction site thief until I got home. All the signs were there.*

A zebra walks into a bar, sits down and orders a double whisky. The bar is shocked and amazed, but just stands in awe watching the zebra drinking and eating peanuts. Drink after drink the zebra orders, until finally, the barman can take it no more. 'You are amazing, I've never seen a talking zebra before. You should get so the circus that's in town. They'd love you...' he says.

'Oh cool,' says the Zebra 'Are they looking for plumbers?'

*My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.*



**POETRY CORNER**

*Incident in a Churchyard*  
By John Smith of Clyst St Mary

After the coastbound walk  
The churchyard bench is a gift  
Of solitude and relaxation,  
Looking down the coombe to the sea.

My sandwich barely started  
When he darts in to check me over.  
This is after all his domain  
And he fiercely protects his land.

I offer a crumb in submission,  
Placed on the ground near my feet,  
A dart, a check and a peck,  
And the offered morsel is gone.

A second offering is made,  
A hop and a swift pick up,  
But this time he flies away  
To a hidden place in the hedge.

And so a routine is established,  
Eat one, then feed mate or chicks,  
Until the picnic is finished  
And then he goes on with his rounds.

And as I pack up, walk away,  
Musing on the beauty of nature,  
I wonder was I training the robin,  
Or was the robin with skill training me?  
©John Smith



# Kids' Corner

## What's happening this month?

### 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June – Lyme Regis fossil festival

We all love to be outside in the warmer summer months and this is a brilliant way to get out, explore our local area and learn about history. This exciting two-day event is perfect for kids who love dinosaurs, rocks, and exploring the outdoors.

Imagine holding a real fossil in your hand—something that could be over 200 million years old! At the festival, you can do exactly that. There are loads of fun, hands-on activities where you can dig, discover and learn how fossils are formed. You might even find your very own ammonite on the beach!



There's plenty more to enjoy too. You can watch exciting science shows, see giant dinosaur models, and take part in creative workshops where you can draw or make your own fossils. Friendly scientists are there to answer your questions and share cool facts about prehistoric creatures.

The whole town joins in, so there's a fun, festival atmosphere everywhere you go. Plus, many activities are free which makes it a great day out for families. One of the best parts is going on a guided fossil hunt. Experts will show you where to look and how to spot hidden treasures along the famous Jurassic Coast. It's like being a real-life explorer!

Whether you're a future palaeontologist or just curious about dinosaurs, the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival is a brilliant place to learn, explore and have fun. Who knows—you might even discover something amazing! Find out more at: [www.fossilfestival.com](http://www.fossilfestival.com)

## Get involved...



This month's joke: What do you call a dinosaur that sleeps all the time? A dino-snore!

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)

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#### From the Vicar's Desk...

June is a wonderful month as it marks the transition from spring to summer and the transition from light evenings to dark evenings. We reach the halfway point of the calendar year. Yet we have not reached the halfway point of the agricultural year as many things are still growing and in fact will not be ready for harvesting just yet. The same is true of our lives with many of the fruits in life not reaching their fullness until later in life. However, that doesn't mean we have an excuse to simply stop and not bother doing anything. If we did so, nothing would ever happen. Rather we are to try things out and take punts at things and if they work, they work and if they don't, they don't. Nothing is ever lost in failure. Rather it is through failing we learn more about who we are, so we try something different next time. That said we live in a world where it seems like we cannot be seen to fail and must always be successful. But what does success mean? It means many things to different people. When I reflect on Jesus's life and the deaths that happened during his life, many of them including his own were seen by some as a successful end to something. To others these same deaths were seen as failures. Jesus's own death was seen by some as a failure. Yet it was through his 'failure' new life was brought into the world when he rose again bringing true light, life and hope into the world. Through this new light we are invited to experiment in life to see what brings love and joy into the world. Summer is always that amazing time when stories of love and joy are made. A lot of the memories I hear of when joy and love were created often occur in the summer and often when something goes wrong and then right. As we approach the summer, I encourage you to create those wonderful memories that can be cherished for many years and not to let failure get in the way, because it is only through failure that beauty can arise. Your friend and Vicar, Lewis



### FEATURES IN FOCUS

#### Gracie's Column: Crustless Quiche



As the warm weather hits, barbecue season is upon us and it's the time for impressing your friends with exciting new recipes at garden parties. The key to a good barbecue isn't just in the barbecued food, but also in the side dishes and extras that accompany burgers, sausages, skewers and more.

Quiche is a big staple of British cuisine despite being of French origin with a number of varieties available for purchasing in supermarkets. But if you are looking to get creative and try your hand at making your own quiche, a cheesy crustless Quiche Lorraine is the perfect place to start. It's packed with bacon and cheese like a classic

Quiche Lorraine would be, but with no crust! As a gluten-free alternative and easily made into a vegetarian option, it'll go down a treat in your garden this summer.

Preheat your oven to 180 degrees Celsius and spray a large pie dish with non-stick spray. This part is essential – egg sticks horrendously well to cooking utensils and if you don't want to be scrubbing the pan clean for the rest of your life, ensure a generous amount of fry-light or equivalent is used before adding the ingredients.

Fry a pack of bacon lardons until they're very crisp and then blot away as much fat as you can using kitchen paper.

Slice some spring onions, red bell pepper and a white onion and grate 180g of Cheddar cheese. Swiss cheese, Gruyère and Parmesan all work well here too and the more cheese the better with this recipe! Mixing different cheeses will also change up the flavour throughout the quiche, making it even more enjoyable. Beat 6 – 8 eggs together until the yolks are completely broken and mixed together.

To the pie dish add the chopped spring onions, red bell pepper and white onion and then over the top, pour your beaten eggs. Finally, sprinkle the cheese evenly over the top and mix all of it together. At this point, you should use your judgement to decide if any more of the ingredients in the pie dish need to be added. It's also completely up to you and your creativity if there are any other vegetables you want to add to this quiche.

Bake in the oven for 45 – 50 minutes or until the quiche has puffed up and it is golden brown on top. The darker it is, the crisper it'll be which I believe actually improves the taste and texture.

This dish is very similar to a Spanish tortilla or frittata and can easily be made a vegetarian dish when you remove the bacon. It's perfect as a light lunch with a side salad or as a side dish at a barbecue. Also, it can be made with tuna instead of bacon (but bacon will always be my favourite!). Enjoy! Gracie Moore

**AND FINALLY...**

**Love Topsham**



*Floral Barrels Update!* The over-winter planting of Wilburs should lead to a glorious floral display this summer. Many thanks to Peter Tosh Opticians and Day Lewis Pharmacy, Topsham for each sponsoring a barrel. If anyone else would like to sponsor a barrel for 2026 please let us know at



[LoveTopsham@gmail.com](mailto:LoveTopsham@gmail.com).

*Summer Music – Exeter Railway Brass Band.* 20<sup>th</sup> June, around midday at Matthews Hall Green.

Donations for the Twinkle Fund can be made at this event; just look out for the Love Topsham hi-viz jackets and people carrying buckets!



*Love Topsham's 2026 Twinkle Target.* In 2026, we will have to spend around £6000 – £8000 to replace some of the Christmas lights that are nearing the end of their twinkling days. In short, they are less twinkly than they should be. If everyone tipped in an extra £5 to Love Topsham, we would make our twinkle target. You can donate by BACS; please label the payment TWINKLE so we can allocate the funds to their

rightful place. We will be making collections throughout 2026. We would like to thank the generous folk who have already donated to the Twinkle Fund. We still have a long way to go!

*A Date for Your Diary.* 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026: Nello XXVII (charity bike ride). More details as we have them. Do come out to cheer on the riders. [See also the article below.]

**The Sky Tonight: June**



This month Venus and Jupiter, along with elusive Mercury continue their celestial ballet against the backdrop of the early summer constellations. *On the 9<sup>th</sup> there is a splendid conjunction to view in the west as Venus passes just three moon-widths of Jupiter with fainter Mercury lower to the right nearer the horizon. For a better guide to finding Mercury look to the west on the 16<sup>th</sup> for the crescent Moon. The planet is just below it. In the late evening sky of the 17<sup>th</sup> you can enjoy a striking view of the duo of the Moon*

*and Venus less than two moon-widths apart and on the 19<sup>th</sup>, an hour after sunset, look for Venus low in the western sky just above the star cluster of Praesepe, the Beehive.* Incidentally, 9.24 am on the 21<sup>st</sup> marks the Summer Solstice, the day when the Sun rises and sets furthest north and is highest in our sky at noon, so taking the longest time to cross i\_\_t, giving us the most hours of daylight. Subsequently the nights begin to draw in! Last month we followed the curve of stars forming the Spring Triangle but in doing so skirted one of the fainter, but no less interesting constellations. *As previously, follow the curve of the 'handle' of the Plough to Arcturus and the kite-shape of stars above. Now look to the left to find the small but beautiful circlet of stars that form Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown.* In Greek mythology it represents the crown given by Dionysus to Ariadne, the daughter of Minos, king of Crete but is seen differently by other cultures – dancing maidens in North America, a boomerang by some Australian peoples and, in western Asia, a cracked plate! The recent Artemis II Mission gave the crew the opportunity to view something we Earth-bound humans will never see – the



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regmeuross.com

far side of the Moon. This was first seen by the astronauts of Apollo 8 at Christmas 1968 and by subsequent missions. But why does the Moon have a 'far side'? Our Earth-Moon system is believed to have been formed some 4.5 billion years ago shortly after the birth of the solar system when a Mars-sized protoplanet named Theia crashed into the early Earth. This violent impact ejected molten rock from the Earth's mantle into space which rapidly solidified into our Moon. Rock samples recovered from the Moon, and the oxygen isotopes they contain are identical to Earth rocks which support this hypothesis. The two bodies remained in close orbit around each other with the more powerful gravity of the Earth pulling a bulge out of the fast-spinning Moon. This caused the spin to slow down until it made only one revolution each orbit of the Earth. This tidal locking (not to be confused with the effect the Moon has on our oceans) left the same side of the Moon always facing the Earth.

When the Artemis II crew saw the far side of the Moon they would have immediately noticed that it had a more rugged and crater-ridden surface. This was first noted on the images sent back from the Soviet Luna 3 Space Probe when it passed by in 1960 – and set minds searching for an explanation. The answer has only recently come to light with measurements showing that the crust of the far side is twice as thick as that of the near side. This is because, after tidal locking, the near side was kept hot by heat radiating from the young Earth. This prevented a thick crust developing, so meteor impacts into this fragile surface formed large basins that filled with lava. These became the basalt plains, the seas, which are a characteristic of the familiar face we see. Speaking of faces, these dark seas, contrasted with the lighter uplands, form the imagined image of the Man in the Moon – or in Chinese mythology, a rabbit! Clyde Bish

**Nello Cycle Ride: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

FORCE Cancer Charity's annual Nello cycle ride is always on the final Sunday in June. So get Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026 in your diary! As always, it'll start and finish at Topsham Rugby Club near Exeter with the choice of 60- or 100-mile routes around beautiful Devon countryside – and a bit of Somerset! It's not a sportive. It's not timed. It's a fantastic charity ride that has raised around £1.4 million to support people in Devon affected by cancer. The food stops are legendary and there's mechanical support and first aid cover throughout. It may already be in your club's diary and you may have members taking part. But if not, we'd love you to join us this year for the Nello 2026 and we have set ourselves a significant fundraising target for the event.

More and more people are being diagnosed with cancer every year and that means a growing demand for support from FORCE. We already support thousands of local people dealing with a cancer diagnosis and expect to see an extra 150 patients and family members in 2026. To support them we need to raise an extra £127,500. And we believe our Nello cyclists are the very people we can rely on to rise to that challenge. We'd be proud to have you as part of the Nello in 2026 and we want to thank you for your support of this unique event. We'd be so grateful if you could share the details around your clubs and beyond. You can enter online via the FORCE website - <https://forcecancercharity.co.uk/nello/>. Thank you.



**Exeter-Rennes Twinning Art Residency, Rennes, February 2026**



To mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Exeter-Rennes twinning, and as part of the Breton city's year-long project to host artists from their twin towns, we, Lynda Powney and Vanessa Cecil, were fortunate to be offered an artists' residency to work with local people of Rennes in February. [Continued on page 19.]

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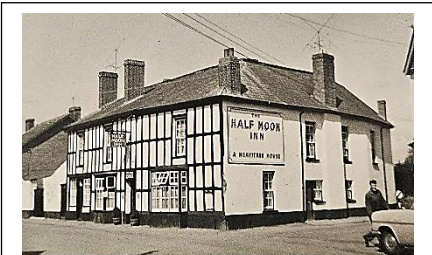
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SCAN ME

[Exeter-Rennes Twinning continued from page 16.]

We spent a week in the handsome city, arriving in sun at the end of the stormy period that had dogged both Devon and Brittany (but still with an unnervingly bouncy ferry crossing). Our brief was to bring a little of Exeter, in the form of its streets, buildings, flora, fauna and culture, to art workshops with residents of Rue d'Exeter, Maurepas district. These would form the basis for local artists to develop the work through further workshops with the residents to produce a street plaque.

Since 2014 Maurepas has been transformed by an ongoing urban renewal project. It is spacious, leafy and, in February, alight with daffodils. The area is provided with new housing, shops, community centres, cultural programmes, and a monorail Metro line connecting with the city centre in minutes. Moreover, the Musée des Beaux-Arts last year opened an exhibition space integrated into a housing block (curved and known as 'La Banane') where an annual exhibition will be co-created with the residents. We visited with the participants of one of our workshops, local artists and twinning members.

With the immense assistance of representatives of the Service International et Europe and local twinners, who helped organise and translate, we ran workshops in different venues with adults, children, and family groups. These included making prints based on Exeter's buildings with participants who, despite being new to the technique, produced some impressive images; making little booklets based on Exeter Football Club; and making string prints/collages/drawings inspired by Exeter's natural life, with families whose members ranged from a four-year-old to grandparents. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves; we certainly did.

The Rennes twinning members were extraordinarily hospitable and guaranteed that our stay was filled with social and cultural experiences – a galette lunch, a tour of street art, meeting local artists, the museum visit, apéritifs. We are grateful. In addition, we appreciate the support of Exeter Football Club, who provided children's backpacks, and Devon Wildlife Trust who provided magazines and stickers.

We are in touch with the Rennes artists involved in the project and are seeing how it is developing through the follow-up workshops.

### The Art of the Bloom: Discovering Club on the Exe



Since its founding in 2002, Club on the Exe has redefined what it means to work with botanicals. More than just a flower club, it is a hub for Contemporary Floral Design, where traditional techniques meet modern, innovative artistry. Affiliated with the [National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies \(NAFAS\)](#) since 2004, the group has spent over two decades fostering a community that values creative expression as much as the flowers themselves.

*A Sanctuary for Creativity.* Whether you are a seasoned national demonstrator or a complete beginner picking up secateurs for the first time, you will find a seat at the table. The club welcomes teachers, florists, and hobbyists alike, all united by a desire to challenge the boundaries of floral design. Members travel from up to a 70-mile radius to attend, drawn by the high calibre of dynamic workshops led by renowned designers from across the UK and beyond.

*Join the Experience.* The group gathers five times a year for full-day 'hands-on' sessions, running from 10 am to 4 pm. These meetings offer a relaxing, friendly environment to learn new techniques and transform your skills alongside like-minded enthusiasts.

*Location.* [Village Hall in Clyst St Mary](#), near Exeter (conveniently located just off M5 Junction 30).

*Next Workshop.* Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026. *Membership and Fees.* Annual membership for five workshops is approximately £100, or you can experience the magic with a one-off taster session for

£30. Ready to grow your skills? Reach out to Louise at [clubontheexelouise@gmail.com](mailto:clubontheexelouise@gmail.com) for more information or follow their latest designs on [Facebook](#) and Instagram.

### The Exeter Forum Talks Programme: June 2026



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
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Jerry Bird	<i>RAF Exeter's D-Day Role in Operation Overlord</i> Jerry Bird, Lead Safety Officer at Exeter Airport, returns to describe how in early June 1944 RAF Exeter had become USAAF Station 463 supporting the USAAF 440 <sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group for the invasion of occupied Europe. The 440 <sup>th</sup> carried paratroopers of the US 101 <sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (The Screaming Eagles) to their destiny in Normandy.
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Geoff Pettinger	<i>Shaldon's Hidden Botanical Garden</i> Geoff tells the story of how Maria Homeyard (who made a fortune from cough medicine) used her wealth to develop a new housing estate and a botanical garden on land above Shaldon in the 1930s.
17 <sup>th</sup> June	John Davidson	<i>Lord Exmouth and the Barbary Pirates</i> For three centuries, the Barbary Pirates threatened South West England. After the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the British Government sent a fleet commanded by Lord Exmouth, Sir Edward Pellew, in 1816 to end the problem by diplomacy or force. This is the story of the Battle of Algiers and what happened afterwards.
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Professor Peter Aggett	<i>Is What We Eat Controlled at All?</i> All living creatures have evolved to develop efficient means of acquiring adequate and safe nutrition. It is important to know and understand how these innate processes are affected by modern environmental conditions.

### Exton Drama Club: Auditions!



*A Christmas Carol (But Not As You Know It)*  
Exton Drama Club are thrilled to announce they will be bringing to life an adaption of *A Christmas Carol* by local playwright Rachel Feeny-Williams. So, what's different in this classic tale? Well, set against a dark and gritty backdrop of modern London, the figures of Scrooge and Marley are both women and the story is narrated by two charity magazine sellers. Tiny Tim has also been replaced by an unseen baby, providing a particularly heartbreaking scene later. If you are interested in reading the script ahead of the audition date then please email [rfwscripts@gmail.com](mailto:rfwscripts@gmail.com). *Audition Date:* 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 7.30 pm. (If you are interested in participating but unable to make this date, please contact [extondramaclub@gmail.com](mailto:extondramaclub@gmail.com).) *Audition, Rehearsal and Performance Location:* Exton Village Hall, Station Road, Exton, EX3 0PS. *Performance Dates:* 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December (7.30 pm). *Rehearsal Days/Times:* Tuesdays and Thursdays (7.30 – 9.30 pm) starting from 8<sup>th</sup> September. (The early weeks of rehearsals, until 3<sup>rd</sup> November, will be split between Act 1 on Tuesdays and Act 2 on Thursdays so some roles will only be required once a week during that period.) [And Finally... continued on page 22.]

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[And Finally... continued from page 20.]

### Farringdon Concert on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026



On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7 pm there will be the fourth in the series of Seven Concerts in Seven Churches. This will be candlelit in St Petrock and St Barnabas Church, Farringdon. It will be, as previously, a Concert of Words and Music loosely based around the theme of summer. Music will be provided by The Ravens, piano; Phil Bonser, clarinet; Catherine Eden, flute; a singing duet plus piano duets and solos; and Clara Kerslake, solo singing. We are currently enlisting some local artists for both words and music. Laura Kerslake, a words expert, will also be writing during the first half a poem or prose with input from you, the audience.

This will be read during the second half. Tickets are £7.50 which include a glass of wine and nibbles. These may be purchased on the night or in advance. All profits and donations made will go to the repair of the roof and tower. Come along and support this event.

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#### Colyton Grammar entrance tests in September 2026?

Colyton QUEST style 11+ mock mornings at Lympstone Village Hall.

Also returning for 2026 intensive week-long 11+ courses throughout August run by Jane Moffatt, the author of the Gulliford Tutors 11+ practice books.

See website <https://lympstone11plus.co.uk/> or contact Jane Moffatt

on [janemoffatt@gmail.com](mailto:janemoffatt@gmail.com). Find out more about the Gulliford Tutors 11+ books on [www.gullifordtutors.com](http://www.gullifordtutors.com)

# WCMC SERVICES JUNE 2026

## Aylesbeare

7 <sup>th</sup>	16:00	Family Service	Rev'd Eden and Rev'd Stirling Troy
27 <sup>st</sup>	11-15	Holy Communion	Rev'd Eden

## Clyst St George

14 <sup>th</sup>	09:30	Breakfast family Service	Rev'd Stirling Troy
28 <sup>th</sup>	09:30	Holy Communion	Rev'd Scrivener

## Clyst St Mary

7 <sup>th</sup>	09:30	Family Service	Rev'd Eden
27 <sup>st</sup>	09:30	Holy Communion	Rev'd Eden

## Exton

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30	Midweek for Mission Community HC	Rev'd Eden
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Midweek for Mission Community HC	Rev'd Stirling Troy
14 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	Evening Worship	Rev'd Eden
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Midweek for Mission Community HC	Rev'd Scrivener
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Midweek for Mission Community HC	Rev'd Stirling Troy

## Farringdon

7 <sup>th</sup>	11-15	Holy Communion	Rev'd Eden
14 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	Baptism	Rev'd Eden
27 <sup>st</sup>	11-15	Morning Worship	C Grist

## Woodbury

7 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	Evensong	C Grist
14 <sup>th</sup>	11-15	Holy Communion	Rev'd Cant
27 <sup>st</sup>	09:30	Family Communion with Baptism	Rev'd Stirling Troy
28 <sup>th</sup>	11-15	Holy Communion	Rev'd Eden

## Woodbury Salterton

14 <sup>th</sup>	09:30	Holy Communion	Rev'd Scrivener
28 <sup>th</sup>	90-30	Family Holy Communion with Baptism	Rev'd Stirling Troy

For all queries, please contact Admin Officer, Jill at [dupain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dupain@hotmail.co.uk).

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