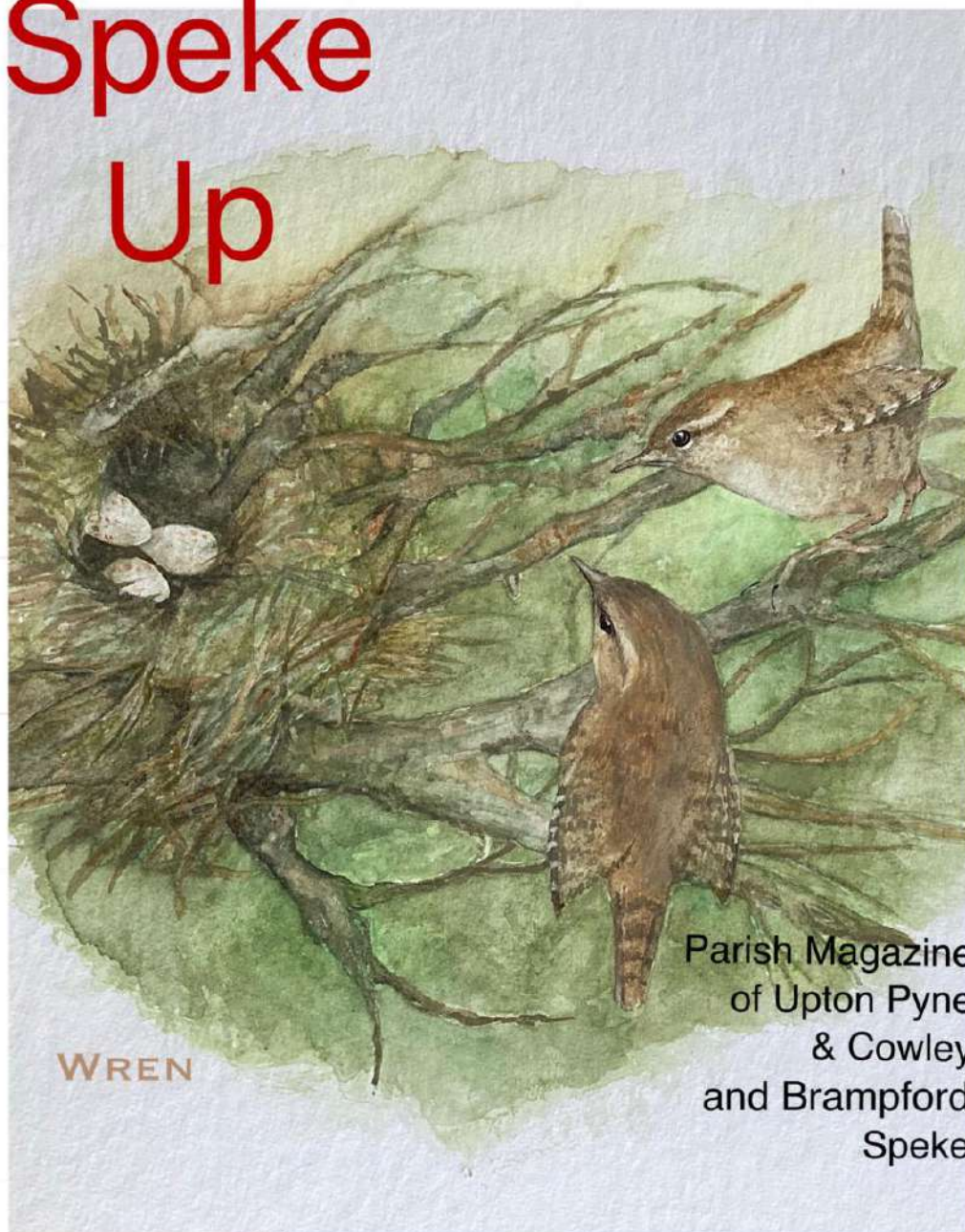


# Speke Up



WREN

Parish Magazine  
of Upton Pyne  
& Cowley  
and Brampford  
Speke

July 2024

Issue 372



## **The Mark Leveridge Magic Talk** **A Magic Life—A Life In Magic**

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# Speke Up Matters

Welcome to the double issue of *Speke Up* covering the summer months of July and August – our History edition.

Amanda Ryles tells the story of her Great Uncle Derek, a D-Day veteran, and Karen Marshall writes about diarist Ivy Cox who lived at the same period. Ivy's story was the subject of a recent talk at Thorverton History Society.

This month, Ros Leveridge meets Upton Pyne's Professor Tim Insoll of Exeter University who has travelled the world in search of the archaeology of Islam. Maggie Cormack details arrangements for a visit by members of the Jane Austen Society of North America in July. Chris Grundy offers an appreciation of Nick Baker, a much-missed gardener and local historian.

And, of course, you'll find all our regular features, quizzes and reviews in the magazine.

*from the Speke Up team*

**Cover design: Sally Tuckey**

## ANNUAL ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2024

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Colour artwork will be reproduced in the print version of the magazine in black and white (unless space on a colour page has been booked); it will, however, appear in colour in the on-line version at [www.spekeup.org](http://www.spekeup.org).

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On Saturday the 28th of September, 10am - 1pm

There'll be lots of yummy cakes, hot drinks & raffle tickets to buy, so please bring plenty of money!

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— INN —

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**Kevin Clay as Elton John**

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### **CONTROLLED CHAOS**

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# Cover Notes

## The Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes* – Cave Dweller)

**"This moss-lined shed, green, soft and dry,  
harbours a self-contented wren.  
Not shunning man's abode, though shy,  
almost as though itself, of human ken."**

**William Wordsworth,  
*The Parrot and The Wren* (1825)**

Last month, I discovered the Merlin app (as described by John Palmer in *A Bird in The Bush* in June's *Speke Up*), enabling me to identify a very high-pitched warbling sound that turned out to be a blackcap, which, I have to admit, I still haven't seen. The blackcap is indeed a member of the warbler family and looks similar to the warbler but has greyish wings and buff underparts.

This Friday (7 June) three minutes on the Merlin app produced the following: blackbird, dunnock, robin, jackdaw, greenfinch, wood pigeon, wren, house martin, stock dove, goldfinch and chaffinch. I was so very pleased to hear a wren because for many years I've had a resident wren in my garden, hopping quietly about the patio, hiding behind the clematis (one year, I saw it feeding its young there), investigating the planted pots and generally keeping a low profile. Sadly, I've not seen it for several months and was concerned this may have been due to the arrival of a new cat in the neighbourhood.



I've become very fond of this small bird with its short upright tail and its indomitable spirit and vitality. Apart from the goldcrest

and the firecrest it is our smallest bird, about 3.5-4 inches long and weighing just 10g, the weight of a single pencil!

The wren's song has a fast, high trilling phrase of about five seconds, repeated four or five times a minute and is remarkably penetrating for one so very small. It can carry up to half a mile. It is the only bird who sings throughout the year and it is always full of joy. The wren originally came from America several million years ago and gradually spread to present day Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

The wren's ability to feed on tiny insects and rest anywhere with a suitable crack or crevice has enabled them to thrive absolutely anywhere. Their survival methods include cosying up together in groups when the weather is really cold. Indeed, in the cold winter of 1969, in Norfolk, 60 wrens were counted in one single box!

The male wren will construct several nests for the female to choose and complete. If tempted, she will complete one into a domed nest of moss, lined with feathers, wool or down. Wrens certainly choose unusual sites, including the base of a magpie's nest occupied by kestrels, the floral cross on a church pulpit and the inside the mouth of a prize pike, hanging on a garage wall! One is reminded of Edward Lear:

**"Two owls and a hen,  
four larks and a wren,  
have all built their nests in my beard!"**



The male, having persuaded the female to pair up and look after the chosen nest, will then repeat the process with at least one other female.

Unusually for small song birds, wrens are polygamous, possibly a way of increasing the numbers of what can be a very little vulnerable bird. The female is then left to incubate the eggs – from 14 to 16 days with little or no help from the male and the young will usually fledge within another 14 days.

The wren is one of our most favourite birds, often called Jenny Wren.

**"He who shall hunt the little wren,  
shall never be belov'd by men." William Blake**

For most of the year it was considered extremely unlucky to harm a wren, except on 26 December, St Stephen's Day, when it was considered acceptable to kill a wren in order to ensure well-being and prosperity for the coming year. Fortunately, this bizarre custom does not happen today.



**Caroline Fox**

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AUGUST 2024

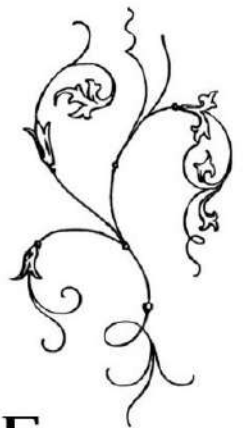
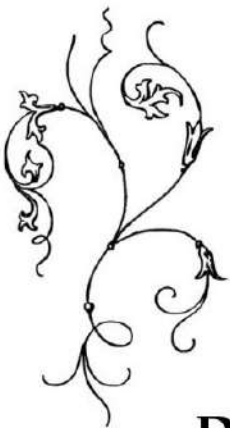
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# Thorverton History Society

***Committee member Robin Blyth-Lord gave us the pleasure of an impeccably researched and illustrated piece of social history of the life and times of the diarist Ivy Cox, writes Karen Marshall.***

In his own words, Ivy (*pictured right*) was a 'Devon woman neither famous nor infamous, who lived through the twentieth and twenty first centuries.' She did however keep a detailed diary and was exceptional in her ability to take photographs.

Ivy was born in 1913 to Mr and Mrs Hunwicks, her father a serving Naval officer in Plymouth. After a posting to Malta, Herbert Hunwicks was sent to Scotland with the family, returning to Devonport after the First World War.

Robin was able to bring the family to life through Ivy's own reminiscences and his detailed research into the conditions of housing in the area, together with the context of the social hierarchy within which Ivy grew up. We reflected many times upon how far removed these were from the current conditions of the present day. Health, education, nutrition and safety conditions were very different for children living through this period; for example, Ivy recalled that dieting was unheard of. They were fed on fat bacon, bread and dripping, tripe and onions - and home-made pasties once a week. Sometimes, there was stuffed bream, baked in the oven, and always a lot of salted cod, or toe rag as they called it. An allotment provided fresh vegetables and a variety of staples were enjoyed.

Robin covered Ivy's education opportunities, which were supplemented by her regular employment by the age of ten to deliver milk around the village of Lower Hooe. At the age of 15, Ivy and her friend Dorothy saw an advertisement for seasonal darkroom workers at Stuarts Photo Services in Notte Street. Stuarts used to process films that were handed in to chemists as well as their own photos from their studio in Union Street and they also took and printed a wide range of local postcards. This provided the springboard for her subsequent jobs and skill-development as an operator of the camera and provided her unique access to photos to document her life.

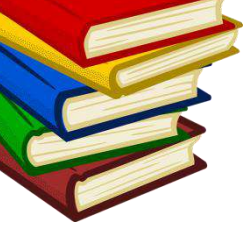
In 1936, she married Bill Cox, a Private in the Suffolk Regiment. Married life together in Plymouth only lasted six months as Bill was posted to Malta and, two



years later, Ivy travelled out to join her husband. The imminent outbreak of war meant a return to Devonport, subsequent postings and attempts to track down her husband from continued troop movements. He returned home in a sorry state after the evacuation from Dunkirk. The tenor, detail and depth of her records provided a full inventory to her adventures. The descriptions of the ravages of wartime postings and the day-to-day struggles to provide adequate (bug free) accommodation, food and clothing, enabled the audience to share and appreciate the struggles of life during and after the war.

In her final years, Ivy took a flat in sheltered housing in Plympton where, in 2003, she was interviewed for the book *Ivy's Story*. She said: "We have come a long way since the war years when, if we needed a new coat, we bought a white blanket from Goulds and made one up. I now have two grandsons, Steven and Nick, a granddaughter Jenny and a great granddaughter, Kelly, who is 14 now and they give me a lot of pleasure. I have had many adventures and much fun." She died in 2012.

This was a moving, rich and humorous narration of one lady's lifetime which allowed us to visualise and share her unexceptional but, nevertheless, fascinating experiences throughout a period which has still many resonances for the audience from their own and their parents' lifetimes. In a period when we are asked to remember those who served, it is timely not to forget our civilian and local social history. Thank you, Robin!



# BOOK CLUB

## **Entangled Life** by Merlin Sheldrake

Its subtitle is '*how fungi make our worlds, change our minds and shape our futures*'.

There are more than two million species of fungi, and the mycelium part of the fungi, Sheldrake says, is the tissue that holds together much of the world. The filaments thread through the soil, and through living and decomposing bodies, plant or animal. Each exploring tip is looking for water and nutrients, which it will begin to absorb, sending chemical signals to other parts of the network. The tips circulate 'information', and, in response, the mycelium makes advantageous changes to its behaviour. Lookout for the story of the Carpenter Ant. Truly astounding!

CL

## **21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** by Yuval Noah Harari

The Israeli academic and author has written some award-winning books, the most famous of which is *Sapiens* where he describes the history of humans from the Stone Age to the present day.

A lot of what is happening in the world at the moment generates fear. The bad news is always amplified and the good news seems harder to access. This book is well pitched at the lay-person and has helped to fill in many of my knowledge gaps.

It was published in 2018 which seems an *age* ago in geopolitical terms. Some of the comments and predictions are obviously wide of the mark, being post-Brexit/Trump but before the pandemic and invasion of Ukraine.

The early chapters explain the three 'stories' that people believed in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, namely Fascism, Communism and Liberal Democracy. He explains clearly why each system failed, though I may need convincing that the latter one has really 'failed'.

This idea that humans invent stories to simplify complex ideas and make them more manageable is a recurring theme. Chapter headings include:

Disillusionment, Work, Liberty, Equality, Community, Nationalism, War, Religion, Education and, surprisingly, Science Fiction (his argument is that this exemplifies humanity's imagination which is a huge driver for change). I was challenged by his argument that terrorism is something that we are irrationally afraid of and that, statistically speaking, we should be more scared of the risk of death due to road traffic

accidents and pollution. His section on Nationalism is eye-opening and rational, neither praising or condemning the idea overtly but rationally pointing out its strengths and risks. He has some strong feelings about religion and nationalism, but for me the most controversial section was a critique of Jewish culture and history (Noah was raised in the Jewish culture). If this section was written by a non-Jew or quoted out of context, many people would take issue with it, but for me it highlighted yet another gap in my world view which needs further reading.

I would have liked even more practical advice on how to address the issues raised, but then the book would have been too big to be digestible. This is the kind of book you want to read slowly over several weeks in order to let the ideas sink in. An astonishing read, full of hope as well as dire warnings about the convergence of Artificial Intelligence and healthcare.

SP

## **Coasting** by Elise Downing

What do you do when you finish university, get a job you're not keen on, have a boyfriend who does nothing for your self-esteem and you cry a lot? Elise Downing decided to run round the coastline of Britain, in spite of not being very fit and hating games at school.

She decided to start from Greenwich in November 2015, running around Kent and then along the south coast, so that she could spend the winter months in the warmer part of the country.

She had no running experience and couldn't read an OS map so relied on Google. Her pack contained a small one-man tent, but in the winter she didn't need it as friends, and friends of friends, offered a bed for the night.

She seems to have taken to the physical side of running well, but the psychological effect on her was difficult. The boyfriend doubted her ability, which made her doubt herself. She did a lot of crying but the further she ran, the better things got, and by the time she arrived in Scotland she was happily doing a marathon or more each day.

Often friends, or the people she stayed with, would run with her for a day, and her parents 'visited' her to do the same every month.

It's a great advertisement for the power of exercise to banish depression.

SG

## **The Wisdom of Sheep** by Rosamund Young

You don't have to know anything about sheep, or any other animal for that matter, to enjoy this collection of musings from Rosamund Young, an organic farmer from Gloucestershire.



It's set out in a series of diary entries, more or less one to a page, but they don't tell a continuous story so it's the sort of book you can flick through, or just pick a page to read at random.

Rosamund still lives on the farm that her parents started, and shares the work with her partner and her brother.

She tells us about the wildlife as well as the farm animals, the myriad wildflowers to be seen, the passing seasons and their effect on the work that has to be done.

She doesn't shy away from describing the hard labour, the heartbreak, the injuries and the sad times, but it's lightened by her love of her animals and the countryside. She's a passionate advocate for organic farming and mentions the time that the then Prince Charles visited before starting his own organic journey.

The animals are the stars of the book - the hens, sheep and cows - each with its own individual quirks and characteristics. They are all named – Dizzie, Filipendula, Dandelion, Dot, White Dot, Charlotte, Mr Dis...

I found it interesting to learn how bottle feeding a lamb affects the quality of its wool, and that behavioural traits can be handed down the generations.

It's lyrically written, vividly descriptive and you sense the deep love of nature behind every word.

**SG**

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## *Summer Time Quiz*

*Double the questions for July & August, and they all have links to words beginning with S - sun, sand, sea, surf, summer, sailing, seafood and strawberries.*

- 1 Which town is the venue for the UK surfing championships?
- 2 A US slang term for brave / courage / determination.
- 3 Honeoye, Allstar, Seascape and Chandler are varieties of what?
- 4 Which is the world's largest land-locked sea, situated between Eastern Europe and Asia?

5 What is the name of the town where the Australian soap *Home & Away* is based?

6 What seafood provides the shell badge of pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela?

7 What do we call the 4.5 billion year-old yellow dwarf star in our solar system?

8 Which group had a hit with *In the Summer Time*?

9 Who was the first man to sail single-handedly around the world?

10 Which town in Devon, well known for sailing, has a large mooring area known as The Bag?

11 Gershwin's song *Summertime* comes from which opera?

12 Which UK summer sporting event is famous for its strawberries and cream?

13 Where will you find Europe's highest sand dunes, the Dunes of Pilat?

14 Reef and Beef is another name for which dish?

15 Which is the smallest sea in the world?

16 The Animals had a hit with the song *House of the Rising Sun* - which year?

17 Which king of France was known as the Sun King?

18 Clams, oysters, scallops, mussels and cockles all have what type of shell?

19 What is the name of the famous sailing regatta that takes place from the Isle of Wight in August every year?

20 Who wrote the work *The Sand Reckoner* in around 240BC?

**SG**

Answers on page 36



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# Speke Up About Music

Song: **Give it Up** by Talk Talk

Suggested by: **Jim Findlay**

**Jim says:** “because it reminds me of driving along the A303 with Ben, on our way to Nanny and Baba’s.”

**Stu and Debbie say:** Talk Talk were one of the bands that evolved from a pure pop act into something so profoundly spiritual and unique that it almost defies description. They were dropped by their record label after five albums for pushing the envelope too hard, though the influence of their last two albums is huge, especially amongst forward-thinking musicians who have an ear for ambience. Their two biggest hits were *Life's What You Make It* and *It's My Life*, both of which stand out as highlights of 1980s pop music.

This song is from their third album when they were already challenging the structures and arrangements of conventional chart pop. The singer (Mark Hollis) was an enigmatic man and his voice is instantly recognisable, though like Marmite you either like it or not. He sings in the back of his throat which is an acquired taste (we love it!!) and has a lot of passion and intensity. The Hammond organ on this track is one of the band's calling-cards, along with the solid, punchy and controlled bass guitar. The drums are basic-sounding with lovely, tasteful tom-tom fills. If you listen to this through headphones you will notice that the instrumentation varies throughout the song: sometimes it is so bare you can only hear three instruments, at others there are layers and washes of sound appearing and disappearing.

Thank you for this suggestion, Jim – it's great to listen to a song we know and give it our full attention. Recommended on a hot summer's day sitting in the garden after hard work or exercise!!

**Please email suggestions** for favourite songs you would like reviewed to [noordinaryfish@hotmail.com](mailto:noordinaryfish@hotmail.com)

**Song title:**

**Artist:**

**Where were you or what were you doing when you first heard it?**

**What is it about the song that makes it your favourite?**

See also the Spotify playlist which we will add to each month with your suggestions



<http://tinyurl.com/y8ytdeyr>



## **Divas! How good is your female diva knowledge?**

**Q1** She was a singer, songwriter and actress, releasing her multi-platinum award-winning album *Private Dancer* in 1984 and starring in *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* as Auntie Entity in 1985. What is this diva's name?

**Q2** Probably best described as the punk rock diva, she has been releasing albums since 2000 with her best-selling album *Missundaztood* reaching number 2 in the UK album charts in 2001. Who is she?

**Q3** A Canadian country rock singer diva this time. Can you name the singer songwriter who had Top 10 singles with *You're Still the One* (1997) and *That Don't Impress Me Much* (1998)?

**Q4** This diva is renowned for dressing somewhat eccentrically. She starred opposite Bradley Cooper in the 2018 remake of *A Star is Born*.

**Q5** This next diva needs no introduction. She's one of the best-selling female artists ever and her 2023 Eras Tour grossed over \$1 billion.

**Q6** She was named the UK's best-selling female album artist of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in 2021 and is famous for her emotional announcement when she postponed her Las Vegas residency in 2020. Who is this diva?

**Q7** She has a vocal range that spans more than five octaves and is best known for her perennial chart-appearing Christmas single *All I Want For Christmas Is You*. Name that vocal diva.

**Q8** *Crazy in Love* (2003) and *Single Ladies (Put a Ring on it)* (2008) are just two examples of her many Top 10 diva-licious hits. Who is she?

**Q9** This diva is one of 21 people in history known as an 'EGOT', individuals who have won the four main awards in the entertainments arts: Emmy (television); Grammy (music); Oscar (movie); Tony (stage). Her career has spanned over 60 years and she starred in the original 1976 version of *A Star is Born*.

**Q10** Recognised as the queen of pop with over 40 years in the business, this diva is known for reinventing herself as well as following a strict macrobiotic and fitness regime. (She's caused the odd bit of outrage for her stage moves at times too!)

**Answers on page 36**



# FRIENDS OF UPTON PYNE

Although it has been a quiet time in terms of events up to the time of writing (mid-June), it has been a busy time behind the scenes.

We have started the lengthy and expensive process of sorting out the necessary repairs on the church and, although the costs can be spread across four years, we realise that we shall need extra funds – far more than the Friends can expect to raise themselves from events and donations. So, over the next few months, we shall explore grants and other sources of help in order to keep the church standing and the churchyard in good order.

We had a terrific day of tidying up the churchyard on June 15. Tremendous thanks to all who turned out on a day which constantly threatened rain but which proved to be decent weather for almost all of the time. Some work had been done in advance of the day to service the equipment, mow part of the grass, clean up the cobbles and expose some hidden ones, and make access to the bottom of the churchyard by scything weeds. On the day, there was a great deal of



clearing of ivy, elder and brambles, staking trees, weeding graves, trimming hedges and continuing to reveal what turns out to be an extensive area of cobbles, overgrown for decades.

Thanks to the cooks who baked delicious cakes, greatly enjoyed by the workers.

It was a very enjoyable get-together and people have asked for another one to be arranged. We will endeavour to do so, possibly late August, when our focus might be on mowing and strimming if the



weather is better. The rewilding area will be cut at around that time so we can work together to clear away the vegetation.



On 11 July we are hosting the Jane Austen Society of North America for a morning visit to Pynes House and the Church, with coffee in the Village Hall. As mentioned in the May *Speke Up*, we cannot open the event to everyone as it is necessary to limit the numbers, but if anyone who has a particular interest in Jane Austen's writings would like to meet the group for coffee, then please call Maggie Cormack on 841198 and we shall try to fit you in. We are honoured by the visit (due to Upton Pyne being the likely setting for *Sense and Sensibility*) and the Society is giving us a generous donation.

September 27 brings another very popular Curry and Quiz evening. Please see the advert for the event and save the date in your diary. As always, advance booking is essential, so do phone Sue Glanville (07753 605726) to reserve your place. There is no August *Speke Up* so the next reminder of the evening will be in September.

## *SFH Supporters Club Family Fun Day*

*Saturday July 6th  
Chamberlains Farm  
Brampford Speke*

*Dog Show 12 noon, Duck Race 4pm,  
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**Fri. 27 Sept**

**7 for 7.30 pm  
Upton Pyne Village Hall**

**£12 booking essential, call 07753 605726.  
Bring your own drinks (free drink on  
arrival)**

*Friends of Upton Pyne*

## Bramford Speke Parish Council

**Affordable housing:** there have been no developments in the last month. We understand the Community Land Trust (CLT) is exploring modifications to their previous Stonilands proposal in light of comments made at consultation and council meetings in March, but they don't yet have a firm revised proposal to put forward. We have not learned anything further about the possible proposal for new housing, on Templer's Field (half way up Sandy Lane on the left), probably with a significant affordable housing component. We understand this is being explored on behalf of the family trust owners of the field but have no further information about this at present, either in terms of possible size or timescale. We will circulate information as soon as we have some.

**Village Hall:** the porch woodwork is in poor condition and the trustees are exploring options for repairs/replacement. Costs will be met from reserves, with a grant from our Devon County Council (DCC) councillors, for which we are very grateful.

**Fly tipping:** a large amount of rubbish was fly-tipped in Gypsy Lane (green lane off Red Rock Road) in late April. This was reported to the police and to East Devon District Council (EDDC) and DCC, and was eventually removed after numerous calls by Alan

Birmingham. Congratulations to him and to those who recorded the suspect van's registration plate and found identifying information in the rubbish itself; this should help trace the culprits.

**Speeding tractors:** several residents have expressed concern about large tractors and trailers speeding through the village. These are not our local farmers, but probably contractors working further afield. Photographic evidence would help persuade the police to investigate; if you see the problem vehicles, take a picture and contact the police direct on 101.

**Next PC meeting: Weds 3rd July 2024 at 7.30pm** in the village hall.

If you have any issue that you want to raise with the PC, please feel free to contact any of the councillors, or the clerk (names and contact details in *Speke Up* or on the website: <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/brampfordspeke>). The website also contains other information about the Council, including minutes of meetings, accounts, councillors' responsibilities etc.

## Upton Pyne and Cowley Parish Council

During Open Forum, it was noted that Tony Jackson has retired from the Council after over 30 years of faithful service. His contribution was highly praised and a gift will be organised for him. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without any changes. It was agreed to adopt the Standing orders and the updated financial regulations from the National Association of Local Councils and the Code of Conduct from East Devon District Council (EDDC). EDDC has still not answered our query about the lack of an active District Councillor, despite the Chair's repeated attempts to contact them. In the police report, it was noted that there were no reported crimes up to April. There was an update on councillors' responsibilities, specifically concerning footpaths, with a report from Cllr Ryles. The Parish Council will enquire about the possibility of Wi-Fi being installed in the Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was well-received

by attendees, and further discussion will take place when more councillors are present. The noticeboard at The Causeway was found to be beyond repair, and the clerk will obtain a quote for a new one from the Parish Council's carpenter. Regarding the gardening on the Causeway, the churchyard contractors have declined the job. Cllr Cormack will look again at potential contractors. The clerk investigated the use of a Lengthsman by other parish councils and will now inquire about the different funding methods they used. The Chair discussed the Digestate Lagoon issue, suggesting, that with the Parish Councillors' agreement, he should email the planning department. All agreed. The clerk has received an email from a parliamentary advisor regarding the safety of lithium batteries in e-bikes and e-scooters. The discussion is deferred until July when more councillors are present.

**Next PC meeting: Monday 8 July, 7.30pm**



# Walking the Parish

with Upton Pyne footpath warden

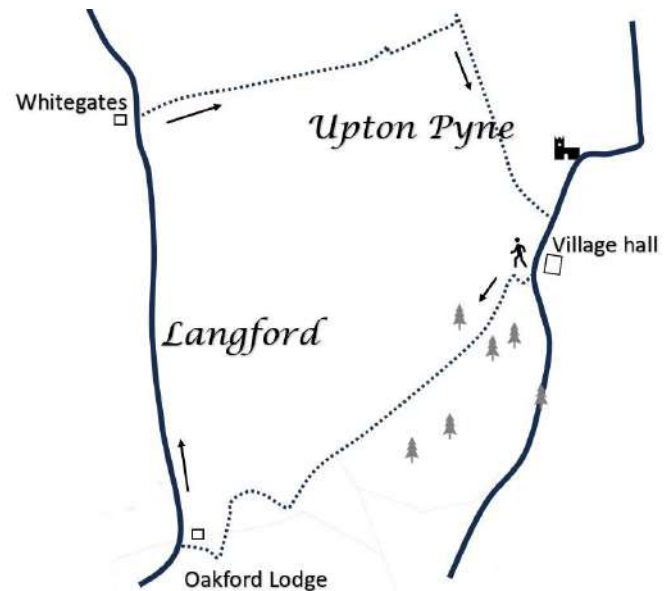
*Amanda Ryles*

For the June walk I returned to the village. Although some of the route crossed with paths recently travelled, the changing seasons make it different every time. I had the added bonus of being joined by my husband on what turned out to be a beautiful sunny day.

Walking left out of the Village Hall car park, the electric blue of a stunning ceanothus at Chestnut Cottage was resplendent against the cloud-free sky. At Farthings, the path turns right, away from the road, and we stopped to trim a few overhanging laurel branches. The route continues along the back of the houses at Glebe Close, dappled light casting shadows on the footpath, stunning roses in full bloom in several of the gardens, the odd bramble demanding attention from our secateurs. The gate opens out into the field, currently stock-free, and affords stunning views all the way to Newton St Cyres, Crediton and the Raddon Hills.

As we walked closer to the wood, the sound of birdsong became more hollow, echoing amongst the trees. It was pleasing to see that walkers had been sticking to the marked path, and with the exception of a few squidgy patches underfoot and a felled tree (neatly cut so the path remained clear), the only thing that demanded our attention was the clumps of pendulous sedge, thriving in the heavy soil. As a plant, it is one of the key indicators for continuously-worked woodland and, despite its thuggish self-seeding which can cause it to get out of control, its densely packed leaves provide a safe haven for insects throughout the year. The path was stony and there was only one patch where I sank ankle-deep in squidgy yellow clay. We snipped nettles and brambles as we walked, and enjoyed the vertical lines all around us: tall thin trees almost branchless at the bottom reaching high and fast for the light above, some clad in ivy, some grey and bare, with the odd pop of colour from majestic foxgloves.

At the end of the copse, beyond the wooden gate, the path follows the edge of a field, full of



soft purple-headed grasses punctuated with an occasional stray rapeseed plant with its seed pods drying in the sun. The bottom of the hedge had several bolt-holes from rabbits and even deer, and the dark hawthorn and ivy was interspersed with blousy soft-pink dog roses, fat silver-blue thistles and gleaming buttercups, all hosting bees and meadow brown butterflies. We trimmed around the stile and climbed over into the next field. Although we couldn't see any stock, freshly walked tracks and new cow-pats suggested they might be just around the corner, so we walked with caution. Two dark bronze pheasants noisily broke cover in front of us, and we admired the strange oak tree in the middle of the field, its top bare and dead, probably through an historical lightning strike, but the bottom third sprouting again with lush new growth. There were three metal feed-troughs on the brow of the hill, almost completely empty of cattle-feed, presumably picked over by the flocks of hedge-sparrows once the cows had moved on. We rested against the metal and drank our first mug of flask coffee whilst admiring the view down the river valley, to the spire at St Michael's in Mount Dinham, beyond to the college and down as far as the escarpment at Mamhead. There was a lovely view straight across to the high green ridge opposite and, as our eyes focussed, we could see amongst the green, swathes of golden buttercups and frothy lime-yellow elderflower shrubs. For the first time in a while, the breeze was actually warm, and a buzzard circled above us on the thermals. A small train with just a couple of carriages headed up the line and there was the

slightest rumble from the A377, but the overwhelming noises were bees and birds; descending trilling from the blue tits, warbling song from a robin, plaintive mewing of the buzzard, and the repeating chirrup of the hedge sparrows.

The path hugs the hedge-line until just beyond the water trough, where it drops downhill straight to a gate in the boundary with the next field. We walked around the corner to find that our exact planned route was completely blocked by young cows. More than a little curious, they spread across the entire path and, far from stepping back as we approached, they walked towards us *en masse*. We decided that the best option was to stick to the top of the field and hug the edge until we had got a way beyond them.

Beyond the metal gate the path, whilst unploughed, is clearly well-walked with a high metal pedestrian gate at the end. Turning right onto the track is a newly planted mini orchard, then a well-clipped hedge covered in sheetweb or hammock spiders. At Oakford Lodge we returned to the road and walked up the hill into Langford. The hedges here are both high and huge, beech and elder on the left, and sycamore, holly, hawthorn, holly and dog rose on the right, both with cow parsley, brambles and nettles underneath. A chattering blackbird flew over the old metal gate to Horwell Down, and escaping ornamental shrubs from adjacent gardens poked through the wild hedgerows: bright salmon pink quince flowers and dusty-scented crosswort. After pausing to say hello to the ponies, we continued up the hill, enjoying the garden colours; at Oaklands there were pink and peach rhododendrons, red photinias and a stunning laburnham, dripping with acid-yellow pendulous racemes; at Greenland the deep pink roses were cascading over both walls.

We headed back downhill, the deep bank covered in oxeye daisies facing the sun. Langford Farm's roses bore heavy open flowers, soft pink against the painted walls, their verges full of hardy geraniums.

Opposite Whitegates we turned right up to the familiar track past Langford House, roses, daisies and aquilegia spilling onto the path. We were soon into the archway of trees with its crunch underfoot, and then out to the sunlight with

stinging nettles higher than our heads. We sat in the sun on the ground to finish off our coffee, and were treated to the sight of a golden-ringed dragonfly and a common blue damselfly. We soaked up the sun whilst listening to the bees on the elderflower bushes and dead nettles.

Through the open gate to the side, we watched the swifts flying low over the insect-full grass, before walking to the end of the track, then right and left up through the kissing gate. At the corner where we headed right, a few stray scarlet poppies were a contrast to the silver blue wheat in the field. Set back from the turkey pens now the path gets overgrown quickly: we snipped back the odd stray nettle, but hopefully regular footfall will keep it low. A final treat to finish off our walk was the sound of the church clock which struck as we walked past the tower, the return of their chimes much appreciated.

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## Newton Ramblers walk

### Sunday 21 July

I would like to welcome you to join me on this approx. five mile walk from the Bridford Inn, Bridford up over the hill and through the woods to Kennick Reservoir and back through farmland. There will be the opportunity to have lunch at the Bridford Inn if you have prebooked (01647 252250). Well-behaved dogs on a lead are welcome in the Bridford Inn.

- Those travelling from Newton St Cyres should meet at the Parish Hall Car Park at 09.45 to arrange car sharing.

I will meet you at the Bridford Inn EX6 7HT carpark at 10.30 on the day. If you are having lunch after the walk you may park in the car park of the inn. If you are not staying for lunch, please park in the village on the roadside. I suggest that you share cars.

- Lunch has been booked for 10 people at the Bridford Inn at 13.15.

**If you would like lunch, please ring Nicola to reserve your place on 01392 851985 by Friday 12 July.** Places will be allocated on the speed of your response.

### Anne Rice

**Please note that anyone joining us on these walks does so at their own risk.**

**Come and celebrate our 2024 Heritage Open Day at Upton Pyne Church on Saturday 14 September from 2pm to 4.30pm**



**Guided Tours of the Church**

**Children's trail and prizes**

**Tower tours (max 8, booking advised)**

**Refreshments**

**This is a FREE event. To book a tower tour or for more details contact Lisa Clapp 841339**

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**Brampford Speke Classic Car Show  
& Village Fair**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Chamberlain's Field**

**Vintage Cars, Table top sale,**

**Village Games, Refreshments, Cakes, Bar and Food**

Email Douglas Ford: [ffrford@outlook.com](mailto:ffrford@outlook.com) for further details, registration of classic vehicles and volunteering (We need your help)



# *Great Uncle Derek, a D-Day hero*

by Amanda Ryles



**On 6 June 2024, we commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and remembered the many heroes whose actions and sacrifices moved the Allies closer to Victory in Europe. A speech by Prince William declared: "It is almost impossible to grasp the courage that it would have taken to run into the fury of battle on that day."**

As a village, we were fortunate not to lose any men to Operation Overlord, but the sacrifices made by so many men on that day and their bravery should not be forgotten. 129,710 troops landed on the beaches, with a further 23,400 in gliders or parachutes. A total of 4,414 troops were killed on the one day, including 1,475 under British command.

The impact of D-Day is such that many families will have had relatives who remembered The Longest Day. However, nearly all of them have since died, and the few remaining are in their late nineties or older. I was privileged to have spent several years exchanging letters with my great uncle who was one of just a small group of survivors who had been part of the assault on Gold Beach. He had been looking forward to joining the ceremonies in Portsmouth, but sadly had a fall at home and passed away on 29 March this year aged 98.

Through his letters, our conversations and further research, I gained a tiny insight into what Derek had been through and would love to share his story.

Derek Farrant was born in 1925 and after a family move from Shoreham to High Barnet, joined Reuters in Fleet Street. He was in their Homeguard Platoon aged just 15 until he volunteered for the Army early in 1943. Infantry training in Preston with the Lancashire Regiment was followed by Royal Engineers Training in Elgin then Sapper 1442080 was posted to 73 Chemical Warfare Company (then Field Company). Whilst they were training in mine clearance, his group was called the 666. They had dreadful luck with faulty equipment and unfortunate accidents and joked they were cursed. Derek told me about a little ceremony they had to break the hex which ended with them all being given a sprig of heather to carry in their tunics through the war. Bomb disposal in Kent and London was followed by Assault Training in the New Forest and in April 1944 the Company moved to a sealed camp in Southampton and prepared for D-Day. He would never talk about the fateful Exercise Tiger in Devon, but the Slapton Sands disaster weighed heavily on his young shoulders.

The advance party joined 47 Marine Commando and embarked onto the water on 3 June, Derek's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. Each soldier was issued with two sickbags, 10 biscuits, two packs of porridge and four sheets of toilet paper. The Royal Engineer Assault Squadron's role was to clear a path through the mines and other hazards of Gold Beach so that tanks and infantry could move inland. In addition to their rations, weapons and equipment, they carried 24lbs of high explosives. They had to move quickly under the full force of enemy fire attacking fortifications by attaching demolition charges and locating and diffusing mines. Derek used to say that he had to rip off the burning bottom half of his trousers as shrapnel had set them alight, so was the only person that ended D-day wearing shorts!

3 Platoon moved east, repairing and widening the roads between Bayeux and Tilly and using their engineering experience to build the first of many Bailey Bridges over the Orne at St Marc D'Ouilly. Further bridges followed, including Goliath across the Seine at Vernon which was the subject of Derek's favourite story. The platoon had been under heavy fire during the day, then heavy rain at night, so sought shelter with an elderly couple. Their picturesque cottage had extensive ponds in which the soldiers performed their ablutions, unshaven since D-Day. Derek told me how an old comrade had recently

retraced their journey from Gold Beach to Vernon and had been surprised to discover that the house had become something of a tourist attraction. Derek wrote: "It turned out it had been the home of Claude Monet and the ponds were of course the setting for his Waterlily series. What if we had known it was Monet's house? I believe there were some nice pictures on the walls. Another opportunity for looting lost!"

They continued east, constructing the longest military bridge over the Maas at Lanklaer, the largest Class 70 bridge at Venlo, bridged the Rhine at Xanton and the Elbe at Artlenburg. Clean-up operations followed around the Kiel Canal then, after reforming as 659 Engineer Squadron, they were posted briefly to Italy. Derek's big brother Bernard (my grandad) became a bit of a legend amongst Derek's company, borrowing a jeep and a flying jacket from an MIA Officer and some petrol from the mobile airport searchlight generators and driving down the coast to meet them before they left for Greece, Derek celebrating his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in Athens. The squadron moved to assist the Mandate in Palestine, carrying out refugee patrols and bomb disposal in Haifa, Gaza and Damascus. He had fond memories of his time there. In his diaries he wrote of a sketch he penned for the 1946 Squadron Panto called 'Legless in Gaza' after Aldous Huxley's *Eyeless in Gaza*. By virtue of the fact that he had had a trial with Brighton and Hove Albion boys' team, Derek was made manager of a North Palestine Services representative football team. He was allocated a captain, a young chap called Alf Ramsey, and they beat the legendary All-Star Wanderers. Before the game Derek gave Alf some of the lucky heather that had been carried in his pocket since Elgin. He wondered if that same heather was in Alf's pocket for the 1966 World Cup! In his later years, Derek poured over the newspapers for news of Gaza and Palestine and found it devastating to read about. In 1947 Demob release group 53 travelled from Alexandria to Glasgow onto York and, at just 22, Derek's war was over. He had shrapnel in his legs, tinnitus in his one good ear, and had survived Normandy malaria and infective hepatitis, but survived he had. His younger brother Colin had been less fortunate, killed in service with the RAF bomber command at just 17 and buried at Poznan.

Derek had returned to Reuters briefly, but in April 1949 he moved back to Sussex and married his beloved Pam. He had been hopeful of returning to a job in journalism, but until there was an opening he took a temporary post as an administrative assistant

in Brighton General Hospital for the newly-created NHS. His temporary job lasted 37 years!

It was a privilege to have been able to spend time with Derek in his later years and I know he delighted in being visited by niece and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and even a couple of great-great nieces. His beret sat proudly at the foot of his stairs, and any visitors were shown his scrapbooks, photographs and his proudest achievement of all: his medal as a Chevalier of the Legion D'Honneur for services to France. I consider myself honoured to have had him as a great uncle, and am glad I could share his story with you as we remember the sacrifices of an entire generation.



## Thorverton Memorial Hall

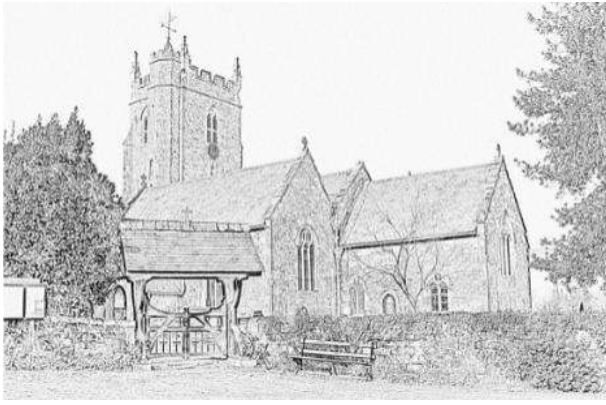
**Saturday 13 July:** *Saturday Market and Big Breakfast* – have a hearty breakfast and a browse of stalls from local sellers at the hall, 09:30AM – 11:30AM.

**Sunday 14 July:** *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare, a Cygnet Theatre production. Tickets are £15 (concessions: £10). Buy tickets online at [thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk](http://thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk).

**Friday 19 July:** *Cinema Night* – we'll be showing THE COLOR PURPLE, the 2023 remake. Produced by Spielberg, a woman faces many hardships in her life, but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood. Tickets are £5 (under 18s £4) and can be bought on the door or at [thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk](http://thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk)

**Saturday 10 August:** *Saturday Market and Big Breakfast* – have a hearty breakfast and a browse of stalls from local sellers at the hall, from 09:30AM – 11:30AM.

**Friday 16 August:** *Cinema Night* – we'll be showing WICKED LITTLE LETTERS. When people in Littlehampton begin to receive letters of hilarious profanities, rowdy Irish migrant Rose is charged with the crime. Suspecting that something is amiss, the town's women investigate. Tickets are £5 (under 18s £4) and can be bought on the door or at [thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk](http://thorvertonmemorialhall.co.uk)



## UPTON PYNE CHURCH NEWS

We are in midsummer: the weeds and grass are growing everywhere as are the joys of summer gardens. The churchyard too grows apace and it was wonderful to see a great team of helpers turn up on 15 June to tackle some of the overgrowth, brambles and ivy, clear drains and unearth lost treasures. Thanks to all and to the providers of great refreshments!

We continue with our monthly service of Holy Communion, followed by refreshments. The service in July will be on Sunday, 14 July at 10.30am and the next one will be on Sunday, 11 August at 10.30am. All welcome!

There are many events taking place in these summer weeks around the Netherex parishes, advertised widely: do note what's on and support them.

And my very grateful thanks to all who contributed to such perfectly chosen gifts, presented at the 9 June service, as I step down from the role of Church Warden. (For those who wondered what was in the bag: a tour of Quicke's Cheese Farm and a Beer Engine lunch, and a beautiful silver book mark, which I shall treasure). It has been interesting and very rewarding to act as Church Warden for many years and I have learned a lot about people, churches, services, archdeacons and ecclesiastical admin! All churches, parish councils and village communities keep going because volunteers step up and enable them to carry on. I do hope that this community will thrive as more people are prepared to find out what its needs are and have a go. Upton Pyne has changed a lot over the decades but remains a great place to live!

VC

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### TEA, CAKE & CHAT ON THURSDAYS

The Thursday teas take place in Upton Pyne Village Hall. The hall is open every Thursday 2pm - 4pm and anyone who turns up is assured of a warm welcome, tea and a chance to catch up with neighbours and

friends. Our grateful thanks to the hall committee for making it available and to Adrienne, Lyn and Rose for hosting this community event.

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## THE LUNCH BUNCH

We next meet on Tuesday 9 July at 12 noon at The Thorverton Arms for a good lunch and good company. Anyone is welcome to join this friendly group: to book a place call Pat on 841 599 or Veronica on 841 530.

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## VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

We continue to open Upton Pyne Village Hall on the first Monday of the month and offer a warm welcome, tea, cafetiere coffee, biscuits and a chance to buy homemade cakes and to browse for bargains at the Bring & Buy stall. Do come along and support this community event. The next is on 1 July at 11am.

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## ***Making the Cross Count***

As this article hits the parish magazines, we will be just a few days away from the General Election. I guess that some of you are totally fed up with the noise and bluster, the policies and promises, many of which may feel very unrealistic. And just want it all to be over!

And yet, what happens after the 4<sup>th</sup> July matters to each and every one of us. Politics matters. It impacts every aspect of our lives – whether we like it or not, whether we realise it or not. Politics will determine our lives from the moment we wake up to the moment we go to bed. Political decisions affect our homes, our jobs, our environment, our welfare and our families. The decisions made by politicians at all levels - locally or nationally - do have an effect.

The decision you and I make on the 4<sup>th</sup> July is important.

And so, while policies and promises are scattered around like confetti, on the 4<sup>th</sup> July we will, as a nation, have to make a choice. For those who will vote, a cross in a box is required. Voters will determine who picks up the keys to No 10 Downing Street; voters will determine the direction this country takes for the next five years or more.

But how do you make that choice? Are there words, policies, values and ethos that will persuade you that this person is better fitted to represent you in parliament rather than that one, that one or that one? Or conversely, are there words, policies, pledges and personalities that will just totally determine for you: “Well, definitely not him or her.”? Maybe, though, you already know how you will vote. Because at the end of the day, for you, the actual

person on the ballot paper isn’t necessarily that important – it’s the party that matters!

Perhaps, though, the biggest question of all, for me and millions of Christians in this country, is: “Where does faith come into all of this?”

Now, while many people will say: “Faith and politics shouldn’t mix!”, I would argue that, in so many ways, we couldn’t have a more political figure and example than Jesus. His whole mission and ministry was totally focused on challenging the political leaders of the time – whether Temple authorities, learned leaders of even the Roman Empire. Shaking them out of their complacency, their hypocrisy, their focus on wanting and keeping power. Getting them to recognise that they had a responsibility to all people, not just themselves. Jesus championed those on the margins of society – women, children, the discriminated against, those outside the perceived norms of society – and encouraged others to welcome and accept them for who they are, not who we might want them to be. Jesus was determined to encourage all who followed him to build a society based on mercy, justice and grace. I think that’s a clear political manifesto!

Whatever the outcome on 4<sup>th</sup> July, I pray that as individuals and as a nation we continue to strive to do the best for one another, for our communities – loving one another as we have been loved by God.

All blessings

***Tim***

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission  
Community

## SERVICES & INFORMATION JULY 2024

The Netherexe Parishes - A community of Anglican churches in Devon

Please see our website at [www.netherexe.org](http://www.netherexe.org) under "Services" section.  
We also have a calendar for services & latest events are under "news".

### Tuesday 2 July

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
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### Wednesday 3 July

06:00 pm	Election Prayer Service	Thorverton	TC
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### Sunday 7 July

11:15 am	Service	Cadbury	Lay Led
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05:00 pm	Communion	Stoke Canon	TC/LF
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### Sunday 14 July

09:30 am	Communion	Thorverton	TC
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10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne	GC
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03:00 pm	Praise & Pimms	Rewe	Lay Led
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06:30 pm	Ad hoc Choir	Cadbury	Lay Led
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### Sunday 21 July

09:30 am	Communion	Brampford Speke	JD/LF
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09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton	TC
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10:00 am	Service	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
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11:15 am	Communion	Cadbury	GC
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### Sunday 28 July

09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
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11:15 am	Communion by Extension	Rewe	LF
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**Every Tuesday** at 6:00pm we gather for prayer in Rewe Church

At **Communion** services we share bread and wine: you are welcome to join us for the service and to share communion if you wish. A lay minister occasionally leads this service.

At **Coffee and chat** we enjoy time together in conversation with coffee and cake to hand.

At **Services** we share together in song, prayer and the bible. Special services are noted in the description.

**Bubble church** is for young families and **Messy Church** for families who enjoy craft.

Revd Tim Collins [Priest in charge]      Tel: 01392 860767      [tim.collins@netherexe.org](mailto:tim.collins@netherexe.org)

For more information about the Netherexe Parishes please see [www.netherexe.org](http://www.netherexe.org) or contact:

Mrs Juliette Lea [Administrator]  
Tuesday & Thursday [09:00 – 15:00]  
Tel: 07594 714590  
Email: [administration@netherexe.org](mailto:administration@netherexe.org)

Mr Peter Shepherd [Administrator]  
Monday & Wednesday [09:00 – 13:00]  
Tel: 07551 844321  
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## Brampford Speke Twinning Association

After our wonderfully successful Twinning Weekend, several members of the Brampford Speke Twinning Association will be attending the Devon Twinning Circle Barbecue on Sunday, 11 August at Uplowman Village Hall.

It starts at midday with the food being served at 1pm followed by outdoor games like giant jenga and quoits and indoor quizzes if it's wet or cold.

There is a charge of £5 towards costs and if you would like to come along and join us for this social occasion please contact the Twinning Secretary: Sue Satchell on sue.exevalley@gmail.com before the 24 July



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## Summer term and Transition

At last, the weather has been kind and we can truly feel like we are in the summer term! We have made the most of the weather and taken some of our learning outside.

It's been a very busy term for our Year 6 pupils as they completed the SATs, taken part in special events and started transition to their secondary schools. They have shown remarkable focus and resilience throughout and emerged out of the last SATs test on the Thursday wearing their Hoodies and ready to begin the next chapter!



We welcomed in a reading dog called Meg and her owner Kate, who lives in the village, to our assembly on Wednesday. We found out about her job and training, and she delighted us with her skills and tricks. All that wanted to, got a cuddle as well! She has been visiting us this half term and putting her skills into action and listening to us read and generally enhancing our day.

This term, Skylark class 'wowed' us with their musical learning from the last term and a half. They performed songs together and even managed a 'solo roundabout', keeping time throughout. We are so proud of the progress they have made and hope to inspire some lifelong learning in this area







## Brampford Speke C of E Primary School

Open Afternoon and Summer Fayre

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2-4pm

On the School playground

All Welcome!

A chance to tour our beautiful school and find out about the teaching and learning this year as well as some of the planned improvements and future projects.

Enjoy some refreshments from Sue's Café, play games, browse our stalls and try your luck on our tombola!



# Ros Leveridge meets Prof. Tim Insoll



Tim on site in Bahrain

**One Wikipedia page, eight major international conferences, 10 exhibitions (including one at the British Museum), 21 books, 23 research expeditions, 37 years of fieldwork experience and 117 journal articles.** Such has been the amazing career of Tim Insoll, currently Professor of African and Islamic Archaeology and Director of Research at the Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies in the University of Exeter. Tim and his wife Rachel, who is herself an archaeologist and who has co-authored many of his books, have travelled the world in search of the archaeology of Islam, visiting, researching and excavating in Mali, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, India, Tanzania, and especially in Bahrain, to which they have returned year after year.



A gold dinar found in the Bahrain excavations

At the age of four, when many children want to be ballerinas or train drivers, Tim expressed a desire to be an archaeologist. This wish was taken seriously and



The first Christian building excavated in Bahrain

a special membership of the Young Archaeologists' Club was arranged for him as he was technically too young to join! It later emerged that he had only really wanted to find out more about dinosaurs!

Nevertheless, there followed a childhood in which digging played an important part, whether in his aunt's garden in Brighton, where he found keys, marbles and ink bottles, or mudlarking in the river at Kingston, Surrey, fishing up treasures from a bottle dump there. All his finds he kept carefully in a glass cabinet in his bedroom in the manner of a Gerald Durrell, which was all good practice for his future career. Unlike Gerald Durrell, Tim had a very supportive family: his Dad, who was a book dealer on the Portobello Road, and his Mum, who was an industrial glass designer, were both very encouraging in his early endeavours.



Tim excavating in the desert in Saudi Arabia

By the age of 18, he realised the importance of travel, and took himself off to Greece to explore its antiquities. He learned to love discovering places outside Europe. Some of his early jobs – labouring on building sites or conducting market research – were hard. Next came a job as an antiques restorer. "I had to learn on the job and got shouted at if I made a mistake," he remembers. This gave him the impetus to go to university in Sheffield, where he studied Archaeology and Prehistory.

It is not often that a student has his first exhibition in the British Museum, but Tim's finds in Gao, Mali, were so exciting that they were presented in an exhibition in 1998, called *Medieval Trading Cities of the Niger: Gao and Timbuktu*, in the John Addis Gallery there, which subsequently formed part of the permanent display in the Musée Nationale, Bamako, Mali. The discovery of a cache of approximately 70 hippopotamus tusks, found underneath the floor of the palace in Gao and probably dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, suggested elephant ivory was not the sole source of ivory used in the medieval Islamic world. Tim explained how he had had a strong feeling about digging in that particular spot – it had proved to be a very lucky hunch.



Tim excavating a mosque in Ethiopia

Good fortune has also played its part at other times. Rachel and Tim were lucky enough to meet each other on the very first day as students at Cambridge and have been working together ever since. Also on that first day, they met the (future) Crown Prince of Bahrain, and began a friendship with him which endures to this day. Since 2001, they have made nearly annual visits to Bahrain where the Prince has been a great patron of their work. From small beginnings, the research project now involves a large

team, who work closely with their Bahraini colleagues who have become good friends.

As I was just about to leave, I was invited to look inside Tim's study. It was just beautiful, a room of exemplary tidiness and order, with book-lined walls and abundant treasures, a perfect space for reading, writing and reflection.

February 2025 will see him leave the peace and comfort of this wonderful room and return to Saudi Arabia and a new project there. He is currently exploring a pilgrimage route that had been abandoned by the tenth century which is about 415km long and runs between the sacred sites of Mecca and Medina. Tim describes the desert landscape of sand dunes and mountains, home of the nomadic Bedouin, as "amazing".

He is grateful for the special dispensation that allows him to enter Medina and for the Saudi charitable foundation which is sponsoring the research. I asked whether Rachel would be accompanying him this time. Rachel laughed.

"Yes", she replied, "but I can only be involved in the project as an honorary man!"

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# The Gardening Year



Dahlia 'Knockout'

This month I thought I would look at plants that are at their best in July; these include the stunning architectural *Acanthus mollis*, the beautiful, brightly-coloured Dahlia 'Knockout' and a cottage garden favourite, *Achillea Walther Funke*.

*Acanthus mollis*, is also known as Bear's Breeches. It is a plant suited to growing at the back of herbaceous borders, with enormous, glossy, deeply-lobed leaves and tall flower spikes that are clothed in white flowers, each with a hood-like purple bract. It grows best in well-drained, fertile soil, in full sun or partial or dappled shade. Although it doesn't spread, it will grow into a large clump which can be divided in spring or autumn. If, however, you decide you want to move it completely this may be difficult as the roots are really deep so that it is hard to remove them all when you dig the plant out of the ground. Those remaining then quickly grow into new plants.



*Acanthus mollis*

*Achillea Walther Funke* (Yarrow). This is a compact plant with divided, grey-green feathery foliage, and short stems that have flat sprays of orange-red flowers which fade to a creamy yellow. It is long-flowering and drought tolerant, once established. It is happy in full sun or partial shade and works equally well in 'hot' borders or as a contrast with blues and purples. It makes great cut flowers and deadheading throughout the summer will also encourage flowering. It is known for attracting bees, insects, birds and other pollinators, as it has nectar/pollen-rich flowers and seeds for birds. When required, plants can be lifted and divided every three years in the autumn or spring.



*Achillea Walther Funke* (Yarrow)

**Dahlia Knockout** (photographed in heading) also listed by nurseries as Dahlia Mystic Illusion. This really does make an impact with bright yellow single flowers with red and orange centres and dark black foliage. It will continue flowering well into autumn and is ideal for use as a cut flower. It prefers a moist, well-drained soil in a sunny position and attracts pollinating insects into your garden.

Continuing the Rose A-Z, compiled by Peter Beales  
Roses, this month we look at:

**D – Deadheading:** snip faded blooms or spent clusters of flowers away regularly using secateurs (weekly during summer). Plants will channel their energy into producing more flowers, keeping displays at the peak of perfection over a longer season.

**E – Establishment:** roses will settle into their new homes when given a helping hand to establish. While autumn is the prime season for planting, containerised roses can be planted throughout the

year, as long as the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged, and it's best to avoid planting during periods of scorching weather or drought. If planting roses into the ground, fork in lots of well-rotted manure or garden compost. Roses appreciate soil with a pH of around 6.5 (slightly acidic) or neutral soil. Although roses have deep root systems, they'll need to be kept watered while establishing if conditions are dry.

**F – Floribunda:** put simply, floribunda means 'many flowers'- these are fabulous roses that bear clusters of blooms on each stem. Their brightly coloured blooms make these flower powerhouses a popular choice as bedding roses and many will bear an abundance of blooms from June until October. Browse a selection of fabulous floribundas here: <https://www.classicroses.co.uk/roses/floribund-as-cluster-roses.html>

Did you watch the coverage of **Chelsea**? I hope that you found lots of interesting ideas which could be adapted to your own garden space. Water was a feature of many gardens and did not consist simply of ponds. In the Flood Resilient Garden, galvanised water tanks of varying sizes and heights were used to capture rainwater using rain chains. The water then flowed, via spouts and falls, from one tank to another. Also, there was a calmness to a lot of this year's gardens with the aim of linking nature to our well-being. The Plant of the Year 2024 winner was **Prunus 'Starlight'** a new winter and spring-flowering ornamental cherry. This was simply beautiful with pure white star-shaped flowers which bloom in late March and can continue well into April. The flowers are similar in style to a *Magnolia stellata*. It has glossy foliage and it is said to have good resistance to frost damage. It is available to buy from RHS & Frank P Matthews. The People's Choice Show Garden was awarded to the Octavia Hill Garden by Blue Diamond with the National Trust. This was also the Children's Choice winner. The garden, which was designed by Ann-Marie Powell, will be relocated to Blue Diamond-owned, RHS Partner Garden, Bridgemere Show Gardens, Nantwich, Cheshire.

## Jobs for July

I am writing this in the middle of June, when the temperatures are below the average for this time of year, but July should provide some of the hottest and

driest days. This means that we all need to undertake jobs that will keep our gardens looking good and to use water wisely.

- Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering.
- Water tubs and new plants if dry. Watering is one of the most important jobs when growing plants in containers. Roots need a balance of air and water to grow well which is easy to provide if you have a good-quality compost or soil.
- Water and feed agapanthus using a high potash/ tomato feed. This will strengthen the bulbs for future flowering.
- Divide irises. Irises with thick surface rhizomes can be lifted and divided after flowering if they have formed clumps too large for the space in which they are growing. Cut out the old flower stems and trim the foliage to around 5cm. Using a sharp, clean knife cut the rhizomes into healthy pieces with buds or a reduced leaf fan and roots. Allow the cut surfaces to dry for a few hours before potting them up or planting into a new area of soil. As the roots grow from below the rhizomes, they should always be planted with the rhizomes on the surface of the soil.
- Pick courgettes, before they become marrows
- Clear algae, blanket weed and debris from ponds, remembering to leave anything you remove at the edge of the water for at least 24 hours for any aquatic life to return to the water. Also, as water will be lost due to evaporation in the summer months, keep ponds topped up - preferably with rainwater.
- Start planning your purchases of next year's spring-flowering bulbs!

## What's On in July?

**Until 14 July** RHS Rosemoor Festival of Roses.

**Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 July** Backswood Farm, Bickleigh, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 8RA 2.00pm – 5.00pm. Home-made teas. Adult: £5.00 Child: Free. NGS. The owners of Backswood Farm have set out to make a garden that provides as much bio-diversity as possible within a two-acre plot.

**Friday 12 July - Sunday 4 August** The Big Butterfly Count. <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Thursday 18 July National Trust, Killerton Outdoor Theatre 7.00pm – 9.30pm. *The Gondoliers* by Gilbert & Sullivan. Suitable for all ages. Adult £18.50 Child £12.50, Family 2+2 £55.00 Free for children under 3. Booking details: 0344 249 1895

**Tuesday 23 July** National Trust Killerton Outdoor Theatre 7.00pm – 9.30pm **Hamlet**  
Suitable for age 12+. Adult £18.50, Child £12.50.  
Booking details Call 0208 852 5761

**Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 July** RHS Rosemoor Vintage Weekend 10am – 4pm.

**Sunday 28 July** Sherwood House Cream Tea. The Netherex Parishes Ring of Seven Festival. Please see separate advert from the Church for more details.

**Wednesday 31 July** – Fursdon House as part of Hospiscare Open Gardens. 2-5 pm. Fursdon House, Cadbury, Exeter, EX5 5JS. Garden £6 (5-16 years £1) House and Garden £12 (5-16 years £3)

**Happy Gardening!**

*Nicola Baker*

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## Nick Baker: gardener and local historian

**We are sadly missing our good friend Nick Baker who, over the years, was an invaluable member of the Garden Club, writes Chris Grundy.**



He was a very popular speaker at our regular meetings, with a variety of topics and a barrow-load of advice, and also arranged for outside speakers to come to the village hall.

For a long time, he was a main-stay in the organisation of the annual spring flower show, and his energy and enthusiasm were greatly valued. Mention should also be made of his competitive spirit; records indicate that the name Nick Baker was attached to many entries in the show winning first class!

His own gardens display his accumulated knowledge of planting and colour. Few have contributed as much to their local community as Nick. He served on the Parish Council, and was Tree Warden for many years; was a founder member of the Community Land Trust which developed Lakes Down housing and was involved in gardening and local history clubs.







## Beginnings

**We've had a cool summer so far. The farm is happy with regular rain that grows good grass and waters the crops.** The team in the cheese dairy has been happy, too. It's heavy work in a humid atmosphere, working over vats of warm milk and curd, hand making the cheese. Cooler weather makes it easier. My mother, Prue Quicke, built the cheese dairy in 1973. My father had always been haunted by the fact that his father was told in 1930 by the milk buyer in Exeter: "Don't want your milk, today, Mr Quicke." Like many dairy farmers, we had given up making cheese on the farm after the First World War. We've got pictures of cheesemaking happening in the 1920s, as it did in every farmhouse, but farmers and their wives gave up cheesemaking which went to cheese dairies: one job less to do. Farmers were reliant on being able to sell their highly perishable milk to someone else to process it. Many stopped producing milk with the uncertainty of it. The Milk Marketing Board was set up in the 1930s as the spectre of war came closer. They controlled milk production, giving stability the dairy farmers needed to keep producing milk to feed the nation.

In the 1960s, we had been supplying our milk through the Milk Marketing Board to a farmhouse cheesemaker, Mr Couche, in Venny Tedburn. We knew our milk could make good cheese. Mr Couche was thinking of giving up cheesemaking, and his 'datum', licence to make cheese, would be available. I remember long discussions over the dinner table and into the night as my parents decided to apply for the scarce licence.

The licence came through some six years later in 1972. My father was busy at the time with agricultural politics off the farm that led eventually to governments around Europe funding environmental work on farms. My mother had six children aged 8 to 18. They even cast the I Ching, which said it would be hard work but successful. My mother duly went ahead and set up the cheese dairy. She had had an art school education with great artists like Henry Moore: they'd told her that this was the training to do anything.

We used the advice of a remarkable lady in dairy, Miss Maddever, known behind her back as 'Katy'. She designed the dairy, found us a cheesemaker, Harold Chase, and trained us all.

Other cheesemakers said: "Why aren't you setting up the dairy to make nice modern square blocks in plastic bags, that's the way forward?" My parents decided to make traditional cheese, something they loved. Initially, all the cheese had to be transferred to the Milk Marketing Board at three months old for them to mature to whatever age they saw fit and sell as anonymous 'traditional cheddar', sending us the money for it when they did.

In the early 80s, the market was difficult, we got no money for six weeks. My mother asked where the money was and was told she would only get a dump price. At that point, against the regulations, she decided to sell cheese herself, reasoning that the law should not bust us. Some of the old cheddar makers blamed us for the end of the Milk Marketing Scheme: it ended shortly afterwards. It had become an archaic, restrictive system that stopped products developing with its almost Soviet control of everything to do with milk.

My husband Tom and I came back to the farm in the early 80s and Tom sold the cheese, while I took on the farming and cheesemaking. He developed our cheese as the first on-farm cheese brand, 'Quicke's'. As a family, we've decided that what we do is to produce cheese from the milk of this farm, to express the amazing things that can come from a particular place. That means it's important to us to make hand-made, small batch cheese the traditional way, milk from our own cows from our beautiful valley, to make it the most delicious cheese we can. And that's another story.

Mary Quicke

# UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB



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CONTACT June 01392 841272

## Future dates for your Diary

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Sept MARTIN GODFREY**

*No dig Gardening- Best for Wildlife and You*

**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Oct ALLAN FRENCH**

*Autumn Colour + Plants for Sale*

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB XMAS DINNER**

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Xmas Wreath & Decorations Making  
10am At the Village Coffee Morning**

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 A G M @ 3 pm**



**Community land, sustainably managed Affordable homes for local people  
Brampford Speke, Upton Pyne & Cowley Community Land Trust (CLT)**

After the recent public meeting and subsequent updates, the CLT is pleased that more new members from Brampford Speke have come forward to join us and support our aims.

We have listened to the various comments and objections and considered what modifications to the plans need and can be made. A request for pre-application advice will be made to the EDDC planning department and results of these discussions made public before any plans are submitted.

The prospect of an alternative commercial bid to develop Templars Field, off Sandy Lane, has come to light. Until we all know a bit more about this it would be unwise to speculate too much whilst being prepared for any impact it might have on the parish and our own project.

In any event, it is still essential that anyone considering applying for an affordable home in either parish - if one becomes available - should register with Devon Home Choice : [www.devonhomechoice.com](http://www.devonhomechoice.com)  
For advice, our membership secretary will be pleased to help at [sallydiscombe@gmail.com](mailto:sallydiscombe@gmail.com)

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## **Newton St Cyres Tennis Club**

The summer is around the corner and so is Wimbledon! Just the time to get into tennis again. Even if the weather is chilly a game of tennis will get you warm.

There are regular sessions for rusty rackets on Saturdays. The person to contact is Sue Bloomfield at [sueblmfd03@gmail.com](mailto:sueblmfd03@gmail.com)  
Club sessions cover a wide range of abilities and ages so there is something for everybody. Contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259.

The summer league is well on its way. There are three mixed teams and one men's team.

Junior coaching, run by our club coach Jon Wills, takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time. There are currently a few places available in some of the groups. Please email [juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk](mailto:juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk) for further information and to check availability.

Jon also offers adult coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills just get in touch via our website.

[www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk](http://www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk).

If you want to try the ball-machine, please contact Frederiek at [frederiekmaddock@gmail.com](mailto:frederiekmaddock@gmail.com)

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## *Sandford Summer Show*

**The Sandford Summer Show will take place on Monday 26 August at 2pm in the Parish Hall.**

A new schedule is now available and can be downloaded from the Sandford Scene Facebook or email [sandfordsummershow@yahoo.com](mailto:sandfordsummershow@yahoo.com). There is something for everyone, whether you are keen to enter fruit, flowers, vegetables, preserves, cookery, floral art or crafts. There is also a children's section. Everybody can enter, you do not need to live in Sandford.

There will be a plant stall, tea and delicious cakes for you to enjoy. We hope to see you there.

**Frederiek Maddock (Chair)**





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Annual garden season ticket £15.00 (5-16yrs £3)

Single visit garden ticket £6 (5-16yrs £1)

House & Garden ticket £12 (5-16yrs £3)

Gardeners' World 2 for 1, CPRE & Historic Houses members welcome

We welcome dogs on leads (garden & tearoom)

We also offer venue hire at the Coach Hall and lovely holiday accommodation at Fursdon Cottage.

**A9 Barbara Streisand** is one of 21 people in history known as an 'EGOT' and whose career has spanned over 60 years.

**A10** Recognised as the 'queen of pop' with over 40 years in the business, **Madonna** is known for reinventing herself as well as following a strict macrobiotic and fitness regime.

### Answers to Summer Time Quiz

- 1 Newquay, Cornwall
- 2 Sand
- 3 Strawberry
- 4 Caspian Sea
- 5 Summer Bay
- 6 Scallop
- 7 The Sun
- 8 Mungo Jerry
- 9 Joshua Slocum
- 10 Salcombe
- 11 Porgy & Bess
- 12 Wimbledon
- 13 West coast of France.
- 14 Surf & Turf
- 15 The Sea of Marmara
- 16 1964
- 17 Louis XIV
- 18 Bivalve
- 19 Cowes
- 20 Archimedes

### Answers to Music Quiz

**A1** The singer, songwriter and actress, who released a multi-platinum award-winning album *Private Dancer* in 1984 and starred in *Mad Max Beyond the Thunderdome* as Auntie Entity in 1985 was **Tina Turner**.

**A2** The 'punk rock diva', who has been releasing albums since 2000 with her best-selling album *Misundaztood* reaching number 2 in the UK album charts in 2001 is **P!nk**.

**A3** The Canadian singer songwriter who had Top 10 singles with *You're Still the One* (1997) and *That Don't Impress Me Much* (1998) is **Shania Twain**.

**A4 Lady Gaga** is renowned for dressing somewhat eccentrically and starred opposite Bradley Cooper in the 2018 remake of *A Star is Born*.

**A5 Taylor Swift** is one of the best-selling female artists ever and whose 2023 Eras Tour grossed over \$1 billion.

**A6** The UK's best-selling female album artist of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in 2021 and famous for her emotional announcement when she postponed her Las Vegas residency in 2020 is **Adele**.

**A7** The diva that has a vocal range that spans more than five octaves and is best known for her perennial chart appearing Christmas single *All I Want For Christmas Is You* is **Mariah Carey**.

**A8** *Crazy in Love* (2003) and *Single Ladies (Put a Ring on it)* (2008) are just two examples of the many Top 10 diva-licious hits for **Beyonce**.

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# Securing the Future of St Peter's, Brampford Speke

We live in deeply challenging times and, as a parish church and its people, we want to be there for you - in times of celebration as well as times of sorrow.

St Peter's - in one form or another - has been the spiritual heart of Brampford Speke for over 1000 years. This Grade 1-listed church is an important heritage site, cataloguing the history of the village and standing at its heart. It is open and available for all parishioners for baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as the regular Sunday worship that so often marks the times and seasons throughout the year – Christmas and Easter, Harvest and Remembrance.

It, too, has faced many challenges and difficult times. Covid impacted severely on numbers regularly attending and we, too, are struggling through these difficult economic times. And it is at this particular difficult time that we, as its members, are reaching out to the wider community of Brampford Speke, seeking your support in ensuring that the spiritual heart of the village continues to beat strongly. Because, without your support and help, there is a real danger for the continuing presence of the church within the community

It costs in excess of £15,000 a year to keep the church open and that is before anything goes wrong. Last year we had a shortfall of nearly £5,000, which severely depleted our reserves. Even with that, we only paid 50% of the dues to the diocese. This year is likely to be even more challenging. The list of necessary repairs is growing: it would be great to have the clock up and running again; rotted beams and damp are impacting on the integrity of the building and, at the moment, we just cannot afford to pay the graveyard grass-cutting fee, so the contract has been suspended. The list goes on.

We also know that people would like more regular services at church, and getting that right is critically important. People are going elsewhere because we are not offering what they need - at the moment!

We are working hard to increase the services and want them to reflect the needs and wishes of the community. To that end, during July, we will be

delivering a questionnaire that we hope you will complete with thought and honesty. The results will help us plan for the future. Please let us know what you want from the church in terms of services, activities and uses for the building. It's your church. It is here for you.

We would also want to set up an informal *Friends of Brampford Speke Church* group, that would help run the building, help with fundraising and come up with ideas to make the church more accessible and more a part of the community. Please contact either Douglas Ford or Richard May if you like this idea and are prepared to be part of it.

We already have three fundraising events on the calendar for this year so far:

1. The classic car show and village fair 14 September,
2. A Teddy Bear parachute jump from the tower and a Teddy Bear picnic in late September, working with the school and the PTA
3. The Christmas Tree Festival, which we hope to make bigger, bolder and more exciting after the wonderful success we had last year.

And we would love to do more – but to do so, we need help with organising, publicising and running these events, so again PLEASE contact me, Douglas Ford, on 07778000196 if you can help.

As for now, if you know someone with an old car, please tell them about our event on the 14 September. Any and all fundraising ideas are gratefully received.

Help us help St Peter's to be a bigger part of our community.

**Douglas Ford**  
**Churchwarden, St Peter's, Brampford Speke**

## **THE RADDON TOP “D DAY CHALLENGE”**

The Thorverton branch of the Royal British Legion organised the Raddon Top “**D Day Challenge**” on Thursday 6 June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D Day. This was a 10k multi-terrain run and a shorter challenge of 5k, the “Little D”, for both runners & walkers. The routes were on public footpaths and private land. The tough course was well marked and marshalled including a water station. Both challenges started at 7pm outside the Exeter Inn, Bullen Street Thorverton. Many of the 65 entries for the 10k commented on the spectacular views after making it to the top. The first runner back was Chris Gill in a time of 42 minutes 46 seconds, just one second ahead of 2nd place Christian Hewitt. Third place went to Colin Densham at 44mins 33secs. The first female finisher was Lucy Hughes in 53mins 11secs, 2nd Rose Partridge in 57mins 51secs and 3rd Ella Burden in 61mins 43secs, all six runners received a special “D Day Challenge” medallion.



In the 5k, there were 67 entries for both runners and walkers and the first three to finish were Inti Zumapan 25mins 45 secs, 2nd Monty Hillier 26mins 1sec and 3rd Daisy Gill 27mins 45secs. Well done to everyone and thank you for taking part (132 entries). Thank you to: the land owners for their kind permission and cooperation so the challenges could take place; all the marshals en route; Sam Fice (Energy Systems); Matt & Rick Cox of the Exeter Inn. A fantastic total of £1,150 was raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

**A.Fice**



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**Quiz nights** at the Thorverton Arms Wednesday 30 October and the Exeter Inn Wednesday 6 November start 7.30 pm. max 6 in a team book a table early to avoid disappointment.



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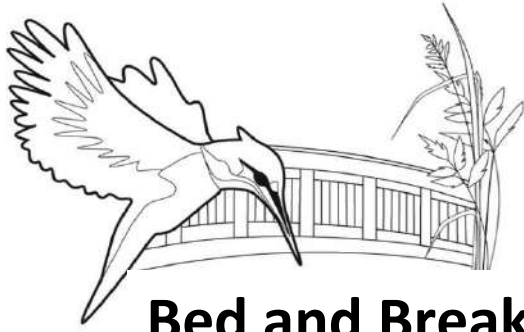
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Brampford Speke Stooks Close		13.44

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH and POLICE

Contact numbers for information:

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Tel 07741 491946  
[laura.ford@netherexe.org](mailto:laura.ford@netherexe.org)

**Administrator**

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**Church Wardens (BS)**

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**Brampford Speke Baptist Chapel**    Revd. Simon Taylor    Tel: 279485

**Brampford Speke Parish Council**

<https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/brampfordspeke/>

**Clerk**

Tracy Watkins                      07811 938614                      [clerkbspc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbspc@gmail.com)

**Councillors**

Alan Birmingham (Chair)	01392 840100	<a href="mailto:Alan.birmingham.bspc@gmail.com">Alan.birmingham.bspc@gmail.com</a>
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Brad Hillson	07870 865231	<a href="mailto:brad.hillson.bspc@gmail.com">brad.hillson.bspc@gmail.com</a>

**Other Contacts in Brampford Speke:**

Village Hall website	<a href="http://www.brampfordspeke.org.uk">www.brampfordspeke.org.uk</a>
School	841414
Brampford Area Baby and Toddler Group	Catherine Bending 07964 967278
Friends of BS School (FOBSS)	<a href="mailto:hellofobss@gmail.com">hellofobss@gmail.com</a> or 841414
Village Hall Bookings	Molly Luxton 841270
Footpath warden	footpaths.BSPC@gmail.com
Tree Warden, Elaine Hollingsworth	01392 841434
Twinning Association	Kate Cavill 0751 3002 708

## **Upton Pyne & Cowley Parish Council**

Council website [www.uptonpyne-pc.org.uk](http://www.uptonpyne-pc.org.uk)

Clerk Jacqui Ward

01392 851918

[parishclerk@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk)

### **Councillors**

Bob Short	UP	bobshort@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk	Chairman
Jessica Dalton	UP	jessicadalton@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk	
Amanda Ryles	Cowl	amandaryles@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk	Footpath Warden
Maggie Cormack	UP	maggiecormack@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk	
Sophie Ward	UP	sophieward@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk	IT & Communications
Mark Hewlett	Cowl	markhewlett@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk	CLT representative for the PC
Mike Leach	UP	mikeleach@uptonpyne-pc.gov.uk	

### **Other Contacts in Upton Pyne**

Garden Club	June Nicks (Chairman)	841272
Village Hall Bookings	Ian Findlay	841402
Footpath Warden	Amanda Ryles	
Whatsapp Group	Sue Glanville	07753 605726
	Gerry Farrell Morrish	07974 249466
	Abi Hann	07835 259514

## **East Devon District Council**

Blackdown House, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton, EX14 1EJ. Tel: 01404 515616

**Councillor:** Jamie Kemp 07538 570551 [jkemp@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:jkemp@eastdevon.gov.uk)

**EDDC Dog Warden:** 01395 571517

## **Devon County Council**

**Councillors:** Henry Gent [Henry.Gent@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Henry.Gent@devon.gov.uk)

Sara Randall Johnson 01404 822524 [sara.randalljohnson@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sara.randalljohnson@devon.gov.uk)

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**Material for publication should be sent by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month by email to [contributions@spekeup.org.uk](mailto:contributions@spekeup.org.uk)**

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For further information please contact:

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**Brampford Speke:** Richard Tillett 01392 841268

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# JULY/AUGUST DIARY

<b>July</b>				
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> July	11am	<b>Upton Pyne Village Coffee Morning &amp; Bring and Buy Sale</b> Upton Pyne Village Hall - All welcome	Veronica Clarke 841 530
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	7.30pm	<b>Brampford Speke Parish Council Meeting</b> Brampford Speke Village Hall	Tracy Watkins 07811 938614
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup> July	12 noon	<b>SFH Supporters Club FAMILY FUN DAY</b> Chamberlains Farm, Brampford Speke	For more details contact: 07515 009175
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30pm	<b>Upton Pyne and Cowley Parish Council Meeting</b> Upton Pyne Village Hall	Jacqui Ward 01392 851 918
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup> July	12 noon	<b>Lunch Bunch</b> Thorverton Arms	Pat 841 599 or Veronica 841 530
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup> July	2pm	<b>Whist Drive</b> Upton Pyne Village Hall	David Taverner 01884 851 918
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup> July	2pm – 4pm	<b>Brampford Speke Village School School Fayre &amp; Open Afternoon</b> All Welcome – games, fun and refreshments.	In the school playground – no booking required – All welcome.
<b>August</b>				
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup> August	Afternoon	<b>The Royal British Legion 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cream Tea Delivery Service</b> Freshly Cooked Cream tea delivered to your front door - £4.50 each.	Please pre order in advance by contacted Alex/Penny Fice 861 136 or <a href="mailto:srbf@hotmail.co.uk">srbf@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> August	2pm	<b>Whist Drive</b> Upton Pyne Village Hall	David Taverner 01884 851 918
			<b>Weekly</b>	
Monday		10.30 am	<b>Pilates</b> Brampford Speke Village Hall (Term Time only)	Nicki Stumpf 07838 260290
Wednesday		10am	<b>Art Class</b> Upton Pyne Village Hall	John 07816 846562
Thursday		9.15am – 11am  9.30am (term time)  2-4pm	<b>Toddler Group</b> Brampford Speke Village Hall (Term time only)  <b>Zumba</b> Upton Pyne Village Hall  <b>Tea</b> Upton Pyne Village Hall	Emily 07511 623314  Caroline Anstead 07796 950652, <a href="mailto:canstead4@gmail.com">canstead4@gmail.com</a>  Adrienne 07791 609068
Friday		10.30-11.30am	<b>Pilates</b> Upton Pyne Village Hall	Rebecca Cunningham 01363 866047





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