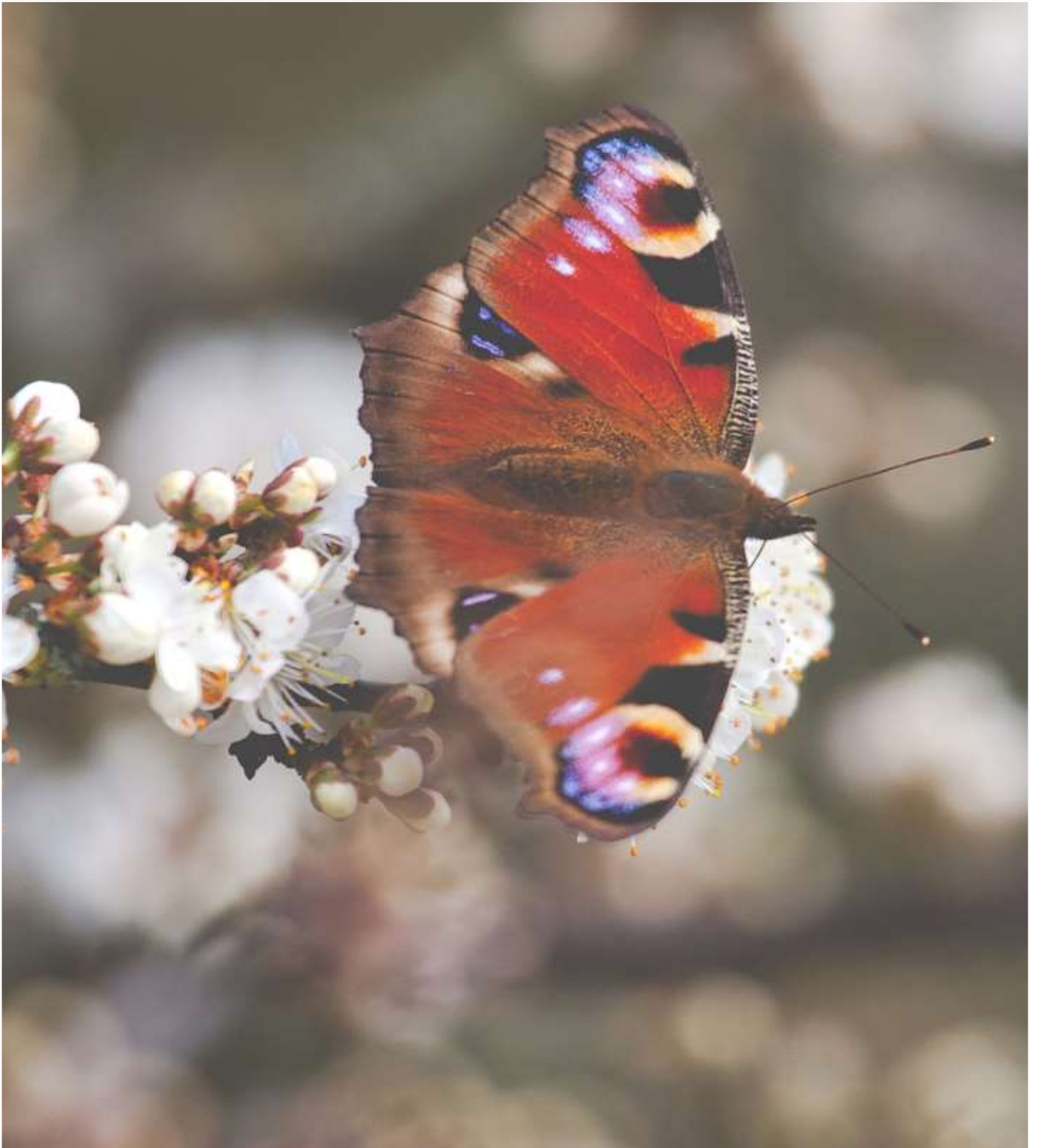


# ERMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE



**April-May 2018**

# Parish Diary

<b>Sustainable Saturdays</b> <i>Young Entrepreneurs</i>	<b>Fortnightly</b> 7th April 21st April 5th May 19th May	<b>Reading Rooms</b> 10am—12pm
<b>Parish Council Meetings</b>	<b>Monthly—1st Tuesday</b> 3rd April 1st May 5th June	<b>Reading Rooms</b> 7.30pm—9.30pm
<b>Crooked Tempo Samba Practice</b>	<b>Every Thursday</b>	<b>Church</b> 7.30pm—9.30pm
<b>Ermington Tots</b>	<b>Every Friday</b>	<b>Reading Rooms</b> 10am—12pm
<b>Crooked Spire Open Mic</b>	<b>Monthly—2nd Friday</b> 13th April 11th May	<b>Crooked Spire</b> 9pm
<b>First &amp; Last Lunch Club</b> page 16	<b>Monthly—Last Thursday</b> 26th April 24th May	<b>First &amp; Last Bistro</b> 12:30pm

Do you run a Village group or club? Add your meeting dates to this calendar! Contact George for more information; see page 39 for details.

## Special Events

<b>Crooked Spire 80s Theme Night</b>	Friday, 6th April	<b>Crooked Spire</b> 9pm
<b>ESS AGM &amp; Talk</b>	Wednesday, 18th April	<b>Reading Rooms</b>
<b>Village Hall Open Day</b>	Sunday, 29th April	<b>Pre-School Building</b> 10am—4pm
<b>Ermington Cricket Club Silver Jubilee Dinner</b> page 17	Saturday, 12th May	<b>First &amp; Last Bistro</b>

Contribute to the Magazine, advertise your business or services! See page 39 for details.

# From the Editor...

We're back, finally! Due to illness and technical issues I was unable to edit the February-March edition this year. Is this perhaps the first time ever the Magazine has not followed its regular schedule?

Having finally recovered, I can get back to working on the magazine, University, and enjoying life.

I took over as Editor from Nicky Scutt in early 2015, with the April-May edition being my first magazine. I hoped to continue the great work that Nicky had put in over after all of her years at the helm, and I hope I've been able to achieve that. I hope that the magazine provides you with a good balance of informative and interesting articles and advertisers, and that it is easy to read, up-to-date, and has all the latest events and news from the Parish.

I'm looking to get more feedback from our readers, so that I can improve the Magazine further, and make any changes to reflect feedback. I would greatly appreciate any and all feedback. If you have a couple of minutes to spare, please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

<https://pgj.cc/epmsurvey>

The survey is anonymous, but you can optionally provide your email address if you would like to talk more about the feedback. Thank you in advance!

As usual, the magazine is packed with lots to read. We have an update from the Parish Council on the progress of the Village Hall; news on the Cricket Club's Silver Jubilee celebrations; as well as lots more including a very interesting article by Adam on the history of the lavatory. There is also information on upcoming ESS events, as well as other community events taking place in and around Ermington. Plus loads more...

Thanks for reading!

*George*



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*Alastair Sawday's 'Special Places'*

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# Community Notices

## Free First Aid courses for people aged 60+ by British Red Cross

The British Red Cross is offering free first aid courses to groups in this area. The skills taught are how to deal with bleeding, broken bones, head injury, strains, unresponsive and breathing, unresponsive and not breathing, and use of a defibrillator. The courses are specifically designed by the Red Cross to be easy to learn and easy to remember. They teach the first steps that make such a difference in an emergency situation.

To qualify, groups must have an average age of 60 plus. There must be at least 6 (six) participants and a suitable room.

If you are interested in booking one of these courses or finding out more about them, please email Tracey Knight at [traceyknight@redcross.org.uk](mailto:traceyknight@redcross.org.uk).

## First & Last Bistro Lunch Club

A new monthly lunch club for local older people. Join us on the last Thursday of every month to meet new people and enjoy a two course lunch for only £10. The menu is available on our website and take-away lunches are also available. This is being run in partnership with Age UK.

To book, call the First & Last Bistro on [01548 830671](tel:01548830671), or visit [ageukdevon.co.uk](http://ageukdevon.co.uk) for more information.

The menu for the coming year is available on page 16.

## Magazine Submissions

We're always looking for new things to print in our magazine! If you would like to public something in the magazine—whether it be a story, interesting article, local news, a picture, or an open letter to the community—please don't hesitate to send your submissions to the editor.

The email address to send to is [george.parishmag@gmail.com](mailto:george.parishmag@gmail.com). However, the entire editorial team's contact details are on the inside back cover.



Did you know?

There is a Parish website: [ermingtonparish.com](http://ermingtonparish.com)

Find Council documents, read the Parish Magazine, see upcoming events, ...



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# Pass The Pancakes, Sergeant

In January 1995, at one day's notice, I was sent to Bosnia as an 'interpreter'. I put that in inverted commas as when I got there, I found that there was precious little interpreting to do, so I amused myself in other ways.

They say that Columbus set off from Europe with no idea where he was going, and when he got there he didn't know where he was. Exactly like McClure's deployment to Bosnia. I eventually ended up in a godforsaken place called Gornji Vakuf, in the middle of Bosnia, which had been comprehensively ethnically-cleansed by both Croats and Muslims. Seeing the pictures on the television recently of Mosul and other towns in Iraq and Syria has really brought it home to me: hardly a building standing, roads almost impassable, a few shops trying to continue trading etc.

After a month or two in GV, as it was affectionately called, and having *actually* done some interpreting, I was sent to an equally godforsaken place called Banja Luka, in the Serb-held part of Bosnia, or Republika Srpska. Getting there was a seven-day camel ride: a long drive in a Land Rover with a charming but rather naïve Green Jackets captain for whom I was to work, and a talkative and slightly mad Royal Marines sergeant who was to be our communications man. Although not far as the crow (or helicopter) flies, it was impossible to travel by air as it was deemed too dangerous. So we did a huge detour over the mountains and back into Croatia, crossing the border via Zagreb.

We were billeted not at the military base (it hadn't been commandeered by NATO at that point) but in a run-down hotel north of BL in a former resort called Laktaši. The hotel provided breakfast but no other meals. We had to live off the land so to speak, and found reasonably good places to eat, which provided plentiful supplies of meat, but hardly any vegetables. They also served excellent pancakes.

We could obviously claim for the cost of our meals but the administration in Gornji Vakuf did not allow us to claim for any alcoholic beverages. Since our expenses were controlled by a rather dense Royal Marine acting major, who spoke not a word of the local language, this was not a problem. We soon discovered a restaurant which specialised in excellent pancakes, which we consumed in vast quantities; Major R never twigged that each of us had a steak and twenty four pancakes every night: for beer, read pancake. 'Three more of your excellent pancakes, waiter' was the cry, at which he would grin broadly and bring us yet another round of foaming Banja Luka beer...

by **Ian McClure**



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## Ermington Sustainable Saturdays

*are putting on other activities. Come and join in the fun*

<p>Wednesday 18th April</p>		<p><i>Talk &amp; AGM</i></p>	<p><i>Talk to be confirmed</i></p>
<p>16th June</p>		<p><i>Strawberry fair.</i></p>	<p><i>All things strawberry. In aid of Breast Cancer care</i></p>
<p>21st April</p>		<p><i>Young Entrepreneurs ESS</i></p>	<p><i>Children &amp; young people run their own ESS.</i></p>
<p>28th July</p>		<p><i>flower and Produce show</i></p>	<p><i>The annual parade of longest, fattest, wonkiest Vegetables, flowers and craft.</i></p>
<p>20th October</p>		<p><i>Pumpkin Festival</i></p>	<p><i>Carve your own pumpkin. Sample different pumpkin delicacies.</i></p>
<p>24th November</p>		<p><i>Lantern Making workshop for all</i></p>	<p><i>Make your own lantern for the lantern parade</i></p> 
<p>1st December</p>		<p><i>Light switching on Twilight Christmas Fair &amp; Lantern parade</i></p>	<p><i>In conjunction with the Village fund, who will switch on the lights, we will have a lantern parade and twilight Christmas fayre.</i></p>



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# Birding Corner by John Bower

I'll come to the Blackcap shortly, but in the last edition I wrote about migrant thrushes, in particular the Redwing and the Fieldfare. I had only seen a few in the fields around Flete until the other Sunday when my wife and I took advantage of a beautiful sunny day to walk our dog, Harry, on the Moor. We chose the area around Wrangaton Golf Course and were delighted to find the course closed as it was waterlogged, meaning we could walk at will around the moorland section of the course. Imagine our delight when we found a flock of these thrushes on the fairways and greens in full view in the sun. There were over a hundred of them altogether and very surprisingly to me, the Fieldfares outnumbered Redwings about 3:1. What a beautiful sight they were, busily feeding on the ground there.



Well, the same day, on returning home having lunch, a female Blackcap flew onto our peanut feeder! I had read that these small warblers were now overwintering more often and coming to feeders but had never seen one on our feeders before. She visited the feeder several times that afternoon and what a lovely little bird she was with her brown cap as distinct to the male's black cap.

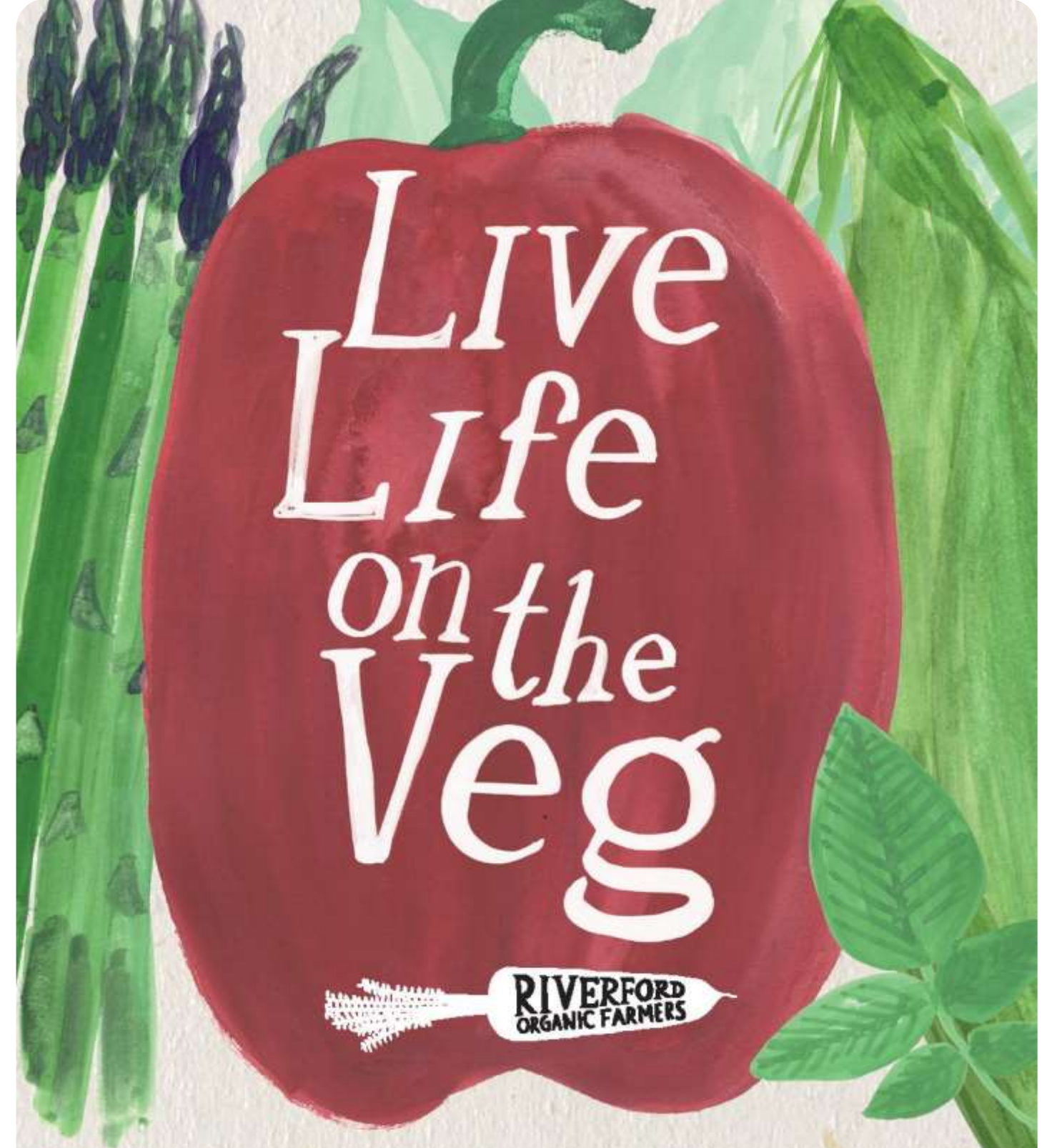
In woodland settings the Blackcap is a fairly common warbler and is increasing in numbers in the UK, having undergone a shift in migratory behaviour over the past 25 years. They are a lively species, a bit smaller than a Chaffinch, with an air of elegance, and a plumage of simple muted colour. Both sexes are predominantly grey in colour, but are distinguished by the colour of their caps: males are easily identified by their striking black caps, while females, as ours was, are differentiated by their chestnut brown caps.

According to the RSPB there are approximately 1,200,000 breeding pairs in the UK. Interestingly Blackcaps are avid eaters of mistletoe berries, and this apparently accounts for the spread of mistletoe throughout the UK. When Blackcaps eat these berries, the seeds get separated from the sticky fruit, and are wiped on the branch, leading to the rapid spread of seeds, and ultimately the proliferation of mistletoe.

In the garden, Blackcaps take to a variety of different foods; in a study conducted by the BTO, they like fat-based foods such as suet fats (fat balls etc.), sunflower seeds as well as a variety of seed mixes. What is interesting is that the recent uptake of feeders in the garden seems to have had this startling impact on the migratory behaviour of Blackcaps.

The Blackcap is a renowned songster, famous for its warm, musical fluting notes; so much so, in fact, that it is often called the "lesser nightingale" because of its attractive song. This song, which can last up to around two-and-a-half minutes, is given in bursts of thirty seconds, and terminates in a crescendo at the end of each burst.

So put out a variety of feeders with fat balls, peanuts and various seeds and I hope you will also welcome this little warbler to your garden.



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# Allotments in Ermington

Nurturing tiny seeds until they become healthy plump and tasty vegetables is good for the body and soul, and Allotments have been provided in many towns and villages since Victorian times to provide a healthy diet and lifestyle for workers no longer employed on the land.

Their appeal & benefits are perhaps even more relevant today when so few of us spend our days outdoors. They provide exercise without having to go to a gym, and you get to eat healthy fruit and vegetables free from nasty chemicals and pesticides.

The Friends of Ermington Park passed on the requests made by several residents for allotments to be provided to Ermington Parish Council and they have asked us to lead a project to ascertain if there are sufficient numbers to warrant the Parish Council leasing a suitable plot of land.

So if you would like to have a plot, please let us know (please include your name and contact details).

We can be contacted via the following: [friendsofermingtonpark@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofermingtonpark@hotmail.com) or at 8 Erme Park, Ermington, PL21 9LY.

We would also like to hear from any landowners who have suitable sites they would be willing to lease to the Parish Council, or agree a voluntary arrangement covering the use of the land with an Allotment Association.

Any other offers of support or suggestions to help achieve this project would be gratefully received. Happy gardening!

**Denis Onley**



## **Music Event - Saturday 28th April 2018 Rattery Village Hall**

### **Mean Pete - Roger Wells**

Performing will be "Mean Pete" who gave us a great night of 60's and 70's rock and blues music last April and Rattery's own Roger Wells who many of you know is a top class performer.

Tickets - £10.00 - start 7.30pm.

***All the proceeds will go to The Plymouth and Cornwall Cancer Fund and South Brent Caring.***

If you would like to book tickets please contact Ian Samuel telephone 01364 643741 or email [Ianandlogsamuel@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Ianandlogsamuel@hotmail.co.uk)

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# Notes from a Garden Apiary by Grant Elliott

*Editor's Note: Due to having no February-March edition this year, this article may be slightly out of date, however we are including it to keep our readers up-to-date. We look forward to the return of 'Notes from a Garden Apiary' in our next edition.*

Now that we are in the winter, there is very little for me to do in the apiary. There is still plenty of fondant in the top of the supers if the bees need it and occasionally I see them go out on foraging flights when it is warm enough for them to sneak through the mouse guards. For me, winter is more of a time for getting up to date with the paperwork. First of all there is my subscription to our branch of Devon Beekeepers Association. As usual, I've also gone for renewing my subscription to Beekeepers Quarterly at the same time, which has some excellent articles in it.

I've also renewed my membership to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. This seems particularly appropriate given that they have their West Country Buzz project on the go, which is of great benefit to us in Devon. Their website shows that their West Country Buzz project works with a variety of stakeholders to support farmers and landowners in Devon to adopt pollinator-friendly farming practices, helping to increase wild pollinators on their farms and across the landscape. The project takes into account arable, pastoral and mixed farming practices. Since the project began in March 2016, West Country Buzz has advised on over 1,600 hectares of land and delivered various farm days and workshops.

This seems to be particularly apt for us in Devon. Our umbrella organisation, Natural Devon, rates only a third of our rivers and SSIs as being in good condition. So there is clearly a strain on our natural environment in Devon, a strain which will continue to come under more pressure as the population in Devon also continues to grow. So anything we can do improve our remaining natural environment and to ensure that the benefits we obtain from our natural environment are properly valued has to be a good thing.

Finally, over Christmas I was lucky enough to be given a copy of Dave Goulson's book 'A Sting in the Tale' by my sister. Coincidentally, Dave Goulson is also the founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. His book tells the story of the disappearance of the bumblebees as being a woeful one. At the same time Goulson's good humour and high spirits and his work in conservation and repopulation give us hope for the future. So overall, the book brings a positive message for the New Year to begin with - we all like one of those. Happy New Year Everyone.

# THE FIRST & LAST BISTRO

## Lunch Club 2018 Dates & Menu

(2 Courses £10.00)

29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – Beef Stew & Dumplings with creamy mash and cabbage

26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Chicken Supreme with Rice or mashed potato and seasonal vegetables

24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Battered Fish & Chips with garden or mushy peas

28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Bangers & Mash with fried onions and gravy

26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 - Quiche Lorraine with fresh salad and chips or new potatoes

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 – F&L Summer Barbeque feast

27<sup>th</sup> September 2018– Cottage Pie with seasonal vegetables

25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Roast Pork with roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetables

29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Stuffed Chicken Roll wrapped in bacon with creamy mash and seasonal vegetables

December – XMAS Lunch option – 3 courses for £14.95. Date to be confirmed.

*A selection of dessert options will be available after each main course.*

**Children's portions are available on request.** (Please note we are currently unable to provide high chairs or baby changing facilities for which we would apologise.)

Please let one of the team know if you have a food allergy or intolerance before placing your order.

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# Ermington Cricket Club

This year the club celebrates its Silver Jubilee, having been founded 25 years ago in 1993. Various events are planned, including a Silver Jubilee Dinner to be held at the First and Last Bistro in Ermington on Saturday 12th May. The following is an extract from a letter from our Chair, Keith Waters, sent out to members and others associated with the club over the years. As we haven't been able to contact everyone who has been a member or associated with the club in the past, if you fall into that category and would like to attend, please contact Keith ([keithbfk@btinternet.com](mailto:keithbfk@btinternet.com)), to reserve a place or places for you and your partner.



“As you are presently or have been previously associated with the club, we would like to invite you to join us. The price per person for a 3 course set menu with 3 choices will be £24.50 or £49 per couple. Some wine will also be supplied by the club. To be sure of your place, please reply to Keith Waters as soon as possible. A deposit of £10 per person is required as we will need to confirm the number of diners with the restaurant well in advance of the date. We will have exclusive use provided there are at least 25 diners. The Bistro is under new ownership and has recently had a makeover. By common consent, the cuisine is very good. Part is also a wine bar where members and former members will be able to mix before the dinner and reminisce about the good old days and past exploits!”

Despite not being able to play our home games on Ermington Playing Field last season, owing to the unexpected loss of our groundsman, the club nonetheless enjoyed a full weekday evening fixture list, with most “home” games being played on neutral or our opponents’ grounds. This will remain the case for the coming season but the club fully intends to return to playing cricket in the idyllic setting that we have been so fortunate to enjoy these past years, as soon as it can.

New members are always welcome, whether residing inside or outside the parish. Non-members can play up to 2 games per season on a temporary membership basis and full members can opt to play as many or as few times as they wish. So if you are not sure, why not give it a try?

**Peter Harker,**

Honorary Secretary

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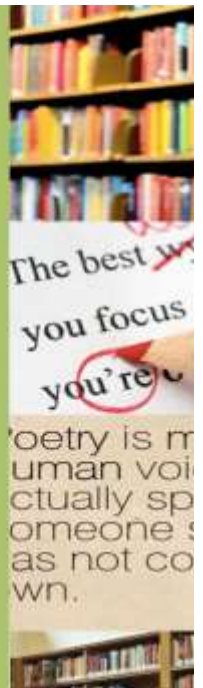
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# Argyle Update by Rodger Reid

## Terrific Run Sees Argyle Storm Into The Playoffs



A remarkable transition has occurred which has seen Plymouth Argyle rise from bottom of the league at the beginning of December to sixth place and thus into a playoff position as we speak at the start of March.

The winning run began in early December and continued with a hard fought win over Gillingham at Home Park (2—1) and a very good draw away to Rotherham (1—1). Argyle were denied a win by an injury time equaliser but made up for it with an emphatic home win over Oldham Athletic (4—1). The next game was away to Milton Keane Dons. Cheered on by nearly 1000 fans a rare goal from full back Gary Sawyer saw the Greens victorious (1—0).

The next game, wedged between Christmas and New Year, meant a long trek again for team and supporters all the way up to Blackpool. Argyle went into a 2-goal lead but were harshly denied the win by another injury time goal and a final score of 2—2. It is interesting to note that over 500 fans made the journey at a very busy time of year, what great support. Back at Home Park the next game saw the visit of Walsall. In a close encounter Argyle fashioned another victory by the only goal of the game. This was followed by another home match, this time the visitors were bottom club Bury. They played with energy and enthusiasm and included 3 new recruits, one of which was their goalkeeper who made some outstanding saves and helped keep the score line down but Argyle still ran out 3—0 winners.

The next game was the away trip to Yorkshire to face Doncaster Rovers, who were promoted along with Argyle last season. It was a close encounter which saw the Greens come from behind to grind out a 1—1 draw. Argyle's goal was scored by central defender Ryan Edwards, heading in at the far post. Once again the support was brilliant with over 600 fans making the long trip north.

So, after a long and exhausting set of games over Christmas and January the Greens were in good shape going into a really tough set of fixtures against many of the top teams in the league. The first of those was at home against Wigan. The score line shows that the Greens were soundly beaten 3—1 but this was a game that showed Argyle could mix it with teams expected to gain promotion at the end of the season. The game was much closer than the score suggests.

So it was to prove!! The next 6 fixtures, 3 at home and 3 away, were all won. It started with a 2—1 win away at Oldham Athletic, followed by a really good victory against second placed Blackburn Rovers 2—0. Away to top team, at the time, Shrewsbury Town resulted in victory 2—1 with nearly 1000 supporters cheering the team on. Back to Home Park and a game that seemed to have everything resulted in a 4—2 victory. Next it was away to Oxford United and a far post header from Sonny Bradley saw the team through 1—0. Good to note that over 1800 fans made the journey. The team then travelled to Bradford and secured a 1—0 victory which saw them climb into the playoff positions.

Add to this the fact that manager Derek Adams has been awarded Manager of the month and things are looking pretty good for The Pilgrims. Long may it continue.

**COME ON YOU GREENS!!!**

# Gransmore War Memorial Clock Project

We have received an incredibly generous response to our appeal to restore the face of the Church clock and are delighted to report that **we have now raised almost £9000**. We have received a number of generous grants – from Ermington Parish Council, South Hams District Council, Devon County Council and The Allchurches Trust as well as from Ermington Village Fund; in addition Devon Rural Archive arranged a very successful tour of Shilstone which gave a big boost to our funds and the tours of the Pinwill carvings in the Church were exceptionally successful. We also did very well at our stall at the Twilight Fair and benefitted from a very successful “gig” in the Crooked Spire on New Year’s Eve.

The Parochial Church Council has now received the Faculty from the Diocese of Exeter and we are therefore able to go ahead with the clock face restoration, which we hope will be carried out within the next two months. As soon as we have a date we will let people know as we think it will be fascinating to watch - the workmen will abseil down from the spire, lower the clock mechanism down the outside of the tower and carry out the restoration work on the clock face virtually hanging in mid air!

*We have now re-named ourselves the GRANSMORE WAR MEMORIAL CLOCK PROJECT and emboldened by our successful fund raising to date have increased our target to £14,000 - to enable us to install an automatic winding device and pendulum regulator in the clock.*

Smith of Derby, who installed the original clock nearly 100 years ago (and who will be carrying out the restoration of the clock face), have fitted automatic winding devices to numerous clocks in the UK including Windsor Castle, Westminster Abbey and St Paul’s Cathedral and it will be of immense benefit to the village if we are able to install such a device in Ermington Church. At the present time the clock has to be manually wound twice a week; this involves someone climbing the ladder inside the tower and winding up three sets of extremely heavy weights – one for the clock, another for the Westminster chimes and a third for the striking of the hour. The installation of an AWD will ensure that the hours and quarters chime without manual intervention but will maintain the heritage of this historic clock. Also, at the present time the clock has to be manually corrected on a regular basis to compensate for fluctuations which occur as a result of temperature and humidity changes; the installation of a pendulum regulator will monitor the timekeeping, compare this to the actual time and adjust the timing accordingly, thus ensuring that the clock always maintains the correct time.

We have several new fund raising initiatives in the pipeline including more tours of the Pinwill carvings in the Church on 14th April, a Silent Auction, private tours of Flete House and Gardens, and – at the kind invitation of Paul and Marilyn Fletcher - an Edwardian Garden Party in the grounds of Thornham (where the Gransmore family lived) on the afternoon of Sunday, 15th July. Ermington Village Fund will be working with us on this event and we hope that several descendants of Captain Rodney Gransmore will be able to join us during the afternoon.

One of the original reasons for the restoration of the clock face was to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and we are delighted that the work will be completed well in advance of November 2018 when the whole nation will commemorate the centenary of the Armistice and the end of the Great War.

# WHO CARES IN THE SOUTH HAMS?



19 April 2018 | Kingsbridge Library | 10am - 2.30pm | Free lunch buffet

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To help meet the needs of people who wish to be cared for in their own homes and stay within their community, the NHS and other health and social care providers for Kingsbridge and South Hams need to increase the number of paid carers and grow compassionate networks in the area.

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- Could you be a Compassionate Neighbour, doing the little things that can make a big difference, such as shopping or making a meal for a neighbour?
- Are you a voluntary group that could be part of setting up compassionate networks in Kingsbridge and the South Hams?

## Come and join us to find out how and share your ideas

This is a free event but booking is essential. Call us today on 01752 964250 to book your place.

Free training will be provided

# Parish Council

I wrote at some length in the November and December 2017 issues of the Parish Magazine about our proposal for a new village hall. My article in the November edition provided an analysis of the results of a consultation with parishioners held between the end of July and September. The consultation was organised by Ermington Village Hall Working Group and involved a mini roving exhibition where parishioners and others were able to look at drawings, costings, project viability, potential funding sources as well as the possible impact on the parish council element of your Council Tax.

The results of the consultation were positive and after consideration of these and all the data provided by the Working Group the Parish Council decided at its meeting on 3rd October 2017 to accept the Group's recommendation to proceed with a full planning application.

The Parish Council meeting in January this year received a petition and statement from a "Friends of Ermington Park" group. The petition and statement (the latter was read to the meeting by a parishioner) made a number of points in support of why it was felt that the Parish Council should not proceed with a planning application. Other parishioners present added their own concerns on the project. I was able to set out a brief history of the project and work completed including a summary of all the consultations that had taken place. I explained that the Parish Council would consider the statement as well as the petition and respond in due course. There has since been articles published by objectors which make statements and bold assumptions that leave us with a degree of unease.

In the meantime the Parish Council has been considering how best to address the points set out in the petition and statement. We want to deal with these in a constructive way and have organized an open day where petitioners, parishioners and other interested parties can view plans and other relevant material. Most importantly those attending will have the opportunity to talk face to face with councillors and working group members enabling us to listen to and address any concerns raised. It also provides an opportunity for us to receive comments and suggestions on improving the project. We will do this before we proceed to planning.

The open day will take place on Sunday 29 April from 10am until 4pm in the Ermington Pre-School Building. Details are in the flyer enclosed with this magazine.

**Cllr John Kerslake**

Chairman, Ermington Parish Council



## Yealm Rouleurs Cycling Group

Growing local cycling group has spaces for new riders. Have you ever wanted to ride in a group and improve your fitness and bike skills? The Yealm Rouleurs are a social bike group with about 20 members. We are 10 years old and is looking for new members, male and female.

### **Cycling in the South Hams**

We ride every Saturday morning for 30-60 miles with a coffee and cake stop en route. Typical rides are around the South Hams, on Dartmoor and into Cornwall. The average speed is 14—15 mph. Members need a good working road bike to take part. There are no fees or formality, it is just casual and hopefully fun.

### **Saturday rides**

We meet every Saturday, outside the Yealmpton post office at 0800, then ride to Ermington and meet other riders in the Ermington school car park at 0820 then set off on the ride.

### **Taster sessions**

We also run taster sessions once a month on the 2nd Tuesday night and 2nd Saturday morning of the month for those that are unsure about group riding and want to try it out. You can just turn up or contact via Facebook if you have questions.

Tuesday, 19:30 at Yealmpton Post Office for a coastal loop, then to the Rose and Crown for a drink.

10th April and 16th May

Saturday, 08:00 at Yealmpton Post Office and 08:20 at Ermington Primary School, different rides each time with coffee stop.

14th April and 11th May

### **Routes and information**

All routes are published on our Facebook page a few days in advance [fb.me/yealmrouleurs](https://fb.me/yealmrouleurs).

# Hugh Bird

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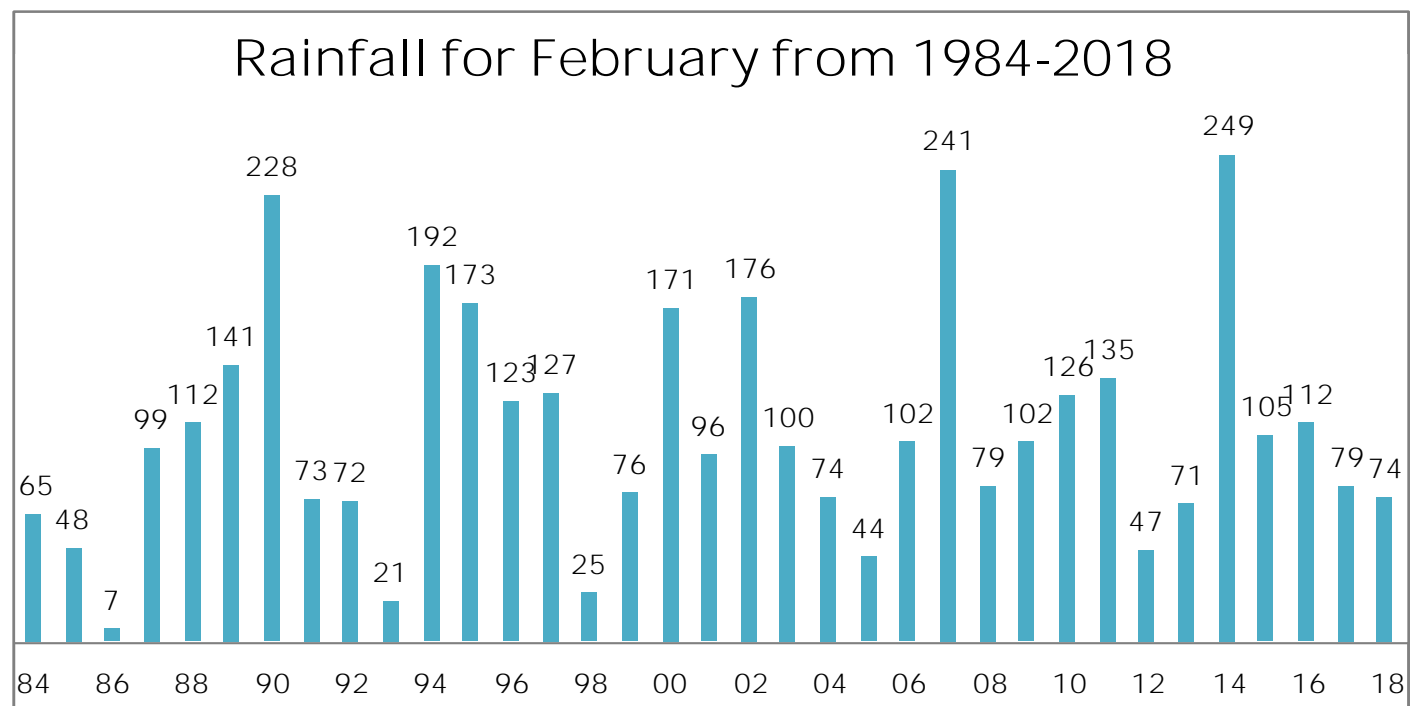
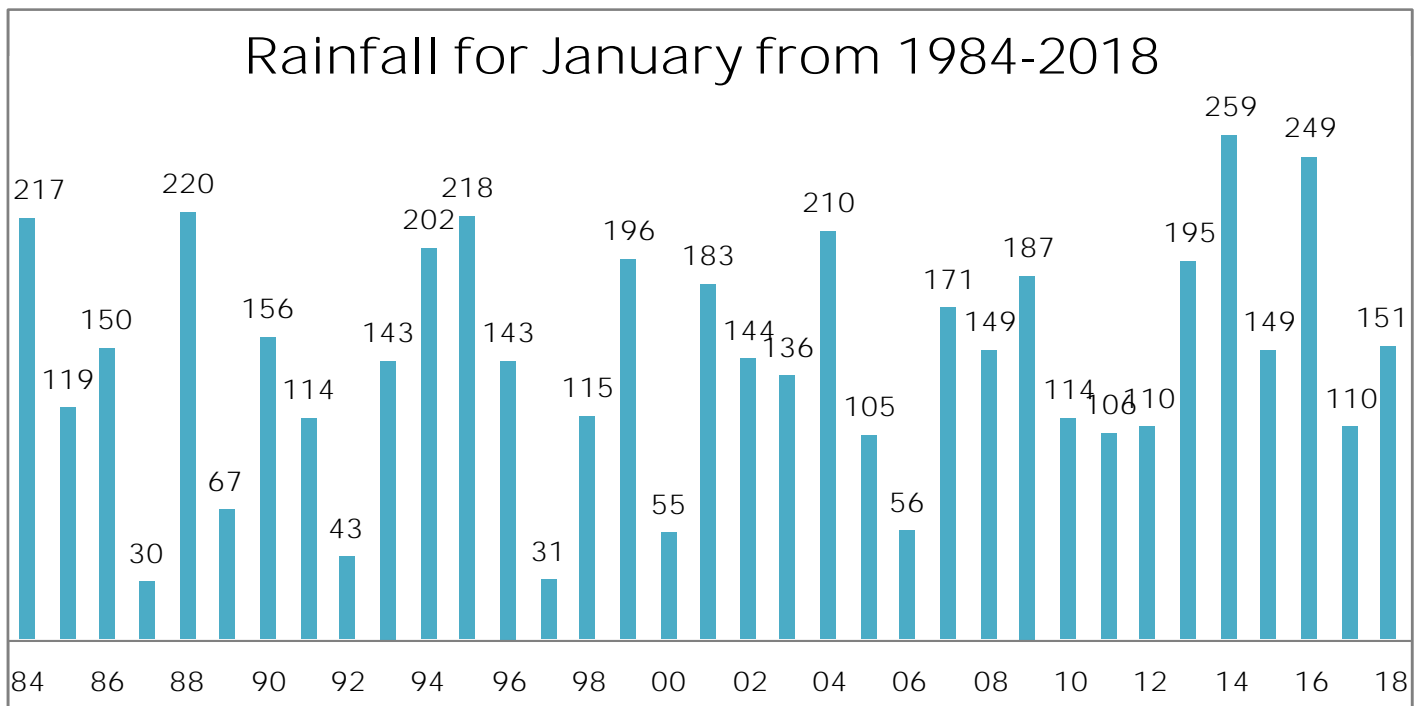




# Rainfall Records with Frances Bromfield

## Summary of Records.

Although the total rainfall of 151mm for January 2018 was only slightly over the January average, there were only two dry days in the month so the ground was still very wet. In February 2018, 74mm of rain was recorded in the first 19 days, followed by a dry week before the 'Beast from the East' arrived on the scene!





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old friends and new.*



# Ancient Lavatories by Adam Hart-Davis



Last week I give a talk to the U3A in Dartmouth about toilets and history, which has been a favourite topic of mine ever since the first series of my TV programme Local Heroes. One of the people we included then was Thomas Crapper, a Yorkshire lad who was born at Thorn, near Doncaster, in 1836, the year before Victorian came to the throne. As a teenager he walked to London, got himself apprenticed to a plumber, and started his own business in 1861.

He did well, and installed all the plumbing at Sandringham when the place was refurbished in the 1880s; so he must have been responsible for many a royal flush, not to mention a royal wee. Thomas Crapper & Co still exists today, run by my friend Simon Kirby, at Stratford-on-Avon: we have one of his magnificent high-flush suites.

Sadly, Crapper did not invent the loo, or the flushing loo; he came along too late to invent anything important. He did take out patents for new methods of connecting house drains, but the important innovations had been made in the early 1850s by the flamboyant Josiah George Jennings, the man who installed the public toilets in the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851. They too were a great success: 827,000 people chose to use his cubicles and spend a penny, which is probably where the expression comes from.



The firm Thomas Crapper & Co has no doubt been assisted by his splendid name, even though that is just luck. The word "crap," meaning sewage, was in use in 1845, when Thomas was only nine years old, and 16 years before he started trading under the name.

There was so much interest in this item that Sue persuaded me to write a book on the toilet, and as a result I did some research, and learned a whole lot more.

The history of toilets must be almost as long as the history of the human race, since people have always had to go somewhere. The oldest known toilet in the world is in

the stone-age village of Skara Brae, on the west coast of the mainland of Orkney. A Victorian storm ripped all the turf off the sand dunes, exposing nine small houses, each of which had a fireplace in the middle, a bed on either side, and in the corner a little cubicle with a hole in the floor, and a drain connecting with drains from the other houses and leading down to the sea. This elegant en-suite loo is 5000 years old.

When the Romans invaded Britain in AD43 they brought elephants, superior weapons, and flushing toilets. There are remains of Roman toilets all around the Mediterranean, with particularly fine ones at Ephesus, I believe, but also a good example at Housesteads Fort in the middle of Hadrian's wall, the northern frontier of the Roman Empire.

I imagine that the squaddies who manned the fort would have trooped to the loo after breakfast and sat around, side by side – Roman public lavatories had no partitions – swapping gossip and rude jokes. All the sewage fell into a deep trench, from where a stream of water carried it out through a hole in the wall of the fort and into the civilian settlement outside.

The Latin word for sewer was cloaca, and the Romans allegedly used to say a prayer to Cloacina, the goddess of the toilet:

*O Cloacina, Goddess of this place*

*Look on thy servant with a smiling face.*

*Smooth and cohesive let my offering flow –*

*Not rudely swift, nor obstinately slow.*



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# Letter from a Reader

*If you want to reply to this letter, you can do so by emailing the Editor at [george.parishmag@gmail.com](mailto:george.parishmag@gmail.com). Your reply can be anonymous, but in order to print, we do require you include your name in the original email.*

I do not think that many Villagers will know the 'state of play' regarding the public open space between 'Spires' and Erme - and I have some concerns for wildlife dependent upon it.

Ermington Parish Council (EPC) has yet to decide on whether and on what terms, in addition to the £50k+ Barratt David Wilson (BDW) maintenance contribution, it will accept responsibility for the 'Spires' public open space (POS). Comments made at EPC meetings suggest that EPC might decline to take over the site for the £1 token payment.

I have watched the progress of the 'landscaping' over 2016—17 and have been far from impressed.

According to the BDW landscaping contractor, the strip of grass between the bottom road and flood plain was seeded with wildflower meadow grass, requiring a maximum of one mow per year. The regular mowing over the period has kept any such plants suppressed, unable to flower and reseed.

The landscaping operation was carried out in a crude manner using heavy machinery and herbicide spray around newly planted shrubs and trees which did more harm than good. Had they not been stopped, the damage to wildlife habitat would have been irreversible.

The playing field is losing all its relatively young horse chestnut trees because of loss of bark around the base and, while there was possibly some disease, I have no doubt the main cause of their early demise was the heavy machinery and strimmers used to create a lawn-like surface around them. Power mowers and strimmers are highly detrimental to all wildlife and have no place in the POS - other than the use of hand mowers to maintain the pathways.

Regards,

**Michael Holliday**

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# News from your Parish Church

The Three Rivers Mission Community covers the parishes of Diptford, Ermington, Halwell, Harberton, Harbertonford, Moreleigh, North Huish and Ugborough.

You can find out about everything that's going on across all the parishes at its new website,

[www.threeriversmissioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.threeriversmissioncommunity.org.uk)



Our regular pattern of services are as follows:

- 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 11am - Sung Eucharist
- 2nd Sunday, 11am - Matins
- 4th Sunday - All Age Worship

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# How to Become an Author by JT Scott



## Part 3 – Where will your characters meet?

This is a short series of writing tips which will feature each month and offer tips and advice on how to create a story. Part 3 covers how to come up with ideas for creating memorable locations. I

f you are writing a romance story, your characters might meet on the train, or at work. For a horror story, you might choose the location to be a graveyard or a deserted house. As the writer, you can choose whether the location is real or imaginary.

When writing the Sammy Rambles books, I used several locations for my characters to meet and interact in the plot. I needed somewhere to introduce the reader to Sammy Rambles and his friends. Then I needed somewhere for them to go to school, somewhere for them to live and somewhere for the action to take place. I knew I wanted the events in my plot to take place in a castle and so I drew on my own experiences of visiting English Heritage castles and National Trust stately homes for inspiration. I could have used a desert island as the location for the Sammy Rambles story, but it wouldn't have been the same.

These are some ideas for choosing the location for your story:

- Is your location real? Is it in the UK? Abroad? On Earth? Or, is it somewhere imaginary?
- Is it somewhere rural or urban? A village, town, city? Why? What difference does it make?
- Does your story take place in-land, on an island, on a river, a lake or at sea?
- Do your characters meet on a train? A plane? A boat?
- Is your location somewhere for your characters to live? A cottage, a house, a castle?
- If it is a workplace, is it an office or a shop, perhaps a butcher, bakery, café or restaurant?

Lots of stories use multiple locations and these depend on the characters you have created and what they are doing in your plot. In my books, Sammy Rambles goes from his home to the school which is located in a castle, but not everyone can see the castle. He visits his friend's house which is on a sheep farm that I invented and there is also the school trip to the fictional Floating Circus.

When writing your story, it is inevitable that the location will evolve and your characters will move from place to place. It can be helpful to draw a map on paper with the names of your locations and use nametags and arrows to show which characters are in which location at a particular point in your story.

*JT Scott is the author of Sammy Rambles, a series of books about a boy and his dragon. Learn more at [www.sammyrambles.com](http://www.sammyrambles.com).*

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# About the Magazine

The deadline for the June/July 2018 edition is:  
Wednesday, 16th May

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*Send articles in Word format to the Editor...*

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Please Note: Authors and submitters may ask the editors to withhold their name, but anonymous submissions will not be published in the Magazine.

.....

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The Ermington Parish Magazine is delivered door-to-door and online six times per year to over 400 homes across Ermington Parish. You can advertise your business in the Ermington Parish Magazine in a number of ways:

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Please contact Rob Rees if you wish to advertise in the magazine. All advert costs are for 1 year (six editions). A5 Insert costs are per edition. Please enquire if you would like a one-off advert. Please make cheques payable to: *Ermington Parish Magazine*.

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