

November 2018



ERMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish Diary

Sustainable Saturdays <i>Lantern Making Workshop</i> <i>Twilight Christmas Fayre and Lantern Parade</i>	Fortnightly 10th November 24th November 1st December	Reading Rooms 10am—12pm
Parish Council Meetings	Monthly—1st Tuesday 6th November 4th December	Reading Rooms 7.30pm—9.30pm
Crooked Tempo Samba Practice	Every Thursday	Church 7.30pm—9.30pm
Ermington Tots	Every Friday	Reading Rooms 10am—12pm
Crooked Spire Open Mic	Monthly—2nd Friday 9th November 14th December	Crooked Spire 9pm
First & Last Lunch Club	Monthly—Last Thursday 29th November	First & Last Bistro 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

Remembrance Service	Sunday 11th November	War Memorial (followed by the Church) 10:55am
Great Ermington Team IQ Test (page 7)	Saturday 17th November	First & Last Bistro 7:30pm for 8pm start
Christmas Lights Switch-on and Lantern Parade	Saturday 1st December	The Square

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

From the Editor...

Hello again,

It's been quite a while since the last magazine - just over 4 months in fact! Now we're back, just in time for the start of the cold and dark days of winter. It's already icy in places, and frost is out most mornings where I am. The evenings are much darker thanks to the clocks turning back, which has thrown me off - it feels much later than it really is. When's too early to get in to bed?

I'm back at university now after an incredibly long summer break, and while it's good to get back in to the swing of things, I can think of a million other places I'd rather be than working on a dissertation. Almost over soon though, as I graduate in July next year. Then it's straight in to work if all goes to plan.

On another note, I came across this photo of the River Erme while looking for a cover for this month's edition. While I couldn't make it work, I still wanted to showcase it. Credit goes to Jamie Quinn of Plymouth.



This edition is packed full of interesting reads and the latest news from the Parish. Take a look at the work of local artist Ed Hill and his

'Spoonbirds' on page 20, or get outside and take a stroll with the latest addition to our Ermington Walks collection on page 14. There's also updates from the Gransmore War Memorial Clock Project and from the Friends of Ermington Park. And, as we get the temperatures drop, be sure to follow the latest health advice and guidance from the NHS and others. More information can be found throughout the magazine.

To close, I have some exciting news on the editorial front. While it's too early to share the details, there is somebody very much interested in taking the helm as Editor and continuing the magazine. More on that in the next edition...

In the meantime, thanks for reading!

George

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Community Notices

Polymer Clay Jewellery Workshop

I'm organising a Polymer Clay jewellery workshop on November 10th at Hemerdon Village Hall. It's being run by Jo Hunter from Westcountry Creative in Lifton. She's a fabulous tutor and I can promise a thoroughly enjoyable day. The workshop is 10am-4pm and costs £62 to include all materials. You will take home a lovely necklace and earrings. It will be a class of a maximum of 10 people. Let me know if you'd like to reserve a place. westcountrycreative.co.uk. — **Kathy George**

New Editor

We're looking for a new Editor to take over from the end of 2018. If you are interested in taking on this role, then please get in touch with me by email at george.parishmag@gmail.com.

What makes a good editor? Anybody with the passion and drive to publish the magazine on time and with a good mix of articles and relevant adverts. If you think you have what it takes, please get in contact!

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. If you would like a long-form article written about you or an event, it's probably best to reach out to John Bower or Adam Hart-Davis instead, who's contact details are on the inside back cover.

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Did you know?

There is a Parish website: ermingtonparish.com

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



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If you are over 65 you can also register with Western Power Distribution Priority Services, which means you could get more help in a power cut.

If you'd like to chat to one of our energy advisors, please call, email or visit our website. We hold regular drop-in sessions across the South Hams and also have funding for home visits, and to give talks to community groups.

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Birding Corner by John Bower

Editor's Note: This article was originally intended for the September-October edition. Any dates or events may have already passed.

September is still the time of year when many of us are off to the coast, whether it be the beaches or the rocky cliff walks of the South West Coastal Path, so for a change I thought I would write about the birds we are likely to see. In addition to resident sea and coastal birds, this time of year begins a lot of migration activity around the coast so it's worth keeping an eye out for unusual species.

On a coastal walk, on the gorse bushes and the like, the most likely bird to spot is the Stonechat. These are small confident birds that perch prominently on the top twigs of bushes and really like showing themselves off. The male is very brightly coloured with a black head, white collar and a chestnut breast whereas the female is similar but much duller. Their name comes from their alarm call which sounds like two stones being rubbed together. If you are lucky you may see Yellowhammers – bright yellow birds somewhat larger than Stonechats, and again the male is much brighter. On a recent walk around the headland at Noss Mayo I saw a pair of Cirl Buntings, a smaller rarer relative of the Yellowhammer, paler with distinctive head markings.

On the shore and over the sea, the commonest gull is the Herring Gull; large and white with pale grey wings which have black at the tips and another small white patch beyond this on the very tip. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are less common and the same size but darker grey wings with the same markings. The Great Black-backed Gull is noticeably larger with dark black wings and a massive bill. These are ferocious predators of other birds such as Shearwaters and Puffins, and eggs and chicks of other gulls. The smallest gulls likely to be seen are Black-headed gulls which in summer have a very distinctive dark brown head, which moults away in winter to just a small ear mark.



Terns are not gulls, and are often referred to as “Sea Swallows” as their wings and tails are of a similar shape – slim pointed wings and forked tails. Arctic Terns and Common Terns are very similar – smallish with bright red beaks and a black crown to the head. The only real difference is the short black tip to the Common Tern's red beak. A larger Tern, the Sandwich Tern, may also be seen, and this is the same shape with a black crown and black

beak. As with many birds, their behaviour is a good identifier, and with Terns it is the flitting-like, delicate wing beat that immediately makes you think Tern.

Don't mistake Fulmars for gulls as they have gull-like wings but are members of the Petrel family and fly with very stiff wings and glide a lot around the cliffs. They are related to Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels which I will cover with other sea birds in the next magazine.

But we must finish with Gannets which are the giants of the “gull-like” birds seen around the British coast and open sea. They are large bright white birds with black wing tips and a yellow tinge to the back of the head. They fly with long stiff wings and feed by spectacularly diving from a great height with wings folded into the sea after fish. A Gannet is 1 metre long and has a wingspan of up to 1.8 metres. I recall an injured one being brought into my veterinary hospital once and it filled a kennel which usually housed a Labrador!

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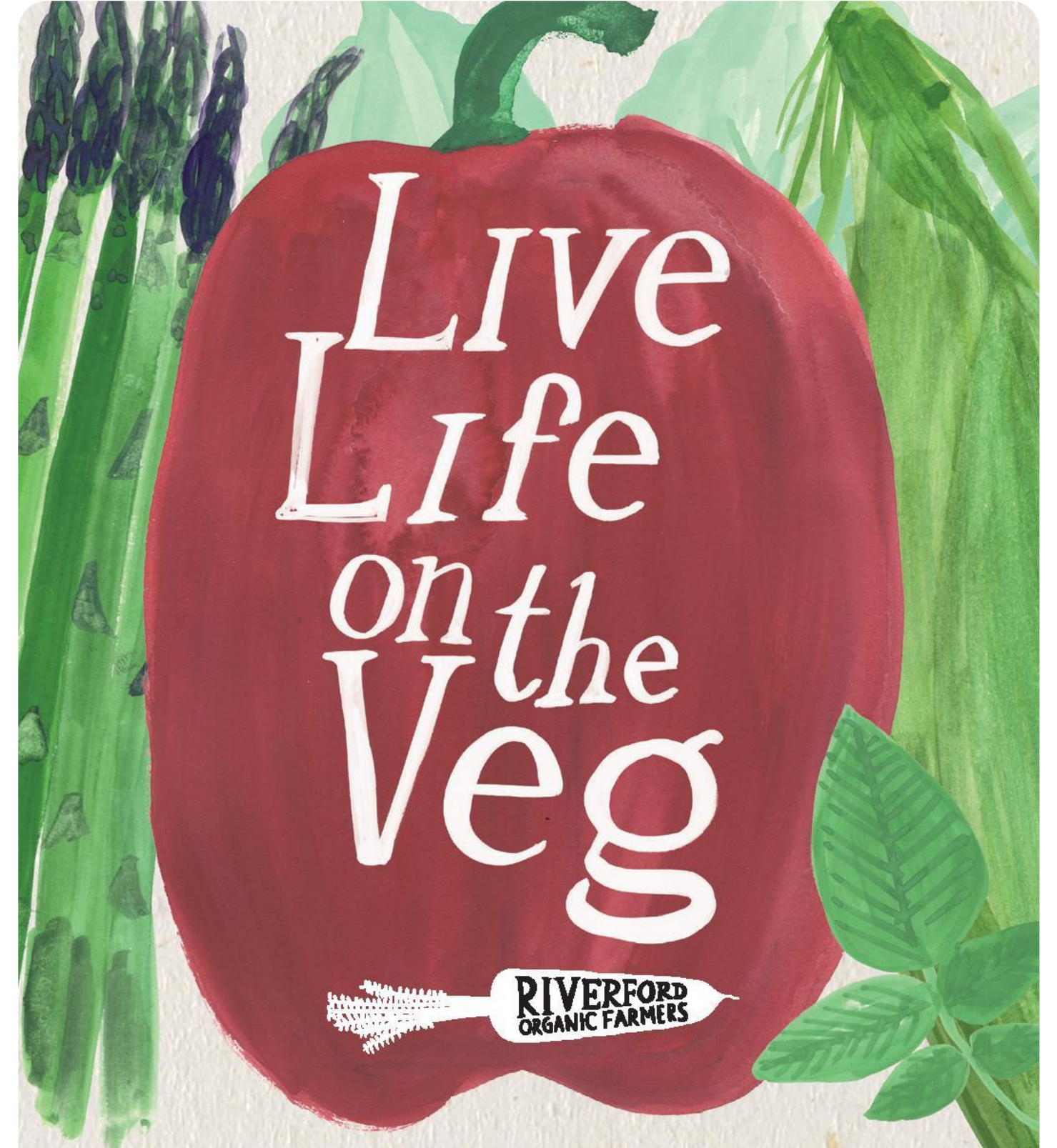
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Ermington Walks by Chris Wood

No. 5 - Westlake to the Yealm



This walk starts in Westlake and heads to the Yealm so pack your passport as we are leaving the Parish! You could of course walk to Westlake if you are starting in the village – that would add an extra hour to the round trip.

From Westlake head north towards Ivybridge passing Tod Moor until you reach West Worthele Farm on the left hand side. Turn into the entrance (footpath sign) and pass between the farmhouse on your left and the extensive farm buildings on your right. Turn right round the end of the buildings (not signposted) and when you reach the far corner turn left (signposted

again) onto a broad track. After five minutes this emerges onto a quiet lane. Keep straight on and when the lane goes right keep straight again down the track towards Coyton Barton Farm. As you stroll down the lane you pass a lone wind turbine on the right and there are views to the Yealm valley ahead. The farm entrance goes off to the right but you carry straight on again. As you approach a field there is a gate on your left into a sunken lane with trees on either side.

This is both the most away from it all and tricky part of the walk. The route is obvious enough but crosses two streams which run even in the driest periods. It is used by cattle and gets badly waterlogged and churned up. The first stream can be crossed on a log, but is mucky either side. The second, smaller, one is by an entrance and very wet but can be bypassed just to the right. Once you have traversed the second stream conditions improve and the lane emerges from the trees into an open field. The footpath goes straight across two fields keeping near the bottom of the slope leading up to a ridge on the left. You then go through a gap in the hedge under a tree and head slightly left and upwards to reach a stile in the top corner of the third field. There are views to the right as you cross all these fields to south Dartmoor, Lee Mill and the prominent tower of Langage Power Station at Plympton. If you want to avoid the wet bits there is an alternate lane route via Oakhill Farm, but it would be a shame to miss such an out of the way corner of the parish.

You emerge from the field over a stile into a lane. Go straight across into a driveway and then immediately right through a pedestrian gate (footpath signed). This takes you on a footpath through somebody's garden, note the old hay waggon, and you emerge onto a lane again and turn left. This is Winsor. You pass the c1500 Winsor Gatehouse and then there is a footpath on the right which goes diagonally left across two open fields and down to the banks of the River Yealm. Go left along the riverbank until you reach a footbridge which you cross.

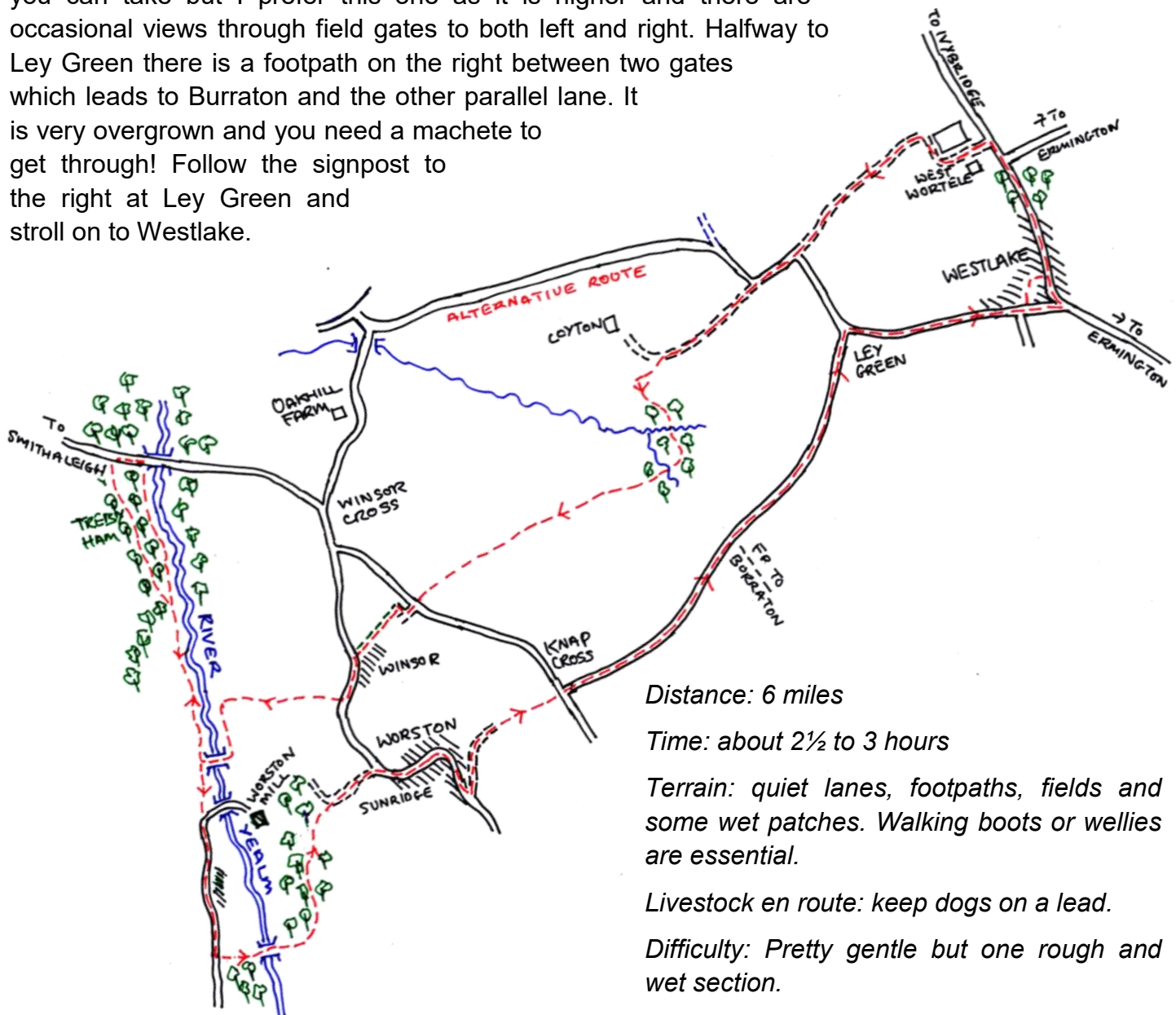


From here the route is eventually to the left but it

would be a shame to miss the route to the right which leads along the Yealm and then through the woodland of Treby Ham. When you reach Lotherton Bridge turn round and return (there are two routes). This is the most scenic part of the walk and not to be missed.

Back at the footbridge you came across carry straight on with the Yealm to your left and emerge onto the driveway to Worston Mill. Carry on this quiet lane, past some houses and then take a left turn back towards the Yealm and another footbridge which you cross.

You now leave the Yealm behind and walk up an old stone bottomed lane which goes steadily uphill and eventually emerges at Sunridge. Go right at the top, pass the Sunridge Nurseries and on through the hamlet of Worston. The main traffic here is free range chickens! As you pass the last house on the right there is a track on the left hand side which initially looks as if it is doubling back the way you came but soon veers off to the right and gets narrower and greener till it becomes a footpath. You emerge at Knap Cross and go straight across and follow the quiet lane all the way back to Westlake via Ley Green. There are actually two lanes you can take but I prefer this one as it is higher and there are occasional views through field gates to both left and right. Halfway to Ley Green there is a footpath on the right between two gates which leads to Burraton and the other parallel lane. It is very overgrown and you need a machete to get through! Follow the signpost to the right at Ley Green and stroll on to Westlake.



Distance: 6 miles

Time: about 2½ to 3 hours

Terrain: quiet lanes, footpaths, fields and some wet patches. Walking boots or wellies are essential.

Livestock en route: keep dogs on a lead.

Difficulty: Pretty gentle but one rough and wet section.

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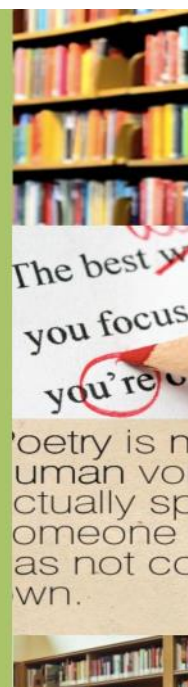
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Village Fund

Editor's Note: This article was originally intended for the September-October edition. Any dates or events may have already passed.

It doesn't seem like two months since the Summer Fair was held on a beautiful sunny day. There were over 400 people through the gates not counting lots of children under five. There was a great atmosphere with people from all around the village getting together to enjoy the day. The new lay out worked well giving more room for people to move around and see what was going on. The day cost around £3,000 to put on so it was good that at the end of the day, after expenses, we made around £1,500 which will go towards the firework night.



As always we have to give a belated thank you to those who helped set up, and take down the gazebo's; and the bar, to Terry for running it, to Kate for the Pimms stall, to the folk who managed the entrances, Belinda and Josie for running the dog show, Ron and Chris for the fun of the Tug-o-war, and Janet for the fancy dress prizes. The day takes a lot of effort to organise so it is rewarding to see so many happy faces. It would not have been such a success without donations, so a big thank you to Erme Valley Motors who sponsored the band Juke Box Fury, to those businesses including Plantation House and the First and Last who donated great prizes for the draw, to SHDC councillor Tom Hollway for his donation, and to the generous £250 donation from the new owner of Kingsacre nursing home - welcome to Ermington. I know I haven't mentioned everyone but your time and efforts are much appreciated. Finally on the point of thanks, what would we do without "BIG Pete." He is tireless in what he does for the village, he never complains, and so much of what he does goes unnoticed, A BIG THANK YOU.

Future event dates include the Fireworks Night on Friday 2nd November, the Quiz Night on Saturday 17th November, and a possible Euchre night at a later date.

Diane Webley

Secretary, Ermington Village Fund

Contact: [01548 830851](tel:01548830851) / dianewebley@yahoo.co.uk

Gransmore War Memorial Clock Project



We are delighted to report that all the work on the clock has now been completed. The numbers and hands are gleaming brightly and the clock is not only keeping perfect time but is also striking the hours, quarters and Westminster chimes correctly – and no longer does anyone have to climb up the tower to wind the mechanism and adjust the timing!

The work took longer than expected but we are immensely grateful to Tim and Paul from Smith of Derby who worked so hard to ensure that everything was completed to the highest possible standards. The actual painting of the clock face and the regilding of the hands and numbers was finished in a couple of days – once the ropes were in place and Tim had climbed up to the clockface – but installing the automatic winding device and pendulum regulator was a

more difficult task, especially as Paul had to work in an extremely cramped space in the tower. However they both did a superb job under difficult circumstances - and also came over very well on television!

Once again a huge thank you to everyone in the community who supported this project so generously. We are hoping that the clock can be formally dedicated by the Revd David Sayle in the early summer of 2019 and at the same time we plan to unveil a plaque to record that the restoration was carried out to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War and that the project was funded by the community. However, the installation of a plaque will require the approval of the PCC and also a Faculty from the Diocese and we are not able to set a date until the Faculty is in place.

Our plans are for the dedication and unveiling of the plaque to be followed by the long-awaited thank you party – for which there will be no charge - and we hope that everyone will come and celebrate the successful completion of this community project. We also hope that Paul and Tim from Smith of Derby as well as some of the people who contributed so much to the Edwardian Garden Party will be able to join us at this very special event. We will of course advise you as soon as we have a firm date.

The clock is a memorial to Captain Rodney Gransmore, who was killed in the First World War and the debt that we owe him and all the other young people who lost their lives in this terrible conflict will be remembered especially this year on Sunday, 11th November 2018 – one hundred years since the Armistice. The service in Ermington will commence at the Village War Memorial at 10.55 am and will then continue in the Church when we and countless other communities throughout the World will commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Gill Hucker and Grant Elliott



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Spoonbirds by Adam Hart-Davis



If you ever go out for the evening you may have come across Ed Hill singing with his guitar; he performs at various pubs and clubs around the South Hams. What you may not know is that he has turned the family garage into a workshop, and there he creates the most amazing sculptures out of old knives, forks, and spoons. He uses other things too, including spanners and barbed wire, but seems to thrive on cutlery, which comes from charity shops or St Luke's warehouse.

At school he enjoyed doing three-dimensional work, and when he saw some metal sculpture at a garden centre, he was impressed by its boldness and uniqueness. His dad worked with cars, and encouraged him to buy an arc welder; he started

making sculptures as a hobby, but began to take it seriously just a year ago, in September 2017.

He soon found that starting with sheet metal was hard work and expensive; that was when he switched to second-hand metal, and especially cutlery. He also switched to a MIG welder (MIG stands for Metal Inert Gas), which is smaller and easier to use – almost like a glue gun, he says.

The first thing he was asked to make was a wren; so he studied photographs and videos of wrens, and made sketches. Now wrens are his favourite subjects. Each one takes about a day to make, although he usually makes half a dozen at once; when I visited I saw a row of wrens' heads waiting for bodies. Developing a new sculpture takes much longer.



What I find extraordinary is his ingenuity; he manages to make old knives, forks, and spoons look as though they are really part of some bird or animal. Almost the only new parts are the ball bearings he uses for eyes. I was particularly impressed by his squirrels; I would never have thought of deliberately using rusty barbed wire in a sculpture.



He spends about three days a week in the workshop, and the rest of the time looking for places to sell his superb creations. He started with Sustainable Saturdays in Ermington, and other village shows, then Christmas fairs. Then came the South Sands Hotel in Salcombe, Saltram, Delamore Arts at Cornwood, and agricultural shows.

His creatures will be at the RHS Rosemoor 'Winter Sculpture Exhibition' at Torrington from 17 November - 17 February, and he is hoping to return to Delamore Arts, Cornwood in May 2019.



Letter from a Parishioner

Editor's Note: This letter was originally intended for the September-October edition. The author was consulted again prior to publication in this edition. You can reply to this letter by emailing the Editor. Anonymous responses will not be considered.

The Friends of Ermington Park response to the Parish Council analysis of the Open Day presented in the last edition of the Parish Magazine is as follows:

The Friends of Ermington Park were present at the open day entrance, and spoke to approximately 100 people. Most of those we spoke to were not happy about the Parish Council proposals and raised numerous objections to the project.

Comments included: the proposed Village Hall is too large, too expensive, not needed, not properly costed, it will be a financial liability, design not in keeping with village, loss of play area space, loss of skate park, not wanting the car park in the park, proposed entrance not safe, loss of wildlife habitat including bat roost and trees which are bat feeding stations, impact on views of the Church spire as a central feature of the village, noise impact on local residents not taken into account, planned charges make it too expensive for local groups to hire, additional cost of managing whole park will fall to Parishioners.

It was not until mid way through the day we found out that questionnaire's were available to give feedback on the plans. Prior to this time several of our supporters had attended the Open Day and not been offered questionnaire's and when we asked for questionnaires to distribute to people who had already attended we were refused them. Therefore, we know some of our supporters did not complete questionnaires, however we are confident more than the claimed 12 actually did complete & return questionnaires during the afternoon.

The Parish Council say 68 questionnaires were returned of which only 17 were not thought positive. However, we note the Parish Council have included the 'no objections' in with the positive comments which given the questions in the questionnaire could mean anything.

Even if this number is accurate and the remaining 51 responders are all positive about the plans, we do not consider 51 people have the right to commit the whole Parish of 701 registered electors and their children to a building project costing nearly £1million and raising the Ermington Parish Council Precept part of the Council Tax by 25% over 5 years.

Many residents were also concerned about how the Parish Council conducted the Open Day event itself. Numerous people said they were not listened to by the Parish Council and Working Party Members, questions were not answered, concerns were minimised or ignored. Some who raised questions found the attitude and responses they received patronising and arrogant. Many residents told us they felt a range of emotions including anger, upset and frustration.

Other specific feedback we received was that one attendee asked to see the financial details but was not allowed to see them.

One member of Friends of Ermington Park asked to take away a feedback form so that they could give their feedback at a later date but was told it had to be filled in at the event.

Another very young person asked why the enclosed play area was being so massively reduced in size as shown on the plans. They were told the play area was not being reduced and there would be the same size play area which is clearly not the case as could be seen in the displayed plans.

One lady said she sometimes goes to the Watermark in Ivybridge, for cinema or staged events and it is always practically empty, she therefore questioned the need for another hall.

One commented that a little hut/shed would be adequate for changing for sport (Football/cricket) and maybe a unisex/disabled toilet.

At least 2 families came to specifically sign our petition who live outside the Parish, but have strong connections to Ermington and regularly visit family and friends in the village. Both families had dogs and children who played in the park and were against the outside recreational space being reduced.

Another specific comments was 'if we need an in door space we already have the Crooked Spire, First & Last Bistro, Plantation House, The School, and Pre-School Annexe & the Reading Rooms. We should be supporting existing local business and community spaces.'

Although there were a small amount of people in support of the plans, the overwhelming majority we spoke to were not, and objected to the proposed costs to the village and the way the Parish Council has conducted the consultation process.

The Open Day was a missed opportunity to canvas the true level of support for building on the Park. We feel disappointed that our petition of nearly 200 local residents is still being ignored, and again call upon the Parish Council to listen to the vast majority of residents who are against building on the Park.

A local landowner has offered land not considered previously (noted in the minutes of the Parish Council meeting in Jan 2018), and at the June meeting South Hams District Council confirmed that the new Industrial Units could be used to provide Village Hall. We therefore believe the Parish Council should explore these options, as they could provide the same facilities without involving the loss of green open community space and play facilities.

Friends of Ermington Park, first and foremost are concerned with protecting and improving our Park as a whole for outdoor recreation and wildlife. We are asking South Hams District Council to improve the existing play facilities (& replace the broken piece of play equipment), to provide more picnic benches, to replace the recently felled trees with apple trees and to improve the planting for wildlife. We ask the Parish Council to support these requests.

Denis Onley

Chairperson

Friends of Ermington Park

Hugh Bird

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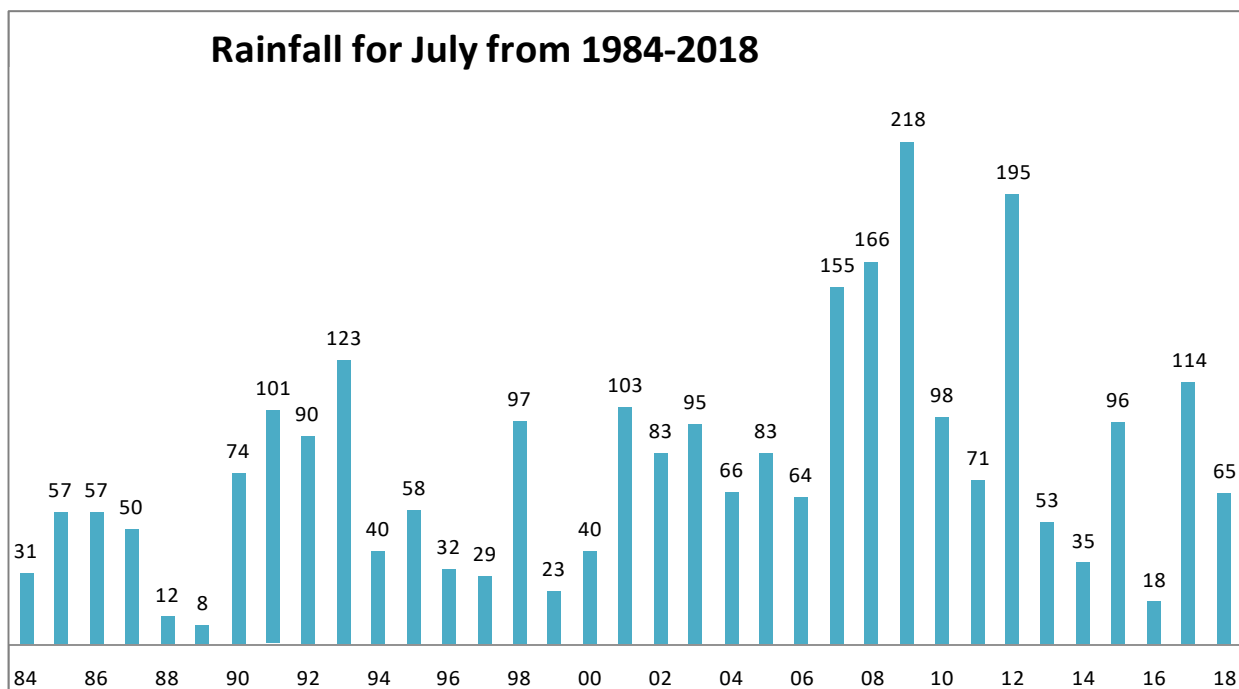
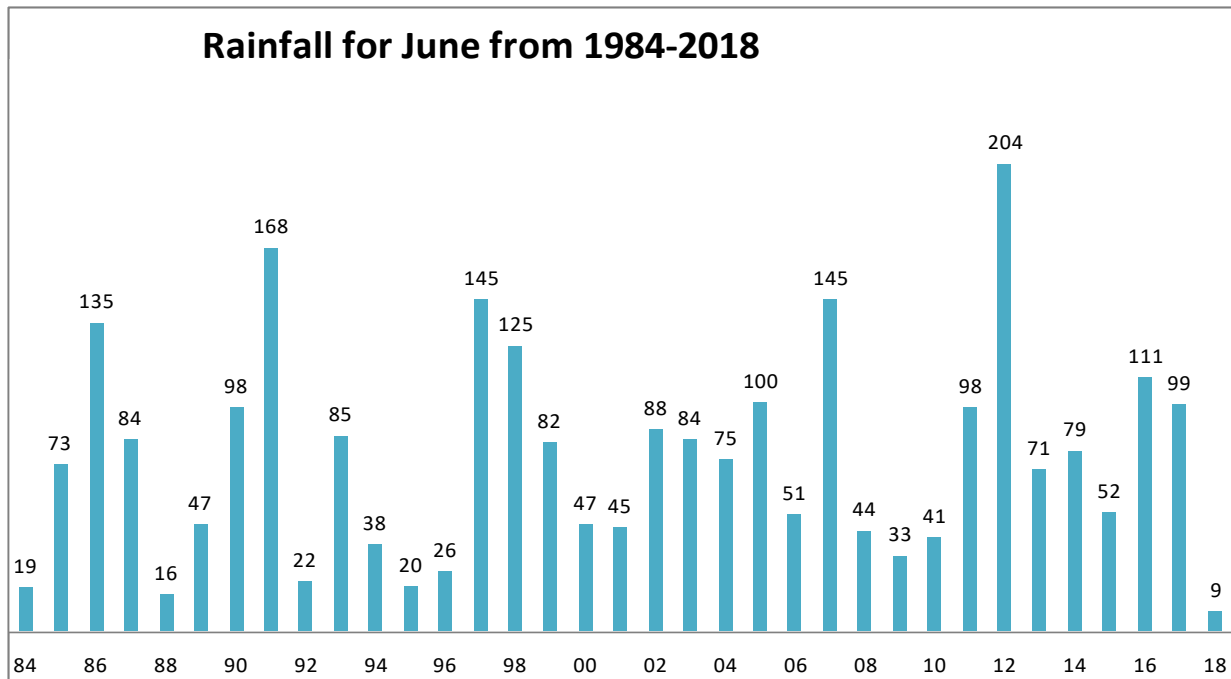
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Rainfall Records with Frances Bromfield

Summary of Records.

Early this year saw a reversal in the heavier rainfall trend. There was 45mm in May, just 9mm in June and 65mm in July so the total for those three months was only 6mm more than the 113mm that fell over the whole of April! The total rainfall for the three month period was barely half what would normally be expected for that time. As you will see from the charts below, June this year was the driest recorded here since Mum started keeping records in 1984 with only 12% of the norm for the years from 1984 to 2018.





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FOCUS ON – Attendance Allowance

If you or someone you know is over 65, has care needs or is vulnerable and doesn't already receive a disability payment, they may be entitled to Attendance Allowance.

Lots of older people who struggle with day to day care aren't claiming Attendance Allowance that could help them stay independent in their own homes longer, because they think they aren't entitled to it.

Attendance Allowance is a tax free weekly payment of £57.30 or £85.60 depending on the need. It's not means tested or dependant on savings, it won't affect your state pension and is exempt from the benefits cap.

It can be spent on anything that makes life easier for you, someone to help with personal care, taxis to go shopping or to visit family and friends, bills, a stair lift, a cleaner/gardener or just ensuring you stay safe.

If you have had difficulties for 6 months or longer you can apply for Attendance Allowance, if you are in hospital you can apply but you won't receive anything until you come out. If you live in a private care home and pay your own costs you can also apply.

If you are terminally ill you can apply straight away and your application will be speeded up.

To find out more, visit **southhamscab.org.uk** and type Attendance Allowance into the "How can we help" search box.

To ring the **DWP helpline** or to ask for an application form, ring **0800 731 0122**

If you need help filling in the application form, ring **Citizens Advice South Hams on 03 444 111 444**



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A Ringing Success!



The local Holbeton Bellringing Teams including several Ermington ringers have recently won 2 significant trophies! The senior team won the Thomas Oatway Shield in the Minor Final qualifying them for the Major Final and the junior team won the Plympton Deanery Ringing Association Shield. Bellringing is a great way of keeping fit; keeping those little grey cells active, as well as being very social - all welcome.

For further information about learning and where we practice, please call Ellen Hill on [01548 830369](tel:01548830369).



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Retirement

This lovely poem was sent in by Barbara Jones, in memory of her friend who passed away earlier this year.

Retirement

Retirement they call it - I've never worked so hard,
It started from the moment I received my farewell card.
I planned to live more lazily - Spend much more time in bed,
But upon my soul I find I'm working twice as hard instead!

I do the chores and crossword,
And look around the shops.
I meet a lot of people, and everybody stops.
We ask each other's health,
And we check that we're 'all there',
It's marvellous to see how many people care.

As well as socialising, there's outings by the score,
And classes too for doing things,
You've never done before.
This merry life, retirement, it really wears you out.
There's simply not a minute left to merely sit about.

So my advice to anyone who ever aims to be
A fully paid-up citizen, a pink card OAP,
Is get yourself in trim now,
For when old age appears,
This work they call retirement,
Goes on for years and years.



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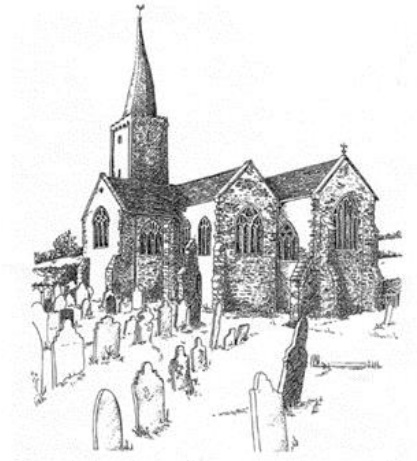


News from your Parish Church

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



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 5 - Why does it happen?

This is the final part of a short series of writing tips which offer tips and advice on how to create a story. Part 5 covers why things happen in your story, how you can create reasons for events and how to create situations which motivate your characters to say what they say and to do what they do. Last month, we covered how to choose when things will happen in your story, whether it is set in the present day or built up in layers spanning centuries. Now we delve into the motivations of your characters and why it is important to create a backstory of events which influence your characters, their actions and their choices, in the present and the future.

As the author of your story, you have the power to create any number of obstacles for your characters to face. You can create situations for your characters to experience and endure. Your characters can use the skills you give them to attempt to free themselves of the situation or overcome the problem. Whether they succeed or not is up to you, depending on how you want your story to end.

In the Sammy Rambles books, one of Sammy's problems is that he is being bullied at school. The bullies are hurting Sammy and stealing his lunch money. This is outside of Sammy's control and it's Sammy's parents who make the decision to send Sammy to his new school. Later in the book, Sammy intervenes when one of his classmates is picked on due to the colour of their hair. Having been bullied himself, Sammy has learned from his experience. He knows how awful it can be so when Sammy has the chance to stand up for his friends, he does.

- These are examples of problems or situations you could create:
- Is your character afraid of water? Maybe they nearly drowned when they were younger?
- Are they afraid of being in crowds, or being alone? What might have caused this?
- If they have an injury, how did this happen? What is the effect on their everyday life?
- Do fireworks or loud noises bring back memories? What do they do when they hear them?
- Have they moved to a new house? New school? New job? What are the consequences?

Through the experiences I have given Sammy in the books, he learns different skills to help himself and help others. When Sammy discovers he could lose everything, he chooses to fight the enemy and solve the problems I have given him. His motivation is simple. He doesn't want to go back to his old school and the bullies. Along his journey, Sammy realises there are bigger things at stake and people are relying on him to save the dragons. He could have given up, but it's not in the personality I have given Sammy. In the Sammy Rambles books, Sammy grows stronger each time he faces the enemy.

In your story, you may find different characters react differently to different situations. To create depth to your story, ask yourself questions about how you might react in the situation you have created. Would you be brave? Would you run away? Or, like Sammy, would you confront the problem?

Thank you for reading the Sammy Rambles Writing Tips. Copies of the previous writing tips are available on JT Scott's website - www.sammyrambles.com.

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The deadline for the December 2018/January 2019 edition is:

Sunday, 18th November

Editorial Team

Send articles in Word format to the Editor...

George Jones, Editor

Email: george.parishmag@gmail.com

Phone: 07577 711792

Adam Hart-Davis, Assistant Editor

Email: adam.parishmag@gmail.com

Phone: 01752 698389

John Bower, Reporter / Proof Reader

Email: johnbower@btinternet.com

Phone: 01548 830373

Rodger Reid, Distribution

Email: rodgereid@gmail.com

Phone: 01752 894579

Rob Rees, Treasurer / Advertising

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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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