

# VILLAGE VOICE



Court Park finally passable again after the Beast  
**April - May 2018**

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone  
now archived on the Parish website at [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk)*



NUMBER 210  
April - May 2018

### SNOWED IN

**"March roars in like a lion so fierce  
The wind so cold it seems to pierce  
The month rolls on and Spring draws near  
And March goes out like a lamb so dear"**

The poet certainly had the first part right as far as 2018 is concerned. Let us hope that as you read this he will have been as equally accurate with the second part.

Few people ventured out on the last day of February or the first day of March. Drifting snow, hidden icy patches, a howling gale, and a wicked wind chill inclined most of us to batten down the hatches and hope for a quick thaw.

A few stalwarts with phones or cameras tried to capture the snow-scapes at their height, and their efforts may be viewed on the Parish website Gallery. Our front cover is one of them.

Heroic work by local volunteers on 2<sup>nd</sup> March cleared snow, gritted surfaces, and made the roads passable again, and their exploits are detailed in the first article in this issue.

Fortunately the weather soon relented and the snow gradually melted away, having given us a warning that we should always "be prepared" for another such eventuality. How would we have fared if the electricity supply had failed? Will we indeed "be prepared" next time?

There are lessons to be learned here, and plans to be made, against the next roar of the Lion.

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Front Cover: Court Park - passable again

Front cover photo by Mike Herring

## CHAIRMAN LEADS THE WAY

When the *Beast from the East* and Storm Emma had done their worst, by the end of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March Thurlestone was completely snowed in. With South Hams Council resources stretched to the limit, our Parish Council Chairman, Jack Rhymes, decided that self-help should be the order of the day. By 3.30pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March he was able to circulate the following e-mail:

*"A quick update to pass around the parish.  
All roads in and out of the village are now  
clear and passable with care.*

*With the aid of Sam and Kate and Daisy, who  
were in the back of the truck spreading the  
grit, we have done Glebefield, and cleared a  
path so people can walk out. In Path field,  
we again cleared a path up to the top of the  
hill so people can get out. After that we  
managed to get to Buckland and with Nigel  
Hurrell's help loaded up with grit and sand  
and then headed for Bantham. Tom and  
Callum from Bantham Estate have cleared  
the road from the Sloop to Bantham  
roundabout, no mean feat. We all followed  
behind with Rod from the Sloop driving the  
mule, and we spread grit by hand all the way  
to the top of Aune cross, making Bantham  
accessible, then went back to Bantham, Tom  
then took the estate loader and cleared the  
road from the Sloop to the top of  
Clanacombe, and this road is all gritted too.*

*We met up with Eric Palmer, and Eric then  
followed us down to Kerse Cross. Eric  
cleared all the way down Court Park and  
around to the top of the Mead. This in turn  
has been gritted, and we also gritted all  
around the top of Mead Lane. We were going  
to go down along Mead Drive but with a car  
already buried in a wall and not much room  
to pass, I said leave it until it thaws.  
Hopefully tomorrow will be good to go.*

*South Hams Council are hoping to get here  
this afternoon with a snow plough, although  
all the hard work has been done. I also  
suspect that resources have been detailed to  
Torcross. It's only now, having seen the TV  
pictures of the line there, that you realize  
there is always some one worse off than you!*

*Let's hope there are funds to replace the  
road.*

*There has been many a phone call for milk  
and some basic food stuffs, but we have been  
able to sort and deliver. As I said yesterday,  
there has been only one major accident.*

*Thank you to all those who have given their  
time and effort to help me and the Parish. It  
is very much appreciated."*

When Village Voice asked Jack for the names of the volunteers, he responded as follows.

*"Tom and Callum (Bantham Estate), Rod  
Seymour (Sloop Inn Bantham), Eric Palmer  
(Whitley farm), Vic Dyer (Thurlestone Golf  
Club), Nigel Hurrell (Buckland), my two -  
Sam and Kate - Sam's girlfriend Daisy, and  
myself. I must say that Kate and Daisy were  
absolutely freezing and their poor hands  
nearly falling off, but they wouldn't go home  
until we had finished.*

*Thank you all. It was a great team effort,  
and it was great to be part of community that  
when asked simply said yes!*

*The other thing that struck me later was  
being in the pub - with just locals!"*

All parish residents, and particularly the more elderly ones, will appreciate the sterling efforts of Jack and his band of volunteers. The Parish Council does not always receive the plaudits of the community, but on this occasion the Chairman has acted promptly, personally, and decisively on behalf of the residents and deserves full credit. So too does the Bantham Estate and its staff, who needed no prompting to set about the task of getting the roads open.

Well done, Jack! And well done, the Estate.

# Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held 5 February and 5 March 2018

*Report by Citizen*

In February seven Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, County and District Councillors and 18 members of the public came, and in March seven Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, County and District Councillors and sixteen members of the public were present.

## OPEN FORUM

*Golf Club defibrillator.* Access to this is not possible when the Club is closed. An external cabinet will cost around £500 and any contribution from the Parish Council would be much appreciated.

*Community Heating scheme.* This is not financially viable.

*Community Wi-Fi.* This has been allocated some TAP funding but no further news has come from Bush.

*Thurlestone Child Poverty.* A recent press report indicated that the Thurlestone rate was the highest in the South Hams. It is believed this report is making use of inaccurate figures, and our District Councillor is making enquiries as to the source.

*Hotel phone mast.* It is not yet known when this will be going live.

*Pot Holes.* These must be reported on line pinpointing the exact location on a map. (See article by Mike Stickland in VV December-January issue for details).

*20 mph speed limit.* The Parish Council has tried on at least three occasions but has been refused, and the Police will not enforce it. County Councillor Rufus Gilbert suggested we look at the installation of a Slow Down illuminated sign (cost in the region of £1200) which could be operated with batteries or solar panels.

## HIGHWAYS

The recent re-surfacing of the road from the green to the Golf Club is already breaking up. Work on the bank at Buckland, believed to have been first reported some 7 years ago, had still not been done and County Councillor Rufus Gilbert will chase this up.

Thanks were expressed to Councillors Andrew Rhymes and Nigel Hurrell for their work on snow clearance at the beginning of March.

## FOOTPATHS

Raised footpath near 'Swallows' needs resurfacing. Parish Clerk to find the cost of adding Footpath No 5 to the Definitive Map, which the Bantham Estate has agreed to.

## TREES

Councillor Charles Mitchelmore said the SHDC tree pruning at Chapel Cross was very poor, a large branch remaining untouched. Quotations are to be sought for tree trimming on the War Memorial green. The ash tree at Island View play area was felled by the Parish Council and SHDC have complained about this, overlooking the fact that the area was given by them to the Parish Council several years ago. They are to be reminded.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Updates are published regularly in Village Voice. John Slater, our official Examiner, needs 6-8 weeks to do a review, then SHDC require a further 56 days to organise a parish referendum, which will probably be due in June when Councillor Tony Goddard is hoping there will be a 95% voting turnout.

## PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Graeme Martin said TAP funding of £3379 had been received towards the Community Wi-Fi scheme.

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR RUFUS GILBERT'S REPORT**

Totnes Station Rumours had been circulating about the possible closure of Totnes railway station and the Parish Council to contact GWR to register its objection. The DCC contact is Roger Cload.

Finances DCC has a half share of Council Tax, which will rise by 5%. DCC pay £9m for bus passes, £3m to subsidise bus routes, £400,000 to Citizens Advice Bureaux and £6m to improve highway drainage.

Hedge cutting Hedges are cut over a three-year period, cutting lower each year but farmers do not appear to remove the cuttings and Councillor Gilbert would check the bye-laws.

Buckland work The official who should have had this work in hand has now left DCC and no trace of paperwork can be found.

Road closure Councillor Gilbert has met with Simon Bawden General Manager of the Golf Club to discuss the closure of the road to Lockslea House. As an objection has been raised the closure cannot proceed and the matter will be kept under review.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JUDY PEARCE'S REPORT**

Child Poverty This press release was issued by the LibDems and she will try to find the author to verify the figures.

Bin collection Three-weekly black bin collection and payment for brown bin use will be looked at.

Car Parking charges are to be increased and weekly parking tickets discontinued.

Public Toilets Cost for use could go ahead or they could close. She will find out what the cost is of maintaining the toilets opposite the golf club so the Parish Council can decide what to do.

Planning Regulations will be categorised as Emergency, High Priority or Lower Priority.

The SHDC budget has been passed confirming a 5% increase in Council Tax.

## **POLICE**

No report. An email will be sent to Sgt Dave Green as we think the Police are obliged to come to Parish Council meetings at least 3 times a year.

## **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

Parish Councillor Andrew Rhymes reported:

WI-FI. A new meeting with Bush has to be arranged.

Cobbled road damage. An offer by Yarmer Estate to contribute to the cost of repairs was welcomed. Badly parked commercial vehicles have caused large vehicles going into the Estate to damage kerbstones whilst trying to get through.

War Memorial. Hooks fitted to attach poppy wreaths, preventing them from blowing away and cleaning of the memorial to be put in hand.

Parish AGM. Roger English of AONB to be invited to give a short talk.

Overnight parking on The Ham. Concern has been raised about drug addicts and others using vans for their activities in winter months. Locking the top gate may be a solution

Snow Clearing. Letters of appreciation to be sent to the Bantham Estate, Rod Seymour of the Sloop Inn and Eric Palmer of Whitley Farm.

WW1 Armistice centenary. Councillor Kit Marshall is in contact with the British Legion about the availability of decorations.

Parish Clerk Graeme Martin has resigned due to pressure of his business, and he was thanked for what he had contributed during his short tenure in post.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 9 April at 7.30pm, Yeo Room.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



In my last Update in the February issue of Village Voice I reported that the Draft Plan and various other documents had been finalised and submitted to South Hams District Council (SHDC) before Christmas.

Happily, SHDC was satisfied that the Plan and accompanying documents met all the statutory requirements and in accordance with the neighbourhood planning regulations undertook its own **public consultation** of the Plan over a six-week period, between 9<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> February,

The representations that SHDC received are summarised in a Schedule of Responses which can be viewed on our parish website. They include a 5-page response from SHDC itself and a 20-page response from the Bantham Estate, which I would encourage you to read. Please note that Graham Swiss' representation, which is included in the Schedule, has since been withdrawn and will not be considered by the examiner.

In the meantime, SHDC has also appointed an independent examiner (with the steering group's approval) who will decide whether or not the Plan can proceed to a Referendum - so no time has been lost! The next stages of the procedure are, however, quite involved and dictated by the neighbourhood planning regulations. Hence, what follows is rather jargonistic but I trust you will find it informative.

## Independent Examination

Our examiner is **Mr John Slater BA (Hons) DMS MRTP** who has 39 years' experience as a town planner, working in both urban and rural areas. For 34 years, he has worked in local government for a variety of local authorities and he is now an independent planning consultant specialising in neighbourhood planning.

In his CV, Mr Slater states: "*I am a passionate supporter of the neighbourhood planning system and in particular, the way it allows the public to shape their communities, yet allowing them to produce a plan that can be used as a practical basis for determining planning applications.*"

To date, he has examined 37 neighbourhood plans throughout the country, from the South Downs, East Anglia and Herefordshire to Oxford, the Isle of Wight, Devon and Cornwall.

As you would expect, we are not the only neighbourhood plan that Mr Slater is currently examining, but he has informed us that he would hope to conclude his examination within 6-8 weeks. This would bring us to early May. However, there are some variables; for example, if he considers it is necessary to hold a hearing to listen to oral representations about a particular issue, in which case, the 6-8 week period is likely to be extended.

The purpose of the examination is for the examiner to consider the representations submitted to SHDC in response to its public consultation and to decide whether the Plan meets the 'Basic Conditions' as set out in the neighbourhood planning regulations.

The examiner will be considering whether the Plan:

- has appropriate regard to national policy and advice
- contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
- is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area
- is compatible with EU obligations
- meets human rights requirements

## **The Referendum**

At the end of the examination the examiner will issue a Report to the neighbourhood plan steering group and SHDC in which he will recommend whether or not the Plan can proceed to Referendum (with or without modifications). SHDC then has five weeks to decide whether it agrees with each of the report's recommendations and to issue a Decision Statement. The parish website will carry updates on the Plan's progress.

If SHDC decide the Plan can proceed to Referendum, then it must organise a Referendum in the parish within 56 working days of issuing its Decision Statement.

The Referendum will be held in the Parish Hall and the question you will be asked on the ballot paper is:

*Do you want South Hams District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Thurlestone Parish to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?*

The importance of the Referendum cannot therefore be overstated.

The steering group will of course give you as much notice of the date of the Referendum as possible, but please keep an eye on the parish website and watch out for posters. A summary of the final policies will also be circulated to assist you with your decision.

## **Post-Referendum**

Following the Referendum, there is one final formality. SHDC has eight weeks within which to publish a Decision Note and 'make' (adopt) the Plan. The Plan will then become part of the statutory development plan and will be used alongside the SHDC's own local plan to determine planning applications in Thurlestone Parish.

**Tony Goddard**  
Steering Group Chairman

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# A LETTER FROM YOUR MP

## **Restoring a vital link between communities**

Storm Emma has left a trail of destruction along our coastline and anyone visiting the Slapton Line will have seen the scale of the damage to the A379. This is a vital link and no one wants to see communities isolated from each other. I am delighted that following my question to her in Parliament, the Prime Minister confirmed that the government will step in to help. Chris Grayling MP, the Secretary of State for Transport, has now set out that this will be funded in full with £2.5m available for this vital work.

I would like to thank all those who rallied to help including the emergency services but also the Slapton Line Partnership and many people from across Devon County Council who helped me to make sure that all the evidence was on the minister's desk in time for me to make the case for fully funding the reinstatement of the line. I am pleased that the urgency of the situation was recognised and that the response was so swift. Advance planning and teamwork has also meant that the SLP and DCC have the relevant planning permissions, environmental impact assessments and mitigation work in place well in advance, so a major cause of previous delays will not be repeated. Given the nature of the site and the risk of unexploded ordnance, the rebuild will still take some time but the Slapton Line Partnership website will be posting regular updates: <http://www.slaptonline.org/> I also hope that some of this funding will go towards improving and if possible increasing the passing places on the back lanes whilst the rebuild is in progress. Beesands also needs help with repairs and essential clearance of drainage channels and I hope that DCC and SHDC will be able to respond. Meantime local businesses are open for business and will appreciate local support.

## **Dangerous Times**

A deadly nerve agent has been deliberately deployed in Britain by agents of an aggressive foreign power. Three people have been left fighting for their lives including a front-line police officer. There can be no room for appeasement or wriggle-room for those who act as apologists for the Russian State. The contempt which Putin has shown for international law means that this kind of murderous action is only likely to continue and increase and Theresa May was right to set out that consequences must follow.

## **Brexit Update**

I was very pleased to hear the Mansion House speech by the PM and I am disappointed that Donald Tusk has given a negative response. I recognise that this may not reflect what is happening in the negotiations themselves so I think it best to wait to see what comes out from that process rather than leaping to conclusions. It was a significant concession for the Government to recognise the importance of associate membership of vital safety bodies around aviation, medicines and chemicals. It is clearly in the interests of citizens on both sides of the Channel for this close cooperation to continue in these fields. It would be inexcusable for the EU negotiators not to put safety ahead of ideology. Read the full speech here: [www.conervatives.com/sharethefacts/2018/02/our-future-partnership](http://www.conervatives.com/sharethefacts/2018/02/our-future-partnership)

## **Surgeries and Contact Details**

In order to make a surgery appointment please e-mail [nina.smith@parliament.uk](mailto:nina.smith@parliament.uk) or call my office on 01803 868 378. You can keep up with what I have been doing via my website at: <http://www.drsarah.org.uk/> On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sarahwollaston?lang=en> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/drsarahwollaston>



# Cabaret Night

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm  
Thurlestone Parish Hall**

*Tim Abel (piano)*  
*Emma Dalton (mezzo-soprano)*  
*Connor McAllister (tenor)*

## PROGRAMME

Wherever he ain't - Mack n Mabel (Jerry Herman)

I enjoy being a girl - Flower Drum Song (Rogers and Hammerstein)  
Pure imagination - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Bricusse and Newley)

Sit down you're rockin' the boat - Guys n Dolls (Frank Loesser)  
You don't bring me flowers (Duet) - Neil Diamond and Barbara Streisand

**Piano solo - Root beer rag - Billy Joel**

**Piano solo - Beer bottles boogie - Hannes Otahal**

I don't know how to love him - Jesus Christ Susperstar (Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice)

Don't rain on my parade - Funny Girl (Styne and Merrill)  
Knowing what I know - Lend Me a Tenor (Sham and Carroll)  
Bring Him Home - Les Miserables (Boublil and Schonberg)

I've never been in love before (duet) - Guys n Dolls (Frank Loesser)

## INTERVAL

On my own - Les Miserables (Boublil and Schonberg)

Funny Honey - Chicago (Kander and Ebb)

Electricity - Billy Elliot (Lee Hall and Elton John)

Sara Lee - And the world goes round (Kander and Ebb)

Song that goes like this (duet) - Spamelot (Idle and Du Prez)

**Piano solo - Grand Valse Brillante in Ab - Chopin**

**Piano solo - Bumble boogie - Hannes Otahal**

Maybe this time - Cabaret (Kander and Ebb)

Don't cry for me Argentina - Evita (Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice)

Why God Why? - Miss Saigon (Boublil and Schonberg)

Memory - Cats (Lloyd Webber and T.S Eliot)

Can you feel the love tonight (duet) - The Lion King (Tim Rice and Elton John)

**Tickets £12**

**Pat Macdonald 560436 Lisa White 560505**

# Village News Round-Up

## HEATHER HICKEY

We were all saddened when we heard of the unexpected death of Heather on 3 March after a very short illness, and her funeral was held on 28 March. Our condolences are sent to her son and family. We would like to record, and will miss, her friendly help on the VV team.

## PEST CONTROL

The Parish Emergency Snow Team (PEST) set up by Parish Council Chairman Jack Rhymes following the snowfall of 1<sup>st</sup> March did not have long to wait before their services were required again. The snowfall of 18 March saw PEST responding immediately so that by 10 am on Monday 19 March Jack could report that "all main roads in and out of Thurlestone are clear, as are Bantham and Buckland. A massive thank to the rest of the PEST team, Vic and Paul Dyer and Connor Eva. A real sterling effort with all the remaining salt and grit all spread. We even went round the Mead!"

The whole parish heartily congratulates all these PEST volunteers for their great efforts on behalf of the community. Well done!

## THURLESTONE GARAGE

It is with sadness that we mark the closing of Thurlestone garage on 30 April after many years of trading, its owner Maurice Blight having suffered for some considerable time with failing health. Maurice's assistant, Keith Foale, together with Evelyn Grant, have been keeping things afloat and maintaining this essential community facility for the parish providing residents with a very reliable local service for petrol, diesel, repairs and MOTs.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank both of them for what they have done to help keep our wheels turning, a vital requirement in view of the poor bus facility. They'll be really missed and we wish them well.

## HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The show committee have not been to sleep over winter but have been busy arranging what is to be in the schedule for their annual show on 4 August 2018, at Thurlestone Parish

Hall this year. The schedule will be available at their popular Plant Sale on Saturday 5 May, 10-noon in the Parish Hall, so get a copy and start thinking about what you can enter!

## THURLESTONE COURT

We are concerned to report that another parish business has now closed, namely the care home at the top of Thurlestone main street. This has been a 'safe harbour' for many of our parish elderly who were thus able to stay amongst friends and family and, importantly, in familiar surroundings.

## PHONE FAILURE

Many of you will have read the story of Rosemary Mackay's phone and the fact that, at the age of 96, she was without a land line for about 3 weeks with all the problems this lack of facility brings. However, Rosemary is made of hardy stuff and with the aid of her youngest son who lives in Leicester and our MP Sarah Wollaston, she battled on and eventually her communication system was restored. She was told by the engineer that all the cabling in the parish is in desperate need of replacement and this had been the cause of her problems!

## TIM'S CABARET NIGHT

You will have seen that pianist Tim Abel, along with Emma Dalton and Connor MacAllister, will be returning to Thurlestone to give us another lovely musical treat on Saturday 21 April. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a complete list of what these young people propose to perform - a great selection of songs from the shows and of course piano solos by Tim. Don't miss this fabulous live concert. Book your seats now.

We are hoping that Tim's grandfather, Thurlestone resident Ted Abel, together with Tim's father and mother, Keith and Teresa, and uncle Philip will all be here on the front row to enjoy the music.

## BIRDS

A Thurlestone resident said she had a visit from about a dozen redwings recently, who were devouring every berry in sight. How lucky she was to see them. Did you know

that Sunday 6 May has been declared "International Dawn Chorus Day". It is suggested we all get up extra early and go out into our gardens and just listen to what the birds sing to us. If you want to learn a bit more about the dawn chorus look up <http://www.idcd.info/>

### **GARDENS OPEN**

In the last issue Sue Dwyer appealed to garden owners to consider offering their gardens to this year's event, on 15 July. Large or small, your garden would be a welcome addition, particularly if you are proud of it or any feature of it and would like the opportunity to show it to interested fellow-gardeners. Sue can be contacted on 01548 560648 and would be delighted to talk to you about it.

### **DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING**

Learn resuscitation techniques and how to use this equipment. There will be a training session from Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club 'Heartstart' team on Thursday 19 April at 7pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall, lasting about two hours. Everyone is invited and to book your place contact Anna Martin on 01548 560796 or email annacmrtin@gmail.com

### **TPS SCAM**

There is only one Telephone Preference Service (TPS), the official UK "do not call" register for opting out of live telesales calls. It is FREE to sign up to the register, so do not

be taken in by scam phone calls alleging to offer such a service, making a charge and asking for your bank account details. You can register with the TPS at <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk>. If you have been scammed by any sort of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or by visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

### **COUNCIL TAX ROAD SHOW**

South Hams Council is trying to encourage as many people as possible to access services online, including their Council Tax. So they are providing a drop-in session where residents can get help in creating an account with the Council, using their smart phone or mobile device.

**Their white SHDC van will be parked outside Thurlestone PO from 12.45 to 2.15pm on Wednesday 18 April ready to help you.**

Once registered there will be easy access, all day, every day. To set up an account you should take with you your Council Tax and Benefits number.

### **GOLF CLUB**

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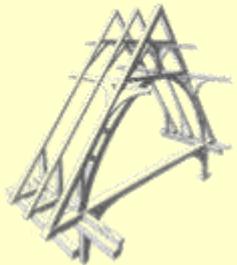
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# PARISH HALL NEWS

**Chairman: Neill Irwin**



Nothing succeeds like success. And boy did we have a success. Our adventure into the unknown by inviting the commercial catering group, Wild Artichoke, to run a pop-up supper in the Parish Hall was a sell-out with over ninety people enjoying great food and great company in a great venue. We even managed to put a substantial amount into the reserve funds which we use to keep the Hall in such good shape. Congratulations to all concerned and especially to Anna Martin for her sterling effort in making it all happen.

Building on this success we have another wonderful event planned for the 21<sup>st</sup> April. Tim Abel has rightly acquired an international reputation as a concert pianist and accompanist. While he was building his reputation Tim, with close local connections to the parish, has graced our stage several times over the years, always bringing with him instrumentalists of outstanding talent. Now we are delighted that he has agreed to return to Thurlestone for a second Cabaret Night, accompanied by tenor Connor McAllister and mezzo-soprano Emma Dalton. The details of their programme appear in the advertisement elsewhere in this issue, and should ensure a wonderful evening's entertainment. If you came to the first Cabaret Night you will no doubt be booking your place early. If you weren't there, then the 21<sup>st</sup> April is an opportunity not to be missed. I look forward to seeing you there.

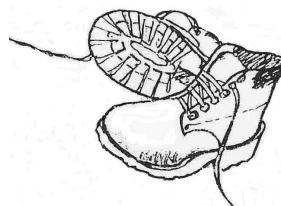
What can I say about the Annual General Meeting scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> April? We hold it every year (the clue is in the name) and every year I try to do the essential, but boring, bit of the business in a shorter time than the previous year. The really interesting part is the question time and I never try to shorten that. Why not come and air your views on how the Parish Hall is or should be run? Do you think we should be running more activities for the children in the Parish? Do you have strong views on the use or misuse of the Parish Hall car park? There is no point in airing your views in the pub, etc., the place and time to do it is in the Parish Hall at the AGM. You can be assured we will listen.

The Family Fun afternoon planned for the 29<sup>th</sup> May is now an established light-hearted activity aimed at giving everyone in the parish the opportunity to have a good time. The human fruit machine is irresistible. Our newly acquired kurling equipment will be in full operation. Give it a try, who knows you may have a hidden talent. These and many other games are planned. As a change from our usual BBQ this year will feature a wood-fired PIZZA OVEN, so there will be refreshments for all with soft drinks for the younger members of the family and something stronger for the exhausted adults to enjoy as they bask in the expected (!) sun.

As we approach the end of another financial year I would like to record my personal thanks to all the committee members and to everyone else who gives their time and energy towards keeping our Parish Hall so relevant to the life of the parish. Thank you one and all.



# TRAMP



**1**

On Wednesday 7 February, eight Trampers + two dogs set out to do a short figure of 8 walk around Aveton Gifford.

Having parked at the Timbers car park we walked past the Fisherman's Rest and then through the children's playground and on to the road leading up to Shorta Cross and to a very muddy Wakeham Lane, passing the traveller's site. At the top of the path we had lovely views all around, before crossing a stream at the bottom, and then uphill again! We picked up a vague path crossing several fields, kissing gates, stiles, etc., to join the road at Little Court.

From there we walked though St Andrew's Churchyard and exited via a kissing gate in the far corner - loads of snowdrops. We crossed two fields on to a lane and then shortly joined another field, giving us spectacular views of the meandering Avon river below.

At the end of the path we arrived at Rockhill road and a short stroll downhill brought us to the centre of Aveton Gifford.

A few of us had a nice bowl of soup at the Fisherman's Rest.

### Trisha Wilson

**2** Wednesday 21 February and the Tramps were scheduled to do a walk around Modbury. However, having recce'd the route at the weekend it was found to be knee deep in mud/water, etc.

So Plan B went into operation and we opted for a short walk from East Soar. It was a lovely sunny day but with a chilly wind. We first headed down towards the coast where it was blowing hard but we soon got warmed up with the climb up to Bolt Head. From there we descended to Starehold Bay where we had a breather before the climb up to the Rags and lovely views of Salcombe Harbour.

We pressed on through the wooded area, trudged up the hill and passed the entrance to Overbecks, admiring the camellias on the way.

Into the woods again and then on to open ground via a flight of steps leading to the compass memorial stone in memory of a Mr Ringrone of Ringrone House, Sharpitor.

From that point we turned off, and traversed a couple of fields to the Walker's Hut at East Soar. Coffees, teas, hot chocolates, etc., were imbibed and some succumbed to cake! A very welcome break and the walk wasn't too bad either!

### Trisha Wilson

**3**

Gales of 40 mph and driving rain did not make an encouraging forecast for St Valentine's Day and the advertised "Snowdrop Walk". The forecast proved to be completely accurate and so the postponement to the next day worked well, with most of the walk taking place under bright skies and a pleasant breeze. The prospect of mud was inevitable.

Eight of us plus Ben set off from the car park of the Sea Trout Inn at Staverton. The churchyard was still full of snowdrops, and crocuses had appeared since the scouting walk. After crossing the railway the Dart-side walk was also carpeted with snowdrops, and there was no escape from them after re-crossing the lines at Staverton Station and walking beside Clay Copse and to Barton Hill.

We then looped north in meadows towards Sparkwell. Here the promised Valentine Kissing Gate was appropriately employed (further details unavailable at the time of going to press, except that there were two couples licensed for the activity). A rather theoretically "green" lane southwards took us to Kingston Gate Cross. Actually it was largely mud under foot with snowdrops in and on the banks.

And so by the quiet road (still snowdrop lined in places) we descended back into Staverton. The Sea Trout Inn had six of us to lunch in their very atmospheric dining rooms.

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# The Russian Connection

By Kit Marshall

Why my Grandfather, Charles Edward Marshall came to be born in St Petersburg, Russia, in 1866 we are not quite sure, other than the fact that his mother was there at the time! His father, my great-grandfather, was born in Danzig, then part of Prussia, where his father had been the Honorary British Vice-Consul, so presumably the family moved to St Petersburg for business reasons.

Charles was brought up in England and Scotland, but eventually ended up back in St Petersburg running a group of companies of which he was a one third shareholder.

William Miller & Co. was a company based originally in Wick, Scotland which started by exporting herrings to Russia, but grew into general trading, including hemp and tallow. The company owned five steamships, offices and warehouses. Associated companies included the Neva Stearine Candle factory, which manufactured patented non-drip candles. There was also the Kalinkin Brewery, reputedly one of the larger breweries in Russia which operated out of both St Petersburg and Moscow and lastly the Russian Steam Oil Company, but I have no idea what that was about. The factories between them employed about 5,000 workers but most of the management was English or Scottish.

A family tale about the candle factory is that it supplied all the candles for the Royal Palaces. Some of the many chandeliers in each of the big staterooms held over two hundred candles so a contract well worth having. The story goes that one day a General went to visit my Grandfather to say that he had been appointed to oversee all the royal palaces and would be happy to renew the candle contract provided he was paid a private commission on the side. My very British Grandfather stated that that was not the way he did business and so promptly lost his lucrative contract. The next big ball at the palace, all the ladies in their finery and the men in their uniforms suddenly found they were being rained upon by wax from the candles. The result was Grandfather's contract was renewed and the General was never seen again.



The Hermitage Palace

The family lived a few hundred yards up the road from the Hermitage Palace. They also rented a Dacha (holiday home) in a small village called Mourino about 10 miles outside St Petersburg.

When the Bolshevik revolution took place in 1917, the Marshall family had to leave in a hurry leaving all their possessions and businesses to be taken over by

the Bolshevik government. Of course they were not alone in this and many ex-pats and companies were in the same situation. Back in England they all joined forces forming a group which tried to sue the Bolshevik government for compensation .....  
.....and predictably got nowhere.

However the group persisted, always taking any opportunity to lobby the Russians via the British government and 70 years later were finally rewarded when in 1990 President Gorbachev, no doubt fed up with the whole affair and trying to make friends with the West, agreed that the Soviet Union would pay a limited amount of compensation in full and final settlement.

Back to the pre-Bolshevik era. The Tsar Nicholas decided at some point that he didn't have too much faith in the integrity of his government (or maybe he saw the writing on the wall) and sent for safe-keeping by the Bank of England a large quantity of gold bullion. So in the same way that the ex-Brits had been suing the Russians for compensation, the Soviet Union had been trying to prise back the Tsar's bullion from the Bank of England and with an equal lack of success.

President Gorbachev's offer was that the Bank of England release the bullion to be used to pay the compensation demanded by the British ex-pats. Although the bullion was only worth about 10% of what was being claimed it was deemed to be better than nothing and so the offer was accepted.

A British company, Price Waterhouse, was given the task of sorting out the claim and making the payments. My father and my cousin Liz inherited my grandfather's claim and received an amount which equated to a small percentage of the original at the exchange rate of the day in 1917. Grandfather would not have been impressed but better than nothing.

The irony of the story is that in fact the gold bullion didn't exist anymore. Prime Minister Wilson, when his government was facing lean times, had clandestinely sold the bullion so that come 1990 the British government had to pretend it was still around, work out what the current value would have been, and stump up for it.

In fact I did most of the work on the compensation on my father's behalf so he rewarded us by giving Gillian and me a cruise around the Baltic, including of course St Petersburg, where we found their flat in what was then called Katerina Street, but has since gone back to its original name of Millionnaya Ulitsa (Millionaire's Street) and on a subsequent trip we are pretty certain we found the site of the summer Dacha. Both are now schools.

From St Petersburg they came to Thurlestone and set up residence in a house originally called Leaside, which my parents sold and is now converted into two houses, one half of which is appropriately called Marshalls. The family have lived in Thurlestone ever since.

Kit Marshall



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# AN EVACUEE REMINISCES

by Al Parker

I was born and brought up in Blackheath, London. My parents had a busy fish, poultry and game shop. My father went to Billingsgate market on five mornings a week. At Christmas he would sell about 600 turkeys...which all had to be plucked and trussed. It was hard work.

War was declared on 3 September 1939 and on the following day we three young Parkers - Eileen, Brian and myself - were sent by car from London to Devon, whilst our parents stayed behind to continue running the business and face the blitz that was to come.

Kingsbridge was where my uncle Les Johnson lived, at 57 Embankment Road, and it was here that Brian, who was the youngest, was taken in. Eileen and I were lodged a little further along Embankment Road, at no 63, opposite the cemetery, with a lady (an "auntie") who had evacuated from Hounslow with her children. Brian was enrolled in the primary school, while Eileen and I went to Kingsbridge Grammar School, based in the new buildings in Westville. There were about 120 in the school. And so here we stayed until the war's end, and before we saw our parents again.

On 3 January, 1943, during the Christmas break, a German plane came over and dropped a bomb which landed on a classroom in the bottom corridor, bounced on the concrete and landed in Balkwill Road where it exploded and demolished two houses. The school (founded in 1670 by Thomas Crispin) moved back to their old site at the top of Fore Street, now the Cookworthy Museum. We had to use both the Methodist and the Baptist churches as classrooms.

Later that year another German plane came over and dropped five bombs on the town, one demolishing the foundry on Mill Street, and another demolishing the Congregational church at the top of the town. A third landed on a house off Fore Street where a classmate and a great friend of mine, Roy Steer, lived. When he arrived home from school it was to find the house demolished and his mother killed.

There were other occasions when bombs dropped on the South Hams. Aveton Gifford had at least five one day, and some of the bunkers on the golf course are bomb craters. But in 1944 I was playing in the cricket Firsts XI against the Royal Marines OCTU which was based at the Thurlestone Hotel. They used what is now the 16<sup>th</sup> fairway of the golf course as a parade ground and cricket pitch. It was early evening and we saw dozens of boats, large and small, escorted by the Navy, going out from Plymouth and, towards Salcombe, we could see the barrage balloons used to protect the boats going from there. We realised that the next day would be D-Day!

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# Postbag

## Dear Editor

We are writing to thank you all at Village Voice for the beautiful bouquet of flowers - which will now take pride of place in our new home. Also many thanks to everyone for all their cards and good wishes which are very much appreciated.

We know we will miss life in Thurlestone but we are settling down in our new flat. Our daughter and family are all close by, and we have have 2 new baby great-grandsons to enjoy.

Hopefully when the weather improves we shall be visiting our families over on the Torbay side, which will give us the opportunity to visit Thurlestone and catch up with you all again.

Once again, many thanks to everyone.

Love

**Doreen and Phil Deare**

## Dear Editor

The students and I would like to say a big thank you to Simon Bowden who bravely stepped into the breach to teach my Tai Chi class for the last two years whilst I recovered from health issues. Simon has kept them in fine form and I am very proud of him and the students who have been so loyal.

Simon is now moving on to other ventures and so I am back teaching this class, which has now been running for over ten years and still welcomes beginners through the doors.

I teach traditional Yang style Tai Chi in the parish hall on Wednesdays at 10.30am and can be reached for more information on: 561182 or email: [vida.taichi@gmail.com](mailto:vida.taichi@gmail.com)

**Vida Hodder**

## Dear Editor

May I through your columns express my heartfelt thanks to all who supported our Quiz Night last month in aid of our campaign to End Polio Now.

It was a fun evening and we raised £1254.50 which makes a good contribution towards eliminating this dreadful disease from the world.

Very sincerely

**Andrew Girling**

## Dear Editor

We saw the Ceilidh advertised in the Village Voice and being new to the village it seemed like a good opportunity to get to know a few people beyond nodding acquaintances with fellow dog walkers.

A "Kaylee" / Barn Dance seemed reminiscent of School Country Dancing. However, we had a great time.

There is nothing like being unable to concentrate sufficiently to follow simple instructions and having two left feet to get you laughing at your, and others, inadequacies to break down barriers and any serious faces.

There was ample opportunity to socialise, go to the bar and regain some energy during the "time outs" whilst the band continued to play their cheery tunes.

Everyone was included, with or without a partner, as much or as little as they wanted. The hall echoed with lots of laughter, fun and general revelry.

"Strictly" it isn't. A good night out - too right. We would thoroughly recommend giving it a try and going along, pretty sure you won't be disappointed.

When is the next one?

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# **Epitaphs For Pets**

By John Davie

Some years ago I was taking our chocolate Labrador Fuzzy for a walk through Chiswick Park, his all-time favourite haunt. By the lake, set back modestly on the green verge, I noticed a slender tombstone of some age. The inscription, I saw on closer inspection, was in Latin. As a classicist myself, a lecturer at Trinity College, Oxford, about to hang up my toga, I read this epitaph with some interest, admiring the author's obvious familiarity with elegiac verse, and found it was a poem in honour of a dog called Lucy.

I was struck by how much love was enshrined in these few lines and how clear a picture emerged of a young dog whose death at the age of eight had almost broken his owner's heart a hundred years ago. How touching it was to read that the animal had possessed 'all the virtues and none of the vices of humans' and shown a loyalty without qualification. I found this so moving, that I jotted the poem down. I looked at Fuzzy very differently as we walked home, realizing the transience of the bond created between dog and owner and how lucky my family and I were to have such a companion.

In due course we lost Fuzzy to a combination of old age and a weak heart, and the house was never quite the same again. A few days later I came across Lucy's epitaph in a drawer and decided I would write a similar poem in Latin for our much-loved pet. As a challenge I used the verse form of Lucy's epitaph, the elegiac couplet, which had been used by the Greeks and Romans two thousand years ago in epitaphs and also for love-poetry.

The process was lengthy and strangely therapeutic. On a whim, I typed the final version out with an English translation and showed it to the family. They were all taken with it and said it was a real source of comfort, a proper remembrance of all the happiness Fuzzy had given us. Another friend was asked to employ her calligraphy skills and the result, with a photo of Fuzzy, is framed and now part of the house.

I have since been encouraged to do this for other friends who have lost pets, including not just dogs and cats, but also a horse! I did the same when our cat had to be put down recently after a stroke. Each time I ask for details of their pet and try to incorporate these into the poem, making it a personal remembrance.

The response, to my surprise, has been very enthusiastic. People have talked about finding the poems consoling and how they like the use of Latin to show respect and dignity. One of my poems is now on a tombstone in the garden of an Oxford College, commemorating the President's King Charles Spaniel, Dido. I am thinking now of offering to write similar verses for other bereaved pet-owners in the hope that it might make the loss more bearable and also become a way of remembering the pet they lost.

My stepson and his partner Becky lost their Norfolk terrier, Russell a month ago and asked if I would write a poem for them. I asked Becky what qualities she wanted me to record and what follows went down so well they want to frame it on the kitchen wall above the place he used to sleep. It will give some idea of what I do.

## **Epitaph for Russell**

flete meos casus, canem si quis diligebat;  
fuit enim Russell, larum deliciae.  
semper erat fidus dominamque suam spectabat  
magnis et fuscis ardens luminibus.  
collem altum superans gelidumve ferens mare nostrum  
linguam piae se fert et vim vix crederes.  
felix sis apud umbras, Russell canicule magne,  
nec nimis latrando manes terreas.

Weep for my misfortune, all dog lovers.  
Russell has died, the darling of our home.  
He was loyal always and would fix his large,  
brown eyes eagerly on the mistress he loved.  
Racing up a steep hill or braving the chilly British sea,  
he showed his tongue for all to see, and with it  
an energy you would scarcely believe.  
Be happy among the shades, Russell, little dog with  
a big heart, and don't bark too much and scare the ghosts.

## **Epitaph for Jimmy the Horse**

mortuus est, heu! Jimmy equus quem suspirant equae.  
summus erat sonipes, lumina saepe trahens  
pulchrum caesariem ut quatit colla per longa fluentem .  
procax erat semper, pectora sua sequens,  
nec aliam quam Becky habebat umque magistram.  
illum utinam aspicerem laeta per aequora euntem  
velociorem aquila leporem quae agit trepidantem.

Jimmy the Horse, alas! is dead, the heartthrob of the mares.  
He was the prince of prancers, often attracting the eye  
as he shook the handsome mane that flowed over his long neck.  
He was always headstrong, following his own heart,  
and would only ever have Becky, no one else, as his rider.  
If only I might see him galloping over the Elysian Fields  
faster than an eagle in pursuit of a trembling hare!

If you would like a similar poem for your own pet, do get in touch and I shall do my best to make it a personal memento.

**John Davie**

j.n.davie.t21@btinternet.com



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## **Listen Up! Go CUCKOO!**

The Aune Conservation writes "Last year many of you told us that you'd heard a cuckoo..."

The Avon Valley lies directly along the spring migratory corridor for the cuckoo as it flies thousands of miles to its summer breeding grounds on Dartmoor.

Once commonplace throughout Devon, this bird was once synonymous with the sound of spring. Sadly, those days are gone with a staggering 75% decline over the past 40 years.

Many issues face our migratory birds, but habitat loss and fragmentation in our own back yard has resulted in less available food and fewer nesting sites. Everyone connected with the Avon Valley Project is doing their bit to create a more connected landscape. Can you help more...?

On your own land?

As an insectivorous bird, the cuckoo relies on abundant insect populations as its main food source. Increase what's in the larder by diversifying the range of habitats & flowering plants and help our pollinating insects at the same time.

These birds need more niche habitats, hedges with mature tree's, lightly grazed heathland, mature woodland with open glades, scrubby moorland. The Avon Valley has the potential to become more cuckoo friendly...

Share what you hear...

If you hear or see a cuckoo we want to know about it. Devon Birds, Exeter University & Dartmoor National Park have an ongoing Cuckoo Sightings Project.

***If you see or hear a cuckoo on your land, please share your findings.***

Your information really does help build a better picture of the remaining Cuckoo strongholds across Devon. Submit your findings direct to Devon Birds or contact either Craig or Lynne and they'll do it for you."

## **LEARN RESUSCITATION TECHNIQUES AND HOW TO USE A DEFIBRILLATOR**

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**from Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary club**

**on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 7pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall**

**The session will last about 2 hours**

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## February

Membland and Lord Revelstoke's carriage drive were the subjects of Ursula Myers, our February guest speaker. The estate at Membland, part of Newton Ferrers, was bought by the first Lord Revelstoke, Edward Baring, an exceptionally wealthy banker, in the 1870s. The new owner built up the estate, living in Membland Hall, and erected many of its easily recognised attractive former estate workers' houses, used today as private residences. He was also a philanthropist, paying for and having built Noss Mayo church, St Peter's. The famous hymn-writer, Rev Baring-Gould, was a cousin and used to visit the Hall to play the organ which Baring installed there.

The famous 9-mile carriage drive encircled part of the estate and was a pleasant means of entertaining his often distinguished guests which included King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra and, as boys, both Edward VIII and George VI. Sadly in 1891 South American investments went sour and caused the collapse of Barings Bank and the family wealth. By 1895 the estate fell into the hands of a London consortium, which included some of the Baring family, and Edward died in 1897. By 1927 all the estate had been sold and Membland Hall was eventually demolished. Ursula showed us a wonderful collection of then and now photographs which recorded the rise and fall of a small estate.

Voting took place on the NFWI resolutions and our two choices for the short list concerned female genital mutilation and modern day slavery. The Soup 'n Puds and Kurling sessions were enjoyable and walking netball at the Kingsbridge sports centre was popular with some of our members.

## March

The meeting opened on a sad note as President Le Grice asked us to observe a minute's silence to remember Heather Hickey, who had died unexpectedly. Heather was a lovely person and loyal member who will be much missed by all who knew her.

Good wishes were to be sent to Margaret Catlin who was taken ill whilst visiting relatives in Birmingham and is now in

hospital recovering from pneumonia. Jeanette Millard was welcomed as a new member.

Our March speaker was Marilyn Bishop, the title for whose talk was 'The history of beer through pub signs' and these names often reflected what was going on at the time they were established. Monks were the earliest commercial brewers of beer in England and produced what they called 'liquid bread'. In 959 King Edgar the Peaceful introduced the first official measurement for beer, called a peg, and not more than one ale-house could be established per village. Branches of greenery had to be hung outside the premises selling beer and then in 1398 Richard II decreed that outside pictorial signboards should be used.

This has led to the wonderful proliferation of names for inns and pubs. Some had royal connotations such as The King's (or Queen's) Head, the Prince Regent and the Prince of Wales. Others had an ecclesiastical slant with The Mitre, Church House Inn, and Ring o'Bells. The Saracen's Head, the Turk's Head and the Trip to Jerusalem commemorated the Crusades, while famous battles and heroes such as Trafalgar, Lord Nelson, and the Duke of Wellington were remembered too. The Duke, we heard, gave any retiring soldier under his command a bounty which enabled the ex-soldier to open his own pub. This hobby has taken Marilyn all over Britain recording these signs and their fascinating history. It was an excellent pub crawl!

# The Group meeting will be on 26 April at 2.30pm with speaker Val Bugden-Causley on the subject of 'Growing Old Disgracefully'. A request was made for members to provide refreshments for the occasion.

# The quiz team were narrowly beaten at Morleigh but they were thanked for representing Thurlestone.

# Celebrations of our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday started early with a glass of bubbly and a piece of gorgeous cake made by Joan Booth.

# We are looking forward to the trip to Buckland Abbey and the Garden House on 3 May, and the draw for our two Denman College bursaries will take place at the May meeting.

## National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for April and May 2018

- Thursday  
5 April** A walk from Little Dartmouth. Meet at the NT car park there (SX874491) TQ7 0JP for a circular walk of about four miles along the coastal path. Return in time for a pub lunch.
- Friday  
20 April** Cotehele (NT) at springtime. First to Tavistock with time for a stroll and coffee. Then on to Cotehele House where the house, gardens, mill and restaurant will be open.
- Wednesday  
2 May** Burrow Farm Gardens, near Axminster, and Sidmouth town. Late morning and lunch in Sidmouth before driving to Dalwood to spend the afternoon at gardens of beauty and colour that have been described as a photographer's dream.
- Tuesday  
15 May** Trewithen House and Gardens, Cornwall. Tours of this historic house on this private estate are only available on selected days. There are lovely grounds and in the walled garden there is a superb wisteria, under a pergola, which may just be showing its splendour. There is a tea shop, also selling boxed Tregothnan Teas.

For information about these events, or about joining the National Trust South Hams Centre, contact Joan Johnstone on 01548 852014 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm only please)

## KINGSBRIDGE ARTS SOCIETY

*previously KEDFAS*

### Meetings in April and May 2018

#### APRIL

Wed 25/Thurs 26      **Foreigners in London 1520-1677**      *Speaker Leslie Primo*

Why were foreign painters preferred by the aristocracy in London to native-born English painters; why did foreigners come in the first place; what was their motivation; and what was the impact of foreigners in London on English art?

#### MAY

Wed 30/Thurs 31      **The Aztecs and their Civilisation**      *Speaker Chloe Sayer*

The Aztecs (known also as the Mexica) flourished in central Mexico between 1325 and 1521. The Aztecs have often been described as warlike and bloodthirsty, yet their creative achievements were breathtaking.

#### Visit dates for your diary

April 17      Exeter Royal Albert Memorial Museum

June 19      Hestercombe House and Gardens

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at 7 for 7.30 and Thursday mornings at 10 for 10.30.

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# All Saints

**RECTOR:** Revd. Daniel Hartley  
01548 5677/07864 630326  
[danielhartley.aunevalley@gmail.com](mailto:danielhartley.aunevalley@gmail.com)

**READER:** Peter Gornall



## AN EASTER FUTURE

Easter 2018 is upon us. A time to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with songs, prayers, Easter fayre and, of course, the odd chocolate egg! The resurrection is the corner stone upon which the whole of the Christian Faith is built. It informs everything about what it means to be a Christian and to live a Christian life. It bathes the very essence of who we are in the light of hope. On that first Easter Day God opened up a future for his people that was to be immeasurably better than their past. The future was no longer to be feared as Christ had banished even death itself.

As we journey through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century I wonder if we are able to hold fast to this vision of the future? A future that's beauty is, as yet, undiscovered. A future that always seeks to be better than the past. A future that is informed by what has gone before but not enslaved by it. At times it seems that the future has become something to be feared rather than something to be looked forward to. At times it appears that we would rather take refuge in an imaginary past than to embrace the call to construct a hope-filled future.

I have always sought to commit myself to a way of life that looks forward to the future. Not because I am blind or because I am naive, but because I believe that human beings can shape the future by embracing our freedom. Ultimately this is informed by faith in the resurrection of Christ. Being set free is only the beginning of the human journey of discovery. We are set free so that the future might be mapped, not by sinister forces or by impersonal fate, but by the human spirit and the act of human creativity.

I still believe that we are called to make our future better than our past. I believe that we can do this with hearts and minds open to the possibilities of human life. Securing this future isn't easy. It involves embracing compromise and inhabiting the great areas of human reasoning and choice. But it is vital. The Easter future awaits us when we allow the resurrection of Christ to be more than the language of faith. The Easter future awaits us when we see this resurrection as God's blue print for the whole of human history. We are a people of hope for whom the journey to the future should be filled with excitement and possibility.

**Everyone is particularly welcome to the**

**Rogation Sunday Service**

**SUNDAY MAY 6TH 11.00 A.M.**

**SHUTE FARM, SOUTH MILTON**

followed by optional "Bring & Share" Lunch

*Tea/coffee/soft drinks provided - Parking available*

*Wear warm, waterproof clothing*

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**More information or changes to the advertised services and events  
may be found on [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk)**



# All Saints' Diary

**Churchwardens:** Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

**Everyone is welcome at all services,**  
which are at Thurlestone, unless indicated otherwise

## Church Services

### Sundays

<b>EVERY SUNDAY</b>	<b>8.00am</b> Holy Communion (said) (BCP): April 1st, 15th, 29th May 6th & 20th; CW: April 8th & 22nd, May 13th & 27th)
<b>EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 1ST</b>	<b>8.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) with hymns <b>11.10am</b> Easter Family Communion
<b>APRIL 8TH, 15TH, 29TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)     ( <i>Fairtrade on April 8th &amp; 29th</i> )
<b>APRIL 22ND</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Morning Worship <b>5.30pm</b> Prayer & Praise in the Meeting Room
<b>MAY 6TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Rogation Service at Shute Farm, South Milton ( <i>see over</i> )
<b>MAY 13TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Matins (BCP)
<b>MAY 20TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Parish Eucharist (CW) <b>5.30pm</b> Prayer & Praise in the Meeting Room
<b>MAY 27TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Trinity Sunday Service

### Weekdays

<b>THURSDAY APRIL 12TH, MAY 3RD</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham
<b>ASCENSION DAY THURSDAY MAY 10TH</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Loddiswell
<b>EVERY MON, WED, THURS, FRI</b>	<b>8.30am</b> Morning Prayer (said) (8.15am on Wednesdays)
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

CW = Common Worship (modern language)    BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)

You would be welcome to join us for **Activities in the Church Meeting Room**

	<b>Coffee-Time</b> <b>WEDNESDAYS</b> <b>10.30 - 11.30 a.m.</b> <i>Donations in aid of monthly charity</i>	
<b>Films for All TUESDAYS 2.30 p.m.</b>	<b>APRIL 3RD</b> <b>Goodbye Christopher Robin</b> <i>Domhnall Gleeson, Will Tilston, Margot Robbie, Kelly Macdonald</i>	 <b>MAY 1ST</b> <b>Victoria &amp; Abdul</b> <i>Judi Dench, Eddie Izzard, Ali Fazal</i>

Donations to Church funds ~ Leaflets in Church, Meeting Room & Shop

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	<p>There will be the usual house-to-house collection throughout the parish during <b>Christian Aid Week</b>. For over 10 years your generosity has resulted in a total of between £1000 and £1400. <b>Can we make it £1500 this year?</b></p>
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**Entries must be received by May 15th**

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Without the competition there can be no calendar**

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**MAY 26TH - 30TH**

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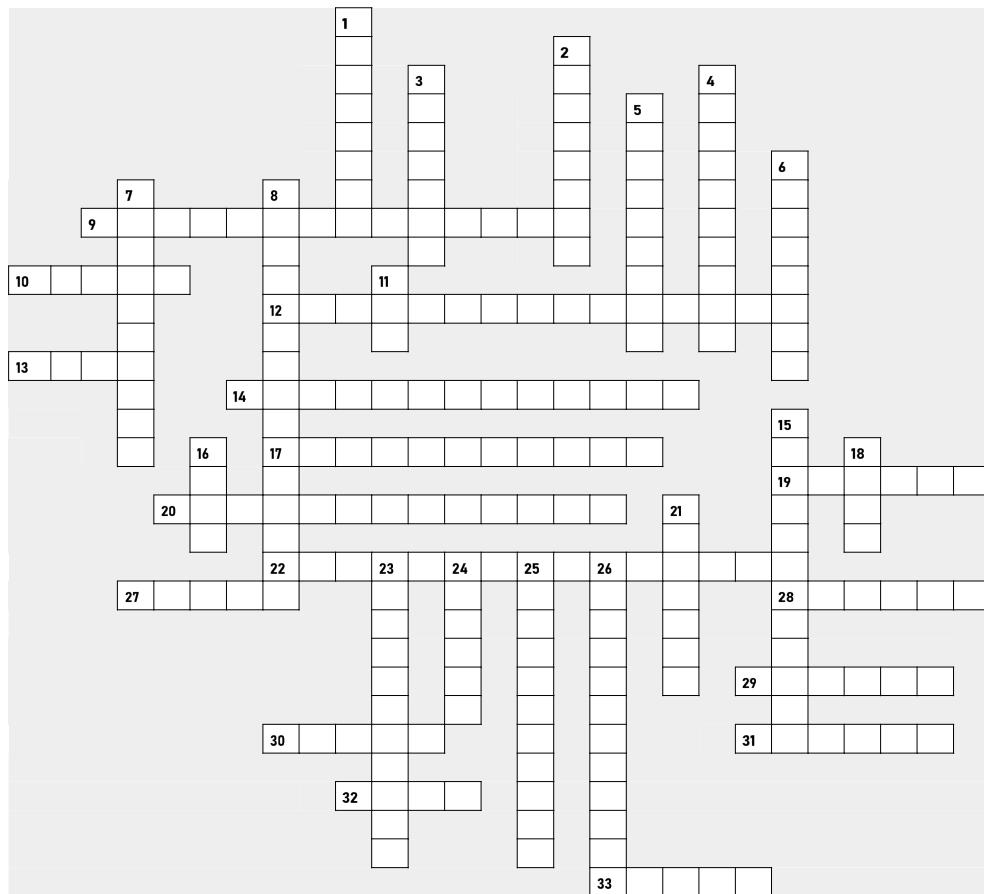
**COFFEE-TIME:**

**Wednesday**

**10.30 a.m.  
-12 noon**

# Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB  
or email: [cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk)



9. Top of amazon is wet (3, 5, 6)
10. HIJKLMNO (5)
12. The middle of nowhere is H, so what is D? (3, 4, 2, 6)
13. Cosmic rotary factor
14. Where people with spirit fill people with drive (6, 7)
17. Pain (6, 5)
19. Who's a pretty boy in University (6)
20. SGEG (9, 4)
22. Cox at me (6, 3, 6)
27. A number of fingers (5)
28. Eleven plus two minus one, amazingly (6)
29. Rose river (6)
30. Either way, it's a small craft (5)
31. Made of iron this strange object of worship (6)
32. Amundsen's forwarding address (4)
33. Taxi Driver strange in New York (5)

## Down

1. Biscuits and nuts (8)
2. Burns 'em in boxes! (8)
3. Two girls on a knee (7)
4. Nommag (10)
5. It's obvious there's nothing upstairs (2-7)
6. Time for breakfast (8)
7. Bresh (5,5)
8. Semi-automated nun? (8, 2, 5)
11. Wolf (3)
15. (1, 6, 1, 4)
16. Potty train (4)
18. Hands up for an early lunch (4)
21. Opposite, perhaps, of Caesar, J? (7)
23. Go hunting for fowl and get none (3, 3, 1, 4)
24. I smoke near an igloo (6)
25. A forbidding place? (7, 4)
26. A bar of soap (6, 6)

## Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Horse with no name, 2. House of the Rising Sun, 3. God only knows, 4. He ain't heavy, he's my brother, 5. It's raining men, 6. Twenty Four hours from Tulsa, 7. Bridge over Troubled Waters, 8. Walking back to happiness, 9. Pretty Flamingo, 10. Big Spender, 11. Hit me with your rhythm stick, 12. Laughter in the rain, 13. Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves, 14. Dedicated follower of fashion, 15. Ferry cross the Mersey, 16. My old man's a dustman, 17. I'm a believer, 18. Bye bye love, 19. No milk today, 20. Message in a bottle, 21. Light my fire, 22. Knocking on Heaven's Door, 23. Tiger Feet, 24. Hanging on the Telephone, 25. A Hard Day's Night.

*Congratulations and the bottle of wine to Vicky Carpenter, Thurlestone*

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# Eating Out Locally

*Vivien Stickland reports on another highly rated local hostelry*

## La Ranchera's Mexican restaurant

To step into the colourful lightness of La Ranchera's restaurant is a pleasant surprise as the shaded picture window conceals any view of the interior from the road. The chef's kitchen and bar is open to the diners and is brightened with LEDs. The cleanliness and friendliness is obvious even before you interact with the waitress who knows everything that will help you understand the menu, drinks and customs of Mexican eating. Our friendly waitress saw that we were seated comfortably and from then on was aware when we needed her, yet was not around when we wanted to be left alone.

Cocktails are La Ranchera's speciality. Their foamy 'Strawberry Daiquiri', made from rum and strawberry, is beautiful to look at and pure heaven to drink. 'Bay Breeze' is a combination of cranberry, pineapple and vodka. Its name holds exotic promise and it comes, well iced, in a long glass. 'Paraiso' is a gorgeous mix of tequila, passion fruit and lime. Margaritas and wines are listed, but you may want a beer from an imported selection.

We relaxed with our drinks while Betty the chef prepared our starters. 'Ceviche De Pescado' and 'Zina pecuerco' – 'Mexican Michoacan' brought us new taste experiences. The freshness of the salad and its dressing's flavour were very attractive to my palate. Jalapeños brought subtle heat to one dish. Lime is in the salad dressing, sauces and marinades too and, its colour is in the restaurant's decor.

Betty (well, Beatrice really) was born and raised in Mexico. She loves food and, now in Kingsbridge at 2 Regal House, Church Street, she skilfully prepares and cooks these authentic dishes to order. Her restaurant is so highly rated it has been awarded the Trip Advisor's Certificate of Excellence and is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> of 69 restaurants in Kingsbridge.

Her kitchen is in full view of your table. She produces fresh dishes from chicken, beef and fish based on Mexican home cooking and caters brilliantly for groups of friends and family. Some dishes on the menu are for sharing.

Our Mains were: 'Polla Asado al Tequila' (Chicken Tequila) - char-grilled chicken breast served with a creamy tequila sauce, guacamole, leafy salad and salsa. Delicious.

'Enchiladas Moreliananas': 3 corn rolled tortillas infused in a soft chilli sauce, filled with cheese and onion, topped with sauté potatoes and carrots and finished with crunchy lettuce crumbly cheese and cream and, unless you are vegetarian, served with chicken. The authentic flavours from Mexico are wonderful. Yes, chilli heats many dishes, but at your request, it can be as mild as you wish, or, for brave first timers and palates that are accustomed to it, it can be vibrantly hot.

Desserts: Lime Key Pie; Ice cream and sorbet; 'Churros' – they are fingers of 'dough' pastry, fried and sprinkled with cinnamon sugar and with a chocolate or caramel sauce for dipping.

'La Ranchera' is a century old nickname for food prepared by wives who ran ranches while men were away. We have good restaurants of various traditions in Kingsbridge. Well known are Cafe Asia and Maha-Bharat, both in Mill Street. Like La Ranchera, their standards compare well with the best of their kind nationally. La Ranchera's chef brings cooking skills of a high and honest standard to her restaurant. Open 6.0pm Mon to Sat. Call 01548 856707

**Vivien Stickland**

## **Thurlestone Phonebox..... Brrrrrrrrr Brrrrrrrrr**

Our oldest ally, Portugal, kindly sent Emma to us, who presented your Phonebox library with a lovely white top-hat, although probably more like a flat cap. Whilst children were enjoying sledging down grassy slopes, at least three cars enjoyed sledging down Ilbert Road leaving their marks on telephone posts and a nice solid stone wall.

Outside the Phonebox I heard a couple of well clad walkers comparing their plight to Amundson and the ill-fated explorer Scott of the Antarctic. They were no doubt unaware of the close connection that the Phonebox has with Robert Falcon Scott.

If you cross the road, in the church on the north wall is a commemorative plaque in memory of Courtney Peregrine Ilbert, son of Peregrine Ilbert, long-time Rector of Thurlestone. The sculptor of the bronze was none other than Kathleen Scott, widow of Captain Scott.

Furthermore.....Kathleen Scott remarried and had a son, Wayland, who in turn married Elizabeth Adams, daughter of Audrey Adams in whose memory is the lovely "All-things-bright-and-beautiful" stained glass window next to the lectern. (How many hedgehogs can you find in the window?)

So, a close connection - and do we win a prize for useless information?

Spring is around the corner, or hopefully a short curve, and we can look forward to all the colourful joys it brings, not to mention a royal birth and a royal wedding. Have fun.

**Kit Marshall**

## **Buckland Box**

The Buckland Box is holding a Childrens' Easter Trail on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2.30 until 4.30. Tea and cakes will be provided, and there may even be some Easter eggs! Everyone is welcome.

**Anna Martin**



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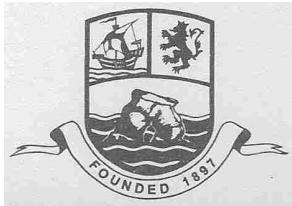
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# Thurlestone Golf Club



## CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

I hope everyone has survived the Beast from the East. Hopefully the weather will start to improve!

I was saddened to hear the news that prominent member Lincoln Shaw had passed away recently at the age of 93. By all accounts he was a fine man who excelled in many walks of life. I have heard members account tales of Lincoln's prowess on the golf course and his passion for the game especially Thurlestone. Although the funeral is family only a memorial service will be held on Sunday 8th April 2018 at The Upper Gate House Dartington Hall starting at 10.30 am with coffee before the celebration at 11.00 am. I look forward to seeing as many members there as possible.

One of the first Men's matches is the Palairet Team v the Dartmoor League Team – always a hotly contested affair. This year the Dartmoor League Team is looking for a new sponsor, if you know of any local businesses that would be interested, please contact Tony Adams the Team captain. The Palairet Team, Captained by Steve Pike, has a tricky fixture against Saunton Artisans on Sunday 6th May at a venue yet to be decided. This is a great competition with a lot of history so we hope they have a successful campaign.

The draw for the Annodata Matchplay has been completed. The Ladies play Boringdon away and the Men have been drawn against Polzeath at home. Good luck to both teams.

The Mixed Gruesomes will soon be starting up again on Thursday evenings. Before then they have their March dinner on Thursday April 5th. The newly named Laud Vase (the Summer Mixed Greensome Knockout) is now ready to enter.

Recently I have had the good fortune to play a couple of times and I must say the course is in great shape and it can only get better!

The bunkers on the 6th and 7th were designed and constructed according to the course architects specifications and carried out to the letter by Vic and his team. No doubt you have noticed that the new Amozone "jungle buster" is being put to work on the "tiger rough", there are many areas still to do but I am looking forward to the results in the spring.

One of Vic's team Stewart Freeman, after 33 years of loyal service to TGC, is moving to new pastures green – literally – Stewart hopes to take up a position Morlais Castle Golf Club in South Wales. The Club will be making a presentation to Stewart on Wednesday 28th March at 6.00 pm with drinks and nibbles. The Club invite members come along but also to make a contribution to his leaving present which can be left with any of the administration staff in the office.

Due to the weather tennis members have not had much play on the hard courts but it will soon be time to tighten the strings and whiten the Green Flash Tennis Shoes as Vic prepares the grass courts for play. Once again there is a full programme of events at Easter and beyond. These started with the Easter Bonnet on Thursday 28th March 2018

The refurbishment is on its last lap. I have many positive comments from members and visitors alike and I hope you agree with me that the Bar and Lounge areas look a lot brighter which will achieve a more convivial atmosphere.

Our thanks should go to the Club's catering team for their efforts while this work has been in progress – it has not been easy for them. Both the Valentines night and the Thai Evening were well supported and the French Themed evening was thoroughly enjoyed by those that attended.

Finally... I would like to wish you happy golfing and a great season ahead. We play on a fabulous course which, even if your game is a little off, affords you views that are forever breathtaking.

**Harry J Cattell**

## LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The first two months of the year have flown by and I have had to reply on my committee to run the Ladies section as I've been away in Australia for a month celebrating my 40th wedding anniversary. We certainly had better weather than you have.

The course and clubhouse were closed for several days over the March snows, which has not happened for many years. However the refurbishment of the restaurant, bar and entrance hall is progressing well and the new picture windows in the restaurant have improved the light and view. We look forward to opening of the bar area.

I have planned an exciting Away Day for the ladies on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July at Bovey Castle which is a large early 20th century mansion near Moretonhampstead, on the edge of Dartmoor. We currently have about fifty ladies signed up for it, a tough course but lots of fun.

We have entered a team in the National Annadota knockout competition and have been drawn to play Boringdon in the first round. Last year we did beat them but were stopped in the second round by Perranporth golf club.

The Devon teams will soon be starting their matches. The Sheelah Creasy team for ladies of handicaps 21 to 36 have been drawn to play Bigbury for their first match in April. The Presidents team (Handicaps 0-20) also play Bigbury at home for their first match.

The Devon League team (any handicap) were not so lucky as they have to travel to Ilfracombe for their first match.

Thurlestone have introduced a number of Club stablefords to this year's diary. This is to facilitate the option of playing in more qualifying competitions during the year. These competitions will not have any blocked tee times associated with them, and will not affect any of the traditional Roll Ups, society bookings or matches. Just turn up and pay in the pro shop.

We are holding a Ladies golf and Coffee morning on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April with stalls

selling cakes, preserves, books, plants, golf clothes and a raffle to raise money for the Ladies section. All are welcome to attend.

**Heather Spencer**

## JUNIORS SECTION NEWSLETTER

March is always an exciting month for golfers, with new competitions and matches to be played. The lucky juniors have a wonderful programme ahead of them and even a trip to play golf in France. Thurlestone has around 80 local juniors aged six to eighteen with Handicaps ranging from 4 to 54. The younger you start the more you can achieve.

However golf is a game you can continue to play in your nineties, Lincoln Shaw died in February aged 93 and played up to a year before he died. He will be sadly missed at the clubhouse and often went out with the dawn patrol. He was a keen supporter of the junior section.

This year we have one junior competition each month, and all juniors with handicaps lower than 28 can also play in the men's competitions.

We have entered the West Devon League, which is a group of six Devon clubs with junior teams which play home and away matches against each other. There are six juniors in the team and the matches consist of 4 singles and one foursomes match both home and away. The two top teams in each group go into finals day in August. Our first match is against Boringdon.

We have also entered the Tamar cup knockout competition which is made up of junior teams from both Devon and Cornwall clubs.

The Devon County Basil Steer knockout is the other competition our team has entered and we have to play Exeter at Churston in the first round in April. Some readers will remember Basil Steer who was a top golfer from Tavistock who donated the cup.

The Devon Futures coaching of juniors took place on Saturday 17th March at Elfordleigh golf club and some of our juniors were asked to attend. The Thurlestone Professional Steve White is the Head coach of the Futures

Programme. This is a scheme run by Devon County to identify and coach juniors who have shown promise and could eventually feed into the Devon junior teams. It takes place at different clubs in Devon.

Many of our juniors are already in the Devon teams; George Holland handicap 4 in the Under 18 team, George Messias handicap 8 & Finn Whelan handicap 9 in the Under 16, Toby White handicap 14 and Alfie Messias handicap 11 in the Under 14 and Noah Mulligan handicap 14 and at nine years old the youngest member of the Under 12 team. Well done to all of them for getting chosen.

We look forward to some better weather in April and May when the West Devon League matches get underway and there is a French trip arranged for the juniors in May. The juniors and their parents will catch the car ferry from Plymouth to Roscoff where they

will spend three nights in a hotel playing three different courses.

The Devon Schools Championships are also planned for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Tiverton. Some of our juniors have been picked by Kingsbridge Community College to represent them.

On Sunday 17th June at Torquay there is an 18 hole Stableford for Junior Club Teams for the Keith Abraham Salver, playing in teams of three with 2 scores to count, an event we shall be entering.

At Thurlestone we have a Devon juniors Order of Merit on Sunday 8th July and we have decided to hold a Junior Open on this day as well. There will be an 18 hole competition for CONGU juniors and a 9 hole for non Congu with Handicaps 28-54.

#### **Liz Line**

## **Lincoln Shaw**

Well-known Devon journalist, Lincoln Shaw, died peacefully in Torbay Hospital on 19th February following a short illness. Lincoln, 93, was a popular and greatly respected voice within the county both in his work reporting for BBC Radio Devon, and also through his regular newspaper columns across the thirty years he worked within the South West.

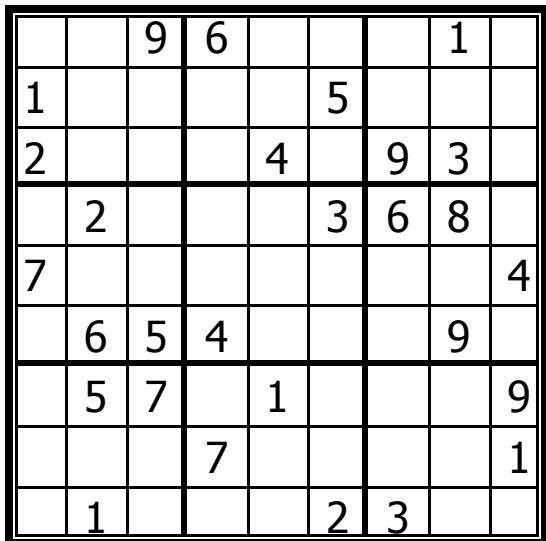
Lincoln and his wife Patricia quickly fell in love with the South Hams after moving from the Midlands in 1983. Prior to joining Radio Devon shortly after its launch, Lincoln played an important role in the BBC's Regional Television team where he had been news editor for Midlands Today before working as a senior manager coordinating teams producing hundreds of hours of news reporting across the UK. He was also part of the small team who in the early '60's pioneered BBC local radio.

A passion for finding compelling stories defined Lincoln's professional life. His early years proved a remarkable story in itself when in 1942 at the age of 17 he volunteered to join the RAF and became an air-crew rear gunner. "Tail End Charlies", as they were known, suffered some of the highest casualty rates in bomber command and Lincoln dealt daily with the loss of close friends as they engaged in scores of dangerous missions across occupied Europe. Only recently he was awarded the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest award of distinction, when retrospective recognition was given to British military members involved in the liberation of France on D Day.

Lincoln enjoyed a fulfilling professional life yet was happiest away from the stresses of journalism as a loving husband and father to two boys, Nick and Simon. He was a passionate golfer and counted his blessings to be able to play on some of the most beautiful courses including his favourite, Thurlestone, where he was made life member in recognition of his popularity and love of the game, regularly playing in all weathers in to his early nineties.

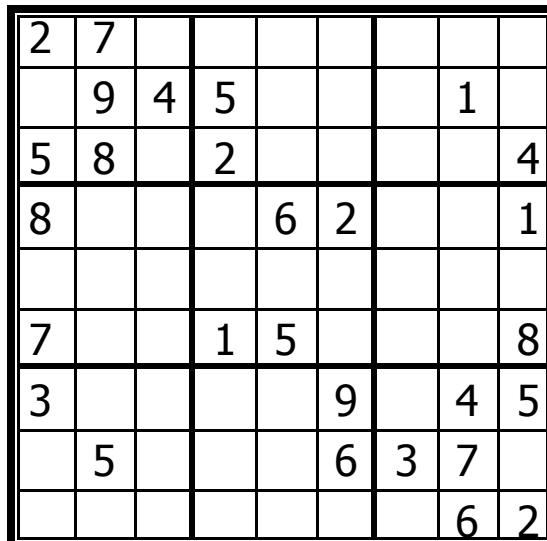
A memorial service is planned for early April at Dartington Hall. If you would like to attend please contact lincolnsmemorial@yahoo.com

# sudoku



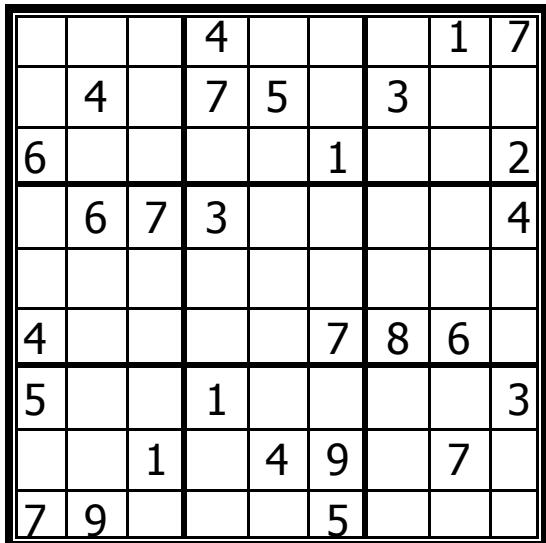
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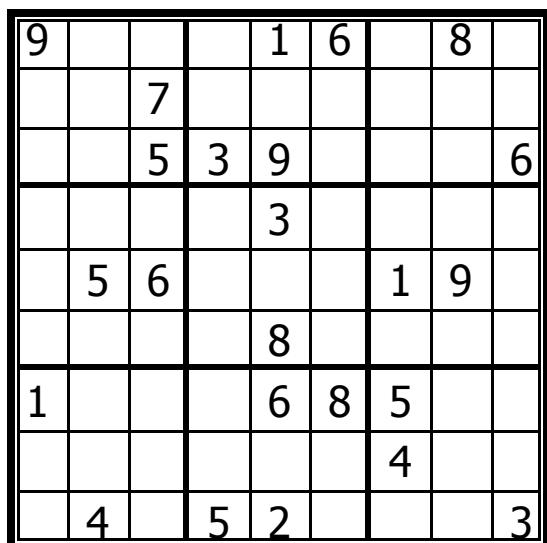
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Tougher

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Tougher

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## SNOWBOUND?

Snow rather than sudoku seems to have been on people's minds these past two months, though we still received six all-correct solutions to our last challenge, from Elaine Grant, Pauline Lonsdale, Vera Pailthorpe, Lindy Price, Lisa White, and George Delafield. From the ensuing ballot it was **Lindy Price** who emerged as the winner of the treasure from the cellars. Congratulations to all, but only Lindy bags the bottle! Entries for this issue's four-part challenge to 25 Mead Lane as usual by 5<sup>th</sup> May.

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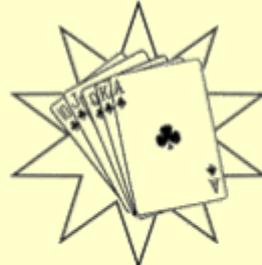
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# Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

It won't surprise you I'm sure that I will be telling you about SNOW in all its guises. Well, some anyway, the subject is too big to cover everything in this one article. At last my reference book "*The Wrong Kind of Snow*" by Woodward and Penn, is most appropriate. They do not disappoint and give some very interesting information about the subject.

I was a small girl when the legendary snow storm of 1947 struck. However I remember it very well, living on a farm with sheep already giving birth to their lambs. The clouds gathered. They had a very dark and menacing look about them and the forecast was giving a possibility of snow. My father and his workman Alan Jeffery set to work to clear the machinery out of the barns and linhays, arranging straw on the floor and piling bales on end to cut out the viciously cold wind already blowing in a menacing way and then, with the dog, going out to bring in the entire flock of ewes. Those with lambs were left till last and found shelter in stables, calf houses - anywhere out of the weather. The first snow began to fall as these last animals were brought under cover.

That was January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1947. From then on snow fell somewhere in the UK everyday until 4<sup>th</sup> March, and on that day a blizzard swept across England and Wales piling feet of snow on to that already lying and frozen hard. This winter 1946/47 was to prove the snowiest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the snowiest since records began. At Kew no sun was recorded for 22 days out of 28 days in February. Apart from a few, all the lambs that year were born under cover but in Arctic type temperatures. They struggled to survive, many didn't, and those that did mostly had to be brought into the kitchen to the AGA where the cooler oven was used as an "incubator". They were fed and warmed for a few hours then returned to their Mums. At least the huge drifts that built up around the barns were good for insulating the cracks and doors that were not in use. It was memorable year and one that I will never forget.

Scotland, at this time, escaped the worst, with temperatures a balmy 5°C or so. Then 13<sup>th</sup> March it was their turn and along with Cumbria the snowstorm broke causing the biggest road transport hold-up ever known on Shap Fell (1400 ft or 426 metres high). A 7 mile long succession of drifts built up, many as deep as 15 ft with the resulting build up of traffic, hundreds of lorries coming to a standstill. At either end of the Pass drivers either stayed in their unheated cabs or sought refuge in the villages dotted along the route. The farmers trying to get feed to their flocks found the roads blocked with lorries or snow, so animals went hungry. Across the country thousands of sheep and cattle died as a result of the weather. Ironically British summer time was scheduled that weekend! Inevitably, after the snow thawed the next threat was flooding which did not disappoint and many farmers and individuals lost much to the aftermath of the snow. At least the road to Scotland was open for business again.

As I write this there is still much snow in the road from Huxton Woods to South Milton Village via Hillingsdown. This road was blocked for 10 days although other routes crossing the area were open. Now there is a minor flood by Oxenpark House.

I measured the snowfall in terms of precipitation here at BC, there were 35 mm by Friday am and another 9 mm by Saturday. So 44 mm rain, nearly 2 ins in those three days.

Today, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March, the sun is shining and it is really like a spring day. It is, I tell myself, and then I look at, listen to and read about the next lot of snow expected. Thankfully, most of it will be in the east of the region, however these predictions always have a reverse side as we know. The ground is very wet and still cold despite the best efforts of our sun during its fleeting visits to our area. I am ever hopeful that all will be well in due course. However, do you remember a comment that I made in an edition before Christmas? In it I declared that we were due a cold snap. It is 30 years since the last real snow episode, weather watchers know that there is a belief that 30 years and 300 years are landmarks in weather episodes. In between there are smaller and less severe conditions, so I think we may have had that cold weather snap for the time being.

You may well ask—"What causes these sudden severe conditions?". On Feb 10<sup>th</sup> this year Paul Simons offered the explanation (with reference to the Met Office) that there could be a cold snap due. The reason lies high up in the stratosphere over the Arctic. Here a dramatic disturbance was taking place. 50 km high winds had reversed and begun to flow as easterlies instead of westerlies. As a result, Paul says the stratosphere will warm up and over a few days it could rise as much as 50°C -- which is a relative temperature, not an absolute temperature – in a phenomenon known as 'a sudden stratospheric warming.' This he says is a 'Major Event' ; and was almost certain to happen. This information came from the Met Office where staff had run a forecast model over and over with the same result, so it was highly unlikely that anything could knock it off course.

All this meant was that our Jet Stream was decelerating and moving south as the high in the east settled in bringing the cold, strong easterly winds we have experienced to our cost in these last weeks. There is still a lingering effect though less so due in these next few days, from the 15<sup>th</sup> onwards. More snow in the east of our region and areas to the east of the country. Thankfully none of this was quite as bad as 2013 where again there was a sudden snow storm and very low temperatures.

So much for the worst of our winter, now, with luck all gone, well in the south west and South Hams. Still some snow in places but reducing as the thaw sets in. Today I have had a lesson in the art of propagating Chrysanthemums. So I must go and water them in and try a few more for myself. How I wish the rain would hold off for a week or so to let the soil dry out a bit, but it seems unlikely, so maybe I'll get on with the digging despite the wet! I have cut the lawn for the first time, very satisfying, and trimmed some hedges, the Tamarisk and Eleagnus are budding away merrily, I never cease to wonder at the resilience of members of the plant, insect and animal world.

Back to work now, safe weather watching, but mind your backs as they bend over the ground work of tending your gardens. By the way, the Met Office has been pretty accurate with the forecast and timings this year.

**Jan T**

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## DIARY DATES

### April

- Monday 2 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm  
Wednesday 4 TRAMP tba (short)  
Monday 9 Tramp, Bowcombe and environs (long)  
Thursday 12 WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm -Teaching English to Burmese orphans  
Wednesday 18 TRAMP tba (short) + Council Tax Roadshow (outside PO)  
Thursday 19 Defibrillator Training, Parish Hall, 7.00pm (see advert)  
Saturday 21 **Cabaret Night**, Parish Hall, 7.30pm (see advert inside)  
Monday 23 **Annual Parish Meeting**, Parish hall, 7.30 pm  
Wednesday 25 Art Soc, Methodist Hall, 7.30pm *Foreigners in London* (Primo)  
Thursday 26 Art Soc, Methodist Hall, 10.30am *Foreigners in London* (Primo)  
Friday 27 TRAMP, Broadsands from Dittisham (by ferry)

### May

- Tuesday 1 TRAMP, Wembury & Down Thomas (short)  
Saturday 5 **Plant Sale**, Parish Hall, 10-noon  
Monday 7 TRAMP, Stokenham to Beesands  
Monday 7 **Annual Parish Council Meeting**, Parish Hall, 7.30pm  
Thursday 10 WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Looking after your feet)  
Friday 18 TRAMP, Avon Valley (short)  
Wednesday 23 TRAMP, Malborough to Salcombe  
Wednesday 30 Art Soc, Methodist Hall, 7.30pm, *The Aztecs* (Chloe Sayer)  
Thursday 31 Art Soc, Methodist Hall, 10.30am, *The Aztecs* (Chloe Sayer)

### June

- Friday 1 TRAMP, Ball Gate, Shipley Bridge & S.Brent (long)  
Monday 4 Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Yeo Room  
Thursday 7 TRAMP, Dartmoor (long)  
Monday 11 TRAMP, Shaugh Bridge to Cadover (short)  
Thursday 14 WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Summer with Jane Austen)

## VILLAGE VOICE

Your **Cut Out and Keep**

## PARISH DIRECTORY and DIARY DATES

**Village Voice is available free to permanent residents of the villages in the parish.**

There is also a **subscription service**, which mails copies to readers at an annual cost for 2017 of **£15.00 for six issues**. Please apply to:

**Judith Reynolds, Pilgrim Cottage, Post Office Lane, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3ND Telephone : 01548-560912**

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate.  
It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council  
and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship.  
This does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in these pages  
are the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council,  
and they should only be ascribed to the authors concerned.

In Thurlestone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers organised by **Graham & Val Palmer**. In Buckland it is delivered by **Tink Donald** and in Bantham by **Anna & David Martin**.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT (June-July) ISSUE = 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Please drop any contributions marked "Village Voice"  
through the letterbox at 25 Mead Lane before that date  
(or e-mail to RbnMacd@aol.com)**

**Advertising Rates for Village Voice - 12 months (six issues)**  
**Whole Page - £75.00   Half Page - £55 .00   Quarter Page - £35.00**

# PARISH

**PARISH COUNCIL** (Meetings take place on Mondays)

Chairman	Andrew Rhymes	560564
Vice-chairman	Charles Mitchelmore	560602
Parish Clerk	tba	
Members	Tony Goddard	562282
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Jill Munn	560732
	Bronwen Zaffiro	560020
District Councillor	Judy Pearce	561370
County Councillor	Simon Wright	561033
	Rufus Gilbert	856659
Tree Warden	Charles Mitchelmore	560602

**PARISH HALL** (See Parish website)

 Chairman  
 Bookings  
 Pay-phone in foyer

**PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS**

1. Thurlestone Parish Hall
2. Thurlestone Hotel (Garage)
3. Golf Club (Front entrance)
4. Sloop Inn, Bantham (lobby)
5. Bantham Quay
6. Buckland Phone Box

**PARISH WEBSITE** ([www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk))

Contacts Mike Bone 288436 Paul Martin 560070

**PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)**

Chairman Chris White 560505

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH**
**RECTOR**

 Graham Worrall  
 562016 Rev Daniel Hartley  
 Liz Webb  
 Office

 562727  
 560090  
 561246

**CHURCHWARDENS**
**COFFEE TIME**

Contact Rosemary Chipman

562013

**CHURCH MEETING ROOM ACTIVITIES**
**FILMS FOR ALL**

(Every Wednesday 10.30 -11.30 am) Contact Liz Webb

560090

**LUNCH CLUB**
**SOUP & A ROLL**

 (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Monthly 2.30 pm) Contact Anne Bowden

560655

**COFFEE TIME**
**COFFEE TIME**

 (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays 12.45 pm) Contact Liz Webb

560090

**FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH**

Contact Gillian Marshall 560214

**ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Executive Head Susan Rowe-Jones 560494

**PEARSON'S PRE-SCHOOL**

Manager Linda Quinn 560816

**AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

Chairman Stuart Watts 810373

**BANTHAM SAILING CLUB**

Secretary Jo Smith 560347

**BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

Clubhouse 560447

**BRIDGE CLUBS**
**BRIDGE CLUBS**

6.30 p.m Wednesdays and Fridays Contact Lisa White 560505

**THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB**
**THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB**

Gen Mgr - Simon Bawden Clubhouse &amp; all enquiries 560405

**TENNIS SECTION**

Chairman Stewart Barnes 07967-042095

**TAI CHI**

Contact Simon Bowden 07738373051

**PILATES** (Advance booking essential)

Contact Franny Morris 07590506027

**YOGA**

Contact Sarah Scott 07879627939

**TRAMP** (Thurlestone Ramblers)

Contact Mike Stickland 560763

**HORTICULTURAL SHOW** (annual)

Contact Tom Gilkes 560973

# DIRECTORY

**W. I.** 2.30 pm Parish Hall Contact Judith Le Grice 562135  
 Second Thursday monthly (except .August)

**TABLE TENNIS** Thursday 7.30 to 8.30 pm Parish Hall Robin Macdonald 560436

**NEW ZUMBA CLASS** Tuesday 1.15pm Parish Hall Alicia Prowse 07375 704 069

**HEALTH CENTRES** Kingsbridge 853551 Salcombe 842284

**MILK DELIVERY** R. Bruckner & Son 01803 - 832801

**NEWSPAPER DELIVERY** Dave & Sandra Edmonds 01548 - 853132

**VILLAGE SHOP** Thurlestone Village Shop **Sarah Tyers** 561917  
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 Wednesday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm  
 (Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm) Saturday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm  
 Sunday, 8.30 am - 1.00 pm  
 (NB. The 1.00 pm closing times may sometimes be extended during school holidays and at weekends)

**THURLESTONE POST OFFICE** 561917  
 Open : Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm  
 Postal collections : 4.00pm Monday - Friday; Noon on Saturday; **NO collection on Sunday**

**THURLESTONE PHONE BOX** Contact Kit Marshall 560214

**BUCKLAND PHONE BOX** Contact Anna Martin 560796

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** Co-ordinator Charles Mitchelmore 560602

**POLICE** Dave Gibson (Community Support Officer) 08456 - 568637  
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**RUBBISH COLLECTION**  
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**GARAGE** (Blight Engineering) **Closing with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY** 852315  
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