

VILLAGE VOICE



December 2017 - January 2018

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone
now archived on the Parish website at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk*



NUMBER 208
December 2017 - January 2018

A BREAK FROM BREXIT

Heigh-ho! Christmas is coming - and with an extra-long week-end this year. Accordingly, to help keep the grey cells ticking over between the turkey sandwiches and mince pies, Village Voice has some special items that merit your attention.

For the wordsmiths, we have a nostalgic return to schooldays with a tuck-shop of tasty anagrams in Grey Matter, while numbercrunchers can get their teeth into a first-time Samurai Sudoku.

Amid the ongoing centenaries of WW1, Malcolm Alexander contributes the first of a short series of articles on a little-known theatre of the Great War - the former German East Africa; and we are indebted to Malcolm Le Grice for a privileged peep into recent cultural developments in Qatar.

Readers feeling a little more energetic can get their new 2018 diaries marked up with Tramp outings for the coming year, or get in training for a ceilidh band knees-up at the Parish Hall.

And so another issue will take its place on the Parish website archive, alongside the magnum opus of the Neighbourhood Plan that is Sue Crowther's Christmas gift to our community, and now subject to due diligence prior to an eagerly awaited Referendum.

Finally, we wish all our readers, contributors, printers, collators, deliverers, and advertisers a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.



Front Cover: **Christmas Holly**

Founder Dudley Drabble

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



The autumn issue of Village Voice contained a Summary of the Draft Policies of the **Pre-submission Consultation Draft Neighbourhood Plan** which was posted on the parish website on Friday 15th September.

There was also a Notice with that issue advertising the statutory six-week consultation period for comments on the Draft Plan that would run from that date and would end at 5pm on Friday 27th October.

My last Update urged parishioners to read the Draft Plan (and in the first instance the Plan Overview and Summary of Policies, both of which were reproduced in the Village Voice) online. As an alternative, people were invited to view hard copies of the Draft Plan which were made available either from members of the Steering Group or by attending any of the four Saturday Consultation Sessions held at the Parish Hall. Further copies were placed in the Bantham Shop and Buckland Box.

Comment Forms were made available both online and as hard copies for everyone to make a comment, positive or negative, about the Draft Plan.

A considerable number of people attended the **Consultation Sessions** and used the events mainly to voice their concerns about future housing development in the parish or to ask for clarification of some of the draft policies in the Plan. The majority of comments by parishioners were congratulatory, expressing support for the Plan and raising useful suggestions. Many people, however, told us that they did not see any reason to make any formal comments as they had no issues to raise, but expressed their support informally.

As explained in the last Update, the Draft Plan was also circulated to and comments invited from numerous statutory consultation bodies and organisations whose interests may be affected by the Plan. These included local businesses and landowners, and neighbouring parish councils. Lengthy comments were made by some of these bodies, including South Hams District Council planning department, which will have to use the Plan once it is made to help determine planning applications in the parish. Other bodies, including Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, provided very positive feedback and helpful comments. There was particular praise for the Heritage section of the Plan.

At this stage these comments are confidential but a schedule of these comments and of the Steering Group's responses to them will form an important part of the **Consultation Statement**. I should point out here that in order to meet the regulations, this statement is likely to run to well over 200 pages and that the Steering Group are immensely grateful to Mike Bone, whose expertise has made it possible to get all our documentation online. It has been a challenging and time-consuming task!

The **Consultation Statement** and the **Basic Conditions Statement** will shortly be submitted to the District Council, together with the **Submission Version of the Plan** and its **Evidence Base**, and thereupon become public documents which will be available online.

As explained in the last Update, the District Council must then publicise the **Submission Version of the Plan** on its website for a further period of six weeks. The same individuals and organisations will again have the chance to submit comments during this consultation period. Having done this, the District Council will submit the Plan to an independent Examiner of its choice, but agreed by the Steering Group, who will decide whether or not the Plan can proceed to a Referendum in the parish which the District Council will organise.

Tony Goddard
Steering Group Chairman

Parish Council Meeting

Meetings held on 2 October & 6 November 2017

Report by Citizen

Six Parish Councillors, the District Councillor, the Parish Clerk and seven members of the public came to the October meeting and in November there were seven Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors, the Parish Clerk and thirteen members of the public present.

OPEN FORUM

Planning

21 Court Park The October meeting heard that no external notice had been posted, no entry in the Gazette had been made, and no papers received by the Parish Council in relation to this application. As a result District Councillor Judy Pearce will arrange for the date for objections to be extended. Owners of adjacent houses say that the proposed full-width first-floor balcony for this holiday home will overlook their property and destroy their privacy.

12A Mead Lane Objections re obstruction of view will be made.

Bantham Dunes Although South Hams District Council promised to re-site the rubbish bins some 6 months ago, nothing has happened so far.

PARISH HALL

Councillor Bronwen Zaffiro asked, at the request of the Parish Hall committee, if the Parish Council would be willing to offer some small financial help towards the staging on 10/11 November 2018 of an exhibition, in the Parish Hall, to commemorate the people from this parish who served in WW1. This is being held under the auspices of the Parish of Thurlestone Society and organised by Robin Macdonald.

HIGHWAYS

Parking The ongoing problem of school parents causing obstruction by thoughtless behaviour continues, it being reported that some residents are blocked in their property and some commercial vehicles abandon their deliveries in frustration. The Parish Clerk instructed to write to the Chairman of the School Governors with copies to County Councillor Rufus Gilbert and the police.

Footpaths Councillor Tony Goddard spoke about footpath alterations and produced a marked up official map of the same. The footpath above 'Little Cedars' in East Buckland will be extinguished. Information will be put on the website.

TREES

Councillor Charles Mitchelmore reported that the problem trees below Valleyside in West Buckland still need attention and Councillor Pearce said she would follow this up. The trees by the war memorial need to be trimmed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Goddard said many useful comments had been received about the pre-consultation draft of this document.

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Bantham Roundabout Agreed that the advertising at the roundabout was a relatively small problem and was of benefit in supporting local business. The roundabout is not in our parish.

Pebble Poppies The primary school children had painted poppies on individual pebbles and were given permission to place them round one of the ledges on the war memorial.

Barrier at the Golf Club This would be painted in either grey or green.

Parish Clerk Graeme Martin has been booked into a course designed specially to help new Parish Clerks.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Potholes Councillor Rufus Gilbert urged use of the SHDC website to report potholes as this will result in a reference number which can be used to follow up what action has been taken.

Schools An additional £80 per pupil will be granted by the Government.

Facts & Figures The population of Devon comprises:

- 19.5% disabled
- 11.5 % carers
- 61.5 % Christians
- 2.5 % ethnic minority
- 6 - 10% non heterosexual orientation

District Council Merger Representing Kingsbridge, he had voted to join with West Devon Council.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Container on golf club car park Councillor Judy Pearce said this application was withdrawn.

Bantham dunes Regarding containers, the removal may result in damage to local business.

Planning Fees These will increase by 20%, probably in February 2018.

Budget The SHDC has a current overspend of £80,000.

Footpaths 'No cycling' notices are to be placed on footpaths.

District Council Merger She had abstained on the vote to join with West Devon Council and the latter's surprising "No" vote might be that if they had voted 'Yes' their Councillor numbers would be reduced.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Phone Mast Councillor Andrew Rhymes was pleased to report that Thurlestone Hotel had reached an agreement with a service provider which will result in a phone mast on top of the Hotel but the date for this had not been announced.

Community Heating A meeting is being planned with the proposers.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 4 December, at 7.30pm, Yeo Room.

National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for December 2017 and January 2018

**Friday
1 December**

'Christmas Treats' coach trip to Bickleigh Mill and Killerton (NT). A visit to the Mill with its high quality craft and gift shops and good restaurant. After lunch on to Killerton House and 'The Wind in the Willows'. The café and shop will be open.

**Wednesday
13 January**

'Sharpitor, Salcombe - the end of the road?', 2.30pm. An illustrated talk by Matthew Sainsbury describing how the creation of Overbeck's garden at Sharpitor saved the local coastline from over-development. NOTE NEW VENUE - Kingsbridge Methodist Church, top of Fore Street. Entrance £4 including tea.

**Wednesday
31 January**

Coach trip to Exmouth and winter birdwatching cruise on the River Exe. A cruise to watch the migrating birds, with a live commentary by a local expert. The boat has an enclosed heated lower deck with panoramic windows. Refreshments are available on board (own food may be brought). Bring binoculars if you have them.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

For information about these events, or about joining the National Trust South Hams Centre, please contact Joan Johnstone on 01548 857014 (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm).

Your District Councillor's Report

Following my article in the July-August edition of Village Voice and the publicity surrounding the project, you will have seen that in the end the One Council project to join South Hams Council with West Devon is not going to happen. Unexpectedly, West Devon voted it down. With hindsight many things might have been handled differently and whether the public had enough of the right information is still being debated. The fact remains that the overwhelming public opinion expressed was against the project. All six of the parish councils in the Salcombe and Thurlestone Ward did not support it, like the overwhelming majority of residents who contacted me, so on your mandate I did not vote to approve the project. In any case the budget difficulties at both councils will hit before we could have joined up the two councils. Some very hard decisions will have to be taken in the next twelve months when all formula grants coming from central government will cease. Wherever and whenever possible I will make you aware of any proposals so that you will have a chance to talk to me or to Cllr Wright and make your views known.

On a more encouraging note, we have now received details about the Examination in Public of the new Joint Local Plan. The hearings will begin on January 30th and initially last two weeks, for the legal matters of soundness and discussions on the sites in the Plymouth area. They will then resume on Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th February, for hearings about the South Hams site allocations. As yet the venue for these hearings is not fixed, but is likely to be at the Watermark Centre in Ivybridge. Whilst you would need to have already registered to speak, members of the public are welcome to come and listen to the debate. Hearings for West Devon will then follow from 1st March. The three main documents relevant to the timetable and the matters to be heard can be found at <https://plymswdevonplan.co.uk> by following the links, and are numbered EXC6-8 inclusive. It is also very encouraging that the Thurlestone Parish Neighbourhood Plan is simultaneously moving into its last stages before the examiner looks at it.

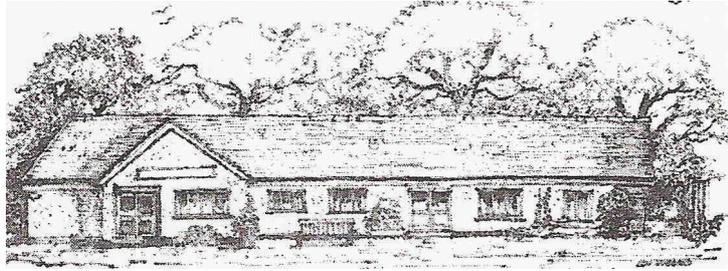
The district council is exploring the possibility of contracting out its waste service to a private operator. Whether this happens or not, there may be inevitable changes coming because mixing food waste with garden waste means it is very costly to treat, and separation seems the logical change. I will do everything possible to keep the parish council up to date on news of this. In the unfortunate event that your bin collection is missed, you can now go online to report it and the information will go straight to the vehicle cab so that they will come back before the end of the day if you manage to report it on the collection day. Many other services are now also available online.

Do try this method of contacting the council as it saves waiting for someone to answer the phone the other end and works very efficiently.

Please always feel free to contact me (jude.pearce06@btinternet.com or on 561370) if you have any questions.

Judy Pearce

PARISH HALL NEWS



Chairman: Neill Irwin

Goodbye two thousand and seventeen - hello two thousand and eighteen.

This has been a busy year at the Parish Hall. In addition to the many regular and special activities held throughout the year the committee has organised a wonderful series of fund-raising events. These events are very important for the future of the Hall as they provide an essential contribution towards the cost of keeping the Hall in tip top condition.

The end of a year might be a good time to acknowledge the effort the individual committee members make to keep everything going so smoothly. So here goes. A big **THANK YOU** to Pat Crawford, Alison Daily, Sue Dwyer, Judith Le Grice, Pat Macdonald, Anna Martin, Diane Martin, Mike Stickland, Lisa White, Chris White and Bronwyn Zaffiro.

While I am thanking the current committee members I would like to extend this thanks to all former committee members and to all the other people who are not on the committee but who do lot of practical work to help. Their support is really appreciated.

Why not make 2018 the year that **you** join this team, and get involved in helping with the running of this splendid facility that is our Parish Hall?

The big event which rounded off our 2017 our programme was the return of the outstanding jazz violinist Tim Kliphuis. With Tim, who is from Holland, came his musical colleagues Nigel Clark from Ireland on guitar and Roy Percy from Scotland on bass. A truly international trio of talent. As promised, the Tim Kliphuis Trio's virtuoso performance was stunning. Over a hundred people packed the Parish Hall to enjoy a memorable evening, which ended with the Trio performing an impromptu rendering of *Sweet Georgia Brown* as a special request number for Thurlestone centenarian Dr Eric Eadie. We are fortunate in being able to attract international talent like Tim to come into deepest Devon, far from their natural home of the big cities and the bright lights. Long may it continue.

Turning to the coming year our first major event is a ceilidh band in February. We like to start the year with a bang, and so a good ceilidh band called *Rumpus*, complete with a caller to keep everyone dancing, sounds like a very good start indeed. Scheduled for the 10th February this will help dispel any remaining winter blues, and get you into good shape for the rest of the year.

If you enjoy good food and a great night out you should also make a note in your diary for Saturday 10th March, when *Wild Artichokes* will be running one of their pop-up suppers at the Parish Hall. There will be details in the next Village Voice. I look forward to seeing you there.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Parish Hall users.

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Village News Round-Up

Jennifer Sherrington

Jenny's funeral was held at Torquay on 17 November. She will be very much missed and we extend to Richard and the family our sincere condolences in their sad loss.

Liz Scores

The Devon Cricket Board have presented Buckland's Liz Webb with the Brian Hayter Cup in recognition of her 26 years of keeping score for Devon's youth cricket sides, having not missed a single game in all those years. At the presentation ceremony Devon cricket development manager, Matt Theedom, said of her *"Liz's commitment has been immense and her attention to detail boringly accurate...."*. Many congratulations Liz!

Liz is of course well known in Thurlestone for wearing another hat - that of one of our churchwardens. Her husband, Martin, has also had a long association with youth cricket and is president of Kingsbridge Cricket Club.

False Black Widow Spider

Thurlestone resident Keith Millman reports that his son Andrew, on a recent visit to his parents in October, found what was thought to be an unusual spider outside in the garden on a light fitting. He managed to take a photograph of it and sent it to an expert for verification. Back came the answer - it was a False Black Widow spider. But don't panic, it's not uncommon here and not aggressive and its bite is probably no worse than a bee sting. Perhaps it only came to add a little spice to Hallowe'en or to join its chum at the Thurlestone Phonebox!



Burgh Island Rescue

Police, with their helicopter, and the Coastguard were all on call early one mid-October morning at Bigbury. They had been called to attend to two men, guests at the Burgh Island Hotel, who had decided to swim

back to the island after it is alleged a drunken night out - despite its being dark, with high spring tides and very rough seas. A police spokesman said:

"One male was located with serious arm injuries and, after a short time, a second was located, unharmed but very cold and wet. They were given first aid and an ambulance called.....their ridiculously stupid actions could very easily have cost them their lives...."

Poppy Stones

When the children from Thurlestone school did their heritage trails earlier this year they learned about the War Memorial on the village green. With the approach of Remembrance Sunday they decided to paint poppies on pebbles to commemorate the fallen of both world wars and place them round the base of the Memorial.

Suitable stones were sought (not too small), out came the brushes and paints, and their attractive red flowers can now be seen in situ along with the wreaths from the Parish Council, Parish of Thurlestone Society, and the Royal British Legion. What a lovely idea - well done school!

Front Cover

Once again we are delighted to be able to feature one of Margaret Houghton's beautiful botanical paintings on our front cover to provide a seasonal introduction to our 2017 Christmas issue of Village Voice, and are most grateful for this opportunity to showcase another of our local talents.

Nuisance Calls

The Plymouth Citizens' Advice Bureau chief executive, Emma Handley, advises:

"If you think you, your relatives or friends are receiving large quantities of nuisance e-mails, phone calls, or posts, please don't hesitate to contact our consumer helpline on 03454 040506".

Fraudsters are becoming more and more plausible and ingenious. Be on your guard for unsolicited calls and e-mails all the time. You can also report scams to Action Fraud's website at: www.actionfraud.police.uk or by telephone to 0300 1232 0140.

Thurlestone Phonebox.....Ring Ring

"It's a sure sign of a thriving community when people can forget today's problems and enjoy a bit of frivolous fun." Thus spake Sue of our Phonebox's Marden Twin at our Twinnathon celebrations at the end of September. Over 100 parishioners gathered at the Phonebox to join the Razor Sharp group singing old favourites, including a specially written song, listen to some wild banter compered by Shep of BBC Radio Devon, and meet Marden's gorgeous mannequin, Gladys, appropriately dressed for a seaside visit in wetsuit and snorkel together with Thurlestone's very own hunky Tom. Aided by Cider and Hedgerow fizzes courtesy of Heron Valley and sponsored by Sabre Finance a lot of laughs and fun were had by one and all. Yes, we are a thriving community.



Did you use our Halloween Hotline? Scary or what?

A new use for the Phonebox. The other day someone was sitting on the seat next to the Phonebox. Apparently courier companies have trouble finding his house so he arranged a fixed time and had them deliver to the Phonebox!

Christmas is coming up again shortly and our now traditional **Carol Evening** will be held on **Monday 11th December**, details in our advertisement. This year an additional frivolity will be a grand prize for the best dressed, Christmas of course, dog.

If it looks like rain will stop play come along anyway, we will have a back-up arrangement.

Have a great Festive Season with loads of frivolous fun.

Defibrillator Awareness

Tuesday 23 January 2018

6pm at the Thurlestone Hotel

The **Annual Defibrillator Awareness Session** by South Western Ambulance Service showing the Community how to activate a Defibrillator and call for support.

Five years ago the Community contributed generously to buy two Defibrillators for Thurlestone Parish. Come to the Presentation to learn how to use them in an emergency.

Organised by Thurlestone Phonebox
Everyone welcome but we need to know numbers so please call
Gillian Marshall on 01548 560214
or e-mail: kigimarsh@gmail.com

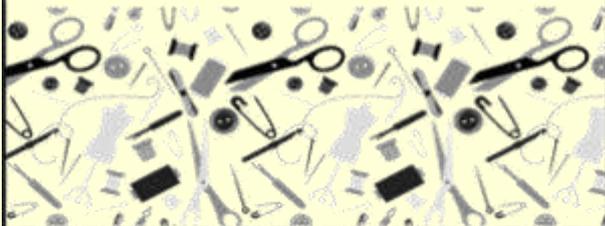
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*All
Saints*

RECTOR:
Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

LAY READER: Peter Gornall

"See again"



It's that time of year again. December is upon us and Christmas is around the corner. Things are getting busier as we prepare for the big day. What day will the tree go up? Can we find the lights and decorations? How much food can we really eat over 48 hours?

Yet at the heart of the Christmas festivities lies a single event: the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem. We are not marking a great political event or the end of a war, we are celebrating a simple act of love and hope. At Christmas God sent his Son into the world to provide a vision of true human living. In the busyness of life it is easy to lose sight of this vision. Christmas provides us an opportunity to "see again". It provides an opportunity for us to see a God who has rejected grandeur and coercive power and has shown himself in the fragility and simplicity of a stable. A God who wills that his Son is born not in a palace but in an outhouse of a pub!

On the next page you'll see details of the Christmas Services in the Parish. I'd like to warmly invite you to attend one (or more) of these services. I'd like to invite you to refocus your vision and immerse yourself in the values that really count. Please do join us.

Daniel Hartley

Families would be particularly
welcome at the
**Candlelit Christingle
and Crib Service**



**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 14TH
AT 4.30 P.M.**

*Find out the meaning of the orange, the
candle, the fruits and the red ribbon
and help put the figures in the crib*

**Collection in aid of the Church of
England Children's Society - Checkpoint**

Everyone, especially accompanied
children, would be welcome to join
Carol Singing

in aid of *Children in Distress*
**AROUND BUCKLAND
TUESDAY DECEMBER 19TH
MEET 5 P.M.**

VALLEYSIDE LAMP POST

We will finish at the
**BUCKLAND PHONE BOX
for seasonal refreshments**

If weather is wet,
Check with Liz Webb 560090





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

EVERY SUNDAY except December 24th **8.00am** Holy Communion (said) (alternating BCP and CW)

DEC. 3RD, 17TH; JAN. 7TH, 21ST **11.10am** Parish Eucharist (CW) (*Fairtrade Stall Jan 7th*)

DECEMBER 10TH **11.10am** Matins *Fairtrade Stall Dec 10th*

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14TH **4.30pm** Crib and Christingle Service

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22ND  **6.00pm** Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols followed by mulled wine and mincepies
Collection for *Children in Distress*

CHRISTMAS EVE **9.00am** Holy Communion (said) (CW) **NOTE TIME**
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (CW)

CHRISTMAS DAY **11.10am** Family Christmas Communion

DECEMBER 31ST, JANUARY 14TH **11.10am** Morning Worship

NEW YEAR'S EVE **6.00pm** Informal New Year's Eve Service (½ hour)

JANUARY 28TH (**Note time**) **11.00am** Benefice Eucharist (CW) with Renewal of Covenant at Churchstow

Regular Midweek Services

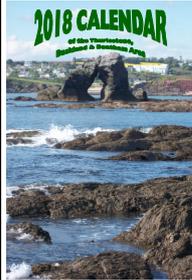
 except December 26th - 28th

THURSDAY DEC. 7TH/JAN. 4TH **10.00am** Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham

MON., WED. & THURSDAYS **8.30am** Morning Prayer (said) (**8.15am** on Wednesdays)

EVERY WEDNESDAY **10.00am** Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship
See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information



2018 Calendar
of Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham
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FRIDAY JANUARY 19TH
12.30 - 1.30 p.m.
MEETING ROOM
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The Forgotten Front

By Malcolm Alexander

[Malcolm Alexander, of Burnt House, West Buckland, has written *Ulendo: An African Love Affair in the Footsteps of Rhodes*, the biography of his great-uncle, Claude Oldfield, to be published in 2018. In this first of three articles for Village Voice he writes about a little-known theatre of the Great War, the conflict in East Africa.]

As for many of us, my awareness of the events of WWI was awakened by the onset of the Centenary Remembrances three years ago. My interest became more personal when I looked at WWI in East Africa, where my great-uncle, Claude Oldfield, was a young officer with the Colonial Service, based at Abercorn in Northern Rhodesia, close to the border with German East Africa. Today the names are changed: Abercorn is now known as Mbala, in Zambia; German East Africa is mainland Tanzania.

The longest campaign of the Great War was actually fought not in Europe, but over the vast area of German East Africa (GEA) now comprising Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. The history revolves around one dominant personality, the colony's military commander, General Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck, who spent the war harrying the forces of the British Empire, tying down with his band of 3,500 Europeans and 12,000 native *askaris* and porters a British and Imperial army 40,000 strong.

How had this now enemy territory, whose southern border lay so dangerously close to Claude's post at Abercorn, come into being? GEA had developed under the impetus of Carl Peters, its protectorate status confirmed by the Anglo-German Agreement of 1890. Lake Tanganyika formed a western border with the Belgian Congo, while to the north Lake Victoria bordered British East Africa near Nairobi. To the south, Nyasaland and Lake Nyasa bordered the territory of a third imperial power, Portuguese East Africa. The Agreement of 1890 also provided that Heligoland should belong to Germany but Britain would gain control of Zanzibar. This began the extraordinary process by which territories were blocked out with lines drawn on maps far away in Europe. Only later were the boundaries actually tested on the ground, with the War effectively becoming the last stage in the "Scramble for Africa".

GEA was a big country, three times the area of present-day Germany, with two significant ports, Dar-es-Salaam and Tanga, and two railways: the Usambara Line from Tanga to Moshi, where coffee is grown on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and the Central Line running west from Dar-es-Salaam, via Morogoro and Tabora, to reach Lake Tanganyika at Kigoma. Agricultural plantations had been developed, based on sisal, rubber and cotton, but never achieved a profit. Nevertheless, the colony was a possession that the Germans could be expected to defend fiercely and, if they got the chance, enlarge.

Hew Strachan, in *The First World War In Africa*, has explained that at the beginning of the War, Britain and Germany had opposing objectives. Germany wanted to open up the war in order to divert Britain's attention away from Europe. From their colonies, the Germans could effect this strategy on several fronts – on land, sea (in the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean) and the inland lakes (Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa). However, it was in Britain's interest to try to close down the war so that it could concentrate its efforts in France and Belgium.

While Britain and her allies were working on a strategy to conduct the war in Africa, the Governor of British East Africa, Sir Henry Belfield, stated that the colony had no interest in the war. There were also severe tensions in GEA, where the Governor, Dr Heinrich Schnee, ordered that no hostile action should be taken. The colonial governors, who had often met in the pre-war years, had discussed these matters and wished to adhere to the Congo Act of 1885, which called for overseas possessions to remain neutral in the event of a European war; and, neither colony had many troops.

The commander of the German *Schutztruppe*, General von Lettow-Vorbeck, appointed in January 1914, saw things differently and was prepared to disobey his legal superior, initially being "seen as lacking judgement and being dangerously aggressive". By the end of the campaign, he was admired by many, with Bernard (later Field Marshal) Montgomery, a close contemporary of Claude's at St. Paul's School, taking the view that he had caused "a nuisance to the Allies out of all proportion to the size of his force."

The first substantive action of the campaign in east Africa was an amphibious landing at Tanga in early November 1914, by the British Indian Expeditionary Force "B" under Major Aitken, which was wholly and unexpectedly repulsed by the Germans.

So comprehensive was the debacle, even a song was composed, 'Steaming Down to Tanga'. The German victory raised their morale and after witnessing such a miserable British performance, they realised that value might indeed exist in confronting the British in Africa.

Space does not permit a full account of the many campaigns, tragic loss of life and suffering that took place

over the next four years, but in future articles, we will look further at the naval activities on Lake Tanganyika and how von Lettow-Vorbeck eventually surrendered.



[Malcolm Alexander's next article, entitled *Swallows and Amazons*, will cover some of the British attempts to reduce the German domination of Lake Tanganyika.

As the latest owner of Burnt House in West Buckland, he is very interested to learn about the history of this property and its previous owners. Any readers who can provide information or anecdotes about them are invited to send them in. Ed]

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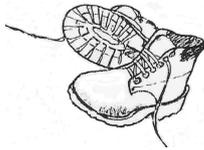
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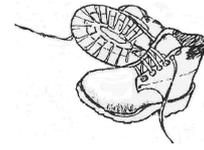
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CAROL EVENING



TRAMP WALKS 2018



No	Date	Day	Length	Approximate route / location	Leaders
1	Jan 18th	Thurs	Short	Kingsbridge environs	Annie Lukehurst
2	Feb 7th	Wed	Short	Aveton Gifford	Tricia & R Wilson
3	Feb 14th	Wed	Short	Loddiswell	Wendy & P Gornall
4	Feb 21st	Wed	Short	Modbury	Tricia & R Wilson
5	Feb 28th	Wed	Short	Prawle and environs	June & J Richardson
6	March 5th	Mon	Long	Kingston and environs	Annie Lukehurst
7	March 14th	Wed	Long	TBA - Dartmoor ?	Declan & Sue Dwyer
8	March 23rd	Friday	Short	Dartmoor	Richard & H Swan
9	March 28th	Wed	Long	Avon Valley	Anna & David Martin
10	April 4th	Wed	Short	TBA	Christine Wilson
11	April 9th	Mon	Long	Bowcombe and environs	Annie Lukehurst
12	April 18th	Wed	Short	TBA	Mike & Viv Stickland
13	April 27th	Friday	Long	Broadsands from Dittisham (ferry)	Maureen & Rachel
14	May 1st	Tues	Short	Wembury and Down Thomas	Declan & Sue Dwyer
15	May 7th	Mon	Short	Stokenham to Beesands	John & P Braithwaite
16	May 18th	Friday	Short	Avon Valley	Peter and Liz Coates
17	May 23rd	Wed	Short	Malborough to Salcombe	Tricia & R Wilson
18	June 1st	Friday	Long	Ball Gate, Shipley Bridge, S Brent	Peter & W Gornall
19	June 7th	Thurs	Long	Dartmoor	Vanessa Barton
20	June 11th	Mon	Short	Shaugh Bridge to Cadover	Alastair & G Durden
21	June 19th	Tues	Short	Summer walk to Hope Cove pub	Lisa White
22	June 26th	Tues	Short	Dartmouth Jubilee walk	Maureen & Rachel
23	July 2nd	Mon	Long	Plymouth, M'batten to PW Yard	Gareth & Linda Scott
24	July 11th	Wed	Short	Noss mayo - Revelstoke	C & George Delafield
25	July 19th	Thurs	Long	Avon Mill to Loddiswell	John & P Braithwaite
26	July 23rd	Mon	Short	TBA	Rolf & Viv Burnie
27	July 31st	Tues	Long	Dartmeet, Combestone & Brimpts	T Wilson & J Webb
28	Aug 9th	Thurs	Short	Ugborough Beacon	Alastair & G Durden
29	Aug 17th	Friday	Long	East Prawle	Liz & Peter Coates
30	Aug 22nd	Wed	Short	TBA	S & Andrew Girling
31	Aug 29th	Wed	Long	Dartmoor TBA	Mike & Viv Stickland
32	Sept 4th	Tues	Short	Dartmoor TBA	Richard & H Swan
33	Sept 14th	Friday	Short	Burrator Reservoir	Alastair & G Durden
34	Sept 17th	Mon	Short	Yealmpton and environs	Linda & Gareth Scott
35	Sept 25th	Tues	Long	Holne Woods to Charrah Pool	Jenny Webb
36	Oct 2nd	Tues	Short	Totnes area	Vanessa Barton
37	Oct 10th	Wed	Long	Parke, Newton Abbott	Peter & W Gornall
38	Oct 19th	Friday	Long	Strete to Dartmouth (for food fair)	Alastair & G Durden
39	Oct 26th	Friday	Long	Dartmoor - Templar Way	June & J Richardson
40	Oct 31st	Wed	Short	Snapes Point	Anna & David Martin
41	Nov 6th	Tues	Long	Henbury Woods	Jenny Webb
42	Nov 14th	Wed	Short	Revelstoke & Stoke Point	C & George Delafield
43	Nov 23rd	Friday	Long	TBA	Rolf & Viv Burnie
44	Nov 29th	Thurs	Short	Ringmore	Liz & Peter Coates
45	Dec 14th	Friday	V Short	TBA - Xmas Walk and Lunch	Mike Stickland

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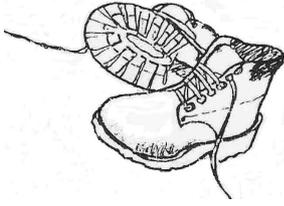
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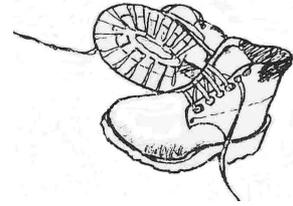
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TRAMP



1 On a bright 4th September morning, 6 Trampers set off from Brixton on a six and a half mile circular walk. We left the village and passed under the first of several railway bridges built in 1892 to carry the GWR's single track branch from Plymouth to Plymstock. The line, built in 1898, was planned as part of a route to Modbury but the line only went as far as Yealmpton. The passenger service was withdrawn in 1930 but reopened during the Second World War to enable Plymothians to evacuate the city during the air raids. This service stopped again in 1947 and the goods service finished in 1960.

After a pause to admire a hidden cottage, look over the dam at the end of Silver Bridge, and to let a late arriving tramp catch up, we walked through fields then woodland alongside the River Yealm until we joined the track along the disused railway line to Steer Point Road. We passed the brickworks, which had been a major employer in the area, and the railway workers' cottages. We then walked up the road to where the route continued across fields and along several very pretty green lanes until we arrived at Cofflete bridge, an attractive ancient double arched structure. At Brixton Tor we turned to walk between the very pretty 300 year-old properties and under a very long tunnel of the former railway line, which was used as an air raid shelter by Plymouth people at night in World War 2.

A short road section took us under a rail bridge rebuilt when the line was to be converted into a cycle way and on to the garden centre for tea. On leaving the garden centre, we crossed the main road then headed up the hill. From the summit we had fantastic views over Plymouth and Dartmoor. We also tested the waterproofing on our boots as the crossroads here was still flooded from rain over the weekend. After paddling over we crossed the fields around the back of Brixton and arrived back where we had started from. Everyone agreed that it had been an interesting walk and we were all amazed how much history there is behind the A379!

Gareth Scott

2 The Tramps walking group has recently established a pattern of going away for a walking weekend in the Autumn, and this year we decided to go to Lulworth Cove, Dorset, for our 'getaway'. Twelve of us chose to use the opportunities available at the Holiday Fellowship (HF) Hotel just yards from the Cove itself. They organise everything for you, provide experienced guides for the weekend and amazing packed lunches! Accommodation is full board in en-suite rooms, many with sea views.

Our Friday experience was fascinating. We decided to go to the Swannery at Abbotsbury which was en route for Lulworth. Every day at 12 noon the swans are fed. Feeding 600 'tame' swans is not just for the children – it is an amazing experience. We were encouraged to go into the enclosure with a bowlful of wheat and throw it around for the birds to feed. Swans are apparently "bottom feeders" and so they like you to chuck the grain into the water for them to suck in from the bottom. We learned a lot from the knowledgeable warders regarding breeding habits, moulting habits (when they can't fly), over-wintering routines etc. **THIS IS DEFINITELY A PLACE TO PUT ON YOUR JOURNEY PLANS IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN THERE.**

We enjoyed a light lunch at the café and then set off for our short afternoon walk around Chapel Hill. This is topped with St Catherine's Chapel built by the monks from Abbotsbury Abbey in the late 14th Century. A photograph of the group by the Chapel is in the Gallery on Thurlestone website. The sun shone all day to set us up for a splendid week end.

We arrived at the Lulworth Hotel just in time for a late cream tea before settling in to our various rooms. In total, there were 34 walkers including the 3 guides. We were therefore able to chat to others with our common interest of 'walking'. We were surprised to find visitors from America and Germany over here to enjoy our amazing geography, topography and geology. At dinner time we were given the 3 options for Saturday walks by the leaders for the week-end. Some members opted for 'easy'

some 'intermediate' and some 'difficult'. After dinner, the guides entertained us with three quizzes in the lounge bar area.

The three walks all started at various places where we were taken by coach, with all of us finishing in the seaside town of Swanage prior to our journey back to Lulworth. The writer opted for the medium difficulty 9 mile walk. The coastline here is just magnificent with its many and various soil and rock colours. The hills weren't too bad but I was certainly weary at the end of 9 miles!

At dinner on Saturday evening, we were given the three options for Sunday walking. The 'easy' walk was a 6.5 mile walk starting and finishing at the hotel. The 'medium' walk was a 7 mile trek to include the deserted village of Tyneham, which was abandoned when the military took over vast areas of this land for military firing ranges. We were warned that there were 2 "steep climbs". As I live in Devon, I thought I understood the word "steep". How wrong I was! We all achieved the distance but we were certainly ready for a rest and a drink to recover afterwards. Sunday dinner was a very convivial affair with excellent food and vast portions for hungry mouths.

On the Monday morning, four members dashed off to urgent appointments whilst the other eight decided to go to the National Trust property called Kingston Lacy House near Wimborne Minster. This is a really lavish family home built by the Bankes family to resemble an Italian palace in the rural Dorset countryside! The Bankes family lived in Corfe Castle until its destruction by fire. Kingston Lacy is home to one of the finest private collections of paintings in Britain with works by Rubens Van Dyck, Tintoretto, Titian and Brueghel. We recommend a visit.

So now all to record is the sunny journey home along the coastal route. We called in at Lyme Regis both for culture and refreshments. A visit to an art exhibition in the museum building was the principal reason for the stopover. This was followed by lunch and drinks on a pub patio overlooking the beach and the famous Cobb.

The sun shone all the way home and we were pleased to be reunited with our homes for relaxation after a busy and exhilarating week end.

Mike Stickland

3 On September 18th, 6 enthusiastic TRAMPERS set off to find out more about Plymouth's coastal history.

The plan was to park at Mount Batten, walk to the Royal William Yard and get the boat from here to The Barbican and then the water taxi back to Mount Batten.

We discovered that, due to it being a peninsular and therefore ideal for settlement, defence, and sea-borne trade, Mount Batten was a thriving community from 1000 BC until Roman times. In WW1 Mount Batten became a sea-plane base. T.E. Lawrence was stationed here in the early 1930's and while at Mountbatten he improved the RAF's high-speed air-sea rescue launches which were used extensively in WW2.

The Artillery Tower, built in the early 1500s to protect Plymouth from foreign invasion, is now perched on a rocky outcrop because the land around it has been quarried away. We were fascinated with the telegraphic code words displayed in the pavements along the route. Captain Bernard's telegraphic codewords date from 1907 and were the seafarers' shorthand – keeping telegraphic charges down to a minimum.

We stood on the causeway below the castle folly, between Radford Lake and Hooe Lake, and looked to where the enormous Radford House once stood and where, it is said, many Armada captains such as Drake, Hawkins and Raleigh were entertained. We all agreed that we did not know that this existed and we enjoyed discovering the small settlements such as Turnchapel and Oreston.

There were numerous pubs all along the route – which we admired from the outside! Across the bay we admired the Passage House – an impressive looking building which was the Plymouth end of the Oreston ferry – but we were most disappointed when we actually arrived there as it was a rather seedy office building. At Oreston the highlight was the stone rhino – hidden from the road but just opposite Morrisons. This represents the prehistoric phase of this area where, as well as human remains, traces of lion, hyena and rhinos have been found.

We enjoyed the Poem Wall – just before Laira Bridge. We had all driven past but not realised what interesting words were cast in metal. We walked along coastal roads – which we never knew existed - and had a great view of the

Naval ships in the Sound. We were surprised at how many quarries we passed – and how huge they were – but when we started to identify the number of enormous granite buildings we realised why. We arrived at the National Marine Aquarium rather later than anticipated – we had got carried away with our discoveries - only to find the bridge to the Barbican was closed. We just had to have a coffee stop and re-plan our route.

We decided to go round Sutton Harbour to the Barbican and then on to the Hoe to see the poppies which had been part of the Tower of London display to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. Luckily we discovered a small ferry which took us to the Barbican, saving our legs and some time too, and we boarded it with a great sense of adventure and a lot of laughs! It was decided that we would spend more time on the Hoe rather than trying to rush on to The Royal William Yard – and this was a good decision. We tried to picture Tinside Pool, the diving platforms and cafes in their heyday, we admired the view and discussed the merits of the nearby restaurants. We all agreed that one could never tire of this view with so much going on.

The poppies, an art installation created from the original 888,246 ceramic red poppies, each of which represented one British or Colonial serviceman killed in WW1, were inspirational and quite moving. They formed a wave coming from the Naval War Memorial down to the grass and ground below. There was a fascinating information board and the volunteers from The War Graves Commission were on hand to talk to us. We were told that every Friday at 6pm The Last Post was played here and that the flood lit display was even more impressive.

We were so glad that we had set aside time for this – it was possibly the most memorable part of our trip. We returned to the Barbican and caught the water taxi back to Mount Batten. We were all buzzing about what we had seen and learned and were exhausted from so much chatting!

Gareth Scott

4 It was perfect, warm late summer sunshine as we met up at Bowcombe Bridge for a moderately strenuous 7.5 mile walk across to Frogmore on Monday 25th September. As there were

just four participants, we were able to enjoy an easy pace, across the old bridge at the head of the creek, rising slowly up to the allotments at West Charleton, from where the views down to the bridge across the creek are superb. On down past the church, crossing the main road in the village and gently rising again through farmland to the beacon.

We dropped down to the water's edge on Frogmore creek but, with the tide particularly high, took the field edge along to the village. There's a low wall in a small bay, just before the village, where we stopped for a picnic and studied the herons and egrets wading and fishing for their lunch. Unfortunately the pub was closed, but the bakery sold takeaway coffees, and then we were off again up the green lane to Duncombe Cross, down the steep field to Bowcombe Creek, and back to our waiting cars.

Having put this walk on the programme for two years, with only a very small turnout, I'd like to try for a third year in the hope that more people will be able to come and enjoy such a scenic and varied walk.

Annie Lukehurst

5 Eleven Tramps assembled on Thursday 19th October in the car park of the Victoria Inn, Ashburton on a cloudy morning. Many of us had accessed various weather forecasts and the conclusion was we would be back in the pub again for lunch before the rain started!

We immediately went through a stone gateway and up steep steps to the first meadow. The muddy track ran along beside the little River Ashburn and over two stone stiles before crossing a lane. We proceeded along a decent stoned track as we climbed steadily up through the woodland of Whiddon Scrubs to Owlacombe Cross. The heavy rain of the previous day had left the last half mile very muddy – but we were all properly booted up so no damage done !

The descent was initially down a lane and then farm tracks and finally a public pathway until we reached the huge premises of the South Dartmoor College of Education on the edge of Ashburton town.

We progressed through a housing estate to access the grand finale – the high level Terrace Walk. Views of the southern fringes of Dartmoor from this Terrace are normally

magnificent but regrettably the cloudy weather continued to hide all our views today.

Nevertheless, we returned to the Victoria Inn for lunch in good spirits and completed our 2.5 hour walk without getting wet. The forecasters do get it right sometimes!

Mike Stickland

6 13 Trampers and 2 dogs set off from Kingston village on 25th October - an absolutely stunning autumn morning. Our route took us through fields down to Wonwell Beach which offered an opportunity for a brief coffee stop although, sadly for some, no pop-up coffee venue appeared! Then up and down the undulating cliff to a path just below Hoist Point which took us back inland to Scobbiscombe Farm. Quite a lot of demanding uphill walking but that was rewarded with stunning views out to sea and over Burgh Island.

The prospect of a pint and lunch in The Dolphin pub quickened the step back to Kingston. This walk was familiar territory for most Trampers, but enjoyable nonetheless in the autumn sunshine.

Vanessa Barton

7 Ten walkers and 3 dogs met up at Court Park on a lovely 30th October morning and set off to Shipley Bridge in a convoy of 3 cars. Once safely there, the group set off towards Diamond Track and started the climb up to the open moor whilst keeping an eye out for diamonds on the track. None found unfortunately.

On the open moor we found good conditions for the time of year and enjoyed some stunning views in bright sunshine. The streams were forded successfully and we felt that a stop for coffee at Glasscombe Corner was deserved. Then we followed the West Glazebrook downhill towards Owley and stopped for our picnic lunch at the enclosure. We left the moor at Owley Gate and took the drovers' track to the county road and then the long uphill climb to another drovers' track giving access to the east side of Corringdon Ball. This brought us back to the moor at Ball Gate and we re-traced our steps back to Diamond Track and Shipley Bridge. A good 7 mile walk in superb conditions. Thanks to all who tramped particularly our new walkers!

June and John Richardson

8 The Autumn weather is still full of surprises! When we arrived at the start of our 10th November walk at Lolesbury Cross (just south of Yealmpton), the skies cleared and the northerly wind arrived as per forecast.

Twelve Tramps set off for a countryside walk around the fields and lanes between Yealmpton and Holbeton on a crisp, sunny day. We walked around a huge arable field adjacent to Gnaton Hall but did not see the Hall because of the tree shield. We then descended into the most wonderful valley which was obviously home to a pheasant shoot – they were everywhere! The path took us uphill and through a wood before descending to a country lane. After a short detour, we found the lane that took us down into the next valley.

We walked east along a muddy track. It was planned in 1930 as the carriage driveway to Membrand Hall, Noss Mayo, from the Eastern gatehouse near Holbeton. The gatehouse and the impressive gates and pillars are known locally as the "Bull and Bear" gates. The driveway was never built as the estate went into liquidation in the 1930's financial crash. We continued along the valley on a bridleway in brilliant sunshine. To our surprise, we met a pheasant shooting party from Brownstone Manor just preparing for a drive and shoot. Fortunately, they had seen us coming and delayed the start of their drive until we were well out of the way! As we crossed the next field we saw the birds coming over the brow of the hill – many to their untimely end.

At the end of this track we were faced with a dilemma – do we go through the field in which two large horses were galloping around – or find a safer way. One bold Tramp managed to cross the field whilst the horses stood still for him. The rest of us re-routed via a flock of sheep. An easy lane walk took us to the hamlet of Luson where we turned towards Brownstone Manor. We encountered a dead, 3 foot long adder in the lane before ascending another 'green lane' to the road which led us back to our cars. We walked about 5 miles and all thoroughly enjoyed the experiences of the morning, before lunching in the White Hart pub in Modbury before going our own ways home.

Mike Stickland

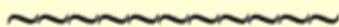
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Grey Matter

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

BACK TO SCHOOL

Solve the anagrams of people or things you might find in school.....

- 1 (e.g.) GREET SIR (8).....REGISTER.....
- 2 ITCHY MARBLES (9,3).....
- 3 POSH TUCK (4,4).....
- 4 CREATE ARK (9).....
- 5 OH EROTIC POP (11).....
- 6 THE CLASS (8).....
- 7 PLACED CHUNK (6,5).....
- 8 A BRIMMING CLEF (8,5).....
- 9 LOT ACCRUAL (10).....
- 10 WEIRDO BATH (10).....
- 11 HID LAGER (4,4).....
- 12 DIGNIFY LAPEL (7,5).....
- 13 RUN DOPY GAL (10).....
- 14 PORTLY BOXERS TOP (4,8,3).....
- 15 PAIR OF NOTE (10).....
- 16 HAPPY LECTURES (6,7).....
- 17 GRISLIEST LOT (5,7).....
- 18 RINSE NUT (3,5).....
- 19 PERFECT (7).....
- 20 RACE TYRES (9).....
- 21 SOFT OF ARM (9).....
- 22 HEAPED DUTY (6,4).....
- 23 INFECTING A LIB (6,7).....
- 24 SAYING MUM (9).....
- 25 OY CHECK KITS (6,5).....
- 26 AH SMELLY LABS (8,4).....
- 27 HARMED SEAT (10).....
- 28 DESIRES MATHS (12).....
- 29 WIN MUCH EGG (7,3).....
- 30 SET CHAPTERS (8,3).....

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter

1. To Learn Something By Heart 2. It Costs An Arm And A Leg 3. The Long Arm Of The Law 4. To Stab Someone In the Back 5. As Smooth As A Baby's Bottom 6. To Warm the Cockles Of Your Heart 7. On The Tip Of Your Tongue 8. To Sweep Someone Off Their Feet 9. It's No Use Crying Over Spilt Milk 10. Like A Curate's Egg, Good In Parts. 11. To Have Your Cake And Eat It 12. Enough Is As Good As A Feast 13. Out Of The Frying Pan Into The Fire. 14. The Proof Of The Pudding Is In The Eating 15. To Have A Sweet Tooth 16. To Have Egg On Your Face 17. There's No Fool Like An Old Fool 18. Actions Speak Louder Than Words 19. All Good Things Come To Those Who Wait 20. He Who Laughs Last Laughs Longest/Loudest 21. Pride Comes Before A Fall 22. All's Fair In Love And War 23. He Who Hesitates Is Lost 24. Little Things Please Little Minds.

Congratulations and the bottle of wine to Mary Barons

Self-Help in our Community

By Mike Stickland

As our County Council and District Council have their funds reduced every year we, the long-suffering public, get exasperated about the reduction in services and the apparent lack of action against our expectations. Well, the good news is that we can now ensure that our concerns and complaints get straight to the right people in Local Government (but only for those with computer access!) by going to **TWO WEBSITES**

1. Devon County Council now have a web site called *My Devon*.

Simply Google *My Devon*, select "Contact us – Devon County Council" and you will get a selection of headings from which to choose. If, for example, you choose "Highways", you will have the opportunity to report any dangerous potholes, or overhanging hedges, etc.,. A dangerous pothole, which requires DCC action within 7 days, is defined as "a hole the size of a dinner plate, 2" deep and with vertical sides". There are useful options for "Care Direct", "Bus passes" and "Consumer advice" and other options which may interest you as well. Just have a go to see how good this information really is.

2. South Hams District Council also has a website called *Top Tasks SHDC*.

Simply Google this and you will find options such as "Missed waste collection", "Request recycling bags", "Challenge a parking fine", "Help with pest control" or "Apply for a parking permit". All of these options will save you hanging on your 'phone hoping to talk to a human being, only to get transferred to another queue! This information is really helpful and should enable you to get your enquiry straight into the relevant department. This is both good for our blood pressure and also for saving money for our cash strapped authorities.

NB. Thurlestone Parish website should not be overlooked. It is an amazing information source for the facilities that are available in our community including the Village Hall activities, Parish Council work, and of course, all archived copies of our Village Voice.

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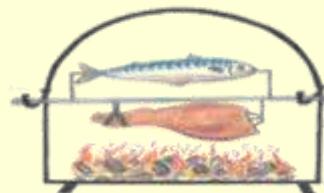


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Spotlight On Qatar

By Malcolm Le Grice

Disputes in the Middle East continue to smoulder dangerously and regularly erupt into various forms of military conflict. Accusations and counter accusations between the main players, Hamas, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran barely mask a long term power struggle in the region. At the base is an incendiary mixture of old style nationalism and amplified religious differences in the Islamic world, where the rights and role of women is hidden just below the surface.

Recently a little known, but immensely wealthy, tiny country Qatar, has drawn major opposition from Saudi Arabia and other Arab states. Three factors bring this dispute to international attention and significance. The first, and most evident, is that Qatar runs the provocative, powerful and outspoken news station Al Jazeera. Next is the fact that Qatar displays more advanced views on the equality of women and a generally more modern view of society. And thirdly, in 2020 Qatar is scheduled to host the football World Cup.

In the global perspective of Trump, Brexit, North Korea and the Russia, America stand-off, Qatar and the Middle East politics may seem a remote and a minor issue. It is almost certainly safe to say that the large majority of the UK population have no idea of where or what Qatar is, nor will they ever have watched the TV news station Al Jazeera. Surprisingly, I have some first hand knowledge of Qatar and frequently watch Al Jazeera.

In 1992, as Dean of the Art and Media Faculty of the University of Westminster, I was invited to visit Qatar by the then Prince Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani to advise on the establishment of a Higher Education programme for young women. This was actually an initiative led by his wife, then the Princess Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned. This invitation was based on the expertise and international standing of the Fashion Degree in my Faculty. Qatar's objective was to begin the process of Higher Education for women

choosing 'Fashion' in the time honoured way – as it had started at the Regent Street Polytechnic in the late 1800's – based on women's needlework crafts. Together with two colleagues from the University, I spent a week, royally treated as a guest directly of Prince Hamad, who soon after in 1995 took control of the country while his father was on vacation, subsequently in the year 2000, deposing him in a bloodless coup. Hamad then reigned as Emir until he voluntarily handed power to his son, Tamin, in 2013.

During this visit I had extensive and informed access to a wide range of projects initiated by Prince Hamad in their early stages. We had meetings and talks with a number of his close friends and colleagues all working on new and ambitious initiatives in Arab history and Islamic Arts and Crafts. These meetings took place in an informal and friendly atmosphere over mint tea in the comfortable but elegant main 'living' room of the palace.

The Prince had very wide and deep interests that to our surprise included international contemporary art. His initiatives have since come to fruition, leading to national art acquisitions that include paintings by Paul Cezanne. It was very clear from our talks that this was not just based on 'financial' and speculative art collection, but on serious interest in the works themselves. At the time of my visit, based on its huge oil and gas reserves, Qatar was already enormously wealthy and is still rated the richest GDP per capita country in the world. The indigenous population was tiny at about 470,000 and remains at a similar level so each indigenous Qatari is notionally worth approximately £95,000 per annum. Whilst the overall population has increased to just over 2 million, 88% of that is now foreign workers.

At the time of my visit the small indigenous population was primarily nomadic and Hamad's father, the then 'king' Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Thani, was on a kind of walk-about visiting and keeping in touch with the various tribes.

Already in 1992 Prince Hamad had unimaginable wealth at his disposal to fund his projects. There was no sign that he sought an excessive personal life style. He proudly showed us his pet cheetah running free in a grassy enclosure at the palace and he had the biggest TV screen I had ever seen, but he and his friends retired in the evening to what was little more than a large garden shed to talk and smoke the Hookah. Hamad told me that this was to remind them of their simple nomadic origins.

The main projects I saw during the visit were mostly related to establishing national collections and museums. This was the result of a coherent policy, purchasing rare works privately and at international auctions. At this time, none of the collections were quite ready to be open to the public, but they were already vast, well housed and generously displayed.

The first collection we were shown was a library of Arabic books and manuscripts. The collection included Islamic books – fabulously decorated Qurans and other manuscripts which we were able to handle and leaf through at will. Importantly this collection recognised a rarely made distinction between Islamic and Arabic. Prior to about 600AD and the Islamic era, there existed significant Arabic poetry, for example by Abu Layla al-Muhalhel or Imru' al-Qais bin Hujr al-Kindi. This earlier period significantly maintained a continuity with classical Greece, underpinning the development of Islamic science and mathematics in the Middle Ages often ahead of the European Renaissance. The library collection was not restricted to Arabic books but also included major works that reflected on Arabic culture and history from other countries. For example one massive chest of drawers contained a full bound set of the original maps made for Napoleon Bonaparte during his Egyptian and Syrian campaigns.

The second major project was the establishment of a collection of paintings. Though there is a wealth of decorative Islamic design and calligraphy, there are few early historical examples of Islamic *pictorial* art. Consequently, at the time of my visit the collection mainly drew on works that represented Arabia from the outside,

including Victorian images of Arabia by artists like Richard Dadd. The collection I saw was already very extensive, occupying three floors in a dedicated building.

The third and related project was a collection of Arabic artefacts – weapons, carpets and ceramics. This was at an early stage of development but, together with the collection of paintings, has become incorporated in Doha in two architecturally splendid Museums – the National Museum of Qatar and the museum of Islamic Art.

Extraordinary and unique in the Islamic world, Doha has a Museum of Modern Art, MATHAF, including abstract work by Mark Rothko and Richard Serra. Despite the prevailing Moslem injunction on human representation the collection also includes works by Francis Bacon and Damien Hurst. I am sorry that I have never visited these Museums to see the result of what I experienced at its inception.

Fortunately whilst I was there, I had time to encounter a little more of the culture. The hotel I stayed in was sufficiently open to include all the major international papers – uncensored except that a strong black marker had been applied to the exposed part of any photograph of a woman. I was also able to make my own excursions in Doha. I saw the beginning of large new building works both commercial and domestic, already being built by immigrant labour and not, it appears, always well treated.

I wandered the older parts of Doha and sought out a small Hookah bar. I was wise enough to take advice from the proprietors on what tobacco I should have, and, whilst waiting as my pipe was prepared, sat with the other men on the plain wooden benches attached to the wall. It was not seedy but also not fancy. As luck would have it I sat next to a well dressed old man who spoke perfect English. It transpired that he had previously been the Qatar Ambassador to Britain and knew London well.

Smoking a Hookah is a slow process, and in the course of our conversation I learned a lot about Qatar, its history and people and view of its future from the very well informed ex-Ambassador.

Sadly I never met the Princess who became Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned as she was travelling at the time – I think to the United Nations in New York but I can't really remember. Intrigued that she was the *actual* person behind my invitation, I have paid some attention to her subsequent career.

If Hamad had his own vision of a modern Qatar, Princess Mozah was clearly a truly exceptional woman – particularly in the context of the Islamic world. She has ceaselessly championed the cause of women and women's education. She has been deeply active in Qatar's government was the chairperson, of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and, amazingly, chairperson of the Arab Democracy Foundation, and president of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs. She also served as UNESCO's Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education. She has deservedly received more than a handful of international honours including that of Honorary Dame Grand Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Her example and dedication to equality and full educational opportunity for women has been extraordinary. Changing the condition of women in the overwhelmingly male-dominated Islamic culture could do more to eliminate Islamic Fundamentalism, than any number of tanks, bombs and aircraft.

Malcolm Le Grice

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Sunday 24 Dec	08.30 - 12.00	CLOSED
Monday 25 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 26 Dec	08.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Wednesday 27 Dec	08.00 - 14.00	09.00 - 13.00
Thursday 28 Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Friday 29 Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Saturday 30 Dec	08.00 - 16.00	09.00 - 13.00
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Sunday 31 Dec	08.30 - 12.00	CLOSED
Monday 1 Jan	09.00 - 12.00	CLOSED

Normal opening hours resume on Tuesday 2nd January

Our **Christmas Draw** will take place on Friday 22nd December at 11.00 am, with drinks and nibbles for everyone. Tickets are available in the shop. All proceeds will be put towards the prizes.

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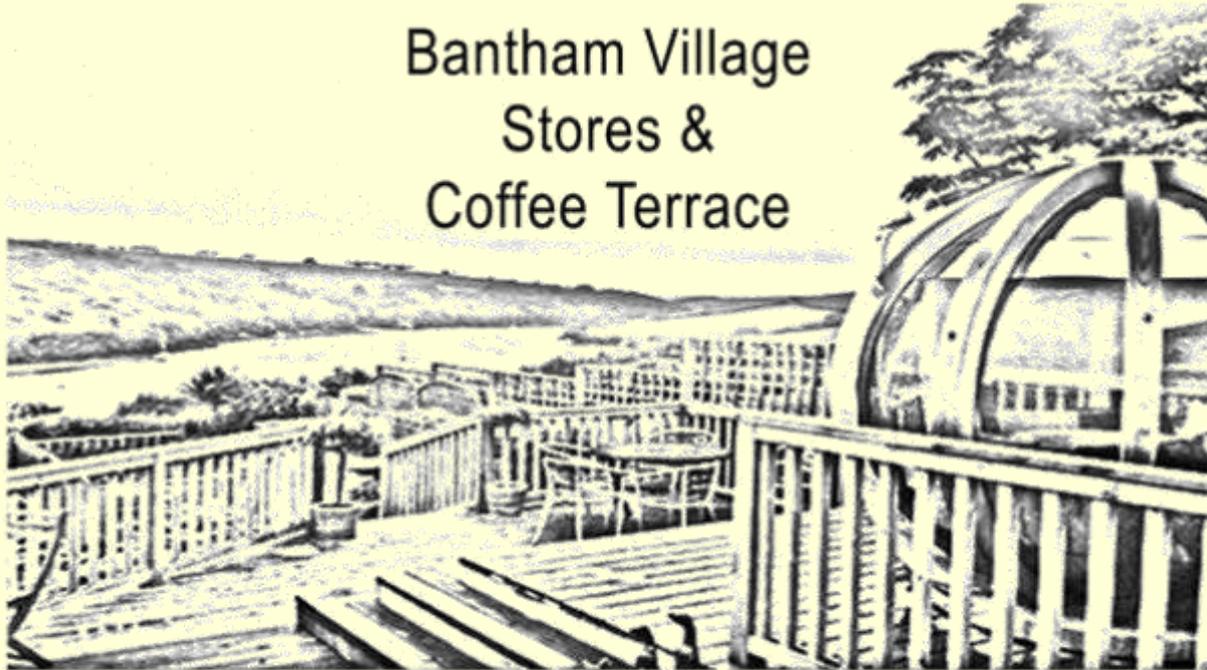
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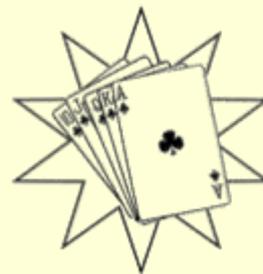
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October

We were assured that Japanese taiko drumming "*Encourages movement, discipline, physicality, respect, energy and many other contributions to personal development, connecting people beyond cultural and demographic boundaries*" by our speaker, Hannah-Jasmine Brunskill. She brought a selection of drums from the huge, on wheels, down to a row of more manageable size. Most of us thought that this would be some sort of ancient traditional Japanese custom but learnt, to our astonishment, that this particular art was invented as recently as the 1960s by a Japanese jazz drummer.

Hannah explained what had led her, about ten years ago, to taiko drumming. Having decided that her life needed to follow a different path, she found a class on the internet which attracted her and, despite being scared, decided to take the plunge, since when she has never looked back. She loves sharing her great enthusiasm and now tutors the art from her home base in Ashburton, particularly enjoying the help she is able to give pupils in special needs establishments, schools, shelters, refugee centres and the like. She was given a Winston Churchill Trust grant which allowed her to visit Japan and meet the, by now old, man who started it all 60+ years ago.

The really exciting part of the afternoon came when she asked for volunteers to try out their drumming potential, an offer seized upon and much enjoyed by participants and audience alike. Jo, Karen, Veda, Julie, Joan and Liz got to grips with the drumsticks.

November

It was with sadness that Jenny Sherrington's recent death was reported and members were very pleased to hear that Margaret Catlin was back home after surgery.

Chris Stephens was our speaker, and although his subject was 'Gifts for Good Children' he did not bring an array of games and teddy bears, but instead a wonderful personal collection of Staffordshire (mainly) ceramics, principally mugs and plates! With

an increasing demand for education, particularly in the early 1800s, a lot of small children's mugs were produced, decorated with different capital letters of the alphabet and items beginning with that letter. Small china plates decorated with Old Testament and other biblical figures, missionary scenes and 'temperance' plates began to appear. Another group of mugs was produced specifically to mark juvenile achievements showing wordings such as "For knitting well", "For doing well at football" and even "For a dear boy". The quartern loaf of history caused goods to be produced showing the six stages of a loaf's production - the sower, the ploughman, the reaper, the thresher, the miller and finally the baker.

By the early 1900s nursery rhymes were beginning to figure on Doulton ware but it was not until the 1960s that Beatrix Potter figures appeared, when the Frederick Warne copyright lapsed. Chris brought his own Little Grey Rabbit (Alison Uttley) mug and plate set which, as a child in the 1940s, he insisted on using daily. It was an amazing collection which showed fascinating small items whose contribution to education has not always been recognised or appreciated.

The pub lunchers had enjoyed an outing to the Crabshell, Kingsbridge, on 16 November.

Future Events

The group carol service and tea will be at South Milton on 8 December.

Christmas lunch is to be on 15 December at Thurlestone Golf Club.

Six members will attend the county carol service at Exeter Cathedral on 5 December.

The county quiz will start at Morleigh on 17 February and two more team members are still needed.

We will be hosting the next group meeting on 26 April when the speaker will talk about 'Growing Old Disgracefully' and there will also be a special competition for the best outrageously-dressed member!

Our 90th birthday celebration will take the form of a coach outing to Buckland Garden House and Buckland Abbey on 3 May.



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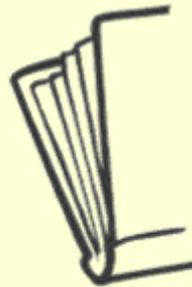
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Eating Out Locally

Vivien Stickland reports on another local hostelry

Oceans Restaurant & Bar

Here is a brand new restaurant that can be seen against the sky-line to the south of Thurlestone. Ocean Reach is on Bolberry Down, and is part of the recent development of sea-view homes where the Port Light Hotel was previously situated. It is delightfully fresh with clean lines. In modern, simple construction materials, its crisp, unfussy style is used in the garden and in the toilets, as well as in the restaurant.

Bronzed overhead lamps and the red flare of flames in the fireplace brighten the decor's neutral shades of grey, black and white. One good framed picture of a school of fish in blue brings more of the ocean mood into the room. The windows' wide view of the ocean and the south west coastal path is the Oceans Restaurant's outlook. Seating on the verandah is behind wind-breaks and blankets are provided if needed. Wicker chairs and wooden tables, arranged on tasteful multi-coloured slabs, continue the seaside ambiance of the surrounding Bolberry Down. It will please many to know that dogs are welcome here.

We found the menu interesting with steaks, fish, vegetarian, poultry and duck meals to choose from. Fish dishes included smoked haddock and salmon fishcakes with parsley sauce. There is hake and chips with peas and tartar sauce; River Exe mussels with white wine, garlic and thyme; and there's a spicy crab pasta with chilli, lemon and herbs. All of these fish dishes are priced between £13 and £15.

If meat is your preferred choice, there's a superbly tender duck confit; a Rib-eye steak with blue cheese sauce; and pork belly with a Massaman curry Thai sauce. These are priced between £13 and £15 with the exception of the steak at £19.

From the range of starters, we tried the Chicken parfait which was very good at £6.25 and, for £5.00 the soup of the day was a deliciously flavoured courgette and mint soup. Both starters were served with toast, but not just any toast, it could be said that it's the best toast ever, from a loaf of granary bread. It arrived at the table, crisp and light - just perfect with both the pate and the soup.

The menu undergoes changes so be prepared for other tasty dinners. You can enjoy good wine by the glass or bottle. And for a £7 desert, sweetness comes in the form of Red Berry Bakewell tart; Chocolate Orange cream, or Rose & Raspberry mascarpone cheesecake.

Oceans Restaurant's winter opening times are Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00am. Call Hannah to make a reservation on 01548 562467 or email info@oceansrestaurant.co.uk Book a lunch or dinner table for two or for bigger groups. There is no sense of crowding. Or drop by for a tea or coffee stop with cake from their selection. For a tasty light lunch there is a good range of sandwiches: Roast beef with horse radish; fresh picked Salcombe crab; thick cut bacon – made with white bread or the wonderful Granary.

Autumn Term Activities 2017

This term, we have been looking at the topics of “Animals” and “Space” with the children. To help establish our theme of animals, we took the children for a trip to Paignton zoo, where they were able to see the a vast range of different species. The children have been learning about mammals, reptiles, fish, amphibians and birds.

For our topic of space, the children helped to create a 3-D display of the Solar System in our classroom to include the planets, stars, asteroids, rockets and astronauts.

We have taken the children on a trip to The National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth to look at the marine life. The children enjoyed a mystical encounter with the aquarium’s resident mermaid called Marina. She introduced the children to some of her fishy friends, and told them a beautiful story about the ocean and seashells.

Next week, we will start rehearsing for our Christmas Nativity called “Toby’s Drum.”

We are also taking part in the Kingsbridge recycled Christmas tree competition. If anyone has any recyclable materials which could be used to make decorations, or empty green plastic water bottles, your donations would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of myself and our staff, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year!

Linda Quinn

(Manager)



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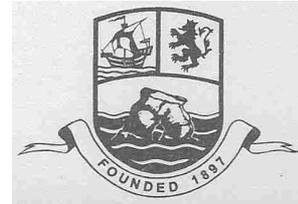
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Thurlestone Golf Club



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The recent change of clocks signalled that my year as Club Captain draws to a close, much as the days draw in and opportunities to play golf reduce due to shorter hours of daylight and the weather.

October saw two annual events at the golf club, the AGM and the Prize Presentation Evening. The Presentation Evening, with dinner to follow, was a very pleasant evening; the clubhouse looking splendid with the silver trophies sparkling, and the glassware gleaming. Several of the trophy winners were unable to attend the prize presentation evening as they were competing in the final of the Tamar Cup at Elfordleigh. It is with great pleasure that I can report that Thurlestone Juniors, captained by Ethan Bellamy, beat Tavistock Juniors and claimed a tremendous victory. This is the first time in the history of the Tamar Cup that we have won the trophy, so we are very proud of our Junior team.

I am fully aware of the skill our Juniors possess having played against their first pair in the annual Adult v Junior match with Steve White, our Head Professional. The Juniors played superbly, and showed what strength we have at this level, and we look forward to their promise being fulfilled in the coming years.

I also captained the losing team in the annual Devon v Rest of the World match. Keith Favis captained the Devon team, and, as is traditional, used home team advantage to secure the trophy for yet another year. Both matches were played in a tremendous spirit and proved, yet again, that it is the taking part that is the important element of this game.

The Tennis Section are also winding up their season, with their AGM and Prize Presentation ceremony having taken place recently. Jane Smyth retired as Chairperson, after 6 years at the helm, and Stewart Barnes will take over as Chairman. We have a thriving Section and are always looking for new members, of all ages. In 2018 we hope to develop our links with the local schools and introduce them to this wonderful game.

The final tennis tournament of the year is due to be held on Thursday 14th December. Commonly known as 'Tinsel Tennis', the Christmas Tournament is always played in a festive manner. So do not be surprised if some players are seen wearing non-white apparel that day, and the decibels rise!

The year now draws to a close; it has been an enjoyable year for me, and I would like to pay tribute to all those that have assisted me in producing an enjoyable experience at Thurlestone Golf Club through 2017.

Christmas Greetings to all our subscribers and best wishes for 2018.

Stewart Barnes

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

We are all enjoying our golf in the Autumn sunshine at the moment, although now the course is quite wet underfoot. The Medal Winners trophy and the Tregelles Trophy have been played for which round off our trophy competitions for this year. The medal winners was taken by Gill Hicks net 74, and the Tregelles trophy by Gill Markham with 30 points. We have had five fun competitions since my last report and enjoyed the more challenging pin positions in the Greenkeepers' Revenge won by Ann Best, Wendy Laud and Dawn St Pier. The matches have finished too

with the last ones being the friendlies in October against Churston and Bigbury.

The winter knockout competitions are now underway with the Winter Foursomes, Murray Smith cup singles knockout and the Grannie 9 holes competitions all keenly contested.

Devon v the Rest of the World match has been played which resulted in another win for Devon. It was an enjoyable event even though not as well supported as I would have liked. However we had a good mix of gentlemen, ladies and juniors .

The Presentation Evening in October was a great success and the Ladies Section was very well represented and supported with thirteen Ladies collecting nineteen cups. Multiple winners were ; Gill Hicks won the Allcomers cup, Betty Betty Ord cup and Medal winners cup. Barbara Smith won the Ford handicap Salver and the Pearl Rolland trophy. The rest of the club could see the ladies trophies en masse and I am sure this has raised the profile of the Ladies Section. The presentation ended with a delicious meal from Brent and the team, and the victorious junior team were clapped and cheered on arrival with the Tamar Cup that they had just won against Tavistock at Elfordleigh.

The Ladies club championship Oswald cup this year was won again by Jennifer Roberts who also won the Order of Merit clock, Ruth Marshall Silver cup, the Scratch singles cup, Underhill Scratch trophy, Stableford winners cup, and the Marshall Salver.

The team captains have been presented with a small gift from the Ladies Section in recognition of their work in supporting and guiding their teams. The Presidents team did so well to reach the Semifinals where they narrowly lost to Dainton Park.

I can hardly believe that I am writing a November report. The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and we have the AGM on the 24th November and then the Christmas activities; a lunch, a dinner and

the Turkey Trot competition to look forward to. I would like to thank my committee for their support during the year, the Main office of Simon, Bett and Pip, Vic Dyer and the Greenkeepers , Gaynor, Brent and the catering team, and Steve, Jack, Glenn, Joan , Lorraine; the Pro shop team who have all helped the Ladies section enormously. The next newsletter will be written by our 2018 Ladies captain Heather Spencer and I wish her good luck for a successful year.

Sheila George

JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

The juniors have had a really good year. They were runners up in their division of the West Devon League and therefore qualified for Championship day at Stover where they came third. In the Basil Steer knockout trophy they reached the semi-finals where they were narrowly beaten by RND golf club.

In the Tamar cup they reached the final and beat Tavistock to win the cup for the first time in Thurlestone history. They won by 2 matches to 1 against a really strong Tavistock team at Elfordleigh Golf Club. The Tamar Cup is a knockout competition played between Devon and Cornwall clubs on a neutral course. The Thurlestone team consisted of George Holland, George and Alfie Messias, Finn Whelan, Toby White and Junior Captain Ethan Bellamy. It was a four ball better ball match with Ethan and George Holland winning 6 & 5, George Messias and Finn winning 2 & 1, with Alfie and Toby narrowly losing. Well done to the team!

The juniors have also had their fair share of trophies won in the men's competition. The club presentation was in October and the juniors were due to collect nine trophies. However, that was the day of the Tamar cup final so apart from Noah Mulligan and Oliver Griffiths, they collected their trophies and glassware mementos at juniors presentation evening in November. This was attended by 50 parents and juniors. The day started with

a Junior competition organised by Jonathan Ingham. The winner of the CONGU group was Ethan Bellamy 31 on count back from Sammy Ingham. The non-Congu 9 holes winner was Emma White with 20 points, from Aidan Mulligan 18 points. The Academy juniors had their fun competition in the afternoon with the professionals Steve, Jack and Glenn in attendance. The winners were Finley Moore, Madeline Rossiter and Lockie Turner-Jones.

Following a delicious buffet the presentation evening got underway with the Academy juniors receiving their awards first, then the junior section collected 19 Junior trophies and 8 of the men's trophies that they had won over the year.

This year thirteen of the juniors have reduced their handicaps, the greatest reductions being Noah Mulligan and Alfie Messias. Noah Came down from 24 to 14 and Alfie from 22 to 11 - a fantastic achievement, due to coaching from the Professional team and endless hours of practice by the boys.

We now have ten juniors with Handicaps

lower than 14, our lowest being George Holland on 4, and George Messias on 7. The juniors are also playing for Devon; in the under-18 team George Holland, under-16 George Messias and Finn Whelan, and under-14 team Toby White, Alfie Messias, and Noah Mulligan - with Noah at nine years old the youngest member.

The Junior Academy run by Steve, Jack and Glenn also grows from strength to strength. They now have seven groups on a Saturday morning and afternoon, including an all girls group of seven. Friday juniors club evenings have now finished for the winter. They averaged 12 juniors each Friday who played a six or nine hole competition. Steve White organised the evenings with help from Lee Bellamy, Marc Mulligan and Dave Mulligan.

Finally I must thank Nigel Whelan and Lee Bellamy for their organisation of the Junior team, Ethan for being a very hardworking Junior captain with his vice captain Finn Whelan. Finn has agreed to be Junior captain next year and I wish him good luck for a successful year.

Liz Line

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School Friendship Bench

It is an on-going tradition at Thurlestone Primary School that parents of year 6 children make a donation to the school at the end of the academic year, and this year they chose a friendship bench for all the children to enjoy. The bench was paid for by the eighteen families at a subsidised cost from Elliott Myatt and Guy Heynes - directors of local business *The Plastic Company*, which supplies 100% recycled plastic outdoor furniture - and this bench was chosen for its environmental and no maintenance benefits. Perfect for local schools, homes and businesses, etc.

The bench has been delivered and presented to the school by the children who are now year 7 pupils at Kingsbridge Community College. It was a lovely occasion as it was the first time the children have been back to their primary school to see old teachers and friends.



The bench is to be used in the playground to encourage children to support each other when in need or looking for friendship.

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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

I have just walked Kerra on the beach, 17:22 on Thursday November 9th, what a sunset! There have been in recent days lots of stunning sunsets, of which people have been taking photographs, one villager even ran past me two nights ago in order not to miss the sight. It is amazing how quickly the sun sinks below the horizon. Just shows how fast the earth is spinning. No time tonight nor the right conditions to see a green flash, just the Eddystone lighthouse with its normal 3seconds and 9 seconds intervals, flashing away on the reef of rocks it marks. How a day of calm, sunny weather can make one forget the days of rain and wind. (Like yesterday, 12mm of rain and lots of deep puddles to trap the unwary motorist)

I decided to look in "The Wrong Kind of Snow" to see what the first paragraphs stated as far as the weather was on that day throughout November. Albeit in different years, but remarkably some of the worst accidents/events caused by weather conditions occurred in this month, including those due to fog, sunlight, snow, frost, rain, gales, severe cold and wind. All of these in their turn caused a disaster of some magnitude affecting us humans to say nothing of crops and animals. All of these conditions have caused deaths of people going about their daily lives, unaware of what lay ahead.

To illustrate just some of these:

FOG -- Venue. M1 am on 29th November 1971. On what was promising to be a lovely day, early morning fog had burned off and the sun shone brightly as traffic flowed along a relatively new road system. We know now that this is not a guarantee that the situation will last. Indeed it is a pretty lethal situation and drivers need to take care. On this day drivers were caught out on the stretch of road between Luton and Dunstable in Bedfordshire as a bank of dense fog drifted across the motorway. As one car slams on its brakes others pile into it and in seconds there is carnage. When the fog clears some ten minutes later, the scene is unbelievable. Many cars are unrecognisable as cars, one uninjured man faints as a result of hearing the screams of the injured. In total fifty cars are piled up on the south-bound carriageway, and twenty on the north. The final total was eight dead, forty-five injured, the worst pile-up at the time. Just ten weeks earlier there were a series of multiple pile-ups on the M6 in Cheshire. The toll was 11 dead 60 injured. The newspapers coined a new phrase "MOTORWAY MADNESS". Another crash just five weeks later on the M1 near Nottingham claimed one dead and fourteen injured. Sadly, more was to come and even today, as we witnessed on the M5 not long ago, it is still happening. Lets hope that this November is not blighted by such events. Rear fog lights on cars were introduced, and became mandatory from 1978.

SUNLIGHT -- The above accounts are not the worst ever! In 1985 the worst ever Motorway pile-up killed 13 on the M6 due to Dazzling sunshine. Anyone who has travelled the M6 in late afternoon in the Autumn/early Winter will know how scary this can be even today. The sun hasn't altered but hopefully our driving habits have improved, and we drive to the weather conditions at the time.

COLD -- No-one living now will remember this event:- 1894, League Division One Football match, Saturday 12th November. Sheffield United v Aston Villa at Sheffield I suspect. Recollected by Ernest 'Nudger' Needham of Sheffield United, he relates, "The bitter cold wind and sleet pierced one, numbing muscle and brain. Men on both sides succumbed and were carried away to hot baths and stimulants. I left the field

before the finish and by doing so probably saved my life". The weather was so bad that several Aston Villa players donned greatcoats, while the winger briefly used an umbrella to keep the sleet off. United's goalkeeper, William 'Fatty' Foulkes (who weighed over 20 stone and at whom, it's said the chant 'Who ate all the pies?' was originally directed), seemed the least bothered by the cold. Seven thousand fans endured the game. Will we have a repeat event this year? But I suspect H&S and wary Club owners will see that the players welfare will be uppermost in the decision to play or not to play!

WIND -- We all know about the wind and what it can do to us and our environment, living, as we do here on the western fringes of the country and continent, and we all remember October 15th 1987 and 1990 25th January. The latter was to prove more devastating here than the October one. The event that I have chosen to relate took place in Hatfield, Hertfordshire in 1957, 4th November at 4.00am. A resident in this 'new town' of modern housing is woken by a gale. It seems to him, being half asleep, that his ceiling is moving. Suddenly, with a roar, in a shower of dust the roof peels away and the resident is peering at the stars. Woodward and Penn continue; a moment later, with a blinding flash, his neighbour's roof goes too, tearing the electrical wiring out. In the next few minutes, twenty-four more of the shallow –pitched roofs – acting in the wind like aeroplane wings – are sucked upwards for take – off. Next morning, buckled aluminium sheets from fifty houses litter the gardens and trees. The design of these houses was implemented as a cost cutting exercise after World War 2 to house the many families caught up with the so-called 'baby boom'. Sadly, the planners ignored the age-old pitched roofs, smaller windows, heavy slates or tiles, mortar and careful siting with regard to aspect and shelter. Lessons learned we hope!

W and P finish this article with this statement from the UK Climates Impacts Programme. Average winter wind speeds are predicted to increase by 10% by 2080. Storms such as the 1987 and 1990 ones tracking from west to east and funnelling up the Thames valley towards London will be disastrous to say the least. Over the last 30 years huge developments have taken place along the M4 Corridor which is where these winds would theoretically track. I wonder how many of the building have shallow pitched aluminium roofs?

Well, I have now got all my shutters in place again, the wind having exploited some weaknesses (rusty screws of galvanised nature ending up like sewing needles!) now replaced with secure stainless steel screws and dogged determination to succeed by two local competent craftsmen.

Storm Aileen was soft by my standards, Storm Brian did take the roofing felt off my potting shed but left the Greenhouse untouched, the maximum gust here was 69mph. I have a long way to go to reach the 92mph on January 25th 1990 (the Burn's Night Storm) when we lost all the glass on the seaward side of the house, some cracked and all sand-blasted so as to become opaque. The plastic surrounds were unmarked!

A final word on the wind. On average wind causes three quarters of the UK's insurance losses due to natural disasters. My book *The Wrong Kind of Snow* dates from 2007. I wonder if things have changed 10 years on? Must find out....

Keep safe and batten down the hatches against wind, cold and rain in our winter months.

Jan T

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DIARY DATES

December

- Monday 4 Arts Soc, Christmas Lunch & Lecture, Thurlestone Hotel, 10am
Monday 4 Carols & Mince Pies, All Saints school, 2.00pm - 3.00pm
Monday 4 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday 6 Tramp, tba (short)
Monday 11 **Carol Evening**, Village Green, 4.30pm (see advert)
Friday 15 WI, Christmas Lunch, Golf Club, 12.30 for 1.00pm
Saturday 16 Stanborough Chorus Christmas Concert, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday 19 Buckland Carols, Valleyside Lamp Post, 5.00pm
Friday 22 Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols, All Saints, 6.00pm
Sunday 24 Carols For All, St Edmund's Kingsbridge, 4.30pm

January

- Monday 8 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday 11 WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm, (The Police Surgeon's Lot)
Thursday 18 Tramp, Kingsbridge environs (short)
Tuesday 23 Defibrillator Awareness, Thurlestone Hotel, 6.00pm
Wednesday 24 Arts Soc (*Humphry Repton & the Tamar*) Kier Davidson, 7.30
Thursday 25 Arts Soc - K'bridge Methodist Hall, 10.30am (as above)

February

- Monday 5 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday 7 Tramp, Aveton Gifford (short)
Thursday 8 WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm, (Membland & Lord Revelstoke)
Saturday 10 **Rumpus Ceilidh Band**, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday 14 Tramp, Loddiswell (short)
Wednesday 21 Arts Soc (*The Guildhall Art Gallery*), Diana Wright, 7.30pm
Thursday 22 Arts Soc - K'bridge Methodist Hall, 10.30am (as above)
Thursday 22 **The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night**, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 24 Choral Workshop, K'bridge Community Coll, 10am-5pm,

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

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 (Feb-Mar) ISSUE = 5th January 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)

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL (Meetings take place on Mondays)
 Chairman Andrew Rhymes 560564
 Vice-chairman Charles Mitchelmore 560602
 Parish Clerk Graeme Martin 559112
 Members Tony Goddard 562282
 Nigel Hurrell 560691
 Kit Marshall 560214
 Jill Munn 560732
 Bronwen Zaffiro 560020
 District Councillor Judy Pearce 561370
 Simon Wright 561033
 County Councillor Rufus Gilbert 856659
 Tree Warden Charles Mitchelmore 560602

PARISH HALL (See Parish website) Chairman Neill Irwin 561661
 Bookings Anne Russell 531472
 Pay-phone in foyer 562189

PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.) Chairman Chris White 560505

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Rector Rev Daniel Hartley 562727
CHURCHWARDENS Graham Worrall 562016 Liz Webb 560090
CHURCH MEETING ROOM ACTIVITIES Office 561246
COFFEE TIME (Every Wednesday 10.30 -11.30 am) Contact Rosemary Chipman 562013
FILMS FOR ALL (1st Tuesday Monthly 2.30 pm) Contact Liz Webb 560090
LUNCH CLUB (2nd & 4th Fridays 12.45 pm) Contact Anne Bowden 560655
SOUP & A ROLL (3rd Fridays Sep-Easter 12.30-1.30 pm) Contact Liz Webb 560090
UNDER 3s (Thursdays 9.30-11.00 am term-time) Contact Kate Davey 561116

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 6.30 p.m Wednesdays and Fridays Contact Lisa White 560505

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB Gen Mgr - Simon Bawden Clubhouse & 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

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

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

DIRECTORY

PARISH WEBSITE (www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk) Contacts Mike Bone 288436 Paul Martin 560070

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

TABLE TENNIS Wednesday 4.00 to 5.00 pm Parish Hall Robin Macdonald 560436

BADMINTON Mondays 7.30 to 9.00 pm Parish Hall (Eqpt provided) Heather 560892 or Paul 560070

HEALTH CENTRES Kingsbridge **853551** Salcombe **842284**

MILK DELIVERY R. Bruckner & Son 01803 - 832801

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY Dave & Sandra Edmonds 01548 - 853132

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 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 See Advert for dates pf closure week 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
 Emergency 999 General enquiries & Non-emergency calls 101 Minicom
 users 01392 - 452935 Confidential information 0800-555-111

RUBBISH COLLECTION
 Monday (But Tuesday in Bank Holiday Monday weeks) Grey Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 13th November
White & Blue Sack collections (recyclables) and Brown Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 6th November

RECYCLING CENTRE (Torr Quarry Site, Totnes Road - Telephone 521609)
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 Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day) 7.00 am to 9.00 pm
 DevonBus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk

GARAGE (Blight Engineering) Keith Foale 560220

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY 852315
 (Mobile Library from Ivybridge now calls only monthly - Wednesday 6th December & 3rd January)
 South Milton (Backshay Close) 14.15 - 15.00 pm Thurlestone (Parish Hall Car Park) 15.10 - 16.10 pm

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