

VILLAGE VOICE

February - March 2024



Storm Swoopers!

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



As we enter the last month of winter and head into spring, the last couple of months has certainly given us a good mix of weather. There were the high winds and rain with several named storms, as depicted on the front cover showing poor birds battling against the elements, how do they cope one asks oneself? Then the welcome return of some sunshine albeit feeling a bit on the chilly side, with even a sprinkling of snow but thankfully not as much as the Beast from the East gave us. Jan Turner gives her take on the weather together with some interesting statistics supplied by Mike Hodges.

Spring is about new beginnings and we are pleased that the Coastwatch team at East Prawle have offered to give us regular updates about what happens there, you will be able to read their first one in this edition. Another new occurrence is the arrival of Pickleball in the parish. What is this I hear you cry, look no further than the Parish Hall News where you'll learn more about it.

Something old as opposed to new is the film The Land of the Five Beaches which had another showing at the Parish Hall and as it seems to have piqued everyone's interest, we've dug into our archives for the story behind the making of the film which we hope you will enjoy just as much.

Something synonymous with this area are cream teas and you'll find an article posing the question "Whatever has happened to Cream Teas", read on to find out.

We hope you enjoy this edition and please let us know if there is anything you would like to see or contribute. Happy reading!

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by Paul Martin

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A letter from your MP

Anthony Mangnall



It may well be unsurprising for you to know that I am frequently asked whether I regret going into politics. I suspect I am asked this question because of the nature of politics, the viciousness of social media and just simply because I am associated with Westminster life, both the highs and the lows. Yet my answer is unequivocally no!

Having crossed the four-year mark as your local Member of Parliament, I believe more passionately than ever in public service. Beyond Prime Minister's Questions and that thirty-minute snapshot into the world of Westminster, it is far more consensual than you would ever believe. Consensus and compromise are commonplace. Whether on Bill debates or Select Committees, cross-party working is the order of every day. In doing so it helps to strengthen, amend and shape the laws of the land.

But perhaps most pleasingly, after four years of working with my Constituency and Parliamentary team, I can point to a record that delivers on the commitments I made to the residents of South Devon in 2019. So this article is my progress report to you on what has been achieved.

In 2019, we were languishing behind the rest of the country in terms of connectivity both digital and transport. The ensuing four years have seen a dramatic improvement in both areas. Councillors such as Rufus Gilbert and Samantha Dennis have worked with me and local providers to knock off black spots and hard-to-reach areas, while also developing working groups to expand our public transport network.

From less than 85% digital connectivity, we are now well above 95% with the final areas of South Devon set to be connected by the end of this year. Our public transport working group has identified opportunities and created new routes such as Tally Ho's Primrose Link, which works in cooperation with GWR arrivals at Totnes station. Coupled with the £2 bus fare cap, we have incentivised public transport while facilitating working at home for a greener, cleaner way of living.

Our way of life in South Devon must be protected. This is why I have championed the arrival of new police officers, the opening of Kingsbridge Police Station front desk and the creation of police hubs across South Devon. We may well be the second safest place in the country but this does not make us immune from crime. Now with more officers than in 2010, we have the network, place and space to ensure residents not only see more officers on the beat but also can be reassured that crime will never take a foothold in South Devon.

Our rural and coastal landscapes and vistas are the envy of all, including the Cornish! It has been my mission to support, promote and talk up our local food producers. Our fishers and farmers produce high-quality food that needs to be included in our public organisations. This is why, through the Procurement Act, I have changed national policy to make it easier for local producers to supply schools, hospitals, prisons and other public organisations. Eating local and supporting our producers not only keeps our economy moving but also has huge implications for our

health and wellbeing. Our farmers and fishermen deserve our support, and the Government can lead by example with taxpayers' money. Connecting, protecting and supporting you, the residents of South Devon, has led me to work on how our high streets, businesses and local organisations can best be bolstered. Through working with the Chambers of Commerce, securing two new banking hubs, delivering record levels of money into our places of education, and securing Levelling Up funding, the outlook is bright. Our successes have helped to draw more investment into the South West and in particular to South Devon, and I am optimistic that it will play its part in rejuvenating our high streets and attracting new businesses to the area.

So, no, I have no regrets about going into politics. My team and I have helped move the dial at a local level as well as changed national policy for the better. My ethos has always remained the same - if you get it right locally then you can deliver nationally and if you put people before politics then you can deliver some remarkable changes.

Thurlestone Parish Council Meeting of 4th December 2023 held in Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr Rosa Lewis (in the Chair), Cllr Adam Ryan Carter, Cllr Gill Stone, Cllr Eric Palmer, Cllr David Smyth, Cllr Mike Hodges

In Attendance: Helen Leather (Parish Clerk), DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert, SHDC Cllr Mark Long, 14 Parishioners/guests:

Open Forum - Peter Sandover, Chair of National Landscapes/AONB was a guest speaker and gave a synopsis of the work of National Landscapes. Matt Bright had emailed the clerk and Cllr Ryan-Carter about dark skies and the need to protect them. A member of the public asked for understanding of the relationship between the neighbourhood plan and the Joint Local Plan and which one formed which.

County Councillor Rufus Gilbert reported on flooding and road repairs and stated that DCC will fulfil some enquiries if informed of problems, but it is important to remember that ditches on farmers land is the farmers responsibility not the highway authorities. Cllr Gilbert has been working hard on the Kerse Lane problems behind the scenes. The government has allocated £6.6 million more out of the HS2 funds towards Devon Counties Highways. Modbury - Southwest water closure of Modbury Main Street begins on 8th January for 6 weeks. The Mobile Library Service will finish in February. The £2 bus fare scheme continues until the end of 2024. DCC have bought 6 nearly new salt gritters.

District Councillor Mark Long - The new rounds of waste collections began on 20th of November. The first week of the new operations out of 89,000 properties, there were only 376 missed collections. If anyone has a problem report it online, if it's not resolved please contact Cllr Dennis or Cllr Long.

Clerks Report - Parish Paths Partnership Update. Ros Davies who was Parish Paths liaison officer, has transferred - Devon County are recruiting for a new officer. In the interim period general queries can be directed to pro@devon.gov.uk. Mobile Boost Scheme is a programme run by Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) helping small businesses and homeworkers with poor indoor mobile coverage. Applications for funding run from Monday, 8th January 2024 for 6 months.

Cllr Lewis - Update of Schedule 14 on Aune Cliff PROW. Graham Gilbert has been handling this and is in charge of the application. DCC are expected to consider the application in 2024, some five years after it was submitted. **Cllr Stone** - The Council have joined the Coastal Parishes Committee. Cllr Stone has been trying to establish with the South Hams Planners clarification on permitted developments and certificates of lawfulness. Clarification is needed because an increasing number of planning applications are being submitted under these options. **Cllr Ryan Carter** has been trying to find out if there could be a consensus among councillors and planning departments as to how to judge a planning application on the Dark Skies policy. **Cllr Smyth** - Update on Police Base at Parish Hall. Everything is progressing, the police team have visited, and Karen Barker from the Parish Hall Committee has shown them around and they have been provided with key codes which will enable them to access the Parish Hall as and when they need to. He also reported back on the Bantham Assault.

Planning & Neighbourhood Plan

3588/23/HHO - West Seacombe, Ilbert Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NY. **Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application**

0299/23/FUL - Thurlestone Hotel, Eddystone Road to Kerse Cross, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NN. **No Decision – more information to be requested.**

3611/23/FUL - 5 Zealands Field, Bantham, TQ7 3AN. Erection of dog kennels (Retrospective). **Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application**

3629/23/HHO - Onnalea, Bantham, TQ7 3AR, **Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application**

2116/23/FUL - Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) **Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application**

2117/23/LBC - Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) **Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application**

South Hams District Council Decisions:

RATIFICATION 2900/23/HHO - Apple Trees, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LZ. **Conditional Approval.**

4258/22/HHO - Morstones, Bantham, TQ7 3AP. **Under Consideration.**

3468/23/CLE - Certificate for Lawfulness for works commenced within the time limit of three years as per condition 1 under planning permission number 1720/19/FUL & 2643/22/VAR -Thurlestone Hotel, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NN. **Cert of Lawfulness (Existing) Certified**

3336/23/VAR - Outside Land at Sx 699 454 Bantham. **Under Consideration**

2786/20/FUL - West Buckland Barn, TQ7 3AJ. **Under Consideration**

4118/22/FUL - Edgcombe House, West Buckland. **Conditional Approval**

NB. Minutes from the January meeting were unavailable for this edition so will be included in the next issue.

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!



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Parish Hall News

by Alison Daily



A belated Happy New Year to you all and we hope to see many of you at the events planned throughout 2024, it's certainly going to be a busy year!

Diane Martin

Sadly for the committee, one of our long serving members Diane Martin has decided to stand down after over 10 years' service. It will be a great loss but we understand her wish to pursue other interests. During her tenure, mostly as booking secretary, she brought invaluable expertise and ideas in her own quiet but effective way. Diane, we shall miss you but hope you enjoy your well-earned rest and new pastimes.

All the various clubs and classes have restarted, hopefully getting rid of the cobwebs and extra pounds accumulated over the festive season. For a complete list of activities on offer and other information take a look at the parish website www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/booking-diary.html or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Thurlestone-Parish-Hall.



Pickleball

I'm pleased to say we have purchased a Pickleball set. You may remember we tried to generate interest a couple of years ago but there wasn't any shown at that time. The sport now seems to be taking off as we were approached again asking for the hall to be used as a winter venue and there is now a fully booked session on a Sunday morning and a second group also expressing an interest. It just shows you should never give up if you don't succeed the first time. Pickleball is a fun sport for ALL ages and abilities that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis and is good for your health and wellbeing. Played indoors (and outdoors) on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net, two or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball over a net. The basic rules can be found on the Pickleball website:

<https://www.pickleballengland.org/rules/>

If you like the idea, you can hire the hall and equipment for your own private session. Why not give it a try?

Hall Hire

While I mention the hire of the hall, it is available for local private hire at the extremely reasonable cost of £9 per hour. If, for example, during half term or the Easter holidays the weather is horrid once again and you're looking to entertain the youngsters, by hiring the hall you'd have access to all sorts of equipment including badminton, kurling, table tennis, pool to name a few. There is also the big screen for showing films.

Film Night

We kicked off our 2024 events with a repeat showing of The Land of the Five Beaches together with a shorter film entitled Village People made in 1967. Both are fascinating and highlight how attitudes may have changed but so many fundamental things haven't. You certainly wouldn't get a film like the Village People made today. Even though we'd received requests to show this again we were taken by surprise at the interest this time around as the audience numbered nearly 100. More chairs had to be put out and Malcolm went on a couple of drinks runs to replenish the bar. A very successful evening which we hope you all enjoyed as much as we did.

Rotary Quiz

This isn't a Parish Hall event but is worth a mention. Don't forget to book your tables for the annual Kingsbridge Rotary quiz on 8th February in aid of End Polio Now, a very worthy cause. This is a popular evening and always well attended. Your quizmasters will be the incomparable Mike and Brenda Jones. See advert in the magazine for details.

AGM

Our annual AGM is on Friday 23rd February so come along and join us for a glass of wine to hear what has happened over the past year and our plans for the future. We always welcome any feedback as to how to improve and widen our activities where possible.

Pub Night

The next pub night is 16th March which gives everyone the opportunity to meet up with friends for a drink and friendly competition. Details are on the advert elsewhere in the magazine. We look forward to welcoming you through our doors again.

Yarmer Estate - Part Time Warden Required

Yarmer Estates (Thurlestone) Limited are looking for an individual to undertake a part time supervisory role of the estate's private roads during the Spring and Summer months. At present, a private ticketing company is in place to collect fines for illegal parking in the communal areas of the estate for vehicles not displaying a valid permit. The estate requires the roads to be monitored and details of vehicles parked without a valid permit passed to the ticketing company using a mobile phone which will be provided. This person should ideally be fit and able to survey the estate and guidance will be given on what is required and how to log and issue fine notices. This role will be paid on an hourly basis of £15phr and the individual will be expected to provide detailed logs for the time spent. It is anticipated this will be around 8 flexible hours per week. If you are interested in the role, please contact Laurence Leadbetter – laurence@jlpropertymanagement.co.uk

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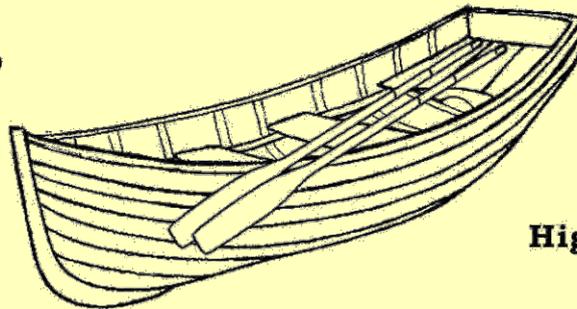
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Village News Roundup

Thank you, Mike and Brenda

At the Christmas quiz regulars showed their appreciation of the time and effort put in by Mike and Brenda Jones to liven up the long dark winter nights with their very popular quiz nights at the golf club. A collection was organised and they were presented with wine, flowers and vouchers to spend at the Cottage Hotel in Hope Cove. We hope they enjoy their well-deserved gifts.

Memorial Bench

Paul Danusia tragically passed away 12 months ago and was a chef at the Sloop Inn, Bantham for many years. A bench has been made and placed at the side of his old workplace and where he liked to take a drink. This is now a place where his friends can sit, reflect and remember him.

Thermal Imaging to Identify Heat Loss from Homes

One typically thinks of thermal imaging being used in emergency services night vision, for finding people in open country or following earth quakes. However, the significant reduction in cost, size and simplification of thermal imaging camera technology is leading to increased use in identifying where heat is leaking out and cold leaking/blowing into properties. South Hams Council, Kingsbridge Climate Action, South Milton Climate and Nature Action Group, all now have Thermal Imaging Cameras. The cameras can only gain information on house heat loss and/or cold ingress in cold weather, ideally on dry low wind days, typically November to March.

Your sustainability group BBATS (Buckland, Bantham, Thurlestone Sustainability) will be borrowing a Thermal Imaging Camera in late January/ early February to do trials on a few houses in Thurlestone Parish. The aim of the trial will be to learn how best to deploy thermal imaging camera technology to help households identify locations of heat loss, and/or cold ingress and thus identify actions which could reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint.

If you are interested in being part of the trial, please email Mike Hodges at bbats.info@gmail.com

Ramen Evening

Outside at Bantham are holding a Ramen Night on 9th February when they welcome Yoshi and Emi Kamio from [Taguchi-Ya Canteen](#), who serve up simple and delicious authentic Japanese home cooking made with care and commitment. All the dishes will be cooked fresh to order using high quality ingredients. The three-course set menu will start with either pork or tofu gyoza followed by a meat or vegan ramen and home-made mochi dessert. There are 100 tickets available and 3 sittings available at £25 per head. Book on: [outside-devon.com/whats-on/ramen-night?](https://www.outside-devon.com/whats-on/ramen-night/)

Dogs

There have been a few instances of lost dogs recently and growing concern regarding the increase of dog fouling in the parish. Both of these can be reported to South Hams District Council on their website <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/dogs>.

Deals

At this time of year many hostelrys in the area have good value fixed-price meal deals. Have a look at some of your favourites and if you take advantage of the offers and enjoy them why not tell us about it so it can be featured in the Eating Out article. One such offer is Dartington's historic Grade II* Listed Gardens where, for anyone in the TQ area, an individual ticket will now cost £4 or a family ticket from just £7.50 and is valid until 18 Feb. Plus, they're offering 10% discount at the White Hart pub with every garden entry, for morning coffee and cake or a light lunch after your visit.

Torr Quarry Recycling Centre

A limited free allowance for DIY type waste is available to households, which is four single visits per household in any four-week period with either: up to 2 rubble bags (which can be safely carried) per visit or a single (unbagged) item up to 2 metres in length per visit. Any excess DIY waste material such as oversize material or additional visits over the allowance will be charged. Go to the [devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](https://www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling) for full details.



2024 EVENT CALENDAR

13th JANUARY Film Night Land of the Five Beaches & Village People	8th FEBRUARY Rotary Quiz	16th MARCH Pub Night	tbc APRIL Disco
9th JUNE Open Gardens	6th JULY Beer & Boules	14th JULY Wimbledon Men's Final Live Streaming	tbc AUGUST Family Fun
14th SEPTEMBER Last Night of the Proms Live Streaming	12th OCTOBER Welcome to the Hall Tea & Cake	tbc OCTOBER Live Band	16th NOVEMBER Murder Mystery



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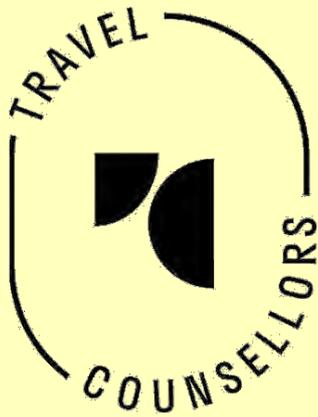
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Our Garden

by Sue Dwyer

I am looking out of the window at heavy rain from Storm Gerrit which is battering the garden. However, it looks tidy despite the weather as all the commercial compost plus 2/3rds of our home made compost has been spread over most of the beds. They were previously weeded and raked over before the compost was applied. You should never apply a layer of compost on dry soil as the rain will not get through in enough quantity to keep the soil moist. I do not think there is any likelihood of this happening this year.



The soil in this garden, having had 40+ years of compost spread over the beds is second to none. Knowing your garden soil type is important. Here the soil is sandy and light so drains well and has a PH of 6.5. Keeping the soil in tip top condition requires yearly mulching with compost. Our own compost is the gold dust. It contains the micro-organisms and wild life which will continue to add goodness. Commercial compost adds the texture to the soil but most of the organisms have been killed because of the high temperatures used in breaking down the compostable material at record speed. Online there are some very good videos by Charles Dowding who explains in detail how to make good compost and also he is an advocate of no dig gardening, I'm sure of interest to many readers! There is one specifically about compost making which was made in Aug 2023 and lasts for 16 mins. This is well worth looking at and compliments the compost demonstration given in the Parish Hall in September.

Over the last 40 years more beds have been added to the garden. When we came in 1982 there was only the main bed on the west side, an asparagus bed on the east side and a patch of hydrangeas below the asparagus bed. The first new beds were at the bottom of the garden adjacent to the boundary golf club wall. At the same time Rugosa roses were planted on top of the wall which gave us privacy. I was fed up having people staring at me whilst working in the garden and this also helps protect plants on the east side from the prevailing south westerly winds. After a couple of years the asparagus bed was dug up and shrubs planted, mostly camellias. 7 years ago this was joined to the hydrangea patch, enlarged widthwise and perennials planted along with removal of the very old hydrangeas. Beds were added in front of the house below the patio and then more beds made on the road side plus the verge. The last bed is beside the screening fence on the west side.

Inevitably these beds, all very large, have created a large amount of work. Using compost as a mulch helps tremendously by stopping annual weeds which will ultimately disappear if perennial weeds are removed when they pop up. Over time the beds become weed free and people comment when they come to this garden how few weeds are evident.

I think back to over 40 years ago when we moved into the house. How gardening has changed. I used to rely on chemicals to control weeds and insects. I was always spraying roses and other plants for aphids. I used to swear by Lindane. Two sprays a year and aphids disappeared, then Bug Clear and several other less toxic chemicals. Little did I know many of these were neurotoxins and very dangerous to the bee population. Now I hardly ever use any chemicals and have encouraged wildlife so the garden looks after itself. The aphids are no longer a problem because the birds eat them. However the number of small birds seems to have declined as judged by those

coming to the bird feeder in the garden. I just wonder whether cutting down all the rough on the golf course has destroyed their roosting and nesting areas. Certainly when I walk the coastal footpath early in the morning there is a distinct loss of bird song now. But I suppose it's too early to judge and we need to wait till Spring.

I do receive a number of gardening items as presents from family at Xmas. This year my niece gave me a pair of pruners, some soft ties and a paper pot maker. I am sure the pot maker will be put to use so again reducing our carbon footprint. I have to cut up newspaper and roll this around a wooden cylinder which is the template, fold the ends around the bottom and then rotate the whole into a wooden saucer. This can then be filled with compost and when the seedling is ready to be planted out, pot plus compost can go into the soil. This prevents root disturbance and the plants grow away more quickly.

I am having another attempt at planting a camellia hedge on the east side of the garden. I have found a group of camellia new to me. I knew there were *Camellia japonica* from Japan and Korea, *Camellia saluenensis* from China, *Camellia sasanqua* autumn flowering from China, *Camellia sinensis* from China and Assam, the leaves picked for tea and *Camellia williamsii* a cultivar group of hybrid evergreen shrubs derived from a crossing of *Camellia saluenensis* with *Camellia japonica*. The first of these hybrids were produced at Caerhays Castle in Cornwall. I do like the autumn flowering *sasanqua* variety as these flower from October to December when it's always good to have colour in the garden. Their flowers are smaller than the later flowering *japonicas* and *williamsii*. Subspecies are the *oleifera* hybrids originating from *Camellia oleifera*, a Chinese autumn flowering camellia- the leaves used to brew tea in the remote part of China. The flowers are small white single blooms and the tree grows to over 30 feet. This species is crossed with some of the *sasanqua* varieties and most produced autumn flowering bushes growing to 6 feet in height and about 5 feet spread. They are relatively tender but will grow in the mild south of the UK. I have bought five varieties all named as *Camellia Winter* – C W Joy, C W Charm, C W Toughie, C W Interlude and C W Snowman which, as the name suggests, is white. All the others are pink. I have also been given rolls of wind break netting to protect them for the first few years. I hope these will be more successful than my last effort when at least half died, which I am sure was because of the strong winds we have had over the last few years. I do have camellias in exposed positions which stand up to the wind once established. To encourage growth any sign of flower buds should be removed for the first few years. This enables the plant to put all its energy into a good root system.

Of interest to me is that *Camellia oleifera* is the main camellia species cultivated for its oil-bearing seeds. In fact, the species name *oleifera* means "oil-bearing." Common names include oil-seed camellia, tea-oil camellia, and tea-oil tree. So now I know where tea oil, often used as an antiseptic, comes from. It's also highly recommended by Monty Don as the oil to use on garden tools to prevent rust.

Another thing that has changed over 40 years is most multi-purpose and seed compost is peat free. The government has pledged to ban the use of peat in compost from Garden Centres as from this year and from the commercial growers from 2026. In the 1950s the new Garden Centres changed from using home-made compost to using light weight peat based, which enabled them to offer a huge variety of potted plants to the public. When the first peat free compost came on the market about 30 years ago most were made from coir or coconut fibre and reviews were very mixed. Now they have been perfected but I have read that I must be aware of some differences. I found the following tips in the most recent copy of the RHS garden magazine. The compost tends to dry out at the top whilst lower down in the pot it's perfectly damp. Hence use your little finger to test each pot to assess whether it

requires more water as the danger is overwatering. The compost nutrients are lower and when plants are growing they need regular feeding weekly. Adding Perlite or Vermiculite to the mix helps with retaining water in the pot and allows better drainage. When you find a brand you like, keep to this as brands vary. Be aware of shelf life as after 6 months the biological active properties will have changed. Remove any fungi from the growing surface and put onto your compost heap. Little black sciarid flies can be a nuisance on the top of the compost. Sieve the multi-purpose compost for seed sowing as the seeds need a finer mix or buy peat free seed compost. Finally make your own compost using garden soil, grit, home-made compost, Perlite or Vermiculite as our grand-parents did in the post war period.

Looking around the garden I saw the first snowdrops flowering today, New Years Day, which made me smile on such a miserable windy wet day. Many camellias are in bloom along with Narcissus, and Hellebores. The greenhouse is a boon as I can spend time hunting slugs and snails-no snails found and a few slugs removed. Any dead material from the plants was removed so this does not attract the slugs and snails. I have plans for my next batch of cuttings in the Hydropod, I may well try semi-hard camellias.

Happy Gardening and Happy New Year



School Report



Crisp & Calm, With A Chance Of Snowballs!

The New Year and the new term began with some clear and wintry sunshine, calmness after the gales, and a cold snap that brought with it some excitement as a dusting of snow settled over the school one morning. The nursery children especially had a wonderful time exploring this winter scene, and discovered ice in their mud kitchen! The older children were delighted to have a quick snowball fight in morning break before the thaw!

The snow also reached our new forest school site, and the children had a lot of fun trying to collect it in buckets. This little corner of the village is going to be well used this term, and a collection of Christmas trees has added to the den-building possibilities!

After inviting many of our children to an open studio day before Christmas, local artist Stephen Thomas visited the school. He spent the day viewing the art which was inspired by his landscapes. The children were thrilled to display their work, and have such thoughtful feedback. It felt like a real art gallery! We would like to say a huge thank you for coming to visit us Stephen!

There has also been some fundraising with a Burn's Night Supper and Ceilidh held at the Parish Hall. Parents and friends of the school gathered for some traditional Scottish celebrations, including bagpipes and haggis! There were even a few kilts twirling on the dancefloor!

Looking forward further into the spring, the oldest children will be heading to Dartmoor for a week of activities on their residential trip. And the younger ones will all enjoy dressing as their favourite book characters for World Book Day, raising money for Comic Relief and of course, we have an Easter service at All Saints Church to look forward to.

Emma Richards



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The Wind in the Willows



We are delighted to let you know that Kingsbridge Amateur Theatrical Society will be performing The Wind in the Willows for their March 2024 production.

Based on the novel by Kenneth Grahame, the musical is written by Julian Fellowes (Downton Abbey), with music and lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe (Honk! Mary Poppins, Half a Sixpence).

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Keep an eye on our website (kats-kingsbridge.co.uk) and social media pages for more details for this spectacular, family friendly production.

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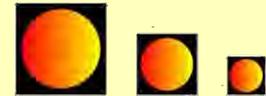
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BOOKSHELF

The Ghost Tree **By Barbara Erskine**

This is based on the true-life story of Thomas Erskine, the youngest son of a noble family now living in genteel poverty. He went on to become 1st Baron Erskine a Whig lawyer and politician who also served as Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain between 1806/07 and just happens to be the author's ancestor. It charts his life from his growing up in Edinburgh, through his career serving as a midshipman at the age of 14 before joining the army, finally qualifying as a lawyer. We learn about his family life and the private sorrows and misfortunes of his later years.

Woven around the facts is a fictional ghost story featuring a character, Ruth, who travels to Edinburgh after her marriage breaks up to sort out the house and effects of her late estranged father. On arrival she encounters a young man, Timothy, who claims to be her half-brother and is in possession of a will claiming the entire estate is now his. Once Ruth manages to remove him from the property, she starts her daunting task and eventually comes across boxes containing some of her mother's possessions including a diary written by Thomas (fictional). This divulges many secrets including an enemy who is a malevolent force throughout his life and beyond. As events become increasingly dangerous, she is helped by friends old and new. The narrative switches from past to present with passages from the journal and is well written. As a group we enjoyed the historical side of the story more than the sometimes more drawn-out present-day chapters. One member who has read other books by the author found it repeating previous themes so didn't quite enjoy this one as much as the rest of us. Some found parts too much to read at night with one experiencing a nightmare. That said, it is a gripping story, at times chilling but always compelling and overall enjoyed by everyone and leaving us wanting to investigate the real-life characters further.

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves **By Karen Joy Fowler**

Short listed for the Booker Prize, this poses the question of how you would feel if you realised your father used your childhood as an experiment. Rosemary's story starts whilst at college. She doesn't talk about her early life as she hasn't seen her brother for 10 years and her sister Fern disappeared from her life when she was five. One day, in the students' canteen, Rosemary encounters the disruptive Harlow who opens her eyes to the past making her realise if she wants to be happy and move on with her life, she must address the issues from her childhood. A third of the way through the book there is a twist which changes the perspective and narrative which becomes more upsetting, disturbing and certainly thought provoking.

Eventually Rosemary reunites with her brother when they finally examine the guilt and trauma of their past. We shall leave you to find out if she finds the peace and happiness she craves! This book gave us much to think about. We wouldn't say it is one you'll love reading but it is informative and will give you an insight into how science can affect those involved in experiments and the consequences that will haunt them for many years.

Fiction Addiction

Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st March 2024.

Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email:

cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

17	4	23	2	4	17		14	10	20	7	13	10	14	22		
N	O			O	N											
2		2		20			7		23		7			25		
17	2	5	5	13	14		12	9	4	O	13	2	8	2	6	
N																
16		26		2			23		7		2			26		
7	17	23	2	19	25	2	23	21		18	10	4	O	1	21	
N																
		13		25		4	O	9				18				
12	7	21	10	14	17	N	23	18			11	26	2	8	8	
2				13		7		3		2					7	
14	17	16	4	O	21		4	2	17	N	23	10	14	17	N	23
N																
		7			22		17	N	26			12				
7	20	21	18	18		14	15	6	14	18	18	2	24	14		
24		11		26		12				23		23				15
7	13	7	6	9	2	23	21			12	7	5	4	O	22	7
2		13		14		26				17	N		10			6
13	2	1	14	11	2	18	14			7	22	24	14	17	N	23

CODEWORD

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26.

Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Two letters are already in place to get you started.

Answer to last puzzle.

A	U	D	I	B	L	E		I	M	B	I	B	E	D
D	E	R	X	N		O								
J	U	X	T	A	P	O	S	E		W	H	O	O	P
U														
N	E	E	D		J	U	M	P		Z	O	N	E	S
C	R	F	J	S										
T	R	I	V	I	A		F	R	A	G	M	E	N	T
R	H	Y	T	H	M	I	C		V	A	C	U	U	M
E														
J	A	C	K	S		L	Y	N	X		S	T	I	R
O														
I	N	E	P	T		C	A	C	O	P	H	O	N	Y
C														
E	T	H	I	C	A	L		S	I	N	U	S	E	S

1	2	3	4	O	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	N	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Sudoku - hard

	6		2					
	9							
			1	6	5			2
							7	
	3	5	9		6			
9			5		8			
	1			2		6		3
2		3				7		
					7		9	

Sudoku - medium

	3		6			9		2
		1	2	7	8	3		
		6				5		
				9	7		8	1
					5		6	
			3	2				
			7				3	
						1	9	
		8			1			5

There were 5 all correct entries last month. First out of the hat and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Lindy Price. Commiserations to Karen Barker, Dave Gibby, Neill Irwin, and Susan Penwell.

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The Accidental Environmentalist

Saving the World One Bokashi Bin at a Time

by Adam Ryan-Carter



It seems to me that this environmental lark all comes down to passion. You are much more likely to be invested in something if you have a deep knowledge of the benefits of it. When you feel passionate about something, you tend to talk to others about it and as a consequence infect them with your enthusiasm and rouse their interest and engagement in the subject. I can report that my obsessive watching of sailing video tutorials has been temporarily paused and replaced by my newest passion... making compost. The fella I have to thank for infecting me with his enthusiasm is Ben Bryant the guru who recently ran the excellent composting workshop at Thurlestone Parish Hall.

No don't stop reading. I haven't told you about Bokashi yet. I'd never heard of it before but now practice it regularly 3 times a day in the comfort of my own home and feel it is really helping my inner happiness. Is it a new-fangled exercise class run at the parish hall I hear you ask? Or a lesser-known Marshall art? Or is it a weird sexual fetish? Well, those who guessed 'Marshall art' at least recognise the eastern root of the word as it translates into 'fermented organic matter' in Japanese. The Bokashi system was invented by biologist Teuro Higa in the 1980s, and it allowed food waste to be converted to a valuable nutritious soil amendment, by just using a small indoor space and without creating any bad odours. I can imagine how desirable this might be in a highly populated country like Japan. Ben Bryant the composting guru thinks that the word 'waste' is misleading. He argues food scraps and plant prunings are not waste at all and if dealt with properly are an incredibly valuable commodity that can be eventually returned to the soil with the micro-organisms that add back the nutrients and minerals that are missing. He should know as he worked for South Hams District council for the 'Don't let Devon go to waste' campaign for 7 years and is now part of the Devon Community Composting Network. He opened my eyes to how potty our society has become: having our food leftovers collected; then shipping them miles away to be processed (with the microplastics that have now entered the product due to the plant pots that have been accidentally dropped into the brown bin) leading to us finally buying back this substandard compost in plastic bags that we have to lug from the garden centre, when we could have processed them ourselves at home and kept the higher quality compost for free in the first place.

So how can we break the cycle? Well, you can now hear all about it from this horse's mouth, as after the workshop, spurred on by my wife, we bought a large green Johanna hot compost bin for the garden and a bokashi system to live under our kitchen sink. Following Ben's tips, I'm going to tell you how to build a compost heap that actually makes compost not a soggy smelly mess and I'll explain what bokashi is; how easy it is to use and its advantages.

It would appear that the key to making a successful 'hot' compost heap (that break down faster) is to do with the volume and ratio of garden clippings and prunings you collect to form the initial heap. According to Ben; "Get the mix right and 'compost happens!' Mix wet with dry, green with brown and hard with soft."

But what does he mean by 'green' and 'brown'? Well browns can include things like; paper, wood chippings, cardboard, sawdust, dry plant stems, twigs, used rabbit and guinea pig bedding and of course fallen autumn leaves. (I need to give Nicola and Mike's gardener a shout out here as he kindly collected a huge bag of leaves off the road for us to add to our compost bin which inspired my wife to force me to take all our empty trugs down to the road by Valleyside and clear all the leaves, on not one but 2 separate occasions, in order for us to stock up on 'browns' that we can add in over time.) The other good news is that we can also throw in Muppy's fluff and even human hair although I'll

have to leave that one to my wife! I didn't know that it only takes about a month for hair to break down into nitrogen if the heap is kept aerated.

I think Greens are a bit more obvious, things like; grass cuttings, fresh plants, fallen fruit, vegetable peelings, pea and bean tops. (We've made a decision not to add pernicious weeds like bindweed or valerium just in case the heap doesn't get hot enough to compost them fully and we end up scattering weed laden compost all over our garden.) There are some things you may not think of as green that also enter this category e.g. manure and urine. Both of these ingredients act as good accelerators for a new compost heap so gone are the days when I feel like shouting at local horse riders "Clean up after your bloody horse!" I now call after them "Thank you! Can you get your other horse to poo here too please!"

However, the problems arise when we don't get the ratios of brown to green balanced and we don't add air and water; the remaining 2 vital ingredients. When making our new heap we layered our browns and greens like a lasagne. If all you do is heap grass cuttings in the corner of your garden and don't mix in anything else it will become a dense matted soggy mess. You need to add some paper or cardboard into a situation like this and fork it over or give it a stir. Ben advised putting in whole eggboxes and toilet and kitchen roll tubes so that pockets of air can be trapped into the heap for the microorganisms to work aerobically. The reason compost bins don't have solid bottoms is so the worms can get in and do their vital work of breaking organic matter down. If you partly leave off the lid of any closed plastic composters from time to time this will let in the beetles too. Our Green Johanna also comes with a winter jacket a bit like the kind you used to lag your boiler with. This means the internal temperature can be maintained so the composting process doesn't slow-down in colder weather.

We collected enough green and brown material to fill our new composter to the brim in one go (330L) to really kick start the amount of heat generated. Ben recommends accumulating a minimum of 1 metre cubed of material if you are making a heap within an open wooden frame from used pallets. He also advised us to take the garden shears to our collected mass of prunings, clippings, leaves and vegetable peelings to chop them up into smaller pieces before they are added, thereby increasing the surface area to accelerate the process. After lifting our lid just a few weeks later, we found the size of the heap had halved but it felt a little too wet so we added all our shredded paperwork and old accounts to mop up the excess damp. Hopefully all the evidence will magically disappear from the taxman over time!

Originally, we ordered our bokashi bin because the Buckland valley was still on a co-mingled refuse collection and there was seemingly no option for kitchen waste to be collected from the kerbside however as sod's law would have it, the new updated collection service was announced 2 weeks after it arrived. We could have been annoyed and frustrated that we had just spent unnecessary money but we chose to look at it positively. We knew the bokashi would allow us to process our own food scraps into a product to add to our compost heap which would add vital micro-organisms and remove odours therefore making the pile less attractive to the rodents we're trying to keep out of our thatch roof.

We ordered a bokashi kit online (ours is made by Agriton but there are lots of brands out there) and it came with 2 identical buckets with airtight lids and a connected spigot at the bottom (not unlike a winebox). We also ordered a 5kg bag of the vital bokashi bran additive (these come in lots of different weights to suit your storage space). The reason you need 2 bins is that after you have filled one you need to leave it somewhere for 2 weeks to continue to ferment before you can add it to your compost heap or a trench dug in your soil. So, your bins are used in rotation.

And now to reveal the secrets of the Bokashi system. It isn't technically composting; it's more of a pickling process and after the contents have been left for 2 weeks, they will look the same until they reach the compost bin and begin to break down further. The microbes



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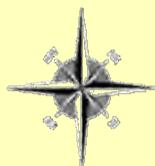
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work anaerobically so you need as little air in the bucket as possible, that's why you are provided with a paddle to compress the chopped-up food leftovers after each addition. We collect our peelings etc in our small kitchen caddy and only add scraps every couple of days to minimise the number of times we have to open the lid. (It also means we don't have to go outside daily to our heap in the rain and cold in winter.) We then sprinkle on a teaspoon of bokashi bran and let the magic happen. The tap has to be opened every couple of days and pours into the provided drip tray which is easily removed and replaced. We were amazed by the volume and rate of liquid produced. It smells faintly of beer and has not 1 but 2 magical applications. The first is a very effective but potent plant food that needs to be diluted 1 to 10 parts water and the second is a powerful drain unblocker! The micro-organisms eat through all the crud in your U-bend.

We are actually weirdly enjoying the nurturing of the bokashi bin and particularly like it because it is a neat clean system and the bag of bran will last a very long time. I'll keep you posted as to the affect it has on our compost over time. And if anyone else who attended the workshop has tried it, please feed-back any comments to aryancarter@btinternet.com

Thurlestone Golf Club



We and the Parish Council have received comments with regards to the semi-wild brush cover around the outer perimeter of the golf course land. This land has been left completely unmanaged for years and so the Golf Club decided to undertake a comprehensive clearance of this area. Most landowners will clear such areas from time to time to reduce the fire risk and allow the vegetation to regenerate. A good example is the deliberate burning of areas of moorland in the Dartmoor National Park, which the general public finds puzzling. We do not envisage repeating this exercise for some time. We have also cut down the long grass areas within the playing area of the golf course as part of a plan to remove weeds and improve the grass quality. This will be regrown to a reasonable height and maintained each year.

Prior to doing this work we researched the advice given to landowners and farmers regarding the cutting of such areas and took steps to avoid the nesting season of the native bird population, in particular the Skylarks. "Skylarks nest on the ground, in vegetation which is 20–50cm high. This vegetation must be open enough to give the birds easy access to the ground. They need to make two or three nesting attempts between April and August to sustain the population." We are aiming to manage this area as per this guidance.

Regarding the *Elaeagnus* bushes on the golf course which have remained unmanaged for years, we have received the following advice from an independent course architect: "At some point, a few decades ago, there was obviously a policy to plant *Elaeagnus* bushes across the course. These are non-native species which are well adapted to the salty and exposed conditions. They are an excellent choice for hedges in seaside gardens, but they have grown rapidly and have formed sprawling dense canopies that look incongruous in the landscape. They just do not improve the course, or the landscape and they should be phased out. If bushes are required, then judicious clumps of gorse can be planted." It is our intention therefore to reduce the number of bushes, especially where they interfere with the golfers' line of sight on the course.

Golf Courses across the UK are in general very good in terms of biodiversity and wildlife and we aim to do more in the future. We have been in consultation with a plant ecologist regarding diversity of plant species and have taken action to create new areas of planting around the course. We are currently drawing up a plan to improve wildlife habitats on the course and the surrounding area which we hope to implement during the year.

Graeme Fairley



PUB



NIGHT

Thurlestone Parish Hall

Saturday 16 March

7pm – 10.30pm

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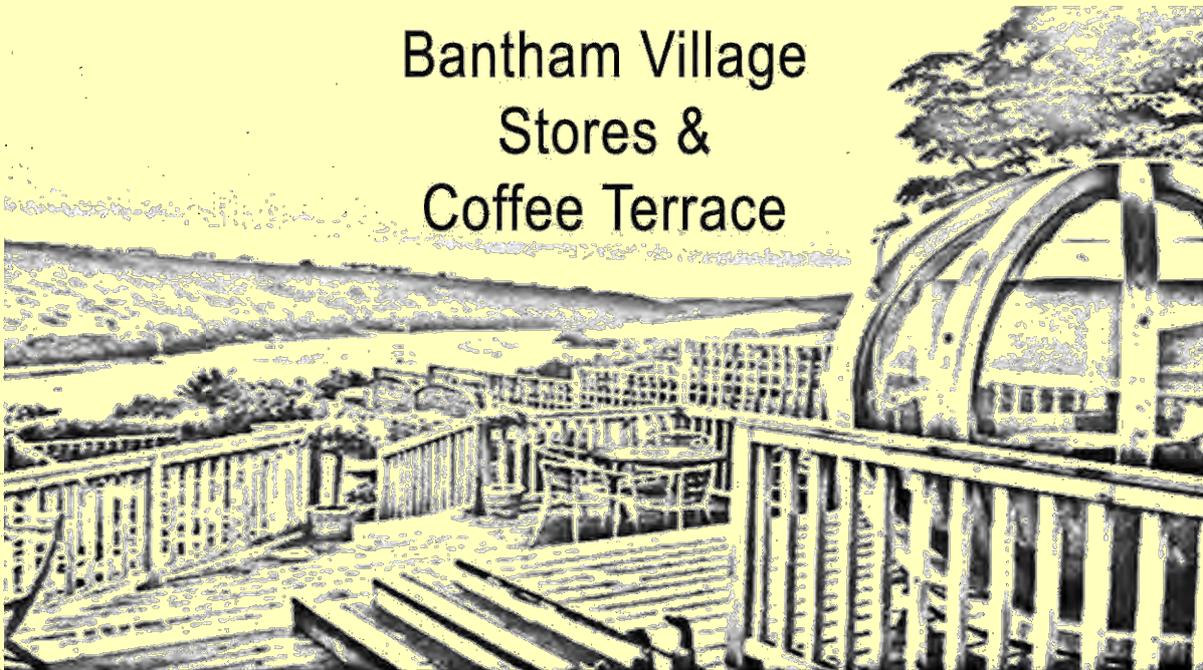
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Prawle Point Coastwatch

A very Happy New Year to all from everyone at Prawle Point NCI.

Now a bit of news for walkers. If you are passing our lookout, you can now call in and have your SWCP passport stamped. The passport is a great opportunity to connect the Way Makers who have agreed to be stamping points along the 630 mile route of the South West Coastal Path. In this, the 50th anniversary of the SWCP, we hope that it brings more walkers to the lookout and raises the profile of NCI.

We have a new recruit, Roger Odell who received his epaulettes from Trainer Chester Wallace, he was the first of our class of 2023 to qualify before Christmas. Now we are waiting for a further seven to help boost our numbers. With lots of Covid and various nasty coughs and colds around we have struggled to double-man the shifts at Prawle Point and the floods and high winds have sometimes made even getting there problematic. Roll on the Spring!

The bad weather has resulted in very few vessels to keep an eye on, but we did have one bizarre incident just before Christmas, when our watchkeepers spotted a large, red, Wall's ice cream fridge, floating 0.4nm SE of the lookout. As we didn't imagine it was an early Christmas present for the watchkeepers we reported it to Falmouth Coastguard who advised that they would issue a local navigational warning as it was deemed a potential shipping hazard.

Our website is www.nci-prawlepoint.org.uk. We broadcast the local conditions every two hours from 09.45am on VHF Channel 65 during daylight hours. Call us on Channel 65 for AIS and radio checks. Lookout telephone 01548 511259.

Dee White

ARTS SOCIETY KINGSBRIDGE forthcoming meeting 2024



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Graham Griffiths

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Accidentally Funny Claims



All of the statements below were taken from insurance accident claims in Great Britain.

- “I was driving along the motorway when the police pulled me over onto the hard shoulder. Unfortunately, I was in the middle lane and there was another car in the way.”
- “Going to work at 7am this morning I drove out of my drive straight into a bus. The bus was 5 minutes early.”
- “The accident happened because I had one eye on the lorry in front, one eye on the pedestrian and the other on the car behind.”
- “I started to slow down but the traffic was more stationary than I thought.”
- Question; “Could either driver have done anything to avoid the accident?”
Answer: “Travelled by bus?”
- The claimant had collided with a cow. The questions and answers on the claim form were –
Question: What warning was given by you?
Answer: Horn.
Question: What warning was given by the other party?
Answer: Moo.
- “I didn’t think the speed limit applied after midnight”
- “I knew the dog was possessive about the car but I would not have asked her to drive it if I had thought there was any risk.”
- “The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention.”
- “I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way”
- “I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprang up obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car.”
- “An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished.”
- “Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don’t have.”
- “I thought my window was down, but I found it was up when I put my head through it.”
- “The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.”
- “I had been driving for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.”
- “As I approached an intersection a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before.”
- “My car was legally parked as it backed into another vehicle.”
- “I told the police that I was not injured, but on removing my hat found that I had a fractured skull.”
- “The indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.”
- “I bumped into a lamp-post which was obscured by human beings.”
- “The accident was caused by me waving to the man I hit last week.”
- “When I saw I could not avoid a collision I stepped on the gas and crashed into the other car.”



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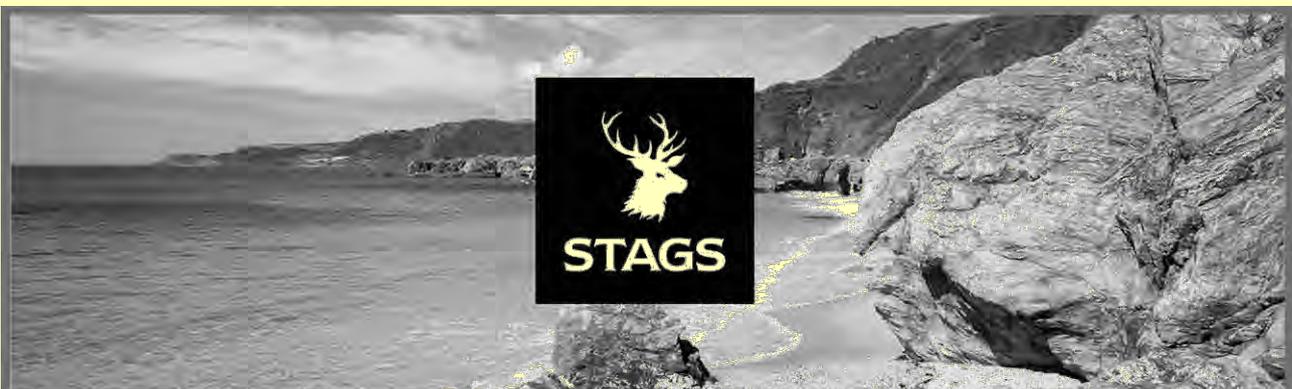
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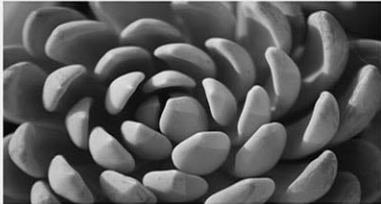
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Pointing and beckoning to the future

Once upon a time (probably 2009) many villagers had helped to set up the mid-July Church fête. Then overnight the weather changed to coastal swirling fog and a drenching drizzle. Quickly there appeared a large sign outside the Church (and a redirection outside the usual venue). Inside the Church table tops straddled pews and the chairs were redistributed. Magically the fete was indoors with just the same bonhomie and laughter. A guitar and woodwind minstrel group strolled around. Cakes and jam, bottle stall, books and bric-a-brac, toys and splat-the-rat – they were all there.

All it took was the normal British weather to return the Church for an afternoon to its proper place: not the village architectural centre-piece, but the focus of the villagers in their communal life.

True, we now have the Parish Hall for Art, Bridge, Crafts right through to Yoga (no Zen group yet); the Church Meeting Room hosts a toddlers group, coffee mornings, films, lunches and Souper Fridays; the village Quiz night is at the Golf Club House.

The regular attenders at the warm and well-maintained historic Church building are looking towards the next five, maybe 7 or 10 years. Nothing is off-limits in the discussions (including with friends from the other Churches in the Benefice) at monthly Saturday breakfasts. How can we focus better on caring for those needing support in the community? What are the best timings for services? Can the wooden chairs be replaced? Screens to aid worship and sometimes project commemorative pictures - could we install these (and hide them away when not needed)? The children of our C of E school are lively contributors to school worship: why not to ours also?

Please anyone who reads this, we need your help in framing important questions – the right questions - and in pointing us in the directions where we need to look*. It is more than just possible, it is virtually certain that some pointing will turn out to be the finger of God. He doesn't just point: He beckons, and accompanies the journey.

Every Blessing

*Emails please to
Mike Hodges: mike2.hodges@btinternet.com
Sian Hodges: sian2.hodges@btinternet.com
Peter Gornall: peter@thegornalls.com

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	<h2 style="margin: 0;">2024 Photographic Competition</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Don't forget to enter photos of the Thurlestone Area for a 2025 Calendar</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Entry forms: Church & Meeting Room, Bantham & Thurlestone Shops</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">The photographs will be displayed at a <i>Photographic Exhibition</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">in the Church Meeting Room MAY 25th - MAY 29th</p>
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All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Mike Hodges 561124

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

Church Services

Sundays

- FEB. 11 & 25, MARCH 10 & 24** 8.00*am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday CW, 4th Sunday BCP)
- FEB. 4 & 18, MARCH 3 & 17** 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (*March to be confirmed)
- FEB. 11 & 25, MARCH 10 & 24** 11.10am Morning Worship (Mothering Sunday March 10)
- EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31**
(services to be confirmed, please see below)
8.00am Holy Communion* (BCP) with hymns
11.10am Easter Family Communion* (CW)
with Drop-in Crèche for very young children + adult



Weekly Sunday Morning Online Worship
www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html

Weekdays

- ASH WEDNESDAY FEB. 14** 10.00am Benefice Communion (CW) with hymns
- MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 28** 6.00pm Benefice Maundy Thursday Communion (Churchstow)
- GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29** 2.00pm Last Hour Devotion
- WED. FEB. 7 & 28, MARCH 13 & 27** 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)
- THURSDAYS FEB. 1 & MARCH 7** 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham

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

*** Due to the vacancy March Parish Eucharists & Easter Services are to be confirmed, please see:**
<https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church.html>
or scan the QR Code overleaf for current information & timings of the early Sunday Services

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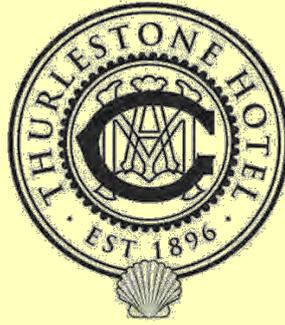
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Whatever happened to cream teas?

For some time, I've been puzzled by the present format of cream teas. I know it's easy to say things aren't what they used to be – except a Devon cream tea really isn't.

For starters, whatever happened to splits? Back in the day, no self-respecting Devon tea (or even, heaven forefend, a Cornish one) would go near a scone - a Scottish import. The clotted cream (more on that in a bit) would be spooned onto the split split – that is a split slashed across the top or, even better, halved because this meant you could have cream and jam on both halves.

A split is a very slightly sweet, small, soft milk bread roll. They were always baked in batches so that they had to be split away from each other and the tall sides were lovely and soft and the top a mellow soft crust. There are recipes online but almost none recommend baking them in close batches to preserve the soft split-away sides. If they aren't baked like this, you end up with something much more akin to an ordinary bread roll.

Next there was real clotted cream, not the sterile homogenised stuff of today which often has an off-putting slightly chemical taste. What joy it was to visit a farm kitchen where the huge enamel bowls full of creamy milk were slowly stewing on the Aga. The cream would be spooned into waxed paper trays or containers. It was a wonderfully rich mixed-up amalgam of the thick yellow, bubbly, almost crispy crust, the thickened clotted cream and sometimes a bit of slightly more fluid cream which hadn't had as much time at the bottom of the pan. The latter was soon blotted up by the soft bread of the split and the rest remained as a bed for the jam – often then home-made and traditionally strawberry, but any would do.

The splits are recuperable, some 'bought' jams are not bad these days and anyway both these can still be home-made. However, our perennial enemy 'Elf n'Safety' may have done away with real clotted cream for ever. If anyone knows of anywhere where the old fashioned crusty, thick, yellow and truly scrumptious cream can be had, please let me know. I'll be there immediately, if only to try to relive one of the now perhaps lost-for-ever joys of Devon.

Judy Pearce



There are several recipes for splits on the net, all roughly the same but they all recommend spacing out the dough balls on a baking sheet. This is not how splits were when bought from the bakers. They were batch baked, so I recommend using a 24cm square tray bake tin or similar and splitting the dough into quantities to fit – in this case 16. This recipe is much less daunting than it may look and the splits taste just like the ones of old.

Devon Splits

Ingredients:

500g strong white bread flour
Half tsp salt
25g caster sugar
10g (one sachet) easy bake yeast
25g unsalted butter, softened, plus extra to grease tin
300ml hand hot milk (microwave 1 min)

Method:

1. Put all dry ingredients in a large bowl and add butter and milk. Mix with a round bladed knife to a soft dough, adding a dash more milk or water if needed. Knead for 10 mins on a floured surface until dough is smooth and elastic (or knead for 5 mins in mixer with dough hook). Place in a lightly greased bowl, cover with cling film and leave to prove in a warm place for at least an hour, until the dough has doubled in size. [N.B. All this step can be accomplished in a bread machine on the unleavened dough setting. Add the milk first and the yeast last and leave the dough to prove in the warm machine when the programme stops].
2. Grease the tray bake tin. Knock the dough back on a floured surface and divide it into 16 pieces. Roll each piece into a ball and set the balls out in rows in the tray. Cover loosely with cling film and leave to prove again for 20 mins. The balls will start touching each other as they rise, but don't worry – this is what is needed. Preheat the oven to 200 degrees C, gas mark 6.
3. Dust the tops with plain flour and bake for approx. 12 mins until risen and the tops are pale golden. Transfer to a rack to cool, trying not to break up the batch.
4. Break off individual splits and use as required. Freeze any you won't use the same day and then warm in the oven before eating when removed from freezer.

AONB News

I'm sure you're all aware that we live in the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Well, you've moved. We now live in the South Devon National Landscape (SDNL?), and I bet you didn't feel a thing.

Unfortunately you won't notice any difference either, as the change of name doesn't bring with it a change of status to Statutory Consultee in the Planning process, as recommended in the Glover report, which would have given them some teeth.

However, the unit has been given £2m by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to work on activities including a range of volunteering, citizen science opportunities and training placements, with partners such as Buglife and the National Trust.

There is ample scope, as the coast between Berry Head and Wembury is home to one of the most diverse ranges of plant and invertebrate species in the UK, including some of the rarest insects.

They look forward to working with the community to make a real difference for threatened species. Local organisations, take note.

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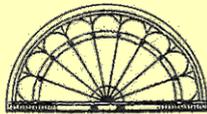
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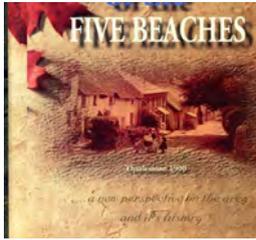
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The Land of the Five Beaches



After another successful showing of The Land of the Five Beaches at the Parish Hall we thought it would be of interest to tell the story of how it was produced in the words of some of those involved.

The Making and the Money (David Smeeton, Len Hubbard, Phil Deare):

It all began back at the end of 1996 when a small group of local people met in a bar and talked over the possibilities of stringing together some video that had been taken of village events. It was not long before someone suggested that additional filming might be needed. Then someone else produced the back of an envelope and wrote down: 'The History, Life and Times of the Parish of Thurlestone with Bantham and West Buckland'.

That was the moment when everyone sobered up and realised that such a project needed planning. So back in November/December 1996 a deliberate decision was taken to spend a year on research, working out what, and who, might be filmed when, and finding out who might be involved in the actual filming. We planned to spend 1998 filming, so that we could cover as many events and activities as possible. We left 1999 for editing and production, and pencilled in the first week in December for issuing the video in time for the Millennium.

We began by asking around for old photographs, old film of the parish, for ideas on who might be interviewed, and what local people thought ought to be in the film. Pulling down the History of Thurlestone we drafted an outline script – the first of many before we finally completed the project.

We found cameramen in the village prepared to help – Keith Millman and David Cullum; and since we knew there would be some strenuous locations, we asked the Plymouth College of Art Media Studies Dept if any of their students might like to gain some 'real' experience. Mansel Nott and Chris Mann arrived on the scene. At the same time we had sent out a press release describing our Project. That brought a telephone call from Derek Fairhead, the former Westward and TSW film editor and director offering his help. We also made contact with John Bartlett, the Westcountry film maker. His advice has been invaluable.

And so, to 1998 and the filming! We began with interviews with older residents – Ida Smith and Gert Burns. Then as the weather improved we were out and about. But it was not that easy. For a start there is nearly always a wind blowing in the Land of the Five Beaches and that plays havoc with microphones, especially interviews in the open air. 1998 was also a year of very overcast skies, the bane of film-makers! We often had to go back and 're-shoot'. It's one of the reasons why we ended up with 30 hours of film footage.

We filmed extensively for a reason. This has not been a project just to produce a video, but also to create an archive of village events and our environment. Three people connected with the parish came up with the old black and white footage of the Louis Sheid and early holiday-making. In addition to the filming we now have over 250 stills on CD disc.

As filming continued every shot had to be 'logged', and with every word of the forty interviews transcribed. Pat MacDonald, Carolyn Taylor and John Crawford will remember hours spent at the typewriter or word processor stopping and starting a tape recorder.

Editing and production are the most extensive parts of any film production. To cut editing costs we acquired our own equipment and set up an edit suite in a house on the Yarmer. Many thanks Peter Stanier! With original film transferred to VHS, Derek Fairhead set about editing. Few realise that he spent eight hours a day, two days a week, throughout most of 1999, sitting in front of two TV screens choosing shots, and building the film. When it was finished we took it to Free Range TV, Plympton, and they produced the final master copy, which was then sent to a company in Cheshire for duplicating the first run of a thousand copies.

Originally, we had planned to make a one-hour video, but when it came to editing the cry went up 'We can't throw that out!' So, we went for two hours. We have been fortunate. The Tate Gallery, The Bodleian Library in Oxford, the Imperial War, and the National Maritime Museums, the TSW Regional Film and TV Archive and Film Archive, in Plymouth, and the Cookworthy Museum have all helped us with marvellous stills, and historic film footage, such as the first world war and farming scenes. And the stirring music that opened and closed the video? Well, we have John Bartlett to thank for finding that! Nothing is wasted. Copies of all that we filmed and recorded are in archives.

Our first fund raising attempt was an application to the Arts Council of England for one of the Arts for Everyone Awards. We received £3,125, and that got us started. We kept fund raising throughout the project. It was essential, for it became apparent from early on that it was going to cost a lot. Just under £10,000 came from national and regional grant giving bodies – the Arts Council, Villages in Action, Millennium Festival Awards, Devon Rural Action, the Shell Better Britain Campaign, the Jo Clarke Charitable Trust, and the Bullough Tompson Charitable Trust. More than half came from the local sponsors. From Evans Estate, Bantham Sailing Club, Village Voice, Amel and Ash Mill Developments, Stodgells Construction, McDonald/Girling/Hurrell Book sales, and the Thurlestone Hotel. While Nick Walker, the Kingsbridge Printer, produced the first 1,000 covers for free. But the largest sum of all, over £6,600, came to us from 55 Parish 'Angels', who contributed £12 in advance to the project. Without the support of the people of the parish themselves the video could not have been completed.

Overall, it has cost around £22,000. We have matched national grants with our local fund raising. We have had to pay for film stock, for copying original film, for film and editing equipment, for final editing and production, and copyright for stills, archive film, and music. Made commercially it would have cost twice as much; but our 'secret weapon' was all the volunteer effort that went into it. All the professionals involved gave their expertise free.

It has been a community effort. We directly involved some 300 parishioners. Local people became researchers, cameramen, administrators, fund raisers, and production assistants. Our artists provided the pictures, or designed the covers for the cases. Others provided props, boats, and horses, or gave interviews, old film and photos, and help of all kinds. We kept a log of the hours they put in. Five thousand five hundred! At a community service rate of £5.75 an hour that equals £33,000. So, the true cost of the production is really over £55,000. Since launching the video, we have sold close on 800 copies, and demand is so strong we have ordered up another 500. Project for project we seem to have done better than that 'Dome'. But then we knew what our project was for! A sense of place for future generations to share.

Reviews from two local residents: -

The view from Bantham (Marilyn Cater):

Take my tip – you must watch this video at least twice to get the best out of it. It was on my second viewing that I discovered lots of interesting bits I missed the first-time round, probably because I was looking at the scenery or pointing out something or someone I knew.

What an interesting Parish! And what a diverse history... Bronze Age traders, Roman outposts, Bantham as a major trading port, the Elizabethan manor at Clanacombe, Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. I have sent many reports there, but never realised that some of the money funding that world-famous library came from the sale of pilchards caught off Bantham!

I particularly enjoyed the charming contributions of Ida Smith and Gert Burns about their early lives in the villages of Buckland and Bantham. And I was reminded when I watched the story of the soap on the beaches from a shipwreck of local man Sam Moffat, who some may remember as the local rat-catcher. I used to see him come back to the Kingsbridge Rural District Offices in the 1960's with armfuls of Sunlight soap and tins of dried egg powder which he had found in the roof spaces of cottages in this parish.

So, what of the modern parish? The video clearly demonstrated the vision of Commander Evans and the role he and his family have played in maintaining and preserving the natural beauty of our area and long may that continue. That wealth of talent that abounds round here in both old crafts and modern ones means that we are still able to keep a thriving school, the Surf Lifesaving Club, sailing, surfboards, golf or just messing about in boats, that's not to mention walking the cliff paths and tiny byways – all things we tend to take for granted – come to the fore in the video, a salutary reminder of how lucky we are to live here.

My congratulations and thanks to all those people who put such time and effort into producing a very comprehensive record of the life and times of our parish. I thought it was all absolutely splendid. I have only one slightly puzzled comment: though I have lived in Buckland for 22 years I have never heard it called "Little Switzerland" before. Does this mean that I am not yet a local?

The view from Thurlestone (Rosemary MacKay):

At last, it's out! After nearly two years of seeing mysterious groups of people lurking about with cameras and microphones and helicopters hovering above us just like the filming of a new James Bond movie, the Millenium video has arrived.

What a splendid record it is of life in and around Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland for the last hundred years of living memory and the history of more ancient times. This has all been most vividly brought to light with artefacts and re-enactments by young and old.

How marvellous to see and hear from some really old people reminiscing of times early in the century. Our throwaway society could learn a lot from their simple way of life which has enabled them to live to a ripe old age. My only slight concern was that the W.I. did not feature very much, which is a pity as it is one of the strengths of village life.

We must give our most grateful thanks to all those who have given so much of their time, energy and thought, particularly David Smeeton, for a video with such a professional finish.

We ought to put the video with a copy of Village Voice's 100th edition into a time capsule (suggestions for other additions from readers please) and leave it for generations to come to discover it as a record of our Millenium year.

Does anyone know if a time capsule ever came to fruition?

The Buckland Box recycling hub

Ink cartridges

Thanks to everyone who dropped off their ink cartridges to The Buckland Box. The last batch of ink cartridges posted off by Carey generated £26.75 for Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Fact: Sales of ink and toner cartridges increase each year in the UK. However, only 30% of the cartridges sold are recycled which leaves a staggering 350 million ending up in general waste. Ink and toner cartridges can be reused 4 to 6 times before they need to be reprocessed.

Soft plastics/crisp packet recycling

Please put your soft plastics in the fabric bag hanging from the ceiling of the phone box. The aim is to help the Parish keep the collected material out of landfill.

YES PLEASE

General

- Thin plastic lids of all types
- Kitchen towel, toilet roll, nappy bag, cotton wool wrappers
- Pouches – microwave rice, pre-cooked mussels, petfood, etc
- Fruit & veg nets, bags and wrappers
- Plastic sauce sachets

Bags

- Ordinary carrier bags
- Bread bags
- Crisps, nuts, snacks bags
- Bags from:
 - Cereal and porridge
 - Dried goods – dried fruit, pasta, rice, sugar, pulses, etc
 - Frozen foods and ice cubes

Wrappers & Film

- Chocolate, sweets bags and wrappers
- Biscuit wrappers
- Cling film
- Pizza wrapping film
- Bread product wrappers:
 - Croissants
 - Pancakes
 - Naan bread
 - Pitta bread
 - Garlic bread
 - Fresh pasta
- Wrappers from:
 - Cheese, pastry, cakes, Yorkshire puddings
 - Baby wipes, etc
 - Meat, poultry and joints
 - Tea and teabags, ground coffee, etc
 - Pies, pastries, sausage rolls,
 - Household textiles, scourers, rubber gloves, etc
 - Giftwrap, greetings cards, etc
- Flower wrappers
- Petfood wrappers

Thank you so much for your continued support!
Kay Barry

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THURLESTONE BAY BIRDS

After a very wet and windy December, the first few days of January 2024 were the same, although the floods seen in many parts of the country were nowhere near as severe in the South Hams. Predictably colder weather arrived from the 7th January with overnight frost and on the 9th a couple of hours of light snow in the morning reminded us of what winters should be like.

There were 2 records of scarce species in December, both raptors.

On 4th a *SHORT EARED OWL* flushed from undergrowth on the Golf Course near to the large green hut. This coincided with a significant increase in sightings all along the south coast from Kent to Cornwall. These birds are normally scarce winter visitors with birds arriving from Scandinavia and Siberia.

The other bird was over South Efford Marsh initially thought to be a *SPARROWHAWK* but after photographs were on the web it was confirmed as a *GOSHAWK* - only the third record for the patch in over 25 years.

Spells of colder weather at the beginning of January will almost certainly lead to an increase in birds searching for the milder conditions that we can have in Thurlestone. As I write this article on 12th January there's been a significant increase in birds on South Huish Marsh.

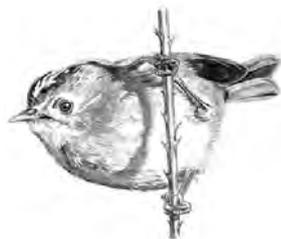
WIGEON have increased from 5 on 2nd January to 140 on 12th. *TEAL* have increased from 15 to 110. On 12th, additional species were 8 *GADWALL*, a male *PINTAIL* and 4 *SHOVELER*.

Six species of wader have been recorded this year – *OYSTERCATCHER*, 26 on 2nd, *SNIPE*, 40 on 12th, *LAPWING*, 2 on 10th, *RINGED PLOVER*, 4 on the 8th, *TURNSTONE*, 7 on 8th and *DUNLIN*, 8 on 10th (highest January count for a number of years).

Seawatching from the car park has been very good. In addition to some superb diving displays by adult *GANNETS*, notable sightings have been - On 8th a small flock of 5 *BRENT GOOSE* flew in to the bay made two circuits before continuing their passage towards Plymouth. 20 minutes later they returned and then continued back towards Salcombe where there is a winter population of around 100 birds.

Highlight of the year so far was a *BLACK GUILLEMOT*, watched flying across the bay towards Bantham. This is a member of the *AUK* family, normally a resident of Scottish waters. In recent years singles have been recorded in January in Brixham Harbour and Plymouth Sound. This is only my second record in the last 25 years.

3 female *COMMON SCOTER* have been wintering on the sea just off Beacon Point - only 10 years ago the wintering flock would have been in excess of 50. Around the South Devon Coast the maximum flock this winter is less than 20. Also, the first pod of 10 *DOLPHINS* this year was recorded.



Goldcrest

Another significant reduction in numbers has been *DIVERS*. So far this year I have recorded just 2 *GREAT NORTHERN*, 7 *RED-THROATED* and 1 *BLACK THROATED*.

At South Milton Ley the over wintering *CHIFFCHAFFS* have increased to over 30 by 7th - last year Alan Pomroy who rings birds here had 5 that had been ringed at other ringing stations - 3 in Wales, 1 in Guernsey and 1 in Jersey- all of them had been ringed within a few weeks of being caught at the Sewage Works.

Amongst the *CHIFFCHAFFS* are at least 1 overwintering *BLACKCAP*, up to 3 *GOLDCREST* and several *FIRECREST*.

THRUSHES have not arrived in large numbers yet - although most of the berries have been consumed. There are up to 20 *REDWING* and a few *FIELDFARE*, a large increase noted in *BLACKBIRD*, with smaller numbers of *SONG THRUSH* and at least 1 *MISTLE THRUSH*.

A more severe cold spell is forecast for parts of the UK week commencing 15th January. This is likely to result in birds being forced south into our area in search of food and shelter - keep an eye on your gardens over the next few weeks to see the increased activity.

At this time of the year these are very few moths in flight. Whilst I only caught 14 moths in December, two were additions to the year list. On 15th at 22.00 a moth that could not be readily identified, I delivered to the County Moth Recorder - Barry Henwood - he has just completed the necessary examination and confirmed it is a *CHAMOMILE SHARK* - it should only be seen between April and June - what it was doing flying in December is difficult to resolve unless it was an immigrant from Southern Europe. A very nice record as it is a first for Thurlestone - in Devon it is scarce with only a single record in 2022.

It was a fitting end to my year of mothing taking the total to 401 species. Can't wait for the spring weather to arrive and see what my garden can produce this year.

M.B. Passman thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk

Thurlestone Phone Box

Happy New Year everyone, we wish you all the very best for 2024!

We have just taken down the Christmas decorations and they are drying out before storing them away until next year. With all the bad weather over the Christmas period we were relieved that they stayed in place so locals and the visitors could enjoy them!

We are very grateful to all the people who helped with the Carols on the Green evening. First and foremost, the Phone Box Committee who work so hard to put this event together, Kit Marshall, Paul & Diane Martin, Margaret Houghton, Lesley Kalisher, Caro Mellor, Matt Bright and David Horne.



Special thanks to Joan Booth for the lovely mince pies. The Village Inn for their very kind sponsorship which covered the cost of the ingredients and Toad Hall for supplying the Mulled Wine. Tesco also donated sweets and a few goodies for the prizes. Martin Berryman very kindly donated the Christmas Tree. I'm sure they all receive requests at this time of year for sponsorship/donations. We are very grateful for their continued generosity.

We thoroughly enjoyed the singing from Razor Sharp and Friends, also the pupils from All Saints, Thurlestone who in fine voice "wished us a very merry Christmas".

Our compère Shep did a brilliant job as usual, keeping us in order and ensuring the whole event ran smoothly.

Finally, Father Christmas, who despite his busy schedule managed to make an appearance!

Also, many thanks to all those who turned up and supported us at the event and for your very kind donations. We were able to pass £85 on to the school for their outside classroom project.

What next? Caro is busy planting bulbs which will hopefully brighten our small garden area in the Spring. A short rest for us all then Valentines Day is approaching very fast!

Mary Horne

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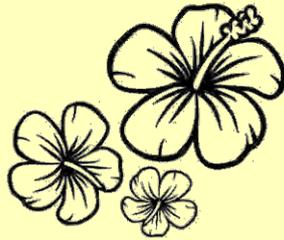
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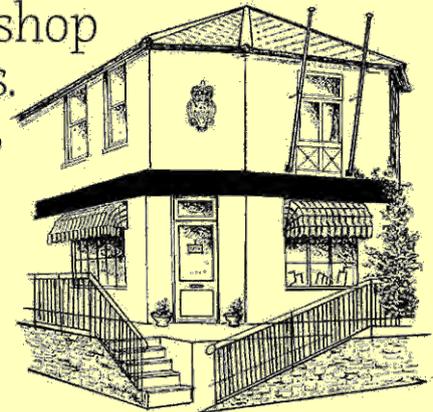
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Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct - if you don't have all the answers, send in your entry anyway - you never know!) drawn on 1st March 2024. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

WHERE'S IT TO?

Use the cryptic clues to find towns and villages in Devon (1-13) or villages in the South Hams (14-25)

1. Perhaps Charles would use this to get across?
2. It's not on top of Dartmoor as one might assume; stone-built jetty.
3. Former orifice.
4. "soit qui mal y pense" is gone ; a heavy weight is added on.
5. Famous performer furious!
6. Sounds like it's used to give a sheep a makeover!
7. Don't inter "Rocker" here!
8. Noel lottery+Magdalen (or the other one)
9. Deserving of vacation period.
10. Type of tray or tree; Liz's husband, Richard, follows.
11. Was once an ecclesiastical building of some importance.
12. The greatest pretence?
13. Sounds like monarchs could get swept over in the current.
14. Answer (hopefully) to "How's Lodd?"
15. Replenish fire under an angel.
16. Sounds like this chap made a quick dollar!
17. Could be a sting in the tail on this beach!
18. Large version of Greater Manchester town.
19. Smaller version of Lancashire town but strictly no Tower here!
20. Don't stop pulling on the bell ropes!
21. If you're expecting to find the end of the Victoria Line here, you won't!
22. Christopher, of Hammer fame, grinds corn.
23. Ideal home for unwelcome rodents!
24. Locally "Aune" ; strike a match to light one.
25. Not the "West" of our parish but of all hallows.

With thanks to our guest quiz compiler **Michael Stephens**.

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Post 2. Snow 3. Hair 4. Party 5. Dress 6. Play 7. Chair 8. Goal 9. Star 10. Paper 11. Beer 12. Plain 13. Sleep 14. Open 15. Sitting 16. Pearly 17. Shield 18. Range 19. Side, Stand, Turn, Write 20. Green 21. Country 22. Bed 23. Bird 24. Nut 25. Cheese.

There were 7 all correct entries last month. First out of the hat, and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Gaynor Day. Commiserations to Adrian and Sue Durant, Viv Gibby, David and Mary Horne, Lesley Kalisher, Michael Stephens and Andrew and Sara White.



Open Gardens 2024

Thurlestone Parish Hall Committee are holding the Open Gardens afternoon on Sunday 9 June 1pm to 5pm

Please consider offering your garden if you are proud of your display or feature in your garden eg your vegetable plot or water feature.

We are looking for gardens of all sizes, the smallest in 2022 amazed people on how to manage a small area to maximum advantage.

If you are interested or know of a lovely garden please contact Sue Dwyer 01548 560648 for further information

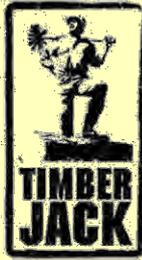


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There will be a perennial plant sale at 'Yarmer' with all proceeds to the Parish Hall



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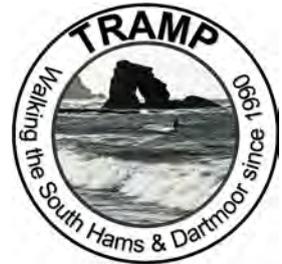
TRAMP 2024 Programme



Date	Day	Leader	Miles	Planned Route
Feb 6th	Tues	Alastair and Gill Durden	4.5	Ugborough Beacon
Feb 14th	Wed	Peter and Wendy Gornall	4	Staverton
Feb 23rd	Fri	Sian and Mike Hodges	4.5	Cornworthy/Tuckenhay
w/c Feb 26th	TBC			
w/c Mar 4th	TBC			
Mar 13th	Wed	Tony Burn		Dartington Hall
w/c Mar 18th	TBC			
Mar 28th	Thurs	Alastair and Gill Durden	5.5	Shaugh Bridge/Cadover
w/c Apr 1st	TBC			
Apr 10th	Wed	Annie Lukehurst		Belle Cross Road, Kingsbridge
w/c Apr 15th				
Apr 22nd	Mon	Robin Hart	5.5	Frogmore
Apr 29th	Mon	Neil and Jenny	3.8	Beesands Circular
May 8th	Wed	Neil and Jenny	4.35	Hembury Woods
May 14th	Tues	Liz and Peter Coates		Stokenham/Beesands
May 22nd	Wed	Harry Forrester	4.26	Hope Cove/S. Huish
May 27th	Mon	Robin Hart	4.5	Modbury
Jun 6th	Thurs	Linda Chilcott	5.5	Marldon/Totnes
Jun 13th	Thurs	Jill Miller	4	Snapes Point
Jun 18th	Tues	Alastair Durden	6	Dartmoor - Sheepstor Area
w/c Jun 24th	TBC	Claudette Uff		TBC
Jul 1st	Mon	Vanessa Barton	7	Dartmoor - Burrator, Black Tor
Jul 12th	Fri	Sian and Mike Hodges	6 to 8	Brent Tor/Lydford Gorge
w/c Jul 15th	TBC	Alan Rustad		Blackawton
w/c Jul 22nd	TBC			
Jul 29th	Mon	Linda and Gareth Scott	9	Ivybridge - Harford circular
w/c Aug 5th	TBC	Claudette Uff		TBC
Aug 12th	Mon	Linda and Gareth Scott	5	Yealmpton/Dunstone
w/c Aug 19th	TBC	Liz and Peter Coates		Oceans Rest./Hope Cove
w/c Aug 26th	TBC			
Sep 4th	Wed	Linda Chilcott	5	Malborough/Starehole Bay/Salcombe
Sep 11th	Wed	Harry Forrester	5.28	Avon Mill/Loddiswell
Sep 18th	Wed	Sian and Mike Hodges	6	Aune Valley Paddle to Bantham
Sep 26th	Thurs	Eric and Liz Candy		Noss Mayo
Oct 1st	Tues	Vanessa Barton	7	South Brent to Shipley Bridge
Oct 7th	Mon	Annie Lukehurst		Kingsbridge Recreation Ground
Oct 16th	Wed	Tony Burn		East Prawle
Oct 25th	Fri	Alastair Durden	6 or 7	Dartmouth Food Festival
Oct 30th	Wed			
w/c Nov 4th	TBC	Alan Rustad		Wembury
w/c Nov 11th	TBC			
w/c Nov 18th	TBC			
w/c Nov 25th	TBC			
Dec 2nd	Mon	Linda Chilcott	4.5	Osborne Newton
w/c Dec 9th	TBC			Christmas Walk?
w/c Dec 16th	TBC			Christmas Walk?
w/c Dec 23rd	TBC			

TRAMP REPORTS

October 2023 to January 2024



Denbury Woods - 24th October Claudette Uff

Setting off from the village green, admiring the cob and thatch buildings, we crossed a number of fields with lovely views of the moor in the distance. Eventually coming to Gaia House, which is a sanctuary for meditation, and runs various courses. Coffee break was taken in Ogwell Church, a 1300 century build. The pews are very high sided, and some still have hat pegs underneath the seats. Later we crossed the river Lemon, which originates from the moor, into Bradley Woods Estate, descending and climbing back to West Ogwell park to enjoy our lunch. But the most memorable part of the route, was an enormous puddle, and unfortunately with no way around, the intrepid troop paddled through, well done. We bypassed Channing's Wood Prison, which opened in 1974 for men only, category C 748 prisoners. Definitely a walk for the summer!

Stoke Fleming - November 24th Alastair & Gill Durden

A group of ten walkers set out from Stoke Fleming on a dry November day, taking the track past the pub and a duck pond, continuing along the road northwards towards Venn. We found a footpath across fields, then made our way downhill to cross a stream at Venn, following the road up the other side of the valley with good views over the surrounding countryside. Near the top of the incline, we found a bridleway which took us past Worden House and along the side of a beautiful valley, with the sound of a gurgling stream below us making its way to the sea. At Riversbridge, we picked up a road which follows this stream, passing houses which would have been water-mills in days gone by, then past Blackpool Farm. At Blackpool Sands, we stopped for a coffee and snack – sitting outside the café overlooking the beach in some lovely sunshine! We then had a mile or so walk back to Stoke Fleming and our cars, following the coast path. An idyllic short walk on a fine day!

Staverton/Dartington - 11th December Annie Lukehurst

After what seemed like endless weeks of grey and wet, wet weather, we met up near Staverton Bridge with the promise of a dry, warm & sunny walk! Full of Christmas cheer, some clad in appropriate Santa hats and jumpers, we set off up through the woods, past the Glade, heading across the access road to Dartington Hall and soon arriving at a strategically parked campervan. Our spirits were not low, but Vanessa and Derek were determined to raise them further, as Christmas music wafted out of the van, Christmas tree and lights too, and a festive table serving mulled wine and homemade mince pies. What a treat!

Reluctantly, we pressed on up towards the hall, turning left, down towards the river, skirting the Deer Park, and negotiating a tricky muddy patch lasting a hundred metres or more as we entered the woods for our descent back to the river and our cars. There was a short drive into the village of Staverton where the staff at the Sea Trout were ready to serve a splendid festive meal with all the trimmings. A very enjoyable occasion

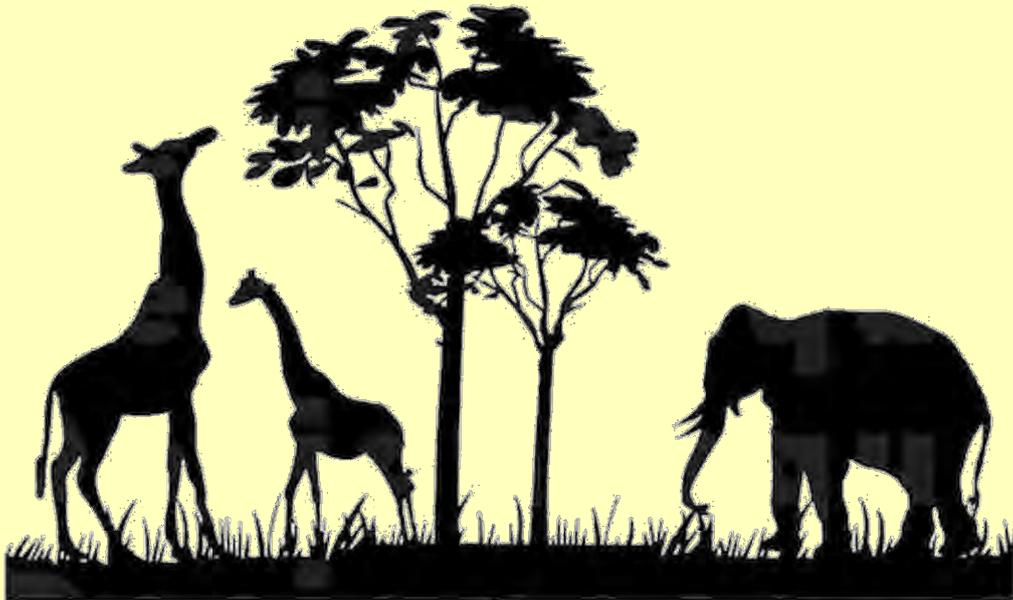
Batson - 10th January 2024 Trisha Wilson

The first walk of the year and nine hardy Trampers turned up for a leisurely stroll. We met at Ashby's Store but the weather was not kind - dry but with a strong north east wind. However, we kept to the lanes and were somewhat protected by the hedgerows as we passed Ilton Cross, Lower Batson and down to Batson Creek. We walked along the estuary with the tide out and then a steep climb up the fields and through the woods to Batson Cross Cemetery. We crossed the road at the top of the hill and made our way back to Ashby's via the cycle path. Several of us partook of coffee/soup in the Cafe to warm ourselves up!

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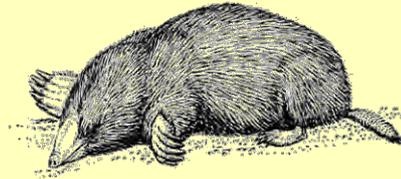
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Weather Wag

Today, January 11th our weather has turned decidedly wintery, with cold east winds and occasional glimpses of sunshine. A good day for drying clothes, but not for lingering around out in the open. Thankfully Thurlestone Sands beach was sheltered and quite pleasant for walking the dog. The Ley has broken through the beach and, as usual, changes its course across the sand bank every day. It is a really good example of how rivers behave on a bigger scale. (I used it every year when I was teaching to demonstrate how rivers alter the landscape).

Perhaps those who have experienced flooding in their homes and villages are not so keen because, sadly, if you live near a river and your property is low down near the banks of a river, it is odds on that you will be flooded out at some time.

These serious flooding incidents are seemingly more frequent now than earlier and there are very obvious reasons for this. (Explanations too complex to explain here). However, our local papers are to be commended for reporting any flooding that impacts on the lives of people in the area. Also, to be thanked is the army of council workers who turn out to clear drains and relieve any danger to us as road users. Our demand for water at (almost any cost) increases over time as the population expands and needs more water for everyday needs.

In one of my weather lore books, Plough Monday is the first Monday after twelfth night (8th January this year) which marks the resumption of agricultural work after twelfth night. Today is the 12th when it is said 'If the sun shines on January 12th it foreshadows much wind'. So far, the future looks to be calmer – no sun today I suspect. This is all very well (there is always a 'but') but, as Paul Simons puts it "Now the temperatures are taking a dive". The long-range outlook for winter warned of colder conditions as high pressure blocked the Atlantic depressions and now we see this come true. A strong El Nino warming the tropical Pacific raised the chances of a colder, drier second half of the winter and early spring.

The conditions in the Northern polar region suggest that there is no risk of a repeat of the dreaded "Beast from the East" this year, remember the winter of 2018 and how cold that was?

The outlook for me is one of optimism for a reasonably benign winter and a good spring. What comes for real is another matter, here's hoping!

Jan Turner

To complement Weather Wag Mike Hodges was asked if he could provide us with some statistics from his weather station.



Welcome to my comments on our local weather. So, we have all been saying how wet and windy Autumn 2023 has been, but has it really? YES. The rainfall measured in Thurlestone this Autumn (Sept-Dec) has been 30% higher than the 30-year average, with October and December clocking 37% and 40% higher rainfall than the 30-year average. Further in the first 4 days of January 2024, before it stopped raining, we had 50% of the 30-year average January rainfall. Since the beginning of September 2023 the UK has experienced 8 named storms (Agnes to Henk), compared to no named storms in the same period Sept 2022 to Jan 2023. However, wind speeds although high, have not been significantly higher, maxing out at 55mph on my roof here in Thurlestone, compared to 51mph in 2022. So, the real difference has been the number of storms, and the quantity of rain those storms have brought.

Mike Hodges

DIARY DATES

February

- Friday 2 Kingsbridge Estuary U3A monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am until noon - "Listening to the Enemy - War comes to a Cornish Village" with Mike Griffiths
- Saturday 3 Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am to 1pm
3 Kingsbridge Choral Workshop 10am - 6.30pm Kingsbridge Community College - Handel's "Messiah" From Scratch
- Monday 5 Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Tuesday 6 TRAMP - Ugborough Beacon 4.5 miles - Alastair and Gill Durden
- Thursday 8 The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night in Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £8 per person
- Monday 12 -16 Devon Schools Half Term
- Wednesday 14 TRAMP - Staverton Snowdrop Walk 4 miles - Peter and Wendy Gornall
- Saturday 17 Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
- Friday 23 TRAMP - Cornworthy /Tuckenhay 4.5 miles - Sian and Mike Hodges
23 Kingsbridge Estuary U3A monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am until noon - "Playing the Clown - George Bernard Shaw" with Brian Freeland
- Wednesday 28 Kingsbridge Arts Society, Methodist Hall, Kingsbridge 2pm for 2.30pm (and on Zoom - 01548 532850 for a link) - "The England of Eric Ravillious" with David Haycock

March

- Saturday 2 Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
- Monday 4 Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13 TRAMP - Dartington Hall - Tony Burn
- Saturday 16 Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
16 Pub Night in Thurlestone Parish Hall 7pm to 10.30pm
- Wed 20-23 KATS presents "Wind in the Willows" at Malborough Village Hall 7.30pm (matinee on Saturday 23rd at 2pm). Tickets £17 from kats-kingsbridge.co.uk or call 07584 905810
- Saturday 23 South Sands Ferry restarts for the summer season
- Monday 25 Kingsbridge Cookworthy Museum re-opens
- Wednesday 27 Kingsbridge Arts Society, Methodist Hall, Kingsbridge 2pm for 2.30pm (and on Zoom - 01548 532850 for a link) - "In Search of Leokadiya Kashperova - the rescue of a major romantic composer" with Graham Griffiths
- Thursday 28 TRAMP - Shaugh Bridge/Cadover 5.5 miles -Alastair and Gill Durden
28 Devon Schools - end of term
- Friday 29 Good Friday
- Saturday 30 Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
- Sunday 31 British Summer Time starts at 1am when clocks go forward 1 hour
31 Easter Sunday

April

- Monday 1 Easter Monday
- Friday 5 Kingsbridge Estuary U3A monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am until noon - "In Pursuit of the Improbable" with Stephen Powles
- Monday 8 Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm

Bolberry Down Parkrun. A free, weekly, timed 5k walk/jog/run at 9:00am every Saturday. Details at www.parkrun.org.uk/bolberrydown/ or on Facebook

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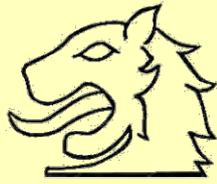
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CLUBS & GROUPS

ALVINGTON SINGERS (Wednesday 7pm - 9pm)	Liz Coates	714849
ART CLASS (Tuesday 11am - 1pm)	Marianne Smith	531413
AVON RIVER CHAMPIONS	Chairman Louise Wainwright	810991
BADMINTON CLUB (Friday 4pm - 5pm)	Sian Hodges	07784 893405
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary Nikki Smith	560275
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse	560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wednesday 6.15pm)	Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX	Anna Martin	560796
CRAFTY MONDAYS (Monday 10.00am - 12.30pm)	Sally Martin	561356
FITNESS YOGA with SUZI (Monday 5pm - 6pm)	Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
FRENCH CONVERSATION (Thursday 1.30pm - 3.30pm)	Angela Luckhurst	521595
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Martin Beck	
HEALTHY MOVEMENT (Monday 2.15pm - 3.15pm)	Saffron Craig	07840 788511
LINE DANCING (Wednesday 2pm - 3pm)	Sue Bain	07989 817898
PICKLEBALL (Sunday 11.00am - 1.00pm)	Tony Burn	07909 552077
PILATES with LARA (Thursday 2pm - 3pm)	Lara Christopher	07765 423906
POWER HOUR with SUZI (Tuesday 2pm - 3pm)	Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
SEA BEYOND PILATES (Wednesday 9.30am-10.30am)	Sharron05@btinternet.com	
SMASH HIIT with SUZI (Thursday 6pm - 7pm)	Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
TABLE TENNIS (Thursday 7.30pm - 9pm)	Paul Ferguson	07866 802800
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Office & General Enquiries	560405
TENNIS SECTION (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop	560715
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX	Mary Horne	561853
THURLESTONE SINGING GROUP	Alastair Durden	560509
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Linda Scott	560298
WALKING FOOTBALL (Friday 5.15pm - 6.45pm)	Martin Stern	07557 149603
YOGA with Sarah (Tuesday and Thursday 9.15am)	Sarah Scott	07879 627939

HEALTH CENTRES

Norton Brook Medical Centre, Cookworthy Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1AE	853551
Redfern Health Centre, Shadycombe Road, Salcombe TQ8 8DJ	842284
Minor Injuries Unit (NOT 24 Hrs) South Hams Hospital, Kingsbridge TQ7 1XT	852349
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RUBBISH COLLECTION - Mondays (check SHDC website for Easter collections)

Recycling Boxes 1 and 2, Reusable White Sack, and Food Waste Caddy - EVERY WEEK
Black/Grey Bin (non-recyclable landfill) alternate Mondays from 5th February
Brown Bin (garden waste) alternate Wednesdays (no change in day) from 14th February
(Subscription service started 6th March 2023. Apply via SHDC website)

RECYCLING CENTRE - Torr Quarry Site, Totnes Road, Kingsbridge TQ9 7QQ T:0345 155 1010

Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm, Sat - Sun 10.00am to 6.00pm (1st April - 30th September)
Mon - Fri 9.00am to 4.30pm, Sat - Sun 10.00am to 4.30pm (1st October - 31st March)

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Kingsbridge T: 853195, Salcombe T: 843927, Totnes T: 01803 269190, Dartmouth T: 01803 834224

LIBRARIES

Kingsbridge - Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1EB T: 852315 Open Monday, Friday 9am - 6pm Tuesday, Wednesday 9am -5pm, Thursday closed

Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall Car Park on Wednesday 21st February -10.30am to 11.00am. The Devon Mobile Library Service will be discontinued from Thursday 29th February.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Local Bus Service - Tally Ho! Service No. 162 - Destinations from Thurlestone (Bus stop by Shop) are:- Kingsbridge, South Milton, Malborough, Galampton and Hope Cove.

For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable

For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233 7am - 8pm)

PARISH INFORMATION

COUNCIL Meetings take place on 1st Monday of every month except August and Bank Holidays

Chairman	Rosa Lewis	07463 856156
Parish Clerk	Helen Leather	thurlestoneparish@gmail.com
Members	Nigel Hadaway	07885 518333
	Mike Hodges	561124
	Eric Palmer	07966 192902
	Adam Ryan-Carter	07885 383345
	David Smyth	07768 300358
	Gillian Stone	07967 666719
District Councillors	Samantha Dennis	07720 863626
	Mark Long	843828
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659

PARISH HALL (see Thurlestone Parish Website for more details)

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Chairman: Malcolm Breton

Bookings: Ingrid French email: via Parish Website or directly on tphbookings@gmail.com
or telephone 07586 560358 Mon to Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm

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

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH See All Saints' Diary pages earlier in magazine
Church Meeting Room Telephone Liz Webb 560090

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL Head Teacher Miss Katie Coombe 560494

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES Contact Sarah Tyers 561917

Shop Opening Hours	Mon, Tues, Thu, Fri	8.00am - 5.00pm
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Opening hours may change over Easter Weekend	Saturday	8.00am - 2.00pm
	Sunday and Bank Holidays	8.30am - 2.00pm

Post Office Hours	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.00am - 4.00pm
	Wednesday	9.00am - 1.00pm
	Saturday	9.30am - 12.30pm
	Sunday and Bank Holidays	Closed

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 - Golf Club (Tennis Pav Wall)
 - Sloop Inn Bantham (Lobby)
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