VILLAGE VOICE

June - July 2017

Pupils from All Saints Primary School on the trail of our Parish Heritage assets in Bantham and Buckland

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

THURLESTONE VILLAGE VOICE BANTHAM BUCKLAND

NUMBER 205
June - July 2017

X MARKS THE SPOT

Our front cover picture shows children from All Saints primary school at the start of their second treasure hunt to find the heritage assets hidden away in our parish - this time in the depths of Bantham and Buckland. This has provided a wonderful opportunity for them to develop at an early age both a sense of history and a sense of belonging to a community.

Inside this issue you will find much reflecting our own community concerns - as seen by our church, our Parish Council, our District and County councillors, and our Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, as well as other contributions that may interest, enlighten, amuse, or challenge you. And our columns are always open to any member of the community who has a question to ask, a concern to share, or a suggestion to offer.

On 8 June our Parish Hall will be the place where all our concerns, hopes, and fears will suddenly crystallise into a single moment when, for better or worse, richer or poorer, we commit ourselves to the people whose wisdom and judgement we trust the most, or who seem to threaten us the least.

And afterwards, on 1 July, we can all get together in the same place to enjoy a glass of wine, a tasty lunch, and the cheerful company of our good friends and neighbours. It is the hub of our community, where **X** has marked the spot.

We hope you will join us!

Front Cover: **On the Bantham** / **Buckland Trail**

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Photo by Sue Crowther

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At Thurlestone Parish Hall on 24 April 2017 at 7.30pm

The meeting was attended by Parish Councillors, Devon County and District Councillors and 14 parishioners. Toby Russell of Devon Air Ambulance was also present.

Chairman's Report

Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Rhymes, first thanked his fellow Councillors for what can sometimes feel like a thankless task into which they put a lot of time and energy, voluntarily, throughout the year, emphasising that the Parish Council **DO** listen to what residents tell them.

Planning - we are not against new development but want it to be in keeping with the surrounding areas. The condition of our roads is deteriorating and although we contribute a lot we do not seem to get much in return. We have to find proof of ownership of the cobbled road by the church before the Parish Council can take it on. Investigations continue.

We appreciate the work by a lot of people on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, which we hope will be a full working document by the year end. The War Memorial is a very special place in the parish and it should be fully visible so that is why work on the trees there is necessary. The colourful sign at the entrance to Thurlestone was the result of a competition at Kingsbridge Community College, which attracted 44 entries and was won by a 15 year old girl.

He paid tribute to the late Peter Hurrell. He served many years on the Parish Council and was also chairman for many of them. He was a parish champion in all respects and we must never lose the invaluable information he collected and recorded about the history of the parish and its people.

In conclusion, he expressed sincere thanks to the Parish Clerk, Phil Millard, who has been a "huge help in supporting my role as Chairman".

County Councillor's Report

Rufus Gilbert covered:

Roads - he is working to ensure the upkeep of our parish roads.

Elderly care - money for this will increase, from the roads budget.

Rural funding - he urged us to lobby our MP about the unfairness of lower funding for rural areas as opposed to metropolitan ones.

Speed rate - on lowering the speed rate from 30mph to 20mph through Thurlestone, he advised the use of Vaz signs, saying the Parish Council should investigate.

District Councillor's Report

Judy Pearce's report is given in detail elsewhere in this issue.

Devon Air Ambulance

Toby Russell explained that Devon Air Ambulance is working with communities to choose additional local night landing sites. The choice for this parish has been narrowed to the golf course or in a field at the top of Thurlestone village. He explained the site requirements. Funding would be considered when a site had been finally agreed, after which the community has to decide if it wants this facility. Initiation to completion could take around 9-12 months.

The Annual Parish Meeting ended at 8.20pm.

Another step back in time for Thurlestone School Children

Written by Lily (aged 9)

Children from All Saints Primary School took another step back in time at the end of March continuing their historic trail around the Parish to find out about our local heritage. Children aged 8-10 took part in a long walk around Bantham and Buckland, taking in points of interest such as Coronation Quay and the Boathouse, the Lime Kiln, the Stone Stile, the Bantham Streetscape, the Water Trough and Well Pump, the Leat and the Butterwells. The idea is to inspire the children to think about local history in the area; to give them some appreciation of how people used to live, and to promote a sense of place and connection to the area they live in.

Billy aged 9 said, *'During the Second World War there were mines and barbed wire to stop the Germans coming up the beach and attacking. There was a pillbox where the lifeguard hut is now'.*
Ruby aged 8 said, *'In the olden days they used to pick daffodils and send them to Covent Garden. It was Connor's Great Grandma and Great Aunty'.*

When I heard we were going on a walk, I was excited as it maybe meant missing a little bit of maths as well! We were lucky with the weather as the sun was shining. My whole class, 25 of us, were soon ready to go with lots of snacks, bottles of water and excitement in our bellies to see what we would discover. Living in Thurlestone, it was nice to know we would be learning about what the area used to be like, what it looked like and what happened in the olden days. We had a question and answer sheet and worked in pairs to make sure we didn't miss anything on our way around! My Grandad loves history so I was excited to share with him what I found out. I loved seeing pictures of Burgh Island without the hotel and also hearing about the history of the Pilchard pub and when the pilchards stopped coming in 1866 – we all remembered that date when we got back to school! I heard lots of oohs and wows when we talked about the barbed wire on the beach during the wars and the pillboxes to check for the enemy. Who knew so much had happened on the beach where I go surfing with my Dad? It was epic to hear about the submarine net under Jenkins' Quay to stop the enemy as well – you would never have known that this happened in that spot.

Giles aged 9 said, *'We went on to a path where Mrs. Ryan-Carter explained there used to be an old Viking trading centre and that there were battles on the Ham between the Saxons and Danes. I was really interested in the Saxons, Vikings, and Romans all settling in one spot and I had no idea about it. So that is my most interesting thing. The first historical place we went to was down to Coronation Quay, which was built in the 1600s, and the boathouse in Bantham. These were originally fishermen's sheds until the current boathouse was built in1936 with a figurehead of Lady Jane Franklin'.*
Elliot aged 9 said, *'I saw my house. The Watch is a really big house and was used to watch the river and smugglers and fishing.'*

But we marched on, like the soldiers (!) because we had lots more to see and headed towards the Coronation Quay boathouse. We met a man called Marsh and his dog. Marsh knew A LOT about the area and boats…we didn't want to leave this part of the walk as we had so many more questions to ask Marsh. He let us walk around, look at old photos that were black and white and meet his dog. He showed us the mark where the water came up the last time the boathouse flooded in 1989.

We also learnt all about Bantham Boats and how they are a very traditional wooden boat, which takes 3 months to build – some of us guessed just a few weeks and we were wrong!

Ruby aged 8 said, *'The pilchards oil was used for burning lamps. They used to smoke the pilchards at Pilchard Cellars in a pilchard palace. The Boat-house was built for the Coronation of George V1. There was a crown at the top of the Boathouse. Marsh makes boats in the top and stores them. He opens a big trap door and lowers the boats down'.*
Billy aged 9 said, *'The highest flood line is still seen on the side of the boat-house'.*
Emma aged 9 said, *'The boathouse had some figureheads. It was built for King George's Coronation. The boats hung from the ceiling. There was an upstairs bit. Marsh had a model and plans of the boat that he was building called a Bantham Boat'.*

Just a few steps up the hill, we then stopped to look at the Lime Kiln and talked about what lime is used for. As a big horse fan, I really loved knowing that a shire horse and cart brought the lime up from barges on the river – I wish I could have lived in this time to see that! Bantham has lots of old history that hasn't changed in hundreds of years. We saw an old stile which was used to let the water from the floods flow out, it was also there to let animals through like a cat flap.

Freddie aged 8 said, *'On Burgh Island there was a stone hut. A man used to watch out for fish. When there was a big shoal he would ring a bell so the fishermen would go out to catch the fish'.* **Rosie** aged 8 said, *'They brought the pilchards and lime up from the quay in a horse and cart. Pilchard Cellars would have smelt quite bad. They used to leave them in there to dry'.* **Georgia** aged 9 said, *'The kiln was like a mini castle'* and **Anna** aged 9 added, *'There was a little cottage next to it where the people used to sleep and look after the kiln'.* **Georgia** said, *'We met Marsh and his dog. He said that he keeps care of other people's boats. It was interesting to see the different types of boats and stacks of sails'.* **Ruby** aged 8 said, *'The lime was used for fertiliser to help the plants grow'.* **Charlie Rose** aged 9 said, *'Lime is a type of stone and a man used to stand below and shovel lime and coal in. It was melting it to turn it into powder for building and fertilizer'.*

I had seen the trough and water pump in Thurlestone before so it was interesting to see that Buckland had one too. It is really hard to believe that this was how people used to get their water – we are so used to having water at our fingertips now whenever and wherever we want it. Again, I like hearing that horses may have drunk from these troughs too. It seems a very long time ago that water was first piped here in 1888 – not even our parents are that old!

Emma aged 9 said, *'There was a special bench and railings. It was to remember farmer Adams and it showed a farmer ploughing the fields. His friends and family look after it'.*

Giles aged 9 said, '*I saw three water pumps and a water trough. In 1888 water was pumped from the pumping station by the river up to Aunemouth reservoir and then back down to the troughs to create pressure and a tap'.*
Rosie aged 8 said, *'The water pump was by Well Cottage. I found it interesting how people went there every day to collect water'.*

Anna aged 9 said, *'I remember that the stile by the cottages had a hole in it that was used for rain-water. It almost worked like a drain. It was slightly lopsided like it was man-made. So people would have stepped over it'.*

Elliot aged 9 said, *'It was a big square rock with a hole in it. It was used to control floods. And the water would go through the hole'.*

The end of the Leat connects back to the river and the tunnel is about as tall as an adult but it has silted up.

Jed aged 8 said, *'The butcher called Moore used to hang the meat in this building. His apples used to make the best cider around'.*

As we didn't have time on the day, some of us went for an extra walk after school to see the Leat in Buckland. Lots of us didn't really know what a leat was at first or what one looked like, so it was very cool to be able to walk alongside it and the wild flowers growing in the field below were just beautiful. I wish I knew the name of them all but I'll just call them rainbow flowers for now because that's what they looked like to me! We also saw some old Butterwells which were used to store milk and butter, and the butcher and slaughterhouse.

Joel aged 9 said, *'I was really interested in the Butterwells. There are a few of them along the river in Buckland. People would put their butter, milk and things that they wanted to keep cold in the butterwell. The cold air would enter the well from a stream or a spring. We found out about the Butterwells in Peter Hurrell's book and then went to find them'.*

We worked out that in the end we had walked almost four miles on our trip around Bantham and Buckland so we were very pleased that our halfway (ish) stop was at the Bantham Cafe for a well-earned squash and some snacks. It was nice to take a moment to sit down and look at the lovely views from there. I normally have a hot chocolate when I go with my family!

This trail will form part of the Parish Neighbourhood Plan's evidence base of heritage assets in the parish with a view to protecting and conserving them for future generations.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 3 April and 8 May 2017

News & Comment by 'Citizen'

In April seven Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, County Councillor, District Councillor and twenty members of the public attended, and in May there were five Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, County Councillor, District Councillor and fifteen members of the public present.

OPEN FORUM

45 Mead Drive There were many comments against this planning application, including (1) that it was out of keeping with the estate design and covenants relating to roofing and fencing; (2) that it was too large and dominant; and (3) that its noisy air source heat pump was too close to No 47. The Parish Council was asked to reject the application.

Tribal Clash proposed for 1-3 September in Bantham was concerning residents as it was thought around 1000 people with several hundred cars are likely to attend causing traffic problems as well as access for Emergency Services vehicles. The question of who would control the event was raised. District Councillor Pearce is monitoring arrangements. *[Also see Chairman's business at the end of this report]*

Church Cottages These properties on Thurlestone main road are some 500 years old and without foundations. Very heavy lorries coming down the street drive very close to their frontage, to avoid the cars parked opposite, and cause a lot of vibration to the properties which could lead to serious damage. The concerned owners of the cottages believe the problem would be lessened if on-street parking could be moved from the opposite side to their side of the road, as it would mean the heavy lorries would not pass so close to the cottages.

APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

The following agreed to serve for a further year: Andrew Rhymes (Chairman), Charles Mitchelmore (Vice-Chairman, Tree Warden and Police Liaison rep.), Bronwyn Zaffiro (Parish Hall rep.), Kit Marshall, Jill Munn, Tony Goddard, Nigel Hurrell, with Phil Millard (Parish Clerk and Friends of Thurlestone Church rep.).

FOOTPATHS

We are now a member of the P3 Footpath Scheme, under which we can claim an annual allowance of £240 towards maintenance of footpaths (£480 two years accruing). The path from Eddystone Road to the golf course needs attention. A quotation of £1370 plus VAT has been received and the Parish Council will enquire if a grant is available under this scheme.

TREES

Councillor Charles Mitchelmore said the question of trees taking all the light from a property on the Mead has now been resolved.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thanks were expressed to Sue Crowther who has acted as Project Leader for the Plan and has put in a very great deal of work. *[See Neighbourhood Plan Update]*

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Parish Annual Accounts These have been sent to external auditors Grant Thornton but from next year onwards the audit will be done by Malcolm Franke, FCA.

Police Community Support Officer Dave Gibson has now become a full-time police officer, and his role will be taken over in this parish by PCSO Paul O'Dwyer.

Old Rectory As a safety precaution a solid white line has been painted across the front of the drive to this property, to prevent street parking which can block the view of vehicles leaving the property, but the line is too short to be of use. This will be rectified.

Potholes. Some have been 'patched' on the road to Churchstow and the very large one has cones placed in it to warn traffic. No date for its repairs has yet come from DCC.

Parish Clerk ended his report by saying he intends to retire at the year end after 8 years in office.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Rufus Gilbert has been re-elected to DCC and he thanked all those who voted for him. His division is now much larger as it includes Modbury and Aveton Gifford and covers 16 parishes. He reported that -

Highway Maintenance is now done by Skanska.

Sarah Wollaston, MP. He has had a meeting with her regarding the low level of Devon schools' funding and asked for more money for Devon road maintenance.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

[See Judy Pearce's full report elsewhere in this issue]

BUSINESS BY DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Andrew Rhymes reported:

Thurlestone Hotel had made a planning application for a mobile phone mast on the roof of the hotel.

Tribal Clash Plans may include car parking near the A379 roundabout with buses transporting people to the event. Should gridlock occur en-route, arrangements to use farmers' fields needs to be resolved.

Furzey Close Rubbish paper sacks are being put out in advance of collection day and then strewn all over the road, presumably by foraging seagulls/foxes/badgers. The Parish Council will investigate.

Church Cottages The request for a change to on-street parking arrangements will be put forward to DCC by the Parish Council.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 6 June, 2017, 7.30pm in the Yeo Room.

In the April/May report of the Parish Council meetings (Parish Clerk's Report) the item should have referred to 16 not 20 Meadcombe Road. We apologise to both parties for this misprint.

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

by Judy Pearce

This has once again been a challenging year for the council, with government grants again reducing. We have nevertheless managed to protect all frontline services and deliver £3.9m year-on-year savings. T18, the council's business transformation programme, is progressing well, though payback estimated to be slightly longer now than first envisaged. From 2018-19 there will be no government grant at all, and an approaching annual deficit of £600k still has to be resolved. This is our greatest on-going challenge.

FINANCE: Only 9% of the council tax you pay ends up at South Hams. Our net spend last year was £8.75m. We ended up with a small overspend of £27k, which has been taken from our Unearmarked Reserve. Firm discipline is needed with budgeting to ensure this does not happen again. Topping up reserves is going to become increasingly difficult and they need to be maintained for real emergencies. The gross spend last year was £43.9m. The difference between this and the net spend is made up by government grants such as rent allowances, the revenue support grant and new homes bonus.

The shared workforce for West Devon and South Hams councils is 292.5 FTEs. In addition South Hams has a manual workforce of 155.

Some statistics from last year: 2.2 million bins emptied, 2300 planning applications processed, 785 planning enforcement investigations carried out, 2.5 million website page views, 170,000 calls were handled, £487,000 of disabled facility grants were awarded, 130 abandoned vehicles investigated, 189 successful homeless prevention cases, 375,000 passengers and vehicles carried on the Lower Dartmouth Ferry.

Performance successes: IeSE Council of the Year award, online transactions increased by 17%, housing benefit processing time reduced from 42 to 19 days, call volumes reduced by 25%, minor planning determinations delivered on time improved to 98% (some with time agreements). 50% fewer missed waste collections than the target figure.

Strategies and Plans:

1. Joint Local Plan: It is a key responsibility of the local planning authority to maintain an up to date plan. The final public engagement carries on until the end of this month. It is hoped the plan will be submitted to the Inspectorate by the end of this May and should be adopted early in 2018.
2. Medium Term financial strategy: set for a 5 year period. It includes all known factors and sources of funding. It is an iterative document and changes as information changes. This will be a huge challenge over the next five years and major savings will have to be achieved, as well as some revenue streams created.
3. Asset Management Plan: big steps have been taken over the last year. A limited programme of residential development has prompted master planning in Kingsbridge and is planned for Salcombe. Under-performing assets held by the council will be disposed of by suitable means.

Achievements:

HOMES

300 new affordable homes granted planning consent, and 143 delivered. £1.88m Community Led Housing Fund awarded. Sherford: 313 homes approved and build has started – at last! Homeless strategy adopted for the next 5 years.

ECONOMY

Agreed a funded support package 2016-18 for start-up and growing businesses, became the accountable body and supported the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group – to date projects worth £131k approved. New commercial units approved for Dartmouth, Totnes and Salcombe.

INFRASTRUCTURE

In consultation with partners, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to accompany the new Local Plan has been produced. This will not deliver all the desirable projects, but there will be improvements. Waste, grounds maintenance and street cleaning have all undergone reviews. All the evidence is that the new street cleaning regime is working well. The grounds maintenance changes are only just taking place – there is room for improvement, and I look forward to quick wins on this one. The results of the waste review are being discussed to decide the best way forward. Significant changes are likely to be proposed as this is an area where budgeting has been extremely challenging over the last twelve months.

COMMUNITIES

The New Joint Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning will both affect local communities, though the Joint Local Plan is structured only to be a backstop if there is no Neighbourhood Plan proposed in any local area. It will however set the more strategic background policies for the area. The Community Reinvestment Fund (from new homes bonus), TAP funding and the Sustainable Community Locality Fund have all delivered for projects in the Ward over the past year. This is very pleasing. I urge the parish to keep making applications to any funds you are eligible to access to keep improved facilities coming forward for our communities. The COP lead for planning has been running successful meetings for parish councils. If you are interested and haven't yet had a session, I would be pleased to arrange one for you.

WELLBEING

Salcombe Harbour continues to be a leading eco-port. It hosted over 5,800 visiting vessels over the past year and facilitated a cross harbour swim for 550 entrants – the largest event of its kind in the UK. Major coastal defensive works have been carried out at Torcross and Beesands, costing over £390k.

HERITAGE

Plans have been approved for the conversion of Stowford Mill in Ivybridge into residential apartments and commercial premises. Plans have been approved for improving public access and signage at Fort Bovisand. In the Ward, an enforcement appeal was successfully dismissed at the Grade 2 Star listed building, the Grange, in Salcombe.

In conclusion it has been a busy year. T18 is beginning to bed down, though all the IT changes have not gone as smoothly as we might have hoped. A lot more processes are now available online, and I urge you to use this means of communicating with the council whenever you can. It is easy and very efficient, and you will get results. I am suspicious that we could have made more progress had not an inordinate amount of energy been expended by senior management in making the case for a Local Authority Controlled Company. To some of us it never seemed a sound idea at the start. In the end, the local authority pension scheme made the pay-back time too long and uncertain and the project to put the whole of the council's functions into a company has been abandoned.

Finding qualified planning officers and strengthening the planning enforcement team are both proving testing. The big task for the coming year will be to take steps to close the looming budget gap of some £600k. We shall also have a number of neighbourhood plans reaching their examination stage and we need to get a lot better at dealing with these in a timely manner.

On the whole though, improvements definitely outweigh problems this year!

Judy Pearce

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Enquiries to **Jenny Underhill**

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Village News Round-Up

Anne Grose

It was with great sadness that we heard in May of the death of Thurlestone's Anne Grose, widow of the late Peter Grose. Anne was one of the 'new team' at Village Voice who, way back in 1995, helped in the transition period after Kendall MacDonald's retirement, and Anne who could always be relied upon at Village Voice team meetings to ask the question that nobody else had thought of! When she was unable to continue her association with the team, we all missed her very much indeed. It is hoped to have a fuller tribute to Anne in the next issue.

Sam Rhymes

It is our pleasure to report that at the Kingsbridge Rugby Club 's annual President's Day held recently, young Thurlestonian Sam Rhymes was nominated Under 16s Team Player of the Season. Well done, young man! Sam is the son of Parish Council Chairman Andrew (Jack) and Bet Rhymes.

Archaeology of Bantham Ham

The Parish Hall was packed to capacity on 11 May with folk eager to hear Steve Reed, of Devon County Council's historic environment team, talking about the archaeology of Bantham Ham. The key points of the talk are summarised in the Neighbourhood Plan update which appears elsewhere in this issue.

NSPCC

Pat Crawford says, *"Well, I did find the monkey, but first we would like to thank all of you who donated, arranged, sold, and cleared up after our Jumble Sale on 27 April, with a special thanks to Tesco who gave us the 'Lasting Hamper' for the raffle. We made £299 plus £30 donations. For the record, the monkey was found on the reverse side of a 5p piece from Gibraltar! Many thanks from the committee and myself for all your support".*

Sea Sense

In August there will be an exhibition at Harbour House, Kingsbridge, to celebrate the sea and the importance of the marine environment, including art work by primary schoolchildren. 'Teach on a Beach' sessions will be held with primary schools, including Thurlestone children, to show them the effect of plastic on our beaches and in the sea, encouraging them to think about how we can help our environment. Toad Hall Cottages is sponsoring this initiative which is organised by a local artists' collective known as The House Group.

Sailing Pursuit

Vida and John Hodder of Bantham are taking part in a sponsored sailing pursuit on 17 June to aid Macmillan Cancer Support. If you would like to help them raise funds for this very worthwhile cause, please go to the justgiving website and enter "Vida Hodder",

STANBOROUGH CHORUS KINGSBRIDGE

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Update for the last issue reported the interest generated by Bantham Estate's draft proposals and the progress of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, ending with reporting that our Project Director Sue Crowther was continuing to work on the initial draft of the Neighbourhood Plan.

I can now report that the initial draft has been prepared and has been sent for review by an independent Examiner to check that it meets the basic conditions of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. This review is provided by the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service and administered by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Steering groups are advised to have their plans reviewed in this way at an early stage so as to avoid delay or rejection later in the process. We have obtained government grant funding to pay for the review.

Once we have received the Examiner's comments and incorporated them, we will be inserting the maps and photographs with the assistance of the South Hams Design Unit. The draft Neighbourhood Plan will then be presented to the Parish for your comments.

Consultation - Parish

The public consultation in the Parish will take place over a six-week period and it is a crucial part of the procedure. It is organised by the Steering Group in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

The consultation will be advertised on the Parish website and there will be plenty of posters to draw your attention to the consultation. The draft Plan itself will be available for you to read on the Parish website and we would be grateful if you could let us have your comments online, where possible.

We will also be holding **weekend drop-in sessions** at the Parish Hall at which there will be a number of hard copies available for you to read and the opportunity for you to provide us with your written comments, if you do not have access to a computer. Members of the Steering Group will be available at these sessions to assist you and discuss any queries you may have. We will also be arranging for hard copies to be made available for you to inspect at certain locations within the Parish.

Consultation - South Hams District Council

Following the consultation and having incorporated your comments, the draft plan will then be submitted to **South Hams District Council** who will ensure that we have complied with the statutory requirements of the planning legislation and carry out their own six-week consultation. The timing of these two consultations is dictated by the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and we will endeavour to ensure that the process is carried out as promptly and efficiently as possible.

Only after these two consultations have taken place will the draft Plan be submitted to an **Independent Examiner**, who will decide whether or not the Plan can proceed to a Referendum.

In the meantime, since the last issue, there have been a number of events to report:

- We have submitted responses on behalf of the parish to the **Joint Local Plan** focussing on how development within the AONB can only be sustainable if it provides for proven local need and emphasising that inappropriate development in the AONB, whilst it may provide some benefits, is irreversible.

- There has been a second **Heritage Trail** by pupils, parents and staff of Thurlestone All Saints' Primary School around Bantham and Buckland, led by members of our Heritage Working Group. You can read all about the Bantham and Buckland Trail in this issue of the Village Voice. Again, we would like to extend our thanks to the School for their support. It has been very instructive to see how enthusiastic the pupils are about their historic environment. They have made an important contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan by helping to make us all more publicly aware of heritage assets that contribute to our sense of place, yet have no statutory protection.

- A Talk about **"The Archaeology of Bantham Ham"** was given in the Parish Hall on the 11th May by Stephen Reed, the County's Senior Historic Environment Officer, who advises the planning authorities and developers about heritage issues and who was involved personally in two of the main archaeological investigations at Bantham.

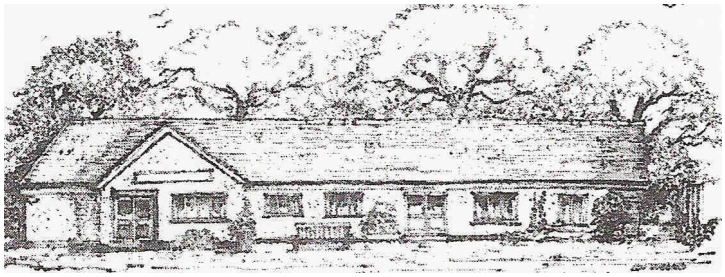
  He described Bantham's important role as a trading port with Mediterranean countries in the 5th and 6th centuries, which is evident from the quantity of ceramics recovered from the Ham, second only to that from Tintagel; he explained how the remains of a Roman enclosure were discovered under the car park by the toilet block; and he reminded us of the statutory protection provided by the Scheduled Ancient Monument legislation and the reasons why Bantham is on the Heritage at Risk Register, due to its national archaeological significance and vulnerability to visitor erosion. His talk was accompanied by fascinating slides, including those of the 1997 and 2001 archaeological investigations in which he took part.

Finally, a huge thanks to all those who have contacted us over the past months and have volunteered their time to assist us with their local knowledge, research, photography and IT skills.

Please continue to do so, it is never too late.

Tony Goddard
Steering Group Chairman

PARISH HALL NEWS



Chairman: Neill Irwin

At the Annual General Meeting on 15th May we were able to report a successful 2016 and to outline some of our plans for 2017. I was pleased to offer my thanks to all the committee members and the many other people who volunteer to enable the running of the Hall to be so smooth and efficient. In fact the Hall does run so smoothly I sometime wonder if the rest of the parish understands and appreciates the work people do on their behalf. Do not be fooled, we may be swanlike above the water but underneath we are paddling like fury.

Having been re-elected as chairman I am now, I believe, the longest serving chairman since the Hall first opened. It is definitely time for a change and I have made it clear that I will stand down at the next AGM. This creates a wonderful opportunity for you, yes you, to volunteer as deputy chairman and to take over the reins in 2018. If you would like to participate in the running of the Hall but you do not want to be chairman we would welcome you to the committee. Take action today, give me a call on 561661.

Already this year we have had a couple of great events in the Hall. Back in February Jonathan Delbridge played to a packed audience. Jonathan has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, York Minster, Norwich Cathedral and now at Thurlestone Parish Hall. We will certainly invite him back. Making their own comeback we had the amazing group Festive Flutes entertain us again in April. This is a very talented group of musicians who have performed all over the world. In attracting musicians of this quality the Parish Hall is punching well above its weight. The good news is that they all love performing here which is a lasting tribute to the original stalwarts who ensured that the Hall had such great acoustics

Looking forward we have a number of other big events to enjoy. On Sunday 18 June Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club are hosting a Devon Cream Tea from 2.00-5.00pm. Our **Cheese and Wine luncheon** on Saturday 1st July is a great opportunity for all the parish to get together and enjoy themselves. We have run this event before and it has proved very popular. It is run like a giant garden party but with the sensible provision that it takes place indoors, so no rain soaked food.

Continuing the fun filled theme we have the **Family Fun day** planned for Tuesday 25th July. Every year we are delighted to see lots of families complete with children and grandchildren having fun in the sun. To keep everyone entertained we will have the ever popular BBQ and lots of games. I did hear a rumour that we may have curling this year.

With summer only just arriving it seems wrong to be talking about autumn or winter so I will just remind you to mark your diary for the 9th September (Autumn Fair) and 18th November (Tim Kliphaus Concert). More details about these events next time.

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Parish Hall

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From

Lisa White	Diane Martin	Alison Daily
560505	560070	561472

WI NEWS

APRIL

Sympathy was expressed to Joyce Stephens on the recent death of Peter her husband, former Rector of Thurlestone, and she sent a letter of thanks to her fellow WI members for organising the refreshments following Peter's funeral. Good wishes were also expressed to Tricia and Keith Millman, who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on the 22nd of this month.

A pub lunch outing to the Oyster Shack was enjoyable and the next, to Avon Mill, is in the pipeline. Karen Livett gave an excellent report on being the delegate to the County's Spring Council Meeting at Torquay, when Mandy Hickson, a former Tornado Squadron front-line pilot based in Iraq, proved an inspirational speaker. A new committee for the South Hams Food Crafts & Skills area has been formed, which has allowed Carolyn Taylor and Joan Booth to stand down after long service.

We were surprised to learn from our speaker, Christine Durrant, on the subject of 'Today's Clutter', that there is a professional body - the Association of Professional De-Clutterers & Organisers - who can be called upon to help if too many possessions overwhelm us. She emphasised the bliss of a clutter-free home which is said to empower people to make life changes, improve one's living space and thereby help to improve mental well-being. Hoarding, it is reckoned, is a 'shell' against the world and can lead to isolation. Reasons are legion including "I paid good money for it" or "It is still in perfect condition" or "It might be worth something one day" or "It has always been in the family". Something which should always be borne in mind, however, is that most young people today don't want one's old furniture!

MAY

The skilled art of Chinese brush painting was demonstrated by Lisa Class at the May meeting to an appreciative audience. This art is believed to have started around 4000 BC and by 206BC - 220AD (Han dynasty) paper was introduced. The basic equipment is relatively simple, just water, inks and either horse-hair or doe-hair brushes and special paper. She first demonstrated how to use the inks, then introduced watercolour, finally showing us how to mount the work. Traditionally, there are four plants used as subjects in this art - the wild orchid, bamboo, plum blossom, and chrysanthemum. She encouraged members to give it a try, and though it looked easy when demonstrated by Lisa, they found it a lot harder than they'd imagined. Lisa has just been appointed by the National Decorative & Fine Arts Society to be one of their official lecturers in the art.

This meeting also encompassed the annual meeting, when a new committee was elected. After four years at the helm, Lisa White is standing down as President, and she was warmly thanked on behalf of the members for all the work she had put into the office. The new committee are Margaret Catlin, Judith Le Grice, Vivienne Day, Karen Livett, Diane Martin, Jo Odams, Carolyn Taylor, Jan Trender, Lisa White and Barbara Williams. From these, Judith Le Grice agreed to serve as President.

Reports were given by the Treasurer, then the Secretary, and finally Lisa gave her President's address which she used to thank all her committee and other members who had worked so hard to keep our WI ticking over healthily.

The lunch outing to Avon Mill was enjoyable and another is planned for the Winking Prawn at Salcombe later this month. Wendy Neukirchen and Pam Knight had been on a short course to Denman concerned with the colleges and museums of Oxford.

A successful group meeting was held at South Milton, and a trip made to Plymouth for a fascinating guided tour of Plymouth Synagogue.

Members were asked to make a note that our June meeting will be held in the Church Meeting Room as the Parish Hall is being used for General Election voting on 8 June.

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All Saints

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LAY READER: Peter Gornall

The plans I have for you

All sorts of tasters and titbits of the party manifestos are leaking out of the political headquarters as I write this. The pundits have plans, the policy gurus have visions, promises abound and pledges are emerging, except for that one of £350 million a week extra for the NHS which is conveniently forgotten. However scrupulous the budgeting for the various promises may appear, their affordability is actually unknown so long as the cost of Brexit remains a mystery. Party policy wants you to think Utopia is round the corner: actually is there even a smidgeon of certainty regarding our future in these islands?

We can add the bewilderment in North America; instability in the Korean peninsula, in Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan; the refugee crises and the boat tragedies; famine in East Africa. It adds up to a torrent of ill news abroad and grave uncertainties at home. Do we then have any solid ground to rely on, any tangibles (or intangibles) to give us the strength, hope and courage to walk on fearlessly?

You Liverpool fans can teach us a lot - the famous song "You'll never walk alone" gives the clue. Jeremiah, that prophet much misrepresented as a bit of a misery, has this insight: "Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek with all your heart I will let you find me….and I will restore your fortunes…."

That companionship on a hard journey, that unseen tender guiding, comes from a resource without limit, and at a cost which has already been paid in full. At the first Pentecost the power revealed at the first Easter was made available without bounds. The faithful of the early Church couldn't see any better than we can around or through the many knotty problems of social and political life. But they prayed, searched, found and finally knew the One who was rooting for them. The kind of life they lived then, and that we can live now, is tougher than all the chaos, and puts the least able, the most down-trodden at the top of the list of priorities. You can examine for reliability the party promises being made for this election: the one made through Jeremiah will cap all of them.

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All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016
Everyone is welcome at all services,
which are at Thurlestone, unless indicated otherwise

Church Services

Sundays

Every Sunday	**8.00am** Holy Communion (said) (Alternates BCP & CW)	
June 4th, 18th, July 2nd, 16th	**11.10am** Parish Eucharist (CW)	*(Fairtrade Stall 1st Sunday)*
June 11th, July 30th	**11.10am** Morning Worship	
June 11th, July 9th	**6.00pm** Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh	
June 25th, July 23rd	**11.10am** Matins (BCP)	
	6.00pm Prayer and Praise	
July 9th	**11.00am** Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Churchstow	

Weekdays

Thursday June 8th, July 6th	**10.00am** Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham	
Every Wednesday	**10.00am** Holy Communion (BCP) (said)	
Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fridays	**8.30am** Morning Prayer (said)	(8.15am Mondays)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

christian aid week

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's House-to-House collection for Christian Aid. We are extremely grateful.

As yet the total collected in the Parish is not known but it will be advertised on the Church Lych Gate Noticeboard in due course.

Everyone is welcome at Coffee-Time for Coffee/Tea & Biscuits

Wednesdays 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon
in the **Church Meeting Room**
Donations in aid of Monthly Charity

Grand Summer Draw Tickets £1 each

Draw to take place at the Church Fête on Saturday July 22nd at 3.45 p.m.
Tickets available from **Peter Hirst** (560544),
Thurlestone Shop, Hotel and **Church Meeting Room**
Star Prize: Two nights for two: **Thurlestone** or **Mullion Cove Hotel**
Other Prizes: Round of Golf for 4: **Thurlestone Golf Club**
Dinner for 2 at **Village Inn** ~ 3 course Sunday Lunch for 2 at **Cottage Hotel**
3 Course Sunday Lunch for 4 at **Salcombe Harbour Hotel** ~ Afternoon Tea for 4 at **South Sands Hotel**
Ticket for 4: **Pennywell Farm** ~ Ticket for 2: **Woodlands Leisure Park**
Presentation Pack of **Salcombe Brewery** Beers ~ **Herring Shoes** Shoe cleaning Valet Box
Vouchers: **Oyster Shack** (£50); **Morrison's** (£20); **Aune Valley Butcher/Farm Shop** (£20)
Food Hamper: **Tesco** ~ Cream Tea for 2: **Avon Mill Garden Centre**
Bouquet of flowers from **Studio of Flowers** ~ 2 Swarovski Cut Glass Swans (from Tsai Gardener)

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Prebendary Peter Stephens, 1933-2017

Peter was born in Plymouth in 1933, and most of his time at school was spent during the war years which posed limited educational options. For that reason he embarked on a technical education and after a four-year electrical engineering apprenticeship he became an electrical engineering draughtsman with the Admiralty in Devonport.

He (and Joyce) went to Sunday school at St Michael's, Devonport, and after confirmation became adult members of the congregation. Peter was a Server and Sunday School teacher and he and Joyce joined the church youth club and, after a while, started 'courting'. Peter increasingly began to feel a call to the ministry and this crystallised for both of them, as the result of a 'Parish Mission', before their wedding and they decided that this was to be the way forward some time in the future.

They were married in October 1955 and a few months later Peter came home one day and announced to Joyce that he had told the Vicar that he wished to put himself forward for ordination. But there were some obstacles - (a) he had chosen a technical education rather than a classical one, so did not have a School Certificate, (b) he had TB when he was 17 and was still not in tip-top condition health-wise and (c) worst of all he was married! However his technical qualifications were accepted with the proviso that he took an 'O' level in Religious Studies, which he passed.

Although his application was supported by the then Bishop of Plymouth, it was pointed out that it was very unusual for a married man to be accepted for ordination. There were no grants for ordinands in those days, let alone for the upkeep of wives and families. Peter passed his selection board and obtained a grant from the Diocese of Exeter for his tuition fees, and went off to the London College of Divinity on their first wedding anniversary. As wives were not allowed to live within a hundred miles of the College - almost literally - Joyce stayed behind in Plymouth.

As it turned out obstacle (c) provided a solution to 'upkeep'. It was not unheard of, but by no means common, for married women to go out to work, and Joyce returned to her previous job in the Civil Service, although at a lower grade (earning just over half of what Peter's salary had been) and managed - admittedly with difficulty - to keep herself and their flat going during term-time. Peter returned to work for the Admiralty during the summer vacations to augment their income, and thus they survived! After three seemingly endless years Peter took his finals and gained a First Class in Theology.

He was ordained in Exeter Cathedral in September 1959 and the couple moved to Torbay where Peter started his ministry as a Curate at St Paul's Church, Preston. Thus began four and a half very happy years during which time their first son, Michael, was born. In 1964 he became Vicar of Buckland Monachorum with Milton Combe, near Yelverton. It was here that he developed his love of rural life and here that their second son, Timothy, was born. He was made Rural Dean of Tavistock in 1970, and after ten happy years in the parish he moved back to Plymouth to become Vicar of Emmanuel Church with St Paul's, Efford.

This was a complete contrast. It was a very large parish of around 20,000 people

in which there were 20 nursing home, 5 schools, in all of which he took regular services, and around 80 weddings, 180 funerals and countless baptisms each year. He had two Curates to help him for the first six months, then one, and not long after that he was left to run things on his own. In addition, he was Chaplain to the Lord Mayor from 1981-1982 and appointed Rural Dean of Plymouth Sutton Deanery in 1983, a post he held for three years. For many years previously he had also served on a large variety of Diocesan Boards and Committees, and this service was recognised by the then Bishop of Exeter who made him a Prebendary in 1984. One of these bodies was the Board of Finance on which he served for some fifteen years, and it was at this time he instigated an overhaul of the archaic clergy pay structure - the first attempt at a rational system of remuneration. Because of this he became known as the 'Shop Steward of the Clergy'!

Finally, in 1986, he was appointed Rector of Thurlestone with South Milton, and he and Joyce were in their element to be part of a rural community again. Then followed twelve more happy years before 'retirement' in 1998 to live "up the road" in Court Park. He remained very active in taking services throughout the South Hams during vacancies and covering for clergy holidays and sickness. He also continued to serve for a few years on numerous Diocesan Committees, two of which took him all over Devon to many places he had hardly heard of, let alone visited, despite being a Devonian. He really enjoyed that.

He took his final service at Dodbrooke Church just four weeks before he collapsed in July 2016 and taken to Derriford Hospital. He was diagnosed with lymphoma which destroyed his peripheral nervous system and the last eight months of his life were spent in a care home where he received the 24-hour help he needed. He died on 19 March 2017, and after a funeral service at Thurlestone Church on 1 April, was buried in the churchyard alongside many generations of previous Thurlestonians. What could be more suitable?

Michael Stephens

National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for June and July 2017

Saturday 7 June	Coach Trip to the Axe Vale Festival, one of the best garden and flower shows in the West Country. Craft, food stalls and displays. Plenty of seating, especially around the events arena.
Tuesday 20 June	Grand Summer Fair, Market Hall, Kingsbridge, 10.00 am-2.00 pm. Our main fund-raising event of the year. Lots of stalls including cakes, books, plants and gifts. Full details in May Newsletter.
Monday 10 July	Coach Trip to Pencarrow, Cornwall, a much-loved privately owned family home. This elegant Georgian house near Bodmin also has extensive formal and woodland gardens and a good café.
Thursday 27 July	Coach Trip to Honiton and South Wood Farm Gardens. Late morning and lunch in Honiton, then on to a lovely garden designed by a Chelsea gold medal winner. The garden surrounds a 17th century farmhouse at Cotleigh in the nearby Blackdown Hills.

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

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Cream Teas ~ Bottle Stall

2018 Local Calendar

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Collection can be arranged by **Graham Worrall** (562016) or **Peter Hirst** (560544) or items can be **left in Church Meeting Room** (Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m)

Diamond Wedding Celebrations

In mid-April a delicious tea party at the Thurlestone Hotel was held to celebrate Keith & Tricia MIllman's 60th wedding anniversary. The couple met in London at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster where they went to church. At the time, Keith was studying dentistry at Guy's Hospital and Tricia was a dispensing assistant at the Middlesex Hospital. They were married on April 22, 1957, at Hinde Street Church off Oxford Street in London. Following a period in Wales, they moved to Kingsbridge where Keith set up his dental practice. Later the couple made their home in Thurlestone.

Family members, many friends and former patients gathered to help the couple celebrate the occasion, which was crowned with a special birthday card from HM the Queen. But this is not the only thing which came from Her Majesty, as in 1988 Keith received an MBE for services to dentistry. He was made a Fellow of the British Dental Association in 1996. All three of their children are in medical professions - Andrew is a hospital consultant at York, Valerie is a senior nurse in Kent, and Adrian is a GP in Southampton - all having also studied at Guy's. During his retirement Keith was made an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society, and *Village Voice* is indebted to him for his beautiful photographs which we have been able to use over the years. Village Voice sends to the couple special congratulations and good wishes to add to the many others they have received.

garden time

By Greenfly

Think about what you can put into the Horticultural Show this year. It is on Saturday 5 August at South Milton, and your entries would be much appreciated to keep our Show on the road, particularly the children's sections and flower arrangements. Without your participation there would not be a show. **There is a new class this year - "The most perfect bloom in my garden" which gives us all enormous scope.**

A few gardening reminders for June.....

* take cuttings of perennial wallflowers such as Bowles Mauve
* cut back hardy geraniums and keep dead-heading zonal pelargoniums
* check your cabbages for eggs/caterpillars and crush (be organic) before the damage is done, looking on BOTH sides of the leaves
* plant leeks outside.

In July, hemerocallus (day lilies) can be trimmed down to tidy them up after blooming.

It is said that spending 20 minutes daily in your garden, being with and tending plants, is a health benefit. I am also told (though unsurprisingly I have not tried it) that if you sit quietly in your garden at around 4am on a mid-summer morning you may be surprised at what you see and hear! Ummm....don't know if that's such a good idea.

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Thurlestone Golf Club

CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The season is now in full swing at the golf club. Good weather during Easter saw the course and courts being fully used, and the Masters tournament from Augusta, Georgia persuaded us all to get out and play. What a final day at Augusta! Two Europeans competing against each other for the honour of winning the green jacket, a match played in exemplary spirit, and such a worthy and popular winner.

Club matches are now coming quick and fast, the Ladies' section starting the season well without loss. The Seniors' section winning all their friendly matches so far, and only losing the first round of the Emerton Court competition by the smallest of margins at Teign Valley. Good luck in the return match at Thurlestone.

The Men's teams have had less success, so far. The Dartmoor League team, captained this year by Tony Adams, lost their first match at home 2-3. The annual 'grudge' match against our nearest rivals Bigbury GC saw team Captain Stewart Barnes hand over the Avon Lantern to his opposite number for safe keeping, until the return match in July.

The Men's first team are preparing for their first match with new team Captain Harry Cattell organising warm-up matches against local opposition, so that the team can hit the ground running. Best of luck to them this year, following their marvellous achievement in winning the county trophy two years ago.

The staff have been working hard during the off season to improve the bunkers, and have rolled the tennis courts to prepare for wannabe Sir Andy Murrays, now that he is world number one. We await developments in the planning application from Mr Johnson to see if the club can extend the course inland, to counter the effects of coastal erosion, and a team are working on plans for refurbishing the bar and dining room later this year, to provide an enhanced experience for our members and visitors.

With the thrift in full bloom along the cliffs, skylarks twittering overhead in seemingly greater numbers, what a glorious place to be. Let us all get out and appreciate how lucky we are to be in Thurlestone, now that summer is on its way.

Stewart Barnes

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The Devon team matches are now underway and the Ladies Sheelah Creasy team played their first match of the season against Honiton and secured a 4 matches to 3 victory. Diane Baker did a good job as match captain. There were victories for Di Baker, Sue Curry, Liz Savery and Judith Lungmuss Well done to all the team.

The ladies Presidents team played at home against Royal North Devon ladies and won four and a half matches to two and a half. Winning ladies were Heather Spencer 1up, Gill Hicks 1up, Liz Hay 3/2, Shona Wilson 4/3, and Jane Mason halved. Thanks to Wendy Stewart and Victoria Gibbens for taking on the job of match captains.

In the friendly Greensomes match against Staddon Heights at home we won by 4-3 matches. We also had a friendly match against Exeter which we won three and a half to two and a half. Yvonne Pike is doing a great job as match captain.

For the first year we have entered the Annodata UK Golf Club Classic, which has a team of five ladies of handicap maximum 24 which play against other Devon clubs in round one. Thurlestone played Borringdon golf club and won 5-0 matches, well done to the team and team captain Heather Spencer,

Sally Huntley, Barbara Smith, Liz Sharman, and Jo Crispin.

The ladies played against the Juniors in April and lost by 3-2 matches. It was raining but in true Thurlestone fashion we all carried on but reduced it to nine holes. There were five matches in four ball better ball format and the winning ladies were Gill Hicks and Liz Hay who won 1up, and Liz Line and Diane Baker who won 2up. We were all glad to get into the clubhouse for tea and cake.

The final of the Murray Smith Cup was played between Wendy Laud and Jo Crispin. Jo reckoned it was a four club wind and Wendy used a driver to reach the 13th green. As Lady captain I was referee and my primary role, was to keep the trolley's upright after Jo's fell over for the fourth time! However, well done to both of them for playing in such testing conditions and congratulations to Wendy who won 5/4.

We have had good weather for most of March and hardly any rain in April so most of our competitions have been played. Jennifer Roberts has had a good run of form and has been the overall winner in the March medal, and division one winner in the March and April Stablefords and the April medal. She now leads the Order of Merit with 44 points. All competitions and order of merit results can be found on the golf club website in the members section under competitions.

We had a great coffee morning and golf for members and visitors in April where we raised £700 for the travel expenses of the ladies teams. We also had a raffle for my charity the NSPCC where we raised £211. There were many stalls to choose from such as cakes, plants, golf clothes, books, vegetables and Bric a Brac. About 40 ladies went out to enjoy a round of golf. My thanks to everyone who manned the stalls, organised the golf and came to support the morning.

The Past members Memorial Day in May also had a raffle for the NSPCC charity. The prizes were lovely plants and the team of Sally Huntley, Paula Orr and Tsai Gardener won the day.

Sheila George

JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

The juniors played the ladies on Saturday 1st April in what is hoped to become an annual event. Although the weather was really nasty, with high winds and heavy rain, everyone carried on in true Thurlestone fashion and ensured that all matches were completed and cake and speeches were enjoyed thereafter. The juniors won by 3-2 matches. The juniors competition on Saturday 8th April had a glorious sunny day and the winner was Finn Whelan (10) with 38 points from Lucas Bellamy (17) with 31. In the non Congu group the winner was Louis Tollins from Dom Holt-Wilson. This competition was run by Lee Bellamy.

The next competition on 29th April was run by another parent; Griff and sponsored by the Old Post Office B & B at South Milton. It was won again by Finn Whelan with 35 points on count back, from runner up Charlie Evans also on 35. In the non-Congu group, six year old Aiden Mulligan won, and proved he is following his big brother Noah.

The juniors have entered the Tamar cup again this year, where Devon clubs play against Cornwall clubs at a neutral course. In round one we had a walk over against Carlyon Bay club so we are waiting to see who we play in round two. In the Devon County knockout competition called the Basil Steer cup we play Torquay at Wrangaton in the first round in May.

The West Devon League matches are underway but unfortunately we lost our first match against Tavistock away 3/2 matches. We have to play home and away against Borringdon and Staddon as well. In April a number of Thurlestone juniors went to play in the Devon juniors Spring medal at Churston golf club. In the Under 14 group, Lucas Bellamy (18) had a net 65 and came third. Eight year old Noah Mulligan (19) was fifth with a net 67, both earned a one shot handicap reduction, while Alfie Messias(19) was 7th with net 70. In the Under 16 group George Messias (9) was seventh with net 71. Well done to all of them.

The biggest win by a junior, came when Toby White, son of our professional Steve, played in a men's competition where he won the Links Hotel Challenge bowl. This is a 36 hole competition and Toby scored net 137 and reduced his handicap by 2 to 18, a great achievement.

As part of our drive to introduce new golfers and tennis players to Thurlestone we have subscribed to the National Campaign of National Golf Month and the LTA's Great British Tennis Weekend to increase golf and Tennis participation during May. We have many different initiatives running, most notably is the Clubs Tennis and Golf Open Day on Saturday 13th May, when we will have many different activities on. As our Thurlestone Junior Academy is currently thriving with young and talented juniors, we will be asking our Academy members to 'Bring a buddy along ' for the day and we have lots of fun games and activities planned for them.

Liz Line

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sudoku

5			4		1			
	8		2	6				
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Tough No. 131

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Tough No. 132

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Tougher No. 131

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Tougher No. 132

Who will be elected this time?

Another good response to the challenge, with all-correct solutions received from Messrs Delafield & Irwin, Mesdames Grant, Hailey, Killingsworth, Leare, Lonsdale, Pailthorpe, & Pollard, along with two "spoiled papers" which careful checking should have spotted. So congratulations to all those named, and particularly to the fortunate ballottee on this occasion, **Pauline Lonsdale**, who can expect to receive a splendid example of our vintner's art "directly" from the chatelaine. Our "election challenge" again contains two more difficult puzzles, so both patience and careful checking may be required. Entries to 25 Mead Lane as usual by 5th July 2017, please - and no spoiled papers!

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Thurlestone Phonebox……. Ring Ring

Easter came and went with Easter Eggs and Bunnies adorning your Phone Box. How cute and adorable were the bunnies with their lovely pom-pom tails thanks to Joannie's expertise. Certainly a lot cuter than the ones that adorn my garden which even had a go at the mint and parsley this year. The garden looks like Fort Knox with wire netting but even so a bunny got into our asparagus bed tunnelling through at least 15 yards from a neighbour's garden.

We recently had a little cruise around Caribbean Islands. As most islands had historical connections with GB we found a number of original Phone Boxes. Montserrat, devastated by a volcano eruption in 1997, had a very sad one full of rubbish and no phone, whereas Antigua's was pristine and even took cards instead of cash. Of course the highlight was the Phone Box in St Kitts, the island named after me (4C ago!). Some of our regular users may have noticed the photos in the Phone box but one wonders where the most far out Phone Box would be. Please let us know if you have spotted any way out in the big wide world.

Every island we went to seemed to have a fort (to keep away the British, French or Spanish according to who had last won the island) a botanical garden and of course very generous rum tasting. At my island, we came back to our 80 passenger ship to find moored the other side of the pier a 4000 passenger ship. We all fell about laughing as ours looked like a dinky toy in comparison.

So back for summer, hosepipe bans? but would love to get shot (literally) of our bunnies and the east wind. Get those swim suits at the ready and don't forget to put our big Twinnathon with Marden Phone Box on Saturday 30th September in your diaries….that will be fun.

Kit Marshall

Buckland Box

The weather was kind to the Buckland Box on Easter Saturday, when we had our Easter event. The Box was decorated with lots of Easter bunnies, the tables had plates of cakes on them and tea, coffee and soft drinks were plentiful, and Carey was ready with a trail for children through Richard and Sarah's woods. Twenty children searched for the clues and then stuck down and coloured the pieces of paper rabbit that they had found. Rory, William and Eliza were the winners and all the children enjoyed Easter eggs of various sizes.

About 40 adults from all 3 villages attended, and we were delighted to meet 2 new families who have bought holiday houses in Buckland. The average age of home owners' families in Buckland continues to decrease, which is good news for our community.

Special thanks to Nitca for her cakes, Gillie for her tea and coffee making skills, Carey for her trail and passing motorists for being tolerant of our gathering outside the Box.

Anna Martin

Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1st July 2017. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB
or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

A FOOTBALLING JOURNEY

Choose a football team from the list provided to fill in each gap in the story so that it makes sense (more or less!) when reading it

The sun shone ……. the day we set sail for the ……. in a ship with a ……. riddled with holes. We sailed down the river which ……. to the sea. We waved to the fair maiden leaning against the ……. The ……. was made up of Scots, Irish and others of the ……. race. The exception was the cabin boy named ……. whose job was to ……. the boilers. He was illiterate but won our ……. with his ……. efforts to improve his ……. He was sent to ……. by those villains on board who brought their ……. of weapons. They were a rowdy lot and, when drunk, did in fact ……. furniture. The voyage made my ……. She had not had a holiday ……. too long. We landed ……. in the day on the ……. of the island, below where the locals ……. their dead. We crossed a stream and entered a dense forest where the ……. roamed freely. We ……. regardless and eventually met a group of ……. dressed in ……. green. After a day's journey we caught some black fish in a ……. and tried to get milk from a herd of cows but they objected to having their …….! At last, we came to our destination, the home of the Hawaiian monarch, the ……. She greeted us with a friendly ……. but was obviously upset as her ……. had been destroyed when the ……. fell down. While her ……. was being built she had to live in a sumptuous ……. When we found the treasure we put the ……. the ship, determined to put it straight in the ……. when we got home. That night we ate some ……. cake and ……. buns for tea as well as some ……. which made us feel rather ill.

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Cryptic: 1.Crystal Maze, 2. It's a Knockout, 3. Take Your Pick, 4. Double Your Money, 5. Mock the Week, 6. Shooting Stars, 7. Twenty Questions, 8. Countdown, 9. Eggheads, 10. Pointless
Anagram:1. Treasure Hunt, 2. Catchphrase, 3. Concentration, 4. Bullseye, 5. Mastermind, 6. Take it or Leave it, 7. Ask the Family, 8. Wheel of Fortune, 9. Spot the Tune, 10. The Price is Right
Straight: 1. Blankety Blank, 2. University Challenge, 3. What's My Line?, 4. Top of the Form, 5. Who Wants to be a Millionaire?, 6. Criss Cross Quiz, 7. The Generation Game, 8.Call My Bluff, 9..A Question of Sport, 10. Family Fortunes

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The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, formed in 1988, is a public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments of the world. Rotary's focus is advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and awareness building.

The amount of polio-endemic countries has dropped from 125 to just 3, with over 2.5 billion children receiving vaccinations and immunization continues in over 60 countries. However, in 2017 to date, globally, 5 new polio cases have been reported - 3 in Afghanistan and 2 in Pakistan - and we need 3 years with no new cases reported to declare the world free of this devastating disease.

So we are continuing our fundraising effort with the Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club Cream Tea Event on Sunday afternoon, the 18th of June, at the Thurlestone Parish Hall from 2.00 - 5.00pm. It will include an exciting Raffle with lots of splendid prizes donated by local businesses. And for every pound donated, the Gates Foundation has generously agreed to add a further two pounds, which makes money raised from our event go even further.

Tickets at a cost of £5 each will be on sale in advance from the Kingsbridge Information Centre on the Quay (tel. 01548 853 195) or from John and Priscille Braithwaite at 560951.

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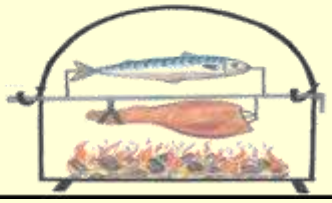

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A KGB AGENT?

By Ken Hammonds

Readers will recall that in the December/January issue Ken wrote about the Referendum when Singapore became part of Malaysia. Here is another interesting article from his days in the Singapore Straits Times newsroom.

I was looking though the video recorder recently to see if there was anything I could delete when I came across the reports on the efforts to find the killers of Russian dissident Alexander Litvinenko in London in 2006. The chief suspects were agents of KGB (the Russian secret service now called FSB).

It reminded me of Igor Guriev - those who knew him were sure he was a KGB member - back in Singapore in the sixties and seventies. In those days I used to visit the Cairnhill Steakhouse, at the junction of Cairnhill and Orchard roads, after work. There was a good restaurant on the first floor and a cosy bar on the ground floor. It was owned by Jeff Stone, an American ex-actor. Anyone who saw the original tv version of *The Three Musketeers* way back in the days before colour television may remember Jeff, who played d'Artagnan. I met Jeff when the fight director (I only remember his first name, Enzio) for the series visited Singapore and I was sent to interview them for the newspaper. Jeff and I got on, and it was a comfortable break on the way home at night.

Orchard-Cairnhill Rd junction, Singapore

Jeff and I were chatting across the bar one night when a short, cheery character walked in. He introduced himself as Igor, the Deputy Director of the Soviet Trade Commission. I found out that the Commission staff were housed in a block of flats across the road from where I was renting a room, which made it a handy stop on the way home for him too. There was soon a bottle of chilled vodka kept in the fridge and the regulars learnt how to order a beer in Russian.

The thing was that only two Russians roamed free around the island, Igor and the Tass news agency correspondent, Vladimir Volkov. There were two Russian news agencies, Tass and Novosti. It became an axiom that if you wanted to meet a Russian journalist you phoned Novosti, but if you wanted the KGB you called Tass. All other Soviets were confined in a sort of mini-Kremlin and only went about in groups - including Novosti.

But there was one hilarious incident in which the Soviets were involved and the star player was the East German press agency correspondent, Heini Klinger. When he first arrived in Singapore, Heini was a true son of The Party. When asked one December if he was putting up a Christmas tree, he said that of course he was. It was pointed out that he was a total atheist and he replied that decorating trees

at Yule was an old German custom. We did not mention that it was an old German pagan religious custom. Then Heini finished his stint in Singapore and took the flight back to East Berlin. The plane landed in Munich to re-fuel - and Heini promptly defected. It happened too late for the morning *Straits Times*, but was splashed on the front page of the afternoon paper, *The New Nation*.

At that time the Singapore Press Club held a lunch at a different Chinese restaurant every Tuesday. At the then equivalent of £2 for an eight-course meal, it made a good brunch for a night-shift worker. The Russians always arrived and left *en masse* and occupied an entire table of ten. If anything politically embarrassing had happened, they stayed away and sent one of their minority races to represent the Soviet Union. This was usually a smiling, curly-haired, Armenian who was well liked and was never given a hard time.

When I arrived for lunch, the place was buzzing and everyone was agog to see if *The New Nation* had reached the Soviet Embassy in time to stop their departure. The US and West German press attaches were delighted to find that it had not, and the Russians endured a miserable lunch as the other western news agency correspondents joined in the general banter about the lures of the good life in the capitalist countries. The locals sat back and enjoyed it all.

But it took a *New Nation* part-time reporter, Arthur Richards, to bring about a brief truce between the US and Soviet naval attaches. Arthur was one of a group that was given a desk, phone and typewriter and paid line-age for the stories they brought in. Arthur's agile mind created stories that ranged from bizarre men's fashions in remote parts of the island to haunted public lavatories. His masterpiece was a story saying that Soviet and US naval attaches had both denied any knowledge of a Russian fleet in the Malacca Straits, between the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Naturally it made Page One.

The next day two stern-looking men - the aforementioned attaches - strode through the newsroom to the office of Managing Editor Wee Kim Wee (who I wrote about in my last article). Arthur was called in and asked where he got the information about the "ghost" fleet. He said he had been having dinner at a hawker stall on Collier Quay when he overheard two Malay fishermen talking about it. He had questioned them, and had phoned the relevant embassies from the office the next morning. And no, he had never seen the men before. It was clearly impossible to trace the two men and the naval types left. To say there were mollified would be an exaggeration. Arthur always stuck to his story. He was later taken on the staff and became chairman of the Singapore journalists' union. I have always tried not to read anything into that.

But the one that really surprised the newsroom was Lim Beng Tee who joined the paper in the early sixties. Chubby, and with a perpetual smile, it was not long before Chandran dubbed him the Happy Buddha. He was with us for about three years before he left to go into shipping. Then, about five years later, Chief Reporter Bill Campbell was going through the court reporters' stories when he called out "Hey, everybody, Beng Tee just got five years". After a moment's silence the shipping connection clicked. "Not been smuggling has he?" asked Mushahid Ali. "Nothing that mundane" replied Bill. "He's been spying for the Russians."

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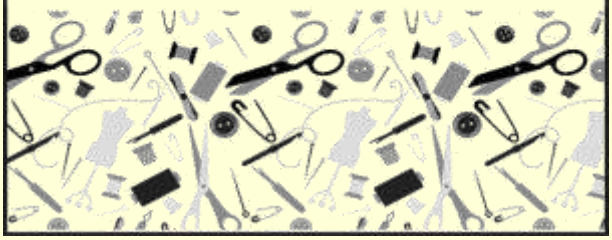

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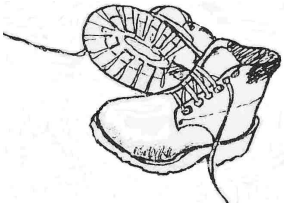

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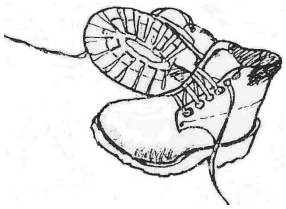

1 On Thursday 23 March fifteen walkers met at the National Trust car park at Shaugh Bridge on the River Plym for this lovely shortish circular walk, following the river upstream to Cadover Bridge and back across open moor to Dewerstone Hill, descending past granite quarries back to Shaugh Bridge. The weather was mostly kind; the forecast certainly didn't put people off, although we did have a bit of light rain on our backs at one point.

The walk started with a steepish climb, but we were soon rewarded with splendid views across the valley to the three great buttresses of the Dewerstone, which stand sheer above the river well over 100 feet high, and are popular with rock-climbers. Then we went through a wooded area, the path descending gradually to the river.

All the time we were following an old clay pipeline constructed to bring china clay mixed with water from the clay pits near Cadover Bridge to some processing works at Shaugh Bridge, the ruins of which are still there. This went on from 1880 until around 1960. Now the pipeline is disused – indeed broken in many places – but still lies beneath the path to be caught sight of every now and then. We came to a flat grassy area close to Cadover Bridge which is a favourite picnic spot in the summer, but today curiously deserted. Having crossed the river via Cadover Bridge, we made our way across Wigford Down – the high ground here affording marvellous views over to the west of Dartmoor and ahead of us to Plymouth Sound. We reached Dewerstone Hill which is a fairly insignificant outcrop of rock (!), whence we descended to the river.

Our descent took us past granite quarries to the ruins of a winding house which housed machinery operating trucks carrying granite down the slope on a pulley system. The inclined plane carried two parallel lines of rails, on which the trucks loaded with dressed granite would be attached to a cable which was wound round one of the two drums of the winding gear. The other drum also had a cable which was extended down the inclined plane and attached to the empty trucks waiting below. At a given signal the loaded trucks would be started off down the incline, the drum turning as the cable paid out. As this happened, the other cable wound on to its drum and the empty trucks were drawn up by the weight of the laden ones going down.

The laden trucks eventually found their way along a system of tracks which connected with the South Devon Railway near Goodameavy, about half a mile away. The Dewerstone quarries went out of business over 100 years ago, but it was interesting to be reminded of the industrial nature of the area, and to imagine all the activity there in former times.

Our 5½ mile excursion ended after we had crossed the river once again back to the car park. For lunch, we were too late for food at the Cornwood Inn, so several of us popped into Tesco at Lee Mill for a snack.

Alastair and Gill Durden

2 Nine walkers met up on the misty morning of Wednesday 29 March. Approaching East Prawle, the weather was not good – drizzly and misty; we had looked forward to seeing some spectacular views from the coast path but maybe these would be denied to us today. We left the village green and headed west towards the Pigs Nose , a rocky outcrop between Gammon Head and Gara Rock. As we approached the cliffs, the mist cleared and we could see across to Bolt Tail and Salcombe. We turned towards Prawle Point and climbed up to Gammon Head, pausing to look at the Rose family plaque. Whilst we had a breather here, we learned all about the shipwreck of the Lalla Rookh, and the novel use of breeches buoy to save the lives of those on board.

We got down to beautiful Elender cove – and admired the pristine beach being uncovered by the receding tide. The sea was turbulent, the southwest wind whipping up the surf. We then scrambled around the rocks and climbed up the footpath to the Coastwatch then down towards Langerstone Point, past the Coastguard Cottages built for staff at the

Trinity House station in 1900, now privately owned. We then had a relatively flat section of the coast path before the long climb up to the village and the welcoming sight of the Piglet Café/Pigs Nose Inn. A good walk in exhilarating conditions with some marvellous coast path views!

June and John Richardson

3 On Monday 3 April nine of us met at Stoke Fleming near the Green Dragon pub for a 4¾ mile circular walk to Strete and back along the coastal path. Before we set off, however, we were joined by a tenth walker who just happened to be in village hoping for a walk! We later heard from this lady, who thanked us for including her and said how friendly a bunch we were! Anyway, the walk took us along a green lane to Blackpool Farm, where we turned left to reach the main road by a row of cottages which have recently been very attractively refurbished. We joined the coast path for a short stretch where it runs parallel with the road and across a handsome stone bridge which was built when the new stretch of coast path between Strete and Stoke Fleming was opened in 2005.

From here we followed a lane past Southwood Farm on to Narns Cross, then turned left along a rather busy road (!) into Strete, where we picked up the new stretch of coast path. This is a lovely varied stretch and includes a steep descent into a valley, with an equally steep climb the other side up to the main road, which we then crossed and made our way through fields down to Blackpool Sands. There were originally seven stiles on this walk but they have all been replaced with kissing gates, which certainly makes things easier! Past Blackpool Sands, the path goes through a lovely area of pine trees, before following a quiet lane back to Stoke Fleming. Our walk concluded with a welcome lunch at the Green Dragon, where we were able to sit outside in the sunshine.

Alastair Durden

4 The dry weather is bringing the Tramps out again! Ten plus Ben set off at 9.30 am for Meavy Village on Tuesday 11 April for the start of our walk. We were joined by 2 more at Meavy and so 12 of us set out in glorious weather for our moorland journey at 10.30 am. We crossed the Meavy River over the ancient bridge as the river was far too high for use of the ford! At the stone cross we turned left and headed via lane, paths and fields in the direction of Sheepstor Village. The sun shone and the views were perfect across to Sheep Tor. We paused in the village to discuss the famous Brooke family who, whilst having their family home here on Dartmoor, were busy shaping the old world as the White Rajahs of Sarawak. The family graves are here in this churchyard and a plaque in the church explains the history.

We moved on along a country lane towards the foot of Sheep Tor where we joined the Public Right of Way path to contour around the foot of the Tor. Noises were made about ascending but no-one took up the challenge! We descended down to the road around Burrator Reservoir and went around the end of the reservoir to Norswothy Bridge. The sun continued to shine and made all the sights even more beautiful than usual.

Next we took a right turn up a tarmac lane to Devonport Leat – our next destination. The Leat was surprisingly full and burbled its way alongside our road passage. We left the lane and followed the Leat down through fields with amazing views over Burrator Reservoir and the moors beyond. We finally approached the dam wall along the road. The descent from here to the village of Meavy was down hill on a good path and through he most delightful woods but with no leaves yet; our views continued to amaze. At the village, many fresh eggs were bought along with homemade marmalade before a visit to the pub for a well deserved lunch. An easy and enjoyable 6.4 miles.

Mike Stickland

5 On Thursday 20 April, an overcast but clear morning, nine Trampers plus two dogs, Benji and Rosie, set off from East Allington, climbing out of the village past the primary school along a hedgerow-lined lane containing wildflowers including primroses and campion. Gaps gave us sneaky peeks across fields to the coast and settlements. We continued down the lane past Flear Farm holiday cottages and then along by the lovely clear stream to the bridge at Flear Mill before climbing up towards Buckland Tout Saints.

Once the gatehouse was reached we decided to deviate from the planned route past the hotel entrance and instead turn down the lane to the public footpath. This took us across paddocks to the perimeter of the grounds of Libertas where musical concerts are held. We were admiring the gardens when suddenly three Roe Deer darted through!

Carrying on to the 18th century St Peters Church for a short break, we found a beautiful display of spring flowers and palm leaves in the porch. Having crossed the road to the footpath that ran alongside crop fields, including bright yellow rapeseed, we were treated to far reaching views over the countryside to Salcombe and the spire at Malborough. Turning back towards East Allington we passed the gated entrance to the Fallapit Estate and a very pretty cottage with geese in the garden.

We then took the footpath back to the Fortescue Arms where a very reasonably priced lunch was had. As the two dogs in the group had gone home we were unable to find out their thoughts on the doggy beer available.

Alison and Alan Daily

6 Surprisingly only six Trampers and Ben the dog turned up for the Greenway walk on Tuesday 26 April. We parked by The Ham in Dittisham and walked down to the ferry. We call the ferryman by ringing a bell. He came promptly but then engaged in a long conversation with another ferryman! Eventually we crossed the Dart and then climbed the hill with Greenway to our right. We then went through a farm-yard and observed the chimney for a 19th century steam engine which powered the most up-to-date farm machinery of the time.

We then continued down to Galmpton Creek. The limestone on the far side of this creek was used as ballast in early ships sailing to Newfoundland, and the limestone has been found in early Newfoundland buildings. We proceeded along the foreshore passing Galmpton Mill, and made our way down to the boatyard. We then walked along the road, stopping as usual at the village shop to admire the wonderful display of fruit and veg and making purchases. From Galmpton we advanced across Warborough Common to the busy main road. The name Warborough comes from the Saxon words for "watch hill", and this open area is still a good vantage point to see over Torbay.

We stopped at Broadsands for our picnics, but the wind was so strong we had to shelter behind the beach huts. Luckily we were rewarded with the steam train crossing Brunel's viaduct. After lunch we proceeded along the coast path to Elberry Cove and then up through Marridge Wood and across Churston Golf Course. After walking along a stretch of road we returned to Galmpton and started the long haul uphill. Our reward was the magnificent views of The Dart, Torbay and Dartmoor. The downhill walk took us through the grounds of Greenway and then to the ferry after which we walked along the Dart foreshore and back to our cars.

Rachel Wayth

7 On Friday 28th April, a still and sunny morning, an eager group started off from Avon Mill, and some of us (with a fertile imagination) thought we could see crocodiles emerging from one of the ponds by the river. We certainly did see three yellow wagtails darting across the river, a skylark landing, and also a pair of buzzards involved in amorous pursuits.

We admired the wild flowers blanketing the banks; aconites, bluebells, wild garlic, primroses and wood anemones, plus others that we could not readily identify.

Crossing over the river enabled us to marvel at the architectural beauty of this Victorian engineering - a splendid double arched bridge. Once on the other side a bit of crawling saw us past a couple of trees that had recently fallen down, but we all managed very well. Then it was a question of plodding upwards past Reeds Farm where, having reached the top of the hill, partaking in a segment of mandarin felt like the best thing on earth!

Onwards around the edge of Loddiswell where at Lod's Well Priscille filled us in on some historical facts about the village. A lovely track through meadows and down a pretty pebbled footpath, shaded with overarching trees, took us down to Hatch Bridge, along a flooded road, and then back along the Avon to the Mill Café, where a healthy lunch in the sunshine was the perfect end to a very jovial and varied walk.

John & Priscille Braithwaite

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BOOKSHELF

Golden Hill
by Francis Spufford
(Faber & Faber £8.99 paperback)

New York 1746, and we are straight into the story with Mr Richard Smith, a young Englishman, stepping off the boat from England. He has an order in his pocket for £1000 he wishes to cash and he goes straight to the counting-house firm of Lovell & Co. on Golden Hill Street. Naturally Mr Lovell is suspicious of this stranger and demands to know more but Mr Smith will not divulge his reasons for needing the £1000, or for being in New York.

So begin the many adventures of Richard Smith who is charming, handsome, and very articulate. As we follow him through his ups and downs, we are not told until the very end of the book his reasons for being there. This is very cleverly-written and the descriptions of a very small New York in 1746, and all the different characters living there, are brilliant.

This is a very enjoyable read, although I did have to skim through some passages which seemed a bit over-long!

Carolyn Taylor

Plot 29: A Memoir
by Allan Jenkins
(Fourth Estate £14.99 hardback)

Allan Jenkins's north London allotment has become a place of solace for him. The allotments here have a long waiting list of would-be growers but the author was lucky as one of the allotment holders offered him the use of half her space, which was proving too much for her to keep.

As the editor of the *Observer Food Monthly* he needed a place to which to escape and be calm, but he didn't expect the plot to result in the production of his full-blown memoirs as well as abundant vegetables and flowers. He has also found it to be a great antidote to newspaper politics as once he walks through the allotment gates he finds his heart and breathing rates seem to slow down.

The particularly interesting part of his book is the fact that he and his older brother Christopher were fostered at the ages of five and six by an elderly Devon couple, Dudley and Lilian Drabble, who lived in Aveton Gifford (moving later to South Milton). The boys' early life had been harsh - rickets, tuberculosis, herpes, scabies all figured - and after "being in and out of feral children's homes, often cruelly treated" it was Dudley who gave Allan the packet of nasturtium seeds that set him off in what was to become a life-long passion - growing things. *[It was also Dudley whom some of you will remember as the Clerk to Thurlestone Parish Council and founder of 'Village Voice']*.

The popularity of the book has astounded the author. He had intended to write a garden journal with a few of his memories of childhood thrown in, partly in tribute to Dudley, and found himself looking for clues to his obscure earlier years which, when found, he followed up with passion. And so it turned into a memoir, often heart-breaking, which shows how a very damaged early start can sometimes be healed by gardening. I have to thank Graham Palmer who drew this excellent book to my attention.

Pat Macdonald

Love & Louis XIV - the Women in the Life of the Sun King
by Lady Antonia Fraser
(Phoenix £9.99 paperback)

The current tv series, *Versailles*, reminded me that I had a paperback about Louis XIV which I'd bought in 2007 but had never read. I dug it out and found its 398 pages are packed with well-researched and very interesting detail all about the brilliance and bling of this king and his ladies.

The subject of the work might make readers think it would be a bit on the dry side, but it is very readable, filled with humour and gossipy relish which brings to life the sheer variety of female personalities in his inner circle of mostly aristocratic women. It is also a psychological study of Louis and his vast sexual appetite, and what must have been the most dazzling royal court in the west.

The author is well-known for writing expertly on women in history, and this book lives up to her usual impeccable standards.

Pat Macdonald

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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

These last few days, well since Thursday 11th May pm when 9mm rain fell in about 30 minutes, our wish has been granted. It has rained. The gardens really did need it to say nothing of the plants therein, plus all the fields of spring corn, rapeseed, etc. It was a good job that there was plenty of sun and warmth during the daytime, the bees and other pollinators found it to their liking and hopefully they have done a good job with their fertilising efforts. Grass is perhaps the most important crop to many of our South Hams farmers. It has really only just begun to grow well, night-time temperatures have been too low for too long. Grass does not like low temperatures in the hours of darkness, below 6°C it will slow up and stop if the temperature remains around that figure for too many nights in a row. Still, all's well that ends well and we hope that the rain will know when to stop!

We all watch the weather forecasts on TV or listen to them on the radio - it is said that it is the shortest, most watched programme on television. In their book, published in 2008, Woodward and Penn state that 8 million tuned in nightly, even though, according to a 'recent' psychologist's study, 70% of viewers can't remember a thing that was said. How do you fare in this statistic?

On this day, 16th May, in 2005 our population was shocked as they watched this gem of a programme. It was not so much what the forecaster said, it was how it was illustrated on the map. Prior to this day, (as you will remember, and have seen numerous times in reflective mood; the little cloud and rain symbols fall off the map to the dismay of the forecaster) we had got used to the symbols that were stuck on to show the movement of fronts and where the rain might fall. But now we had a digital 'fly-by' computer graphic. This swooped around the 'brown coloured British Isles. This was in many people's eyes a travel-sickness event, and where was the green and pleasant land? To cap it all, Scotland was almost out of sight, appearing as a small country attached to the north of England. There were no isobars, indicators of air pressure, nor fronts to show where the active weather was and where it was moving! Doom and despondency descended, but the BBC insisted that we would soon get used to it.

There have been several changes since then, until today we have a pretty good series of maps which tell us most of what is going on, and the forecaster can indicate with his/her hands anything that they want to emphasise. Overall I think the Met Office does a pretty good job for us, and are always ready to admit it if things go wrong. By the way, the first live forecast was transmitted from Lime Grove Studios in 1954 (11th January). George Cowling, a Met Office forecaster, had an extravagant 5 minutes (an eternity on air) to draw his own chart on a map hanging on an easel, using wax crayons. His brief was to show 'how the weather expected tomorrow is conditioned by the weather experienced today', Every day, you see, isn't just a random one-off. Cowling tells his listeners that the wind will make it a good day for drying washing, earning himself a sound ticking-off from his employers and taking forecasting into a new popular era. A far cry from today with the photos from around the country illustrating the different weather conditions on that day, and the on-line forecasts for days, even weeks ahead, the latter not to be believed to the last letter. We all know that weather can play havoc with forecasts and almost always has the upper hand. How will the supercomputer work when the chips are down? Watch the comments about the Met Office in Exeter - there will be some I can guarantee!

I have mentioned before the fact that there are plenty of forecasters within the animal and insect world. I have a recently acquired book by Michael Bright, an executive producer with

the BBC's Natural History Unit in Bristol, first published in 2013. He has travelled the world collecting items of interest to impart to interested people. He has a more extensive selection on forecasters in the world of nature, some of which I have written about before. It is good to see them in print in this book - my old Dad was not so far out with his folklore after all! He writes about the following animals as having some sense of oncoming weather conditions and how they react to them - sharks, groundhogs, cats, birds, cows, crickets, biting flies, ants, kangaroo joeys (babies). Let's look at a selection of these creatures and see if we can associate with any of them!

Groundhog. "Punxsutawney Phil" is a ground hog from Pennsylvania and is world famous as a weather forecaster. It is said that if he emerges from his burrow at Gobbler's Knob on 2nd February, known as Groundhog Day, and can see his shadow, winter will last for six more weeks. To date, he has seen his shadow six years in succession. The tradition has its roots in a Christian Festival - Candlemas Day, which commemorates the day that Mary went to the temple after the birth of Jesus to be purified, as was the custom. Old European sayings have helped with this prediction. In Scotland the rhyme is, 'If Candlemas day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year', and in England it is 'If Candlemas be fair and bright, winter has another fight; if Candlemas brings cloud and rain, winter will not come again'.

Now to cats, cows and crickets.
Cats. We all know how often cats seem to clean themselves. It is said that this being so, the weather is likely to be fair. Michael says that there is a grain of truth in this fact. If relative humidity is low during good weather, especially in winter, static electricity can build up in a cat's fur as it pushes past objects in the home. When it licks itself, it moistens the fur so the charge cannot build. This gives rise to the expression 'If a cat washes her face o'er her ear, 'tis a sign weather will be fine and clear'.

Cows are also said to know their weather. In Europe, cattle seem to stand in good weather but lie down when bad weather is approaching. If half are standing and half are lying, then it is 'showery', or so, according to Michael, the farmers say! Cows also stand with their tail into the wind. In this way, they can see danger in front and smell when a predator is approaching from behind. This does seem to make sense.

Crickets. These could be described as Insect Thermometers. During the mating season, male crickets 'chirp' by rubbing their wings together, and when it is warm they increase the speed of this chirping. Conversely, if it is cold they slow down. There is a simple formula based on a cricket's chirps that will give an idea of the actual air temperature. Count the number of chirps for 15 seconds, add 40, and you have the approximate temperature in Fahrenheit. (Then translate into Celsius to be modern!)

I will conclude with a paragraph from Michael's book, which he uses to introduce the topic. 'Sharks have a sixth electrical sense and birds can detect the Earth's magnetic field, but generally animals have the same basic senses that we do. The difference is that they are able to recognise things to which we are 'blind'. Unlike humankind, protected from nature in our modern, centrally heated 'caves', animals must be in tune with their environment; their very survival depends on being aware of the weather, and possibly even being able to predict it, at least in the short term'.

Good weather forecast watching, tend your gardens with care, remember the soil is chock full of seeds waiting to grow (weeds we call them), so keep a keen eye and make use of the fine spells that will come …. eventually.

Jan Turner

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DIARY DATES

June

Monday	5	Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm Yeo Room
Thursday	8	**GENERAL ELECTION**, Voting, Parish Hall,
Thursday	8	WI (venue to be advised), 2.30pm (Queen's Messenger)
Thursday	8	TRAMP, Beesands & Torcross (long)
Tuesday	13	TRAMP, Shipley Bridge & Avon Dam (long)
Sunday	18	**Rotary Cream Tea**, Parish Hall, 2.00-5.00pm
Tuesday	20	TRAMP, evening walk to Hope Cove (long)
Wednesday	28	KEDFAS, K'b Methodist Church, 7.30pm (Malmaison collection)
Thursday	29	KEDFAS, K'b Methodist Church, 10.30am (Carole Petifer)
Friday	30	TRAMP, Diamond Jubilee Walk, Dartmouth (short)

July

Saturday	1	**Cheese & Wine Lunch**, Parish Hall, 12.30 for 1.00pm
Monday	3	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday	5	TRAMP, Kingston & Scobbiscombe (long)
Thursday	13	WI meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Fiona Van Es, ecologist)
Thursday	13	TRAMP, around Modbury (short)
Tuesday	18	TRAMP, Overbecks & Thurlestone (long)
Tuesday	25	**Family Fun + BBQ**, Parish Hall, 6-8.30pm
Friday	28	TRAMP, Haytor, Hound Tor & Saddle Tor (short)

August

Tuesday	1	Last date for entries for Horticultural Show, by 6pm
Wednesday	2	TRAMP, Plymbridge to Saltram (long)
Saturday	5	**Horticultural Show**, South Milton, 2.30pm
Thursday	10	TRAMP, Poundsgate & Dr Blackall's Drive (short)
Friday	18	TRAMP, Hallsands, Lannacombe, Pigs Nose (long)
Tuesday	22	TRAMP, Whitestrand, East Portlemouth (short)
Wednesday	30	TRAMP, Widdecombe, Grimspound & loop (long)

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Whole Page - £75.00 Half Page - £55 .00 Quarter Page - £35.00

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and

DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Aug-Sept) ISSUE = 5th July 2017

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

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL (Meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf)

Chairman	Andrew Rhymes	560564
Vice-chairman	Charles Mitchelmore	560602
Parish Clerk	Philip Millard	560843
Members	Tony Goddard	562282
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Jill Munn	560732
	Bronwen Zaffiro	560020
District Councillor	Judy Pearce	561370
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659
Tree Warden	Charles Mitchelmore	560602

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS
1. Thurlestone Hotel (Garage)
2. Sloop Inn, Bantham (lobby)
3. Golf Club (entrance foyer)
4. Buckland Phone Box

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

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

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

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH Contact Gillian Marshall 560214

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL Executive Head Susan Rowe-Jones 560494

PEARSON'S PRE-SCHOOL Manager Linda Quinn 560816

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION Chairman Stuart Watts 810373

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB Secretary Jo Smith 560347

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Clubhouse 560447

BRIDGE CLUBS 6.30 p.m Wednesdays and Fridays Contact Lisa White 560505

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB Gen Mgr - Keith Crawford Clubhouse & all enquiries 560405

TENNIS SECTION Chairman Jane Smyth 561084

TAI CHI Contact Simon Bowden 07738373051

PILATES (Advance booking essential) Contact Franny Morris 07590506027

YOGA Contact Sarah Scott 07879627939

TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers) Contact Mike Stickland 560763

HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual) Contact Caroline Alderton 562250

DIRECTORY

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

W. I. 2.30 pm Parish Hall Contact Lisa White 560505
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TABLE TENNIS Wednesday 4.00 to 5.00 pm Parish Hall Robin Macdonald 560436

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